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'GOOD COPY.'

In the present issue we print two more letters from correspondents on the subject of Dr. Slack's peal of Stedman Triples, and before we go any further we had better make one point crystal clear to all our readers. The only criterion which is ever used, or has ever been used, to decide what shall be included in the pages of 'The Ringing World' is whether or not it is 'good copy.' That means whether it is matter which will interest readers. It must be obvious to all, that since readers differ so much, everything cannot be of equal interest. There must be things which to some will seem most valuable, but to others are merely unintelligible. The line has to be drawn somewhere, and it is one of an editor's jobs to find out where to draw it. It is, of course, true that many people think they could manage a paper, and especially a paper like 'The Ringing World,' much better than the man who has had years of experience, but sensible persons will do well to ignore their opinions.

Three reasons are, we are told, given for Dr. Slack's peal of Stedman Triples not being printed. Some 'whispered' that an unnamed and mysterious writer had expressed the view that such a peal could not be obtained; another is that the peal was rung in the wrong place for the figures to be published; and a third is that the composer is 'not sufficiently in the swim' for his work to be acknowledged. So far as we are aware there is not the slightest justification for people holding these opinions, which are the result purely of their own imagination. We do not know whether they will accept the real reason, for it is too simple and straightforward, but we think it will appeal to all sensible persons. It is that when the Editor received the figures of the peal he decided that they were not 'good copy,' and he has not seen any reason since to alter his opinion.

An editor is not bound to give any reasons for his decisions; it is a recognised thing that in matters of this sort his word is final. But for the sake of those who may be under a misunderstanding, we should like to make it clear that this is not just an ordinary case of printing the figures of a peal. In the ordinary way the figures of a peal convey a certain amount of information to a certain number of people. The number may not be a large one, but the persons concerned are worthy of being considered. But what information would be conveyed by the publication of this peal of Stedman as we received it? Merely that it was a composition in two equal parts with many bobs and two singles. All that can be given without a mass of figures which in themselves convey nothing. The

(Continued on page 2.)

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so-called courses are not courses at all, nor are the ap-
parent course-ends really course-ends. We cannot
imagine anyone dividing the peal like this if they wanted
to call it, nor can we imagine anyone writing the peal
out like this if they want to understand its composition.

It is, of course, true that a man could, if he cared to
take the trouble, write all the 840 six-ends from these
figures, but we suggest that there are not many such;
and if there are any, it would not be a great deal of extra
trouble to apply for the peal in the quarters where ob-
viously it may be found.

An explanation of what the peal is, what difficulties its
composer had to overcome, and how he overcame them,
would be interesting to quite a number of people pro-
vided it could be written without too much detail; but we
do not think that explanation can be gained from the
figures. For the vast majority of readers, including com-
posers and conductors, they mean nothing. They are not
'good copy.'

HANDBELL PEALS.

RADLEY, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(OXFORD CITY AND DISTRICT BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 20, 1941, in One Hour and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE SCHOOL HOUSE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings.

Tenor size 14 in D.

*MISS ROSALIND M. WRONG 1-2 | WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 3-4

MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 5-6

Conducted by MISS MARIE R. CROSSE.

* First peal. Miss Wrong, an O.U.S.C.R. ringer, only began to
ring eight weeks ago.

CROFT, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(HINCKLEY DISTRICT.)

On Saturday, December 20, 1941, in Two Hours,

AT FOSSE WAY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

In five methods, being 720 each of Morning Star, April Day and
Canterbury, and 1,440 each of Plain Bob and Grandsire.

ALFRED BALLARD ... 1-2 | *FRANK K. MEASURES ... 3-4

WILLIAM A. WOOD ... 5-6

Conducted by ALFRED BALLARD.

* First handbell peal in five methods.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, December 21, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

AT 21, STONARD ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

MRS. J. THOMAS ... 1-2 | ISAAC J. ATTWATER ... 5-6

JOHN THOMAS ... 3-4 | WALTER BOWDEN ... 7-8

Arranged and Conducted by ISAAC J. ATTWATER.

First peal in the method 'in hand' as conductor.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
(BRISTOL GUILD OF HANDBELL RINGERS.)

On Saturday, December 27, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes,

AT 21, WATHEN ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

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

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by DONALD G. CLIFT.

'CLAVIS CAMPANOLOGIA.'

(Continued from page 616.)

COMMENTS ON VARIOUS MATTERS.

The wide practice and great popularity of Stedman's Principle are due perhaps more to the 'Clavis' than to any other cause. In 1788 the method on five bells had been generally known for a century and had been occasionally rung by skilful bands. In Norwich, peals of Triples had been rung, and the method had been extended to Caters and Cinques and practised, though no peal had been accomplished, and perhaps no peal had been composed. It was the visit of Jones, Reeves and Blake-more, with Christopher Wells and the College Youths, to Norwich in 1785, which first brought the method to the attention of London men. They adopted it enthusiastically, and from the metropolis it spread first to Birmingham, and then in due course throughout the country.

Stedman's Principle was in effect one of the new methods introduced to the Exercise by the 'Clavis.' When the rest of the visitors went home, Thomas Blake-more stayed behind in Norwich for a short time to pick up what information he could about the method and others for the new book. But he did not gather much, and John Reeves set himself to investigate as far as he could the problems of composition in the method.

In this he had a considerable amount of success, considering the time at his disposal. He discovered most of the difficulties in the way and, though he did not surmount them, he did lay foundations on which others could build later on.

In Triples, the longest length he was able to compose was a quarter-peal, and he came to the conclusion that it was 'very near to the extent of changes in the method' on the lines he had laid down as proper for a peal.

For that opinion he had great justification, for he took as a necessary qualification that there should never be two bobs at following sixes. That was for the sake of the music, and it was a thoroughly sound condition if only it had been a possible one. He could see far enough into the matter to realise that 'the only method that seems to carry the least appearance of possibility is by using a multiplicity of bobs, and thereby keeping two bells continually dodging behind'; but that plan he rejected, because it 'must produce music extremely disagreeable and tedious to every judicious ear.'

It was, however, on this plan that the first peals were actually produced. Noonan's peal had 732 calls, Edwards' had 722, Tebbs' had 622, and the improvements made by successive men consisted in reducing the number until the minimum was reached in Thurstans' composition, which has 242.

Working on much the same lines in Caters as in Triples, Reeves produced a 9,720 which, reduced to 5,076, he called for the ancient Society of College Youths at Horsleydown in 1787, the first peal in the method.

Among the many interesting and illuminating remarks in the book are the following: 'The word "Caters," we are told, has been spelled by some Cator, but it being derived from the Latin Quater (*i.e.*, four times) we must, therefore, reject the o as foreign to the matter; indeed, it must be granted that the Latin quatuor (*i.e.*, four) is spelled with an o, but then it is not so applicable to our purpose as the word Quater.'

'It was a maxim formerly,' so we are told, 'not to constitute any number of changes a peal that was under

5,040, merely because it is the extent that seven bells will produce; certainly no practitioner would think of ringing a less number than the whole peal of tripples; but there is no reason why it should be the standard for a greater number of bells, for if 5,600 changes is rung it is only deemed to be 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.'

Although Jones was here probably referring to an opinion widely held among some ringers, it never was a universal opinion. Five times between 1773 and 1784 so few as 5,039 changes were rung; the College Youths rang 5,016 of Double Bob Maximum in 1740, and 5,000 Oxford Treble Bob Royal in 1741; the Cumberlands rang 5,024 Treble Bob Major in 1755 and 5,008 Bob Major in 1756; Titchborne's Invention, rung in 1768, contained 5,012 changes; and in the provinces 5,008 of Bob Major were rung at Shifnal in 1787. A few years later bands rang even peals of Triples with less than 5,040 changes.

Speaking of Court Bob Royal, our authors say, 'Notwithstanding the custom of making eighth's place at the bob was from the first origin of this method, 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 other 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 alteration of that kind. Therefore in this method we would recommend 4th's place at the bob, as it certainly would make great amendment to the music in a peal or even a touch, for by having the bobs in this manner you fall into treble bob system as far as that of making tripple dodges whilst the great bells are behind, which is so admired by all professors of the exercise.'

This is sound advice. A peal of Double Norwich Major with fourth's place bobs would be a pleasing and interesting novelty.

Grandsire Maximus the authors claimed as 'an addition of our own,' and about it they say, 'We shall just observe that it is far superior to the other plain method on an even number of bells, both for music and variety of changes; as, for instance, in ringing a peal of Plain Bob Maximus you have every course the same thing over again except a little alteration of the small bells; but here you have both music and variety of changes upon the whole number.'

Grandsire Major and Royal had already been rung to peals in London, Reeves himself called the first peal of Grandsire Maximus, and all three had afterwards a considerable amount of popularity in the Birmingham district. There is much sense in what the 'Clavis' says about the method, but the four blows behind at a plain lead, and six at a bob are a blemish which spoils it.

As he nears the end of his book, William Jones writes that 'it may not be improper to take notice of the harmonious effect some positions produce above that of others, and likewise some improvements the art has received, in which we shall introduce a biographical anecdote not impertinent to the subject.'

'When the art was more in its infant state, and half-pull ringing was esteemed a very valuable acquisition (being then but a new discovery), the method of bringing

(Continued on next page.)

'CLAVIS CAMPANOLOGIA.'

(Continued from previous page.)

bells into the tittums (by which means the prime and choicest of music is selected) was a matter totally unknown in those days. How long the art might have remained in this rough-cast state (were it not for the gentleman we are about to introduce) is rather hard to say. But certain it is that Mr. Benjamin Anable, when he entered this vast field of rude and uncultured waste, like a skilful planter divided it into all its regular parts and proportions, with that taste, elegance and assymetry as at once evinced the judgment and abilities of the ingenious artist. But, to quit allegory, Mr. Anable soon found the then present state of the art stood in the utmost need of correction, and on exploring it still farther found an ample field for improvement; accordingly he went to work.

'What progress he made in five or six-bell peals, we shall pass over as not very important, but on seven bells there is every reason to believe that he was the first who produced 5,040 ringable changes which was the peal of plain bob tripples, with two singles (i.e., one at the end of each half).

'This was looked upon as a very great acquisition (and at that time it undoubtedly was) till Mr. Holt's peal without a single appeared. But notwithstanding, Mr. Holt is deserving of all the eulogiums we have paid him, yet it must be confessed that he was in some measure indebted to Mr. Anable for laying those firm foundations on which was afterwards raised such noble structures.

'Our author's next effort was at Grandsire Tripples; here, though unsuccessful, he was very far from being contemptible. For, though he did not obtain the whole peal complete, yet he went much farther than any of his predecessors or even contemporaries, and his peal stood foremost till that of Mr. Holt made its appearance.

'From thence he proceeded to Bob Major, where he also found considerable room for improvement. He saw no necessity for parting the tenors in a peal of either five or six thousand. He made the sixth perform her proper revolution in five courses, and five-six to 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 could not help confessing that this new-dress served as a foil which set it off to very great advantage. He next proceeded to Caters and Cinques which he found in such a rude and chaos-like state as may be easier conceived than described; but Mr. Anable threw them into the harmonious tittums where they still continue, and most likely ever will remain.

'The time when these improvements took place we cannot exactly determine; but the gentleman whose name we have taken some pain to celebrate, died in the latter part of the year 1755, between sixty and seventy years of age, so that by comparing these observations with the date of Mr. Holt's works it may be very nearly judged.'

This famous and oft-quoted passage has for many years been treated as historical evidence, but when we examine it critically it is impossible to consider it as more than vague tradition, decked out with rhetoric. Annable had died only thirty-two years before, and there were still living men who had known and rung with him; two at least of them—Joseph Monk and James Darquitt—among the subscribers to the 'Clavis.' He had been dead but five years when John Reeves first joined the Society of Cumberland Youths, and Jones and Reeves and Blake-

wood, all three of them, must have been intimate with men who had known both Annable and Hole.

Yet the authors of the 'Clavis' were quite ignorant of the doings and opinions of the older men. They were separated from them by the gulf which divides the men of one generation from the men of the next, and the composer of to-day who reflects how much he really knows about Henry Dains or Nathan Pitstow, or Charles Hattersley (apart from their printed peals) will realise how much William Jones and John Reeves knew about Benjamin Annable and John Holt.

The 'Clavis' panegyric is valuable historically as showing the great prestige the name of Annable enjoyed in the Exercise, but we can hardly trust any of the details. We know, for instance, that Annable was not, in fact, the first man to compose a true five-thousand of seven-bell changes, and his six-part peal of Bob Triples was not his first composition. He did not seriously take up the composition of Grandsire Triples until he had succeeded in other methods. Grandsire Caters was the first peal we know him to have composed, in the tittums.

Perhaps William Jones did not intend the order in which he described Annable's activities to be taken as a sequence in time; allowance must be made for the rhetorical style. But, if so, are we to take the other statements as literally correct?

It is certainly true that Annable did more than anyone else to popularise the ringing of Bob Major, and his was the first peal known to have been composed in the method, but experience must have taught the men of older days the difference between ringing with the tenors together and the tenors parted. Indeed, Baldwin's peal of Treble Bob Major which was performed before Annable was a ringer has the tenors together. So, too, the musical value of the tittum position must have forced itself on the attention of ringers even if Annable was the first fully to recognise and utilise its quality.

The extracts I have quoted give a very good idea of the opinions and outlook of the authors of the 'Clavis' and show that they took wide and broadminded views of ringing matters. The wording for the most part is Jones' and so are some of the opinions. But now and then there is an abrupt change into an almost colloquial expression; and here we may see the influence of John Reeves. It is William Jones, the conscious literary artist, who gives the somewhat pedantic reasons for spelling Caters with an 'e' and not an 'o'; but it is John Reeves who advocates the alternative bob for Court Bob Royal. We can imagine that Jones has read over what he has written about the method with its eight's place bob. Reeves agrees, and then he adds, 'though it was the custom to make eighth's place at the bob from the start, I don't conceive it obligates every company to abide by it; or that they should be tied to making a particular place in any method. Let everyone follow his taste in the matter; the art of pricking will still be the same; and anyone with skill as a composer can very easily get over any difficulties in the matter.' Jones makes a note of the remarks, and adds them to the text with little or no alteration.

Or again, when Reeves produces his peal of Bob Major with the 120 course-ends, he remarks, 'Though I don't altogether approve of singles when the number can be got without, yet, as this is the full extent without parting 7-8, I think it is a good peal for those who wish to ring a greater length than has yet been done'; and Jones incorporates the sentence in his description of the peal.

HERTFORD ASSOCIATION RESOLUTIONS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—It seems that, in adopting the attitude which you have in respect of Dr. Slack's peal of Stedman, you have lost sight of one of the principal functions of the ringing Press—that of presenting to the Exercise the progress of both the practical and theoretical development of the art.

Surely, in deciding for or against publication, the utility value of a composition should not be the criterion!

It is very doubtful if any composition produced nowadays will ever become a 'stock' composition.

Moreover, your attitude in this respect is not consistent. There have, in recent months, been published several compositions of Spliced Surprise which are equally indigestible for the average conductor and are of equally limited interest.

They were published, and rightly so, because they marked a stage in the progress of the composers toward a definite end, and Dr. Slack's composition has actually reached the goal aimed at and for that reason alone should be published.

You attempt to justify your statement that the peal is a freak by drawing attention to the fact that the peal contains a large number of calls, many of which are in the 'long discredited form of six-bob sets.'

That, sir, is an opinion which belongs to a fast receding generation. Six-bob sets are definitely monotonous, but neither discreditable or unorthodox, and the inclusion of any number of them in a 'peal cannot make it a freak.

Mr. Groombridge mentions an opinion which he heard whispered at Bushey.

I have heard another one—that the peal was rung in the wrong place for the figures to be published.

My own opinion, expressed without malice, is that the particular composer was not sufficiently 'in the swim' for his work to be acknowledged.

It may well be that all these opinions are wrong, but when readers are faced with the adamant attitude which you have adopted, it is only natural that they should seek for the reason for that attitude and you have only yourself to blame if they have jumped to erroneous conclusions.

H. G. CASHMORE.

Watford.

Dear Sir,—When I wrote you a week ago on this matter I had no idea of commencing a serial story, but after this week's publication and comments I would like to ask you to spare a few lines (if possible) for further comment.

You state that I advanced no argument for publication of the peal in question. Agreed, as it seemed to me a matter above argument and my letter was a criticism of your arguments against.

Am I right or wrong in regarding 'The Ringing World' as 'the chronicle of the Exercise'? If right, I claim that any new departure should be fully recorded; if wrong, it appears to me that ringers of 2041 A.D. will require a reincarnation of J. A. Trollope to find out just how we amused ourselves in 1941, for it is possible that the MS. of the peal may share the fate of other MSS. of the past.

I would also mention a peal of Cambridge rung at Rochester Row, I believe ages ago. When published I believe the horrible truth appeared in your next issue. Can we now switch for a moment to your reply to Mr. E. Jennings? You say the figures are 'indigestible' to the average conductor. Messrs. Hitler and Goebbels say the same of the B.B.C. broadcast and warn their dupes accordingly, and the Press duly bids us note this narrow act of the dictator.

Similarly, in our art, we claim the right to judge the 'indigestibility' of the fare provided, and should any 'average conductor' be found rolling in agony, serve him right for 'nibbling more than he can masticate.' I personally have avoided 'indigestion' on numerous occasions by simply turning to the next page. It is only bilious attacks that cost me 2½d. for postage. You then ask, 'Has anyone been denied the opportunity of calling the peal through non-publication?' If you are starting a list of names you can head it with mine.

As to freak peals, I heard this term when I used different starting points to obtain 42 different six-scores of Stedman Doubles, and again on calling Washbrook's Cambridge Major, while it only seems a year or two ago that numerous ringers dumped all spliced ringing in this category.

In consideration of space I will cut enlargements and come to the final point—'the deeper issue.' This, I admit, was a nasty one to put up, but I can assure you it was a bona fide comment made to me while the resolution was under discussion, and I submit to you that the most decisive way of disabusing people's minds is by the publication of the figures in question.

T. GROOMBRIDGE, Jun.

HINCKLEY, LEICESTERSHIRE.—At Barian, Cawper Road, on December 16th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Doubles: A. Ballard (conductor) 1-2, L. A. Tremear, R.A.F. (first quarter-peal of Stedman Doubles on handbells) 3-4, C. Turner (first quarter-peal on handbells) 5-6. Rung as a birthday compliment to Miss M. Turner, daughter of the ringer of 5-6.

John Taylor & Co.**LOUGHBOROUGH**

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

We regret to state that the Editor is somewhat seriously indisposed and unable to attend to business. He asks those friends who have written to him and sent him greetings to accept this as the reason why he has not replied.

We have had a very interesting letter from our old friend, Mr. W. Keeble. He tells us that when he made his first attempt to ring the treble to a six-score of Doubles, W. Elliott, one of the band, said to his cousin, D. Elliott, who was calling, 'Call them round at half-way, David. He will never make a ringer!' Prophecies do not always come true. Mr. Keeble sends greetings to all ringing friends.

Miss Mabel Agnes Orme, of Pyle Street, Newport, Isle of Wight, who left £13,564 (net personalty £10,707), bequeathed £20 to the bell-ringers of St. Thomas', Newport.

The peal of Doubles at Croft was arranged for Mr. W. A. Wood as an appreciation by his friends of what he has done to keep district meetings going in these difficult times. It was his first attempt for a peal on handbells.

On December 24th, seven years ago, the last peal of the Australian four was rung. It was one of Bob Major on the Red Sea, and the band was Mr. and Mrs. Richardson, Mr. E. B. James and Mr. J. S. Goldsmith. Mr. Richardson conducted.

On December 29th, 1894, 10,176 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major were rung at Irthlingborough.

The Yorkshire men rang 6,720 changes of Cumberland Exercise Major at Liversedge on December 31st, 1867.

On the same date in 1892 the then longest length of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 12,096 changes, was rung at Maidenhead.

One of the many long peals at Appleton was the 15,041 Stedman Caters on December 31st, 1888. It was the climax of a very successful year by Washbrook and Robinson. Canon Coleridge was in the band.

James Barham's one hundredth peal was rung at Leeds on January 1st, 1793. To ring one hundred peals was in those days a feat indeed.

Mr. J. Clough wishes to thank the ringers of Burbage for their gift and hopes for a reunion in the not far distant future.

Fifty years ago to-day only three peals were rung: one was Minor and the others Kent Treble Bob and Double Norwich Major.

Ten years ago to-day the number was 25. They consisted of Grand-sire Triples 3, Stedman Triples 1, Caters 1, Bob Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Royal 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 2, Loughborough Bob Major 1, Cambridge Surprise Major 3, Superlative 2, London 1, Doubles 3, and Minor 5. The Bob Major and one of the Double Norwich were on handbells.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Few if any ringers will have any quarrel with Mr. George W. Fletcher as a genius and hard-working secretary of the Central Council, but since reading the letter from 'A Member' in your last issue, like several more who I have discussed this matter with, I find myself asking this question—Since when has Mr. Fletcher been considered 'the one and only' of the Council, and how long has it been necessary to look upon the ban on ringing as the 'end all' to the Council's activities? Everywhere our church leaders are busy discussing and making plans for post-war reconstruction. What is the Exercise going to do about it? Are we busy making our plans? To hold a watching brief may be all right, but if the Exercise is to have a voice in this post-war reconstruction the motto of all must be—Go to it!

'PLANNING.'

A POSER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Will Mr. Leslie W. Bunce tell us how to ring anything from Bob Doubles up to Cambridge Maximus on three bells? We are always willing to learn and should be grateful for his advice.

'TWO COUNTRY YOKELS.'

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

At the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths on Saturday last two new members were elected—Mr. Kenneth Arthur, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, who is now serving with the R.A.F., and Mr. F. H. Dalloway, of Stone Cross, Pevensey, Sussex.

Greetings were received from Major J. H. B. Hesse, Mr. Walter Jeend, Mr. E. Morris and Pte. Len Fox. The last named sent news of Sergt. J. Boomsma, of the Stepney band, who had been reported missing at Crete. Joe, as he was always called, is now in the Middle East after taking part in the campaign in Syria. News of another member was brought by Mr. W. H. Pasmore, who said he had heard from his nephew Herbert, a prisoner of war in Germany. He is fit and well and employed on farm work.

The members present were in festive spirit and anecdotes and reminiscences were indulged in. The treasurer was in fine form and retold some of Canon Coleridge's best stories.

Mr. E. Morris sent four more old ringing books to help to build up the society's new library.

Those present, in addition to the Master, Treasurer and secretary, were Messrs. E. Jennings, G. M. Kilby, W. H. Pasmore, R. Stannard, A. B. Wiffen, E. A. Young, H. G. Miles, C. Meyer, H. Hoskins, J. G. A. Prior, J. H. Shepherd and C. Mayne. Incidentally these members are natives of twelve different counties.

NINETEEN HUNDRED & FORTY ONE.

A YEAR OF MIXED MEMORIES.

When in the distant future the historian of ringing comes to the year that has just passed, what will strike him as most remarkable about it is that it is the first year for more than a thousand years in which from beginning to end no church bell has been rung throughout England, neither to call the people to church, nor to knoll the passing of a soul, nor to mark some public event, nor yet because the people of England like to hear the bells for their own sake. A small thing in itself, the cessation of bellringing is the breaking of a tradition that goes back right through English history beyond the Norman Conquest and the days of King Alfred. It is a sign of the times and perhaps a portent of the changes that are yet to come. On us of the ringing Exercise the ban presses heavily, for we are completely barred from doing the thing in which we take delight, and the art by which we serve the Church and nation. Our hope is that the prohibition will be lifted ere long, and we are encouraged by the knowledge that



MR. E. C. S. TURNER.

there are very many people, some of them not without influence, who are watching for every opportunity to urge its removal. But national considerations must come first.

From a year of complete inactivity in practical ringing we could expect nothing but disappointment and disillusionment; and yet when we do look back in 1941, there is much for encouragement and much to give us good hope for the future. Those many ringers who love the art have not all been content to sit still and do nothing. Activity has been much curtailed, and, compared with pre-war times, meetings have been few. It could not have been otherwise. Apart from the silence of the bells, there have been many restrictions on travelling, in the dark hours of the black-out, even when there is no air raid, it is neither wise nor safe to journey far from home; and most ringers have had their time fully occupied with some job or other done in the country's service.

Yet most of the associations have been able to hold some meetings, and though the attendances have been necessarily small, the reports published in our columns show that the spirit of the Exercise is being kept alive. The flame may be dimmed, but it is still alight.

A notable example is the Society of College Youths. They have had privileges denied to most associations: a central and permanent place of meeting through the kindness of Mr. A. A. Hughes at the famous old Bell Foundry, and they have a tradition behind them which makes it easier to hold the sort of meeting that now is needed. But the very fact that they do meet is a source of inspiration to ringers all over the country, and they are not the only ones. The Birmingham men and others in their own way are doing the same thing.

The number of handbell peals that have been rung is an encouragement. It shows that people are still trying to keep the art alive and one of the best features is the first and comparatively humble performances (sometimes Grandsire Doubles) by beginners.

In all 148 peals were rung. Eighteen were Doubles, 29 Minor, 18 Triples in two methods, 69 Major in twelve methods, 6 Caters in two methods, 7 Royal in two methods and 2 Cinques.

All the Triples were Grandsire except one of Stedman. The Major peals were Plain Bob 46, Reverse Bob 1, Oxford Treble Bob 1, Kent

Treble Bob 7, Spliced Plain and Gainsborough Little Bob 1, Little Bob 2, Double Norwich Court Bob 5, Cambridge Court 1, Richmond Bob 1, Highbury Bob 1, Avalon Court Bob 1, and Lavenham Court Bob 1. The Caters were Grandsire 1, Stedman 5. The Royal were Plain Bob 6, Kent Treble Bob 1. The peals of Cinques were Stedman.

Mr. Christopher Woolley was easily the most prolific of peal ringers with a score of 28. He was followed by Corpl. E. A. Barnett 24, Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner 21, and Mr. John Thomas 18. Mrs. Thomas rang nearly as many.

For first place in the list of conductors Mr. Thomas and Mr. Woolley tied with 16. The Rev. Malcolm Melville and Mr. Turner each called seven.

Among the outstanding performances were the peal of Stedman Cinques at Leicester, the Stedman Caters at Aldershot, and the non-conducted Holt's Original by four members of the Society of College Youths.

For general proficiency the band that met at Bushey stood foremost. In a comparatively short time they rang peals not only of Plain and



MR. E. BARNETT.

Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Major and Stedman Triples, but also of such methods as Double Norwich, Cambridge Court, Reverse Bob, Richmond Bob, Highbury Bob, Avalon Court and Lavenham Court; some of them the first peals ever rung in the methods.

Equally meritorious were the many peals of Doubles and Minor rung in different parts of the country by bands who took up handbell ringing for the first time, and among these the peal of Spliced Minor at Preston, conducted by Mr. C. K. Lewis, should be noted. A survey like this can only be a general one. We are sure to have overlooked some deserving of praise, and it is possible there may be a slight error or two in the figures given above.

Peal ringing has not been the only use to which handbells have been put. In many places they have been rung in church before the service, and a notable and impressive event was the half-huffled peal of Stedman Caters in church as part of the funeral service of the late Mr. William Willson.

The last Sunday of the year 1940 had been a disastrous day for London. During the night hundreds of enemy aircraft showered thousands of incendiary bombs on the City, and many famous and beautiful churches were destroyed. Some of them contained bells which had played no small part in the history of the Exercise, and the loss of which fills us with sorrow and regret. They included two 12-bell rings, St. Bride's, Fleet Street, and St. Giles', Cripplegate; the two oldest octaves in the City, St. Lawrence Jewry and St. Stephen's, Coleman Street; the seldom heard six at St. Vedast, Foster Lane; and the eights at St. Mary Matfelon, Whitechapel, and at All Hallows', Barking.

This list of losses was greatly increased during the year that followed. The world famous Bow Bells were destroyed, as well as the heavy eight at St. George's-in-the-East, Rudhall's ring at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, the tens at St. John's, Horsleydown, and St. Clement Danes', and the octaves at Christ Church, Southwark, St. Mary's, Bow-by-Stratford, St. Olave's, Hart Street, St. Andrew's, Holborn, and St. John's, Vassal Road.

The tale of disaster was longest in London, but some provincial towns have suffered very severely. Plymouth has lost a ring of ten, Charles Church, and of eight, Stonehouse. At Bristol the grand ring

(Continued on next page.)

NINETEEN HUNDRED & FORTY-ONE.

(Continued from previous page.)

of ten at St. Nicholas' was destroyed, as well as eights at St. Peter's, St. Mary-le-Port and Clifton Parish Church. Southampton has lost the fine Taylor ring at St. Mary's and Swansea a ring of eight. Bromley Church and steeple were shattered by high explosive bombs, and in addition to the bells the historic peal book dating from the eighteenth century has been ruined.

This is not a full list of destroyed bells. Some of them, we fear, will never be replaced, but already there are signs that some will be restored. It is almost certain that there will be another twelve at St. Bride's; the steeple is being restored and the new frame has been designed. A promise broadcast on the wireless has been made that there will once again be bells at St. Lawrence Jewry, and it is unthinkable that London will go for long without Bow Bells. It is, however, unlikely that there will again be a heavy ring of twelve in the steeple.

Another regrettable result of enemy action has been the loss of much valuable books and property belonging to the College Youths. The most valuable articles fortunately had been taken to a place of safety.



MR. J. THOMAS.

The list of the departed members of the Exercise includes the names of several men who were well known to all ringers. Among them the most outstanding was Gabriel Lindoff, who passed away in November. Owing to his long residence in Dublin, Lindoff was not so well known personally as he otherwise would have been, and though he rang over 400 peals they were spread over a period of more than fifty years. He did not, therefore, seem to be a very prolific peal ringer compared with some men, though his list was a very fine one. It was as a composer he was best known, and it is as a composer that his name will live. Here he takes a worthy place in a very select group along with John Reeves, Henry Johnson, Henry Dains, Charles Hattersley and their peers.

In January the Exercise in the Midlands lost its most outstanding member by the death of Mr. John S. Pritchett, who passed away after a life spent in great activity and public usefulness at the advanced age of 86. He was one of the founders of the Oxford University Guild and knew Jonathan Pavier, the oldest of the city ringers, who was born as far back as 1779. Pritchett became a skilful ringer, and with his brothers formed an excellent band at King's Norton. For nearly 40 years he was Master of the St. Martin's Guild. He had a distinguished career outside ringing, and was Recorder of Lincoln and Alderman of the City of Birmingham.

Two men who died after long and useful lives were Henry J. Tucker, who was 85, and ex-Sergt. J. Williams, who was 88. Tucker, who in his younger days was an active peal ringer, had some pretensions to be a composer in the simpler methods.

Ipswich lost a well-known ringer in Mr. Charles A. Catchpole and another equally well-known man from the neighbouring village of Sprooughton was Mr. H. J. Mee.

Two men of marked personality who died during the year were James Hunt, of Taunton, and William Willson, of Leicester. Both

were men who held strong and definite opinions on various matters and who were never afraid of expressing them. Both were frequently engaged in controversy, but both were exceedingly likeable men, and those who disagreed with them most never thought of quarrelling with them. James Hunt will be greatly missed at the meetings of the Central Council.

Canon G. H. Kidout, of Johannesburg, died on May 5th. He had learnt his ringing with the Cambridge University Guild and took his love of the art to South Africa. He was interested in the problems of composition and not long since we published an informative article by him on the in-course singles in Grandsire Triples.

A well-known ringer, Edwin F. Pike, came to a tragic end by drinking petrol in mistake for medicinal paraffin.

The theoretic side of change ringing suffered a severe loss by the death of A. G. Driver on September 29th. Mr. Driver was one of those men who, without being themselves ringers, have rendered great service to the Exercise and of whom W. H. Thompson is the outstanding example. Mr. Driver could not even, it seems, handle a single bell, but he turned his attention to composition with excellent results. He specialised in spliced Minor peals and here he had no superior and few, if any, equals. Beyond Minor his range was not very wide, but he also did good work in Spliced Treble Bob and Surprise Major peals.

Among others who have passed away during the year are C. H. Horton, of Watford, a past master of the College Youths; Frederick G. Woodiss, of Banstead; George Popnell; and quite recently Claude Davies, whose death will be much felt in the Liverpool district.

In January Mrs. Laura Snowdon, the widow of William Snowdon, passed to her rest at the age of 91. All ringers have cause to revere her memory, for she carried on the publication of the Jasper Snowdon series of ringing books after the death of her husband.

March 31st was the fiftieth anniversary of the first meeting of the Central Council, which was held at the Inns of Court Hotel, Holborn, on Easter Tuesday, 1891. Of the 63 members present, seven are still alive, and two of them, Canon G. F. Coleridge and Mr. George Williams, have been members ever since. Both, we are glad to say, are still going strong and both have contributed to our columns during the past year.

It was a notable anniversary, but, of course, nothing could be done to celebrate it. An opportunity will, however, come later, for since owing to war conditions the Council did not meet in 1916, 1917, 1940 and 1941, the fiftieth meeting is still some years ahead. We took the opportunity of publishing an account of the foundation and early activities of the Council and of some of the members.

The annual Henry Johnson commemoration at Birmingham took the form of a luncheon, and so did the annual College Youths' feast. Both were very successful.

In these days of paper shortage printing is severely restricted, yet it is pleasant to record that Mr. Frederick Sharpe has been able to issue during the year two more parts of his excellent book on the bells of Berkshire. When it is finished this will take a worthy place among the archaeological books on church bells.

A pleasant and encouraging feature of our own columns has been the letters and articles contributed by many people on a great variety of subjects. Mr. G. P. Elphick wrote learnedly on mediaeval bell frames, Mr. B. H. Swinson on the composition of odd-bob peals of Stedman Triples, Mr. G. L. Joyce on Transposition, Mr. W. Taylor on London Surprise, Mr. E. C. Shepherd on Grandsire Caters, and Mr. C. E. Borrett on Norwich ringers. Interesting discussions took place on 'What is a good Surprise method?' to which Mr. J. F. Harvey contributed some good letters; on handbell ringing for beginners, and on silent apparatus, which revealed an unexpected amount of interest, practical as well as theoretical, in the subject. Mr. Herbert Drake protested once more against his old enemy 'backward hunting,' and our other correspondents included such old and valued friends as Mr. C. T. Coles, Mr. E. Barnett, Mr. E. A. Young, Mr. F. Bankes James and many more. The correspondence in 'The Ringing World' has been one bright spot in a sombre year.

OUR SILENT BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was unfortunate we could not ring for Christmas. Perhaps we might have been able to do so if we had made the request earlier, but, like a lot more things, 'we left it too late.'

When the Armistice was signed in 1918 we ringers laid down our tools and rushed up into the belfries. Neglected bearings were quickly oiled and the bells were raised and soon their sound was heard from one end of the country to the other.

But what is going to happen when the Armistice is signed to end this war?

We shall again lay down our tools and rush into the belfries, and when all is ready to commence ringing, the parson and the policeman will enter and say, 'We are sorry, gentlemen, but although the war is over you cannot ring. You see, the ban is not yet lifted.'

I fancy this is something like what will happen unless something is done now.

A happy new year to you and all my friends and hoping this time next year we shall be ringing

H.M. Forces.

'ROBERT TRIPLES.'

OLD HANDBELLS. THE ALDBOURNE FOUNDRY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to correspondence in your issues of the 12th and 19th December, 1941, it may be of interest to your readers to learn that musical handbells, in sets as we know them, were cast at the Aldbourne (Wilts) bellfoundry at the end of the 17th century. I possess one (equivalent to size 12 in a modern handbell) cast by William and Robert Cor, whose bellfounding activities cover the period 1694-1724. Subsequent owners of the Aldbourne foundry were Oliver Cor, John Cor, John Stares and Edward Read, and, in 1760, the business was taken over by Robert Wells L., whom I suspect, was the founder of the set of handbells now in the possession of your correspondent, Mr. G. E. Symonds. Bells cast by R. Wells could easily be identified by means of a rubbing of the founder's initials. The Cors used one size alphabet, and the Wells two sizes for inscriptions on their handbells.

Numerous handbells, cast by Robert Wells, exist to-day, and the majority of these bear his name, or initials, on the inside. These are invariably placed in this position so that they should not be defaced during process of tuning and also because of the method employed in forming the moulds. All the musical handbells cast by R. Wells that I have seen have independent clapper-staples, but the earlier products of the foundry have cast in crown-staples. This fact is a good means of identifying early 17th century musical handbells from those of later date.

In his valuable book on 'Church Bells,' the Rev. W. C. Lukis (page 10) gives an extract from 'The Marlborough Journal' of 6th June, 1772, which contains among its advertisements the following—

'At the Bell-foundry at Aldbourne, Wilts, Church Bells are cast in a most elegant and as musical a manner as in any part of the kingdom, the Founder having made the Theory of Sounds as well as the nature of Metal his Chief Study; Also hangs the same, finding all materials in a complete and concise manner; And also Hand-bells prepared and strictly in Tune in any Key. Horse-bells, Clock and Room Bells, the neatest of their several Kinds. Likewise Mill Brasses cast and sold at the lowest Prices. All orders will be punctually observed by Rob. Wells, Founder. He gives Ready Money and Best Prices for Bell Metal.'

Besides musical handbells, Robert Wells cast some very fine handbells of the heavier type. We use one in this village to denote the air raid message, 'Raiders passed,' as we have no siren. The villagers complained that they could not hear the regulation size A.R.P. bell, so I tried Wells' bell. She is a fine bell and quite as heavy as a man can carry on a bicycle. On the first occasion we used her for A.R.P. duties some of the inhabitants thought it was an invasion warning! But they petitioned that she should be always used, and now there are no complaints.

Robert Wells' bellfounding career lasted from 1760 to 1780, when the business was taken over by his sons, Robert II. and James, who remained in partnership until 1799. Robert Wells II. gave the treble, and two other Aldbourne ringers, Joseph Pizzie and William Gwynn, gave the second to augment the ring there to eight in 1787. A peal board in Aldbourne tower records the first peal on these bells: 'May ve 3rd, 1791, was rung, 5,040 Grandfire Tripples, by Jn. North Tripple, Wm. Gwynn 2nd, Edne Witts 3rd, Levi Pizzie 4th, Wm. Lawrence 5th, Broome Witts 6th call'd the Bobbes, Jas. Wells 7th, Jos. Orchard Teur.'

James Wells owned the Aldbourne foundry from 1799 to 1826, when he sold the business to Thomas Mears II., of London. James Bridgman, who had been Wells' assistant, and whose name occurs on a peal board at Aldbourne recording a peal of Grandsire 'Tripples,' rung on January 21st, 1806, worked with Mears at the Whitechapel foundry for about three years, after which he returned to Aldbourne and started business on his own account. To him was apprenticed Henry Bond, who subsequently bought his patterns and plant and established a bellfoundry at Westcot, Gloucestershire, in or about the year 1851. Some ten years later he moved to Burford, Oxfordshire, where the foundry still exists. It is now owned by Mr. Thomas Bond, who, inter alia, has a good collection of handbells cast by the Cors and Wells, and also the original patterns used in moulding. So it is possible to-day to have a handbell cast in the traditional Aldbourne style by the direct descendant of the noted Wiltshire founders.

Dorven, Launton, Bicester.

FREDERICK SHARPE.

A SET BY WILLIAM COR

Dear Sir,—I have recently become the possessor of five very old handbells. They are the front five of a peal of eight, the largest is size 11. There are no crown caps and only four leather handles (all very decayed). The clappers and what little bits of springs were left were all rusted through, so I have taken all of them out.

Inside the bells and cast into them is W. Cor, with a cockerel or pheasant. On enquiry of Mr. E. Morris, he states they are from the foundry of William Cor, of Aldbourne (Wilts), between the years 1696 and about 1720. If so, they are more than 200 years old. They were formerly the property of Mr. Cook, an old Evesham ringer, who came to live at Willington, five miles from Burton. I used to visit him and take copies of 'The Ringing World,' which he was delighted with. I may state that his interest in bells and ringing remained up to the last. After his death his daughter found the bells among his effects and kindly gave them to me.

J. H. SWINFELD.

120 Princess Street, Burton-on-Trent.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION

CARRYING ON UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

Resolution Against a National Association.

The annual meeting of the North Staffordshire Association was held at Stoke-on-Trent on Saturday, December 13th. Thirteen sat down to tea in the Church Institute from Stoke-on-Trent, Hanley, Longton, Cheadle and Newcastle-under-Lyme. Apologies for absence were received from the Rev. H. H. Treacher, Messrs. Thomas Hurd and Albert Crawley, of Crewe.

The Ven. Archdeacon P. Hartill (Rector of Stoke-on-Trent) extended a hearty welcome to all present. Although, he said, they were now diminished in numbers, he hoped they would be a larger company in future.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. G. Jones to the Rector of Stoke-on-Trent for the excellent tea he had given them.

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

The committee reported that the annual committee meeting was held at Hanley in November. The Rev. H. H. Treacher, who was in the chair, was supported by Mr. Andrew Thompson (hon. secretary) and there were also present Messrs. C. H. Page, G. Jones, W. Carnwell, E. Steele and E. Roberts. The hon. secretary, in his report, stated that during the past year 12 meetings had been held, viz., two at Hanley and one at Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle, Longton, Brown Edge, Leek, Kingsley, Stone, Cheddleton, Uttoxeter and Tunstall. Although the attendances had been small, it had always been possible to have a little handbell ringing. The average attendance was 14 and two members had attended all the meetings, viz., Charles H. Page and Andrew Thompson. No committee meetings were held during the year. The fourth annual dinner was held at the George Hotel, Burslem, on Saturday, February 22nd, when a company of 23 was present. Even though the number was small and the function plain, the evening was very much enjoyed. There had been no peals rung during the year, but that was not the first year in which there had been no peals rung by the association. None were rung in the years 1885, 1887, 1889, 1890, 1892, 1900, 1915, 1917 and 1918. In those years there were bells on which peals could have been rung, but during the past 16 months they had not, of course, been able to ring on the tower bells at all. Very little time had been given to double-handed handbell ringing in the district, but he was sure that a practice night could be fixed and sufficient members present to establish this art in the district. With regard to the finance of the association, the secretary was glad to state that there was a credit balance of £41 14s. 1d., which was an increase of 2s. 1d. on last year. The subscriptions of ringing members had fallen by £6 10s. this year and the honorary members' subscriptions by one-half to £1 5s., against £2 10s. last year. The secretary once again appealed to members of the association to give more support to the officers and try to attend the meetings more often.—The report was adopted.

The statement of accounts was accepted and the auditor's report was adopted. The auditor congratulated the secretary on the way in which the books were kept.

The Rev. Hugh Benson was elected chairman and the Rev. S. F. Linsley as clerical secretary. Mr. Andrew Thompson was reappointed hon. secretary. Mr. Kenneth Thacker, although serving with H.M. Forces, was elected as assistant hon. secretary, with Mr. Edward Steele as acting assistant hon. secretary.

Mr. Andrew Thompson was again elected to represent the association on the Central Council. The Rev. Hugh Benson was elected Ringing Master and Mr. George Jones as auditor.

The following meetings for 1942 were proposed: January, Newcastle; February, Longton; March, Brown Edge; April, Draycott; May, Leek; June, Kingsley; July, Stone; August, Cheddleton; September, Uttoxeter; October, Tunstall; November, Hanley; and December, Stoke-on-Trent.

It was proposed by Mr. W. Carnwell, and seconded by Mr. G. Jones, that the annual dinner be held on Saturday, December 19th, 1942, being the nearest Saturday to the inaugural meeting of the association 60 years ago, the society having been founded on Saturday, December 16th, 1882.

A special vote of thanks to the hon. secretary for keeping the association going during the year, and for the manner in which everything had been conducted during this meeting, was proposed by the Rev. H. H. Treacher, supported by Mr. E. Steele, and carried unanimously.

After the minutes of the last annual meeting and the minutes of the committee meeting had been passed as read, a motion was placed before the meeting, moved by the Rev. Hugh Benson (chairman), seconded by Mr. Andrew Thompson (hon. secretary): 'The North Staffordshire Association of Change Ringers recognises the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers as the representative body of all associations, and objects to any National Association being formed.'

On the proposition of Mr. G. Jones, seconded by Mr. G. H. Hoobrook, the following members were elected to form the Annual Dinner Committee, viz.: The Rev. Hugh Benson, Messrs. Edward Steele, Charles H. Page and Andrew Thompson.

BALCOMBE, SUSSEX.—On Christmas morning before service, carols and courses of Bob Minor and Grandsire Triples were rung on handbells: J. Gardner, A. E. Laker, R. Johnson, P. Johnson.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT KINGTON MAGNA.**

The annual meeting of the North Dorset Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Kington Magna on Saturday, December 18th.

Members representing five parishes assembled in the Parish Church, where a service was held in the afternoon. The Guild office was intoned by the Rev. W. Uphill, and an address was given by Canon Hellins, D.D. The Rector was at the organ, and a sacred melody was played by four boys on handbells after the Magnificat.

Tea was followed by the business meeting. A financial statement was presented by the secretary. Dr. Hellins was re-elected chairman, the Rev. F. L. Edwards vice-chairman, the Rev. W. Uphill secretary, and Messrs. W. Shute and L. Perrett ringing masters. Thanks were accorded to Dr. Hellins and to the ladies presiding over the tea tables.

DEATH OF MISS A. H. WOOD

The death on December 13th is announced of Miss Amy Hattersley Wood, the younger daughter of the late Matthew A. Wood, who was so well known to the London ringers of a past generation. She was born in the house in Church Row, Bethnal Green, which was for so many years associated with the Wood family, and she spent the whole of her life there except for two years. The funeral was at Abney Park Cemetery. She derived her second name from Mr. Thomas Hattersley, of Sheffield, who was a great friend of her father. By her will she desires her trustee to hand to the Master or other executive officer her late father's album, presented to him by the members of the Ancient Society of College Youths, St. Paul's Cathedral.

GRANDSIRE CATERS.

(Continued from previous column.)

Worcester Journal" of September 18th, 1828, under the heading of deaths of that week.

'On Friday, in his 85th year, John Bristow, of this city. He was much respected, and well known as a Bell Ringer. We understand that he was the last surviving ringer who was engaged in a memorable peal, rung at All Saints' Church, in this city, November 28th, 1774, which is thus recorded in the Worcester Journal: "Last Monday was rung at All Saints' Church, in this city, by the Society of All Saints' Youths, a complete peal of 7,326 Grandsire Caters, in 4 hours 36-minutes, supposed to be one of the most musical peals every rung of so great a length. A person concerned in this peal dreamed the preceding night that the Tenor Clapper fell out, as the Bells came round, which really happened, to the great surprise of the company, the person having declared it before they went into the Tower." Bristow was the only person who ever rung the tenor bell of All Saints' single-handed to a peal.'

At this time the Leicester Scholars were at the height of their fame. As far back as 1669 Fabian Stedman visited Leicester, and the result of his stay in the town was the growth of a very good band. They had more than a local reputation, for in 1686 Samuel Scattergood took about twenty of them as far as Solihull, Warwickshire, to try the new peal of eight bells at St. Alphege Church. Towards the end of the eighteenth century they were busy with Grandsire Caters, and with Martin as composer and William Bull as conductor, two notable peals were rung.

On August 12th, 1776, they rang 6,012 'in the Tittoms,' of which they said, 'we can safely say that a peal of such Length Never was performed so compleat By the first Attempt Ever Made for the same.'

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DAVID MAXON, ROPE WORKS, GRANTHAM

GRANDSIRE CATERS.**THE HISTORY OF THE METHOD.**

By EDGAR C. SHEPHERD.

(Continued from page 623.)

On February 1st, 1756, Benjamin Annable died, and was buried in St. Bride's Church. This remarkable man had given the Ancient Society of College Youths a great reputation, and Mr. Trollope fittingly writes of him:

'He was by far the greatest of all the College Youths and one of the greatest ringers in the whole history of the Exercise. Few have done so much to develop the art as he did. When he began to ring there had been accomplished as far as we know no more than six true peals. When he died peal ringing was a common thing. The position which the College Youths held in the eighteenth century was due to him more than any other man, and, perhaps, in his earliest days he saved the very existence of the Society.'

A year or two later came the discovery of bringing the bells round at handstroke. This invention by Francis Roberts may perhaps be considered as only second in importance to the establishment of the Tittum Position. Roberts had been leader of the Fulham band, and when he became conductor to the College Youths he called 6,050 Grandsire Cinques at St. Bride's and 5,180 Bob Royal at St. Magnus'.

In 1762 the College Youths performed a notable feat by ringing at Fulham 10,098 Grandsire Caters with ten men only. It was the first 10,000 to be rung single-handed, and it appears to have been the last peal by the 'ancient society' for some years. Mr. H. M. Page, of Fulham, says: 'By reading early copies of the "Bell News" this peal was rang soon after the two Bells were added to make the peal of ten, and I think we are safe in saying the first peal on ten at All Saints', Fulham.'

As usual there is no record of the composition, but the peal board record is as follows:—

'The Society of College Youths did ring in this steeple on Monday, March 29th, 1762 A Compleat Peal of 10098 Grandsire Caters in 6 hrs. 53 mins. The performers were W. Underwood 1, W. Scott 2, R. Moore 3, W. Richardson 4, C. Wells 5, S. Buckingham 6, E. Thomas 7, S. Clark 8, R. Sames 9, S. Mugeridge 10.

William Underwood conducted, and it will be noted that Christopher Wells, who made the discovery that falseness in Treble Bob could occur at the dodging leads of the treble, rang the 5th.

In Chapter VII of 'The College Youths' Trollope gives a full account of the disagreements that split the society into two, so that for nearly thirty years there were two societies, each calling itself the College Youths. It was the 'junior' society, composed of the younger men, joined by Underwood, that rang 10,188 Grandsire Caters at West Ham, and 5,057 at Cambridge in 1765. This latter peal was rung on the occasion of the annual outing.

During the next thirty years some notable feats were accomplished. In 1773, George Gross called his excellent 7,001 at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, and on November 28th, 1774, 7,326 changes were rung at All Saints', Worcester. There is no existing record of the band, and the only available information comes from "Berrows

(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.

All communications should be sent to **THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.**

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.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 3rd, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.7, at 3 p.m. The payment of 1s. 8d. to enable those members who have not attended the required number of meetings to vote on matters of finance is now due.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Newcastle-under-Lyme on Saturday, Jan. 3rd. Six clapperless bells and handbells available from 3 p.m.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held 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.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—A meeting will be held at the Haymarket Hotel on Saturday, January 3rd, at 3 p.m. Handbells and tea provided. Business includes election of chairman and secretary, etc. A good attendance is requested.—A. M. Tyler, Branch Hon. Sec.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual meeting will be held at the Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, January 10th. Handbells available 2.30 p.m. Business meeting 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m., followed by further handbell practice. Those requiring tea

must notify me by January 9th. A hearty welcome awaits all.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

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.

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.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

GREETINGS.

Wishing all members and friends of the Ancient Society of College Youths a happy and prosperous New Year.—Ernest G. Fenn, Master; Albert A. Hughes, Treasurer; Alfred B. Peck, Sec.

Hearty greetings and best wishes for the New Year to the mad band and all ringing friends, from Paymaster Lieut. C. Glenn, R.N.V.R.

Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Swann send to all ringing friends best wishes for a happier New Year.

New Year Greetings to all ringing friends from Mr. and Mrs. Albert Walker, 86, Scribes Lane, Hall Green, Birmingham, 28.

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GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**SWINDON BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual meeting of the Swindon Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held on Saturday, December 13th, at Rodbourne Cheney. The attendance was very disappointing, only seven being present. Handbells were in use during the evening, various methods up to Stedman Caters and Grandsire Cinques being rung. The secretary gave his usual report and stated that peals of Minor, Major and Royal had been rung on handbells in the branch during the year, but he regretted that so few ringers gave any attention to this side of change ringing. He also reported that a considerable number of members had not yet paid their subscriptions.

All the officers were re-elected, indeed, with the very small number present, it was impossible to do otherwise, and it is to be regretted that such a large number of ringers show little or no interest in branch affairs.

The fixing of future meetings was left in the hands of the secretary, the opinion being expressed that meetings were rather a waste of time, as the only people who troubled to attend were those who attended the weekly practices at Christ Church, and that one of the practices could be turned into a branch meeting. The meeting ended with the election of one new member as though to show the branch is not quite dead.

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- 'STEDMAN,' 2s. 10d. An entirely new book by J. Armiger Trollope. Contains full instructions for ringing and conducting the method on 5 to 11 bells, with touches and peals, and proof and composition.
- 'TREBLE BOB,' 1s. 10d.; second edition; with appendix; 100 pages.
- 'SURPRISE METHODS,' 2s. 10d. A book by the late Rev. O. D. P. Davies, M.A., F.R.A.S. Contains a tabulated list of peals, 10 diagrams, 126 pages.

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THE FUTURE.

It used to be the custom, at the parting of the years, for a paper like 'The Ringing World,' to take the opportunity of making a survey of the twelve months that had gone and of congratulating readers on the progress they had made; and then to turn to the future with words of encouragement and good wishes. There was something in it of the spirit which prompts people to send Christmas cards to their friends, a spirit which owes a good deal no doubt to convention and habit, but at bottom is thoroughly sound and genuine. 'The Ringing World' likes to think of its readers as its friends, and likes to feel that their personal welfare is a matter for its concern.

We, all of us, wish our friends well; they would not be friends if we did not. But when at this crisis we look a little below the surface of things what grounds have we, for confidence and optimism? At first sight not much. A dark shadow lies over the land and over the world. It will be long before it passes away, and we may be certain that it will grow darker before it does pass away. We believe, and we believe with that conviction which refuses even to contemplate the possibility of defeat, that the skies will brighten again. But when the sun shines once more it will be on a land and on a people that have been radically changed. We may be looking forward to the time when we shall be able to go again into our belfries and ring as we used to do, and we think we can pick up the threads that were dropped a couple of years ago. But in our hearts we know it will not be possible.

It will be a new world we shall have to face and the problems that the war has raised will almost certainly be most acute when it is over. Everything depends on how they will be faced. We in the ringing Exercise are fortunate that the issues for us are fairly simple and clear cut. We have an art which through three centuries has proved itself of abundant vitality, and our steeples and bells remain for us as they have done through the ages.

What must we do then to preserve the change ringing which has come down to us, and to hand it on to those that come after? First of all we must be convinced in our own minds and being that it is worth preserving. If we regard it as merely a thing that can be done or left alone according to fancy, like a visit to the pictures, we shall not get very far. We must be prepared to take some trouble and to make some sacrifices, for that is the real test.

(Continued on page 14.)

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But we must have a sense of values. What matters at the moment is the winning of the war. Everything must stand aside for that. Only when that is fully provided for may we think of other things. And that brings us to our main point. Our hope for the future lies not in trying to do anything spectacular; we want nothing of the nature advocated by a correspondent last week; we do not want to start 'going to it.' What we want is for all who value change ringing to do their best according to their opportunity and ability to keep alive the spirit of the Exercise, by holding and attending as many meetings as possible; by maintaining touch with their friends; by helping and encouraging one another; and especially by refusing to allow the circumstances of the times to conquer or dim our interest in the art of change ringing.

If we can do these things, if we can combine enthusiasm, and confidence, and patience we shall win through; and we shall be able to face the year that is coming knowing full well that better days are somewhere ahead. He that shall endure to the end shall be saved.

HANDBELL PEALS.

NOTTINGHAM.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 27, 1941, in One Hour and Fifty-Three Minutes,
AT VERNON HOUSE, FRIAR LANE,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5840 CHANGES;

Being 1,800 changes of Plain Bob and 3,240 changes of Grandsire.

*BERNARD BROWN 1-2 | RALPH NARBOROUGH 3-4

*KENNETH GRATION 5-6

Conducted by RALPH NARBOROUGH.

Witness: Philip Reed.

* First peal in two methods.

BARNEHURST, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, December 28, 1941, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT 9, BEVERLEY ROAD.

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

WALTER DOBBIE 1-2 | GEORGE H. CROSS 5-6

JOHN E. SPICE 3-4 | HERBERT E. AUDSLEY 7-8

EDWIN BARNETT 9-10

Composed and Conducted by GEORGE H. CROSS.

First peal 'in hand' on ten by the ringers of 1-2 and 3-4. First peal of plain ten by the ringer of 3-4.

OSWALDTWISTLE, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 30, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT 21, FIELDING LANE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different 720's.

ISAAC WHALLEY 1-2 | ROGER LEIGH 3-4

CHARLES SHARPLES 5-6

Conducted by C. SHARPLES.

It is 37 years since I. Whalley and C. Sharples rang a handbell peal together.

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DR. SLACK'S PEAL OF STEDMAN.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I had not intended to participate in the discussion on Dr. Slack's peal, but certain points appear to need clarifying. When the composition was rung I never bothered to send the figures up, as, in the first place, I knew the Editor had them, although in a very soiled and dilapidated condition, and also because there was then no apparent demand for them. Since then, however, various people have written and asked for figures, a tedious job to keep on writing out, so I sent them up, especially as a friend had typed out some copies with one or two errors which might cause confusion in the future. Besides, I was thinking of entertainment for some of our composing sleuths. I could see them eagerly getting to work with pencil and paper, and their radiant joy if they could only prove it false!

The objection in this week's leading article to the form in which it was presented seems rather querulous to me. We are quite aware that a two-part peal of Stedman Triples, without observation bell or fixed divisions, has only two course-ends, in this case 2314765 and 2314567, but if given as a half-peal, in one string, it is essential to give all six-ends, plain and bobbed. My arrangement only requires one in twelve. This idea has been used in several instances by 'The Ringing World' of Stedman Triples compositions containing no observation bell. Two of these compositions are published in 'The Ringing World' of July 15th, 1921, and July 7th, 1922, and both have been rung. The first is a seven-part. This has really only seven course-ends, but is split up into courses of 10 sixes. The second is a six-part and is split up into courses of 10 sixes (except two odd courses). These peals could have courses of any other number equally well, and would have made no difference to the calling whatever. There is no observation, so each part is a part, however split up. It is simply a matter of expediency, the same as you print 'The Ringing World' in two columns, instead of one, or five, or six.

I am surprised an old and experienced hand like yourself queries any system of arranging or learning a peal, when we have heard of people learning a tune by which to call a composition, and other queer tricks. Even in the case of Dr. Slack's composition a very famous conductor, who had two or three attempts for it, told me of a method he was using which would never have struck me, and he knows as much about calling difficult compositions as anybody, past or present.

Any system is right, to any particular individual, if it results in bobs being called in the right place. Even Freud doesn't claim to know all the intricacies of the human mind! I was interested to see your definition of 'good copy.' I rather suspected some recent articles were a fifth column attempt to drive us all 'crackers,' and am relieved to know that such was not the case. I know you try to cater for all tastes (a difficult job, and I think you succeed), but I'm afraid I should never have been reared as a ringer if learning those was essential!

MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT.

Bushey.

A SUGGESTION.

Dear Sir,—May I suggest that the best way for the Hertfordshire people to preserve the figures of Dr. Slack's peal of Stedman Triples would be to print them in their annual report?

ALFRED H. PULLING.

The Grammar School, Guildford.

HERTFORDSHIRE RESOLUTIONS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I did not intend to take up any more of your valuable space, but your leader of the current issue leaves me no other choice than to write you again.

Your explanation why the composition has not been published re 'good copy' may appear to you, sir, to meet the case, but to the majority of your readers this presents nothing but a dogmatic refusal to recognise the talented qualities of the composition, and also offering no encouragement to young composers.

You appear to be wanting arguments to convince you to publish Slack's peal. This, however, would take up too much space, but I would like to take the opportunity of reminding you that several years ago you protested very strongly, and quite rightly so, because the figures of the Painswick peal of Grandsire Cinques were not available for publication. I need hardly add that to the majority of your readers the figures of this Cinques peal conveyed nothing, but the peal was very soon discovered to be false.

Your editorial this week may appear to you, sir, all right. One thing only does this meet, and that is that all your readers now appreciate what 'good copy' represents.

If you, sir, are convinced that what was written by Mr. W. Taylor on London Surprise, and the various articles which some time back were written by a reverend gentleman from the Eastern Counties represents good copy, I can at once assure you that very few of your readers will be convinced.

EDWIN JENNINGS.

Bushey

LONDON.—At 7, Glenwood Grove, N.W.9, on Monday, December 29th, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,344 changes): R. G. Spears 1-2, J. H. Botham 3-4, E. B. Hartley 5-6, Mrs. J. H. Botham 7-8. First quarter-peal 'in hand' by 1-2, 3-4, 5-6.

NORWICH ASSOCIATION'S PRESIDENT.**DEATH OF THE VICAR OF GREAT YARMOUTH.**

The death took place on Sunday, December 14th, at a London nursing home, after a major operation a fortnight before, of Canon R. Aubrey Aitken, at the age of 71 years.

Son of the late Canon Hay Aitken, of Norwich Cathedral, Canon Aubrey Aitken became Vicar of Great Yarmouth 21 years ago. He was elected president of the Norwich Diocesan Association of Ringers on April 19th, 1941, and in him the association has lost a good friend—one who always appreciated the endeavours of the ringers and was

always pleased to give facilities to assist them in their ringing. The use of the twelve bells at Great Yarmouth was always readily given. During the short time that he was president of the association, Canon Aitken did much to uphold its traditions worthily.

Educated at Bedford School and Merton College, Oxford, where he took his B.A. in 1893 and proceeded to his M.A. three years later, Canon Aitken was ordained deacon in 1894 and priest the following year. From 1894-98 he was curate at St. Mary's, Gateshead, and then for five years Diocesan Missioner at Hereford. From 1903 to 1909 he was Vicar of Holy Trinity, Hereford, and in the latter year accepted the living of North Walsham, Norfolk, where he remained until his appointment to Great Yarmouth. For nine years he was Rural Dean of Waxham, and while at Yarmouth became Rural Dean of the Fleggs. In December, 1921, he was appointed an Honorary Canon of Norwich Cathedral.

Canon Aitken took great interest in all sports and was a member of a great many local bodies, including the Education Committee, Norfolk and Norwich Savings Bank, Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society, governor of the hospital, etc.

The funeral service took place at St. Nicholas' Church, Great Yarmouth, and was attended by a large congregation. The Bishop of Norwich took part in the service. The Norwich Diocesan Association was represented by Mr. W. J. Lee, chairman, and Mr. J. G. W. Harwood, secretary of the Eastern Branch. Many public bodies were represented, and the Town Council was represented by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and members and officials of the Corporation.

The body had been cremated at St. Faith's, Norwich, and the ashes were later in the day placed in their last resting place in St. Nicholas' Church.

PEALS FOR HANDBELL RINGING.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—May I express my appreciation and thanks to the Rev. M. C. C. Melville for the peal of Bob Major and the explanatory article which appears in this week's 'Ringing World'?

It is evident that the writer knows the difficulties which beset such a band as ours at Bournemouth in the matter of ringing performances, not the least of these being the lack of a first-class conductor. My company of handbell ringers would have recorded a peal a long time ago had we had a good conductor. Now they are determined to try to record a peal with our local people, and so one of us will have to call it. I am wondering if Mr. Melville or any other gentleman could deal with a suitable peal of Grandsire Triples in the same way, taking the 5-6 pair as the conductor's pair?

Finally, I trust you will be able to publish a 'Ringing World' every week until victory comes. Without a weekly paper in these times the Exercise would truly be lost.

ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

116, Alma Road, Bournemouth.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.**MEETING AT SEDGLEY.**

Inclement weather was the cause of a small muster at the quarterly meeting of the Dudley and District Guild, held at Sedgley on Saturday, December 6th.

After a short practice with silent bells a service was held, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. J. H. H. Kilborn, who delivered a very interesting address and gave a short recital on the organ, which was much appreciated.

Tea in the Schoolroom followed and then the business meeting, at which the Vicar presided. Two new members were elected, including the Vicar as an honorary member. It was decided to hold the next meeting, which will be the annual meeting, at Dudley some time in March. The arrangements were left in the hands of the secretary.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar, who said he was pleased to welcome the ringers and hoped to meet them again in better times. Also to Mr. Fullwood for providing the tea and to Mrs. Fullwood, Mrs. Martin and Miss Martin for serving it. Good use was afterwards made of the handbells.

'CLAVIS CAMPANALOGIA.'

(Continued from page 4.)

THE PUBLICATION.

The authors of the 'Clavis' thought it necessary to give touches only 'in those methods which are constantly in use'; and it is interesting to notice which they are. They are Grandsire Triples, Bob Major, Oxford Treble Bob Major, Grandsire Caters, Bob Royal and Grandsire Cinques. Bob Triples, Stedman Triples and Caters, Treble Bob Royal and Maximus, and Double Bob Major and Royal—all of which we should have expected—do not appear in the list.

Of Grandsire Caters a touch of 359 changes is given which is said to be the shortest in which the bells can be brought round at hand. It was composed by John Frazier, and was 'inserted entirely for curiosity as the bells are thrown into such cross positions that few practitioners choose to ring it; but it cannot possibly be done any better way.' Another touch, 'being only two leads longer,' is recommended as 'much more musical and regular.'

The book ends with a list of rings of ten and twelve throughout the country, an archæological account of bells, and a selection of poetry.

We learn that in 1788 there were eight rings of twelve, four of them in London—St. Bridget's or St. Bride's, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, St. Michael's, Cornhill, and St. Saviour's, Southwark. The four in the country were Cirencester (which is incorrectly stated to have been the oldest twelve then existing), St. Mary's, Cambridge, St. Martin's, Birmingham, and St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich. The latter, 'though it remains the last, is by some deemed the first in point of merit.'

Middlesex had nine rings of ten—St. Mary-le-Bow, Christ Church, Spitalfields, St. Giles', Cripplegate, St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, St. Magnus', St. Dionis', Backchurch, and All Saints', Fulham. Two other tens in the metropolitan area were St. John's, Horsleydown, and St. Alphage's, Greenwich. Of all these rings five have been destroyed and one is now awaiting a new home in the new Cathedral at Guildford.

Of the forty counties of England seventeen had no ring of ten. The others had forty-two, and there was another at Wrexham in Wales.

The account of bells is taken bodily from some unknown author and is very learned, but not of any great interest. The poetry consists of William Woty's 'Campanalogia' and 'Ode,' Rogers' 'Poem addressed to a Bell Founder,' and the lines by an anonymous writer from the 'Tintinnalogia.'

Samuel Rogers was rector of Chillington in Bedfordshire from 1758 to 1768, and his poem is of considerably higher quality than the majority of those dealing with bells and ringing, though that perhaps is not saying much. Here is a short extract:—

'Let Handel play, and Frasi charm the fair
With op'ra songs, and soft Italian air,
Our country swains with greater pleasure hear
Famed Majors, Caters, Triples, and Grandsire,
Which while they ring sonorous, clear and sweet,
The face of commerce smiles along the street;
Their many sounds ev'n some refreshment yields
To toiling husbandry among the fields.'

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the custom was for authors to dedicate their books to some

nobleman or great person. It was not merely a compliment; the patron was expected to make the book a financial success by a grant of money. Following this custom the 'Tintinnalogia' and the 'Campanalogia' were dedicated to the College Youths. Fabian Stedman, who was responsible for the publication of both books, adopted this as the readiest way of meeting the financial risks. So, too, when Doleman and his partner produced the 1702 'Campanalogia' they did so under the patronage of the London Scholars.

As time went on it became usual to publish books by subscription and the dedication became more or less a compliment as it is to-day. William Jones and his colleagues adopted the latter plan. They first secured the support of ringers throughout the country, and they dedicated their work 'to our worthy friends, lovers of the art in general,' choosing 'the whole Exercise at large rather than this or that society or individual which might have looked like a partial attachment.'

The list of subscribers contains one hundred and ninety-five names. Birmingham is strongly represented, and Shrewsbury, and Nottingham, and Halifax; but the name of no Norwich man is there. Blakemore's supposed treachery had caused so much resentment among the ringers of that city that they 'totally ignored' the book.

Every one of the principal London societies is represented, and the names include those of most of the leading ringers of the day. James Bartlett, George Byers, James Darquitt, Robert Pye Donkin, John Frazier, James Hammett, William Hatt, Joseph Holdsworth, John Inville, William Irons, William Lyford, John Lyford, Joseph Monk, Richard Moore, Samuel Mugeridge, Philip Pilgrim, James Purser, John Povey, Winstanley Richardson, George Scarsbrook, William Shipway, Edward and Benjamin Simmonds, Edmund and Thomas Sylvester, Christopher Wells and James Wooster—all of them had done something to make ringing history.

The two most prominent names that are absent are Charles Purser and George Gross. Purser, who composed and called the long peals of Treble Ten for the College Youths in 1777, had been out of London peal ringing since he rang the treble to the Cambridge Surprise Major in 1783. It seems he was living for a time at Bristol or in the neighbourhood and there were no subscribers to the 'Clavis' from that part of the country.

The absence of George Gross' name may be attributed to his jealousy of John Reeves, though it is quite likely that he was an illiterate man without much use for a printed book. Yet the little we do know of him as a composer is entirely due to the 'Clavis.' Four of his peals are given, more than by any composer other than the authors. Considering the feeling between him and Reeves, this might seem a generous gesture on the part of the latter; but we must remember that it was William Jones, not Reeves, who finally decided what was to be in the book, and the peals by Gross are those for which Reeves had no equivalent.

Among the subscribers from the country are William Doubleday Crofts, the Nottingham attorney; Samuel Lawrence, of Shifnal, who was then living at Chelsea; Thomas Groves, the warner of the Union Society of Shrewsbury; Richard Cross, the bob caller of that com-

pany; Charles Day, of Cambridge; James Dovey and Phineas Smith, of Birmingham.

Five bell founders subscribed — Edward Arnold, of Leicester; John Briant, of Hertford; George Hedderley, of Nottingham; William Mears, of Whitechapel; and John Rudhall, of Gloucester.

The book was printed by William Brown, of Poppin's Court, Fleet Street, and was published by Thomas Blakemore. It is also stated on the title page that it was sold by J. Bowtell, of Cambridge. John Bowtell was a skilful ringer and a member of the Society of Cambridge Youths. Besides being a bookseller, he was a bibliophile and a collector of manuscripts. He left a collection to the library of Downing College, which included Dr. Charles Mason's papers, and was thus instrumental in preserving the only copy of Holt's broadsheet of peals now extant.

As I have already mentioned, the three authors of the 'Clavis' quarrelled and parted before the book appeared, and so it would seem that the copyright and the arrangements for publication were in Blakemore's hands. Five hundred copies only were printed and before very long the edition was sold out. As there was a great demand for the book, R. S. Kirby, of Paternoster Row, bought the copyright and published a new edition in 1796.

The familiar name 'Clavis Campanalogia' was omitted from the title page, and the book called 'New Campanalogia' or 'A Key to the Art of Ringing.' It is claimed that there are 'considerable additions,' but the additions consist merely of changes in the final chapter on the history of bells and ringing, and some more poetry. The body of the book is reprinted as it stands

(Continued in next column.)

SILENT CHURCH BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very much cheered to read Mr. Lewen's letter on 'Bells and Invasion.' I read an article in 'The Daily Mirror' the previous week saying that our bells would not ring any more till after the war, and that certain Home Guards who heard bells being played on a gramophone made a rush, thinking of invasion bells.

But what I cannot quite understand is that there are many churches in our country where the clocks still chime every quarter of an hour, day in, day out. I should like to know what difference there is between that and chiming hymn tunes as was the custom in many places on Sundays before the war.

It was done in my own village on alternate Sundays, and I had the privilege of chiming for some 25 years up till the war started. I'm also a change ringer, and I feel (like many others) done out of a great privilege, as anything done for the Church, or rather for God, is a privilege. And I think that our leaders should remember that Bunyan's words are as true to-day as when he wrote them, 'The bells are the voice of God, calling Christians to worship and sinners to repentance.'

J. W. DYER.

Great Tey.

'CLAVIS CAMPANALOGIA.'

(Continued from previous column.)

in the first edition without any attempt to correct the errors that had crept in.

For this, of course, William Jones was not responsible. He had probably severed his connection with the book before 1788, and Kirby evidently thought he could dispense with the services and expenses of an expert editor.

The second edition was printed by J. Raw, of Ipswich. A few years later, about 1800, a third edition was issued, printed from the same type and published by Longman Hurst, Rees, Orme and Brown. In this edition the book is simply styled 'A Key to the Art of Ringing.' Except for the title page the impress is identical with the second edition.

Towards the end of the last century a reprint of the first edition was issued from the office of 'The Bell News' by Harvey Reeves.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

We are informed that Edward Townley, of the Kendal, Westmorland, band, has been killed on active service in the Middle East. He was 20 years of age, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Townley, of Kendal, and nephew of Mr. Len Townley, the very popular secretary of the Kendal band.

The number of handbell peals conducted by the Rev. Malcolm Melville during 1941 was eight, not seven as stated in our summary. All but one were rung at Swindon, and included in each was one or more young ringers who have learnt to ring during the last two years.

On January 4th, 1794, eight thousand changes of Grandsire Major were rung at St. John's, Deritend, Birmingham. Deritend bells came from the Aldbourne foundry, about which Mr. Frederick Sharpe and others have lately told us.

Ten years earlier the Oldham men rang 14,480 Bob Major.

The College Youths rang 17,524 Stedman Cinques at Cripplegate on January 6th, 1851, beating 7,392 rung at Birmingham in 1848. The Cumberlands made two or three attempts to go one better, but without success, and the Cripplegate peal stood as the record until 1858.

On January 7th, 1767, the first twelve-bell peal outside London (one of Grandsire Cinques) was rung at Cirencester by a visiting band of College Youths; and on the same date in 1846 what was claimed as the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus in London was rung at Southwark with John Cox as conductor. It is doubtful if the claim was a sound one.

Samuel Thurston, of Norwich, died 101 years ago to-day.

To-morrow is the 225th anniversary of the first ten-bell peal ever rung. It was Grandsire Caters by the London Scholars at St. Bride's, Fleet Street.

Alfred W. Grimes died on January 5th, 1917, and Henry Johnson died on January 7th, 1890.

Fifty years ago to-day six peals were rung; two were Bob Major, three Kent Treble, Bob Major, and one Stedman Triples.

Ten years ago to-day 19 peals were rung. They were: Grandsire Triples 1, Caters 1; Stedman Triples 2, Caters 1; College Single Major 1, Double Norwich Major 4, Cambridge Surprise Major 2; Loudon 1, Bristol 1, Superlative 1, Minor 2, and Doubles 2.

STYLE IN RINGING. AND SOME OTHER MATTERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—During the past few weeks there have been several things of interest in 'The Ringing World' which I have enjoyed, but there were some with which I do not agree.

The letter from 'Novice' is one. I myself can see no reason why a stylish handler should be a first-class striker. One of the prettiest handlers I have seen was one of the worst strikers I ever heard. But two other stylists I have had the pleasure of meeting who were fine strikers were what are referred to in the pamphlet issued by 'C.C.' as left handed (apparently because they do all their work with the right hand).

Does style have anything to do with striking really? Bill Pye's best friend could not say he was a nice handler, yet his bell was always in its place and I, for one, sometimes wondered why.

Now I shall upset some of my very good Hertfordshire friends. I see at a recent meeting a proposal was made that a composition of Stedman Triples should be published in 'The Ringing World.' Well I am open to correction, but so far as I can remember the association have never published compositions or peal references in their annual report. If this is so surely this state of affairs should be corrected first.

This is not the only association which does not publish peal references, and this is a thing that the Central Council would do well to look into, as many false compositions must be rung time after time in such circumstances.

Now regarding the 'Anti-Silent' business, this has had a good innings, so I hope, maybe with other readers, that this subject has reached its conclusion.

Amongst some of the things I should like to read in 'The Ringing World' is a history of J. W. Washbrook's ringing career. Of course, I have read over and over again of a few of his wonderful performances, but never a full story of this great all-rounder. Perhaps no ringer had more mud slung at him than J.W., but this would appear to have been because at times he relied on ringing for his living.

It is also a pity we could not read more of Samuel Thurston, because I feel that Mr. C. E. Borrett was somewhat unkind in his remarks recently. After all some of Thurston's performances were remarkable, especially the first of London at St. Andrew's, where the bell ropes fall in no order and the peal had the tenors parted.

I have read Mr. Trollope's articles, but I still consider that ringing as we know it to-day must have originated in Norwich, or why were they so much in advance of other ringers? In Norwich as a youngster I was always given to understand that much of the material contained in the 'Clavis' was stolen from Norwich, and this would appear to bear me out.

Well, I should like to apologise for writing so much, and will conclude by wishing all my ringing friends a happy 1942.

GEORGE H. CROSS.

Barnehurst, Kent.

LOOKING BACKWARD.

DOWN THE CENTURIES.

Nineteen hundred and forty-one has not been so pleasant and successful a year that any of us will regret its passing. The best we can say of it is that it might have been worse; it has left us still hope for the future, and England faces 1942 with head 'bloody but unbowed.' What has that year in store? We do not know.

I tell you naught for your comfort,
Yea, naught for your desire,
Save that the sky grows darker yet
And the sea rises higher.

It may be so. Yet we remember that less than six months before the last war was won the British army suffered the most resounding reverse in its history. Perhaps—why can tell—the picture so eloquently painted by Frodoe may come true once more. The glad news spread like lightning 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 into life, and all day metal tongues from tower and steeple gave voice to England's gladness.

That was nearly four hundred years ago, but the towers of our town and village churches were not so unlike what they are now, and most of them had bells. If we could go back to 1542 we should find that the ringing Exercise was already born and that ringing was as popular, nay far more popular, than it is to-day. There was not much cause for national rejoicing in 1542; it was a time of changes and confusion, and though we were not then actually at war, the next year saw one of the many conflicts with France. The churches were just as they had been for many years, but the time was at hand when they would be stripped bare of their fittings and ornaments, only the bells being left. They were left because the people loved the sound of them, and all who could were glad to take part in the ringing. It is probable that every bell in London City's hundred steeples could have been rung at the same time.

THE BEGINNING OF THE ART.

Change ringing had not then been invented, but when we skip a century and come to 1642 the art was already beginning to spread, and the Exercise was beginning to take the form which, with not much modification, has lasted down to the present day. Already there were societies for the better class ringers, and the College Youths had been in existence for five years. They were experimenting with 'cross peals' and had already rung what was the earliest form of Bob Doubles.

That too was a year of trouble. Civil war broke out between the King and the Parliament, and in the end Church and Throne went down in common ruin.

But the Exercise carried on without a break. Throughout the land the bells were still rung and still rung as a sport; the College Youths were never more prosperous; and after the reign of the saints came to an end there was that great development of the art associated with the names of Fabian Stedman, Richard Duckworth and their peers.

One hundred years later the art and the Exercise were full grown. Peal ringing was a normal thing in the life of the best bands, and change ringing was spreading throughout the land.

The year 1742 was not itself a particularly eventful one. The most interesting performance was the first peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, which was rung at St. Michael's, Coslany, by the Norwich Scholars on March 4th. Who the band were and who called it we do not know, but probably the conductor was Edward Crane, who had made a name in connection with Stedman Triples.

On the following day a peal of Richmond Triples was rung at Richmond in Surrey. What the method was cannot be said, but almost certainly it was some form of Plain Bob or Grandsire Triples.

At Magdalen College, Oxford, on Easter Monday, the local men started for a ten-thousand of Grandsire Caters, but after ringing over 7,000 changes in 4 hours and 25 minutes, John Vicars, the conductor, made a mistake and called the bells round. Whether the peal was true is perhaps doubtful.

A QUERIED PEAL.

So far as we know, two other peals were rung in the provinces during the year. One was at Coddenhall in Suffolk, where Theodore Eccleston had erected a peal of eight bells and formed a company of ringers. In November he got Andrew Field, a London man, to go down and call a peal of Bob Major, himself ringing the tenor.

The other peal was one of Bob Triples at Wye in Kent, where there was a good band who had already accomplished Grandsire Triples in 1736 and 1738.

In London the College Youths were having a quiet time. They did not ring a single peal during the year. The Eastern Scholars were the active peal ringing company. In January they scored Bob Major at St. Stephen's, Coleman Street, and after a fortnight's interval the same method at Christ Church, Southwark, both of which churches and their bells have been destroyed in recent air raids. In February the company rang the first peal of Double Bob Major at St. Margaret's, Westminster.

The peal at Coleman Street was recorded in an unusual way. The account was cut into the lead of the church roof, and near it was inscribed, 'This is a lye as sure as the performers lived.' It may have been merely a spiteful or idle remark by some irresponsible person; or it may be an indication that in the opinion of some critics

(Continued in next column.)

HANDBELL RINGING AT BOURNEMOUTH.

A BUSY CHRISTMAS.

On Sunday, December 21st, a party of the Bournemouth and district handbell ringers went to St. James', Poole, to join with the Poole ringers in some change ringing and carol tunes in place of the usual sermon at evensong. Messrs. Townsend, Young and Davis, with Mrs. Marshall and Miss Check, took part in two 'touches' of Grandsire Triples, and the Davis family from Bournemouth—father, son and daughter—rang seven carol tunes. Mr. F. J. Marshall very kindly conveyed the Bournemouth party to Poole and back.

On Sunday, December 23rd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (ten-calls) was rung by Mrs. Marshall 1-2, A. V. Davis (conductor) 3-4, F. S. Wilson 5-6, in St. Peter's, Bournemouth.

On Wednesday the Davis family rang carol tunes and Christmas bells after the service in St. Peter's, Bournemouth, for the blessing of the Christmas crib, and again on Christmas morning at the 10 o'clock service.

The ringers met at St. Peter's again on Sunday evening and rang changes and carol tunes before evensong.

On Tuesday, December 30th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung in St. Peter's Hall in 43 minutes by H. Mitchell 1-2, Mrs. F. J. Marshall 3-4, A. V. Davis (conductor) 5-6, F. S. Wilson 7-8. This quarter-peal was rung on the back eight of a fine peal of ten handbells belonging to Mr. Wilson and very kindly loaned to the party for practice.

THE COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should be glad if you would spare some space for a reply to the letter by 'A Member' which appears in your issue of December 26th.

I would point out to your correspondent that the criticisms made by the Bushey meeting were directed at the Central Council, not at any individual member. Most readers of 'The Ringing World' are already fully aware of the efforts made by the secretary of the Central Council to get the ban lifted. In the same way most ringers could name another member of the Central Council who is keeping ringing circles alive in the Watford district, not to mention the best part of Middlesex. However, the functions of the Central Council, I gather, should not be confined to one or two of its members.

RUSSELL G. SPEARS.

LOOKING BACKWARD.

(Continued from previous column.)

the peal was not faultless. Philemon Mainwaring called the bobs, and is it, we wonder, only a coincidence that vague doubts have been thrown on three of the peals conducted by him—the fifteen thousand at West Ham, the Treble Bob Royal at St. Sepulchre's, and this peal at St. Stephen's?

The other three peals by the Eastern Scholars during the year were called by John Sharpe, and they were all long peals—6,832 and 10,080 of Bob Major at Mortlake and 6,160 in the same method at Gravesend.

William Doubleday Crofts was born in 1742, and in the same year John Reeves was a tiny infant, John Holt was 16 years old and Benjamin Annable 39. It was a year of war, but nothing particular happened in it.

In the year 1842 the College Youths rang no peal. They were suffering from the changes which had followed on the disappearance of the class of men who had formed the backbone of the company during the eighteenth century and the revival associated with the names of John Cox, Henry Haley, William Cooter and Matthew Wood had not yet begun.

PEALS IN THE PROVINCES.

In the provinces also there were the beginnings of a general decline, though several good bands still existed. The Norwich men had reached their prime and achieved all their most famous performances save one. In 1842 they rang Kent Treble Bob Royal and Stedman Caters at St. Andrew's. Two years later they rang 7,126 Stedman Cinques at Mancroft and after that decline set in, slow and imperceptible at first, but after a few years decisive.

Birmingham had probably the most progressive band in the country, for it was the time when the men there were striving for the first peal of Stedman Triples with common bobs and two singles only, with John Lates and Thomas Thurstans as the chief rival composers. Both had been trying to adapt Hudson's peal by cutting out some of the many Doubles that are in it, and finally on August 8th, 1842, Thomas Day called a variation of it in which the number was reduced to two. It was an important stage in the composition of the method and the credit was claimed by both Thurstans and Lates.

Sheffield, too, where William Hudson was conductor, had a good band. During the year they rang both Grandsire and Stedman Caters.

At Liverpool the local men rang 5,258 Grandsire Cinques at St. Nicholas'. On June 25th the Painswick men rang 8,105 changes of Stedman Caters, a longer length than had as yet been rung in the method, but the composition was false; and so was the composition of 8,061 Grandsire Caters rung on the same day in the neighbouring town of Stroud.

William Shipway, the author of a celebrated text book on ringing, died in 1842.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

A PROBLEM IN COMPOSITION.

BY AN AVERAGE COMPOSER.

When the Editor asked me to write an account of the problems raised by Mr. Slack's two-part peal of Stedman Triples, I objected that I knew very little about Stedman Triples composition and was unable to give any expert opinions. 'That's all right,' he said. 'I am not asking for expert opinions, at least not from you. I want you to put the matter broadly so the average reader may know something about the matter. If you make any slips, there will be plenty of people to put you right, and you need not sign your name if you don't want to.'

Very well, then. First let me say that I know nothing about Mr. Slack's peal except what has been in 'The Ringing World.' I understand it is in two equal parts, with 598 bobs and two singles. How it is composed I have no idea. I do not intend, therefore, to say anything about it, either in praise or to blame. I am going to discuss the matter on general lines, and if anybody wishes to draw inferences he can do so.

I have never seen or heard the opinion expressed by any responsible person that a peal of Stedman Triples in two equal parts is an impossibility. The older composers, such as Bulwer, Heywood and Davies, seem to have satisfied themselves that it was not possible on orthodox lines, and beyond that they did not bother to enquire. They had good reason for their opinions. On the twin-bob plan such a peal definitely cannot be had; neither can it be had, I imagine, on the odd-bob plan introduced by John Carter and developed by Mr. J. W. Parker and Mr. A. J. Pitman. It is quite likely that this plan is capable of further development, and it would be foolish to say dogmatically that anything connected with it is impossible; but there is no reason why a man cannot feel sure in his own mind.

The twin-bob plan produces the vast majority of the best peals in the method; the odd-bob plan produces all the others (with only two singles) that are any good for practical purposes; and since neither will allow of a peal in two exactly-equal parts, an ordinary person may be permitted to hold the opinion that no such peal (really worth calling a peal) is possible.

I say he may be permitted to hold that opinion, but he must not expect that everyone else will agree with him. He will also, if he is wise, remember that Stedman Triples is a most elusive method to have to deal with. It is as slippery as an eel, and when you think you have got it fixed it will find some bolt hole and turn round and grin at you. W. H. Thompson found that out, and where he failed, lesser men need not be ashamed of failing too.

So far all peals with only two singles have been based on Hudson's 60 course ends. (There is an exception, of which presently.) Whether these are the only course ends which will serve the purpose nobody knows. The thing is hardly capable of proof, though a really expert composer could no doubt reach pretty sound conclusions.

So long as we keep to Hudson's course ends we can know pretty well where we are, but in the wilderness outside them it seems as if anything might happen. Some day perhaps a man, using a new set of course ends, will find a peal as good as Thurstans' Four-Part. He may; but no one has done so up to now, and no one looks like doing it.

Anyhow Hudson's 60 courses make a large number of first-class peals possible, but they all have marked features. One is that the only singles possible affect the observation bell, and that makes a peal in two exactly similar parts impossible. I say 'exactly' similar because Thurstans' composition is for all practical purposes in two similar and equal parts. Only the parts are not joined together at the same place, and one has 'extras' where the other has 'omits.'

If we want to compose a two-part peal of Double Norwich or Bob Major with two singles all we need do is to compose the first half of it and see that it is true. We can then put in a single and we get the second half automatically without any fear of it being false in itself or false with the first half. The in-course half can never repeat with the out-of-course half.

It is different in Stedman Triples. There the courses do not divide into even and odd. Every course is itself both even and odd, and what matters is which way it is written out. The plain course 2314567 contains exactly the same rows as the course 5641237, and the rows come in exactly the same order except that one is the reverse of the other.

This means that in a two-part composition with two singles the second half must be considered not as similar to the first half, but as the exact reverse of the first half. This actually happens in Thurstans' Four-Part and is easily seen when that is compared with the one-part, which is the same thing rearranged.

All these things, and more, complicate the composition of Stedman Triples and forbid us to do what we should like to do, and what very often we can do in other methods. But though the citadel of the method is so carefully guarded and so hard to enter, there is a back door through which, if we care to use it, we may dodge a good many of the obstacles. Composers, from John Reeves onwards, have known of this back door. They have never liked it, and some would never go near it; but a few did find a way through it into the citadel when the front door was slammed in their faces. This back door is composing with 'B Blocks.'

(Continued in next column.)

FIRST THINGS FIRST.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Is it not time to stop worrying about needless trifles? Some have worried over the Central Council and its officials and others over the ban. No one likes it, least of all us who have rung on Sundays since boyhood, but my personal opinion has always been that once the ban was put on it would not be lifted so long as the Germans hold the coast line of the Continent.

One writer this week suggests we shall not be able to ring at the Armistice because of the ban. It is a long way from that coast line to Germany, and it will take time to drive them back there. This time I am pleased to think our Colonies and Allies are determined to finish the job properly. There will be plenty of time to lift the ban when the danger of invasion is past. I believe he will attempt it by air just to satisfy his own people. If we are honest we must admit that even if we were allowed to ring now not half the towers could do so. There are no ringers available. Writers are also worrying why the Central Council does not meet. If they did, would that help the war effort? So far as I can see, no. Our president and secretary at present we do know are helping the thing that really matters, the war, and other members are doing their share.

We do know that our Exercise is safe when we have won, but if we lose it will be gone. Let no one think the Hun would stand peals being rung. For one thing, we should not have bells. He would put all that metal to other purposes. In conclusion, do not be so down-hearted about after the war ringing. It may not be so posh, but it will recover in time, and it will be a real treat to everyone if we can only ring good rounds.

A. H. PULLING.

The Grammar School, Guildford.

THE SUGGESTED NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

NO USE WAITING FOR OLDER MEMBERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the letter by 'Looking Forward' in your issue of December 12th, I am with him as regards the forming of a National Association. I quite agree it is of no use waiting for the older members of the Exercise to give a lead.

But for the time being the men with the vision and the courage that would be required to launch such an undertaking are engaged in a far more serious matter.

Nevertheless, it would be very helpful if some of the older members gave us their opinion on the matter.

The least that could be done at present would be to keep the project in mind until the time to launch it was more opportune.

If ever a National Association is formed, I respectfully suggest that its leaders be 'selected' for their business abilities, and not because of their ringing abilities only, or social standing, as appears to have been the case in so many instances.

T. HARRIS.

Shirehampton, Bristol.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

(Continued from previous column.)

A B Block in any method is the round block formed by making bobs at every lead-end, or in Stedman at every Six-end. These blocks are, for purposes of composition, the natural courses of the method, and the means by which they are joined together are omits, not bobs. A peal of Stedman Triples produced in this way is to a fastidious taste not Stedman Triples at all, but Stedman Doubles with two bells dodging behind. Every now and then one of the two is taken away and another put in its place.

If anybody likes to call such stuff Stedman Triples there is no law to prevent him, but we have the experience of the Exercise to show that no band will willingly ring it if what they want can be obtained in any other way. It is remarkable what people will put up with when there is nothing else to do. In 1788 the best of the London ringers would not tolerate two bobs in Stedman Triples at following Sixes. Their musical ears forbade it. But in 1803 Charles Barber called Edward's peal for the College Youths with 722 calls. No doubt the band were proud of themselves when they had finished, but I don't suppose they wanted to ring it again.

When you are composing by B Blocks you can first of all set down the 5,040 rows in 84 courses, and then your task is to join them all into one block by means of omits and singles. You will find that there are still many difficulties to overcome, but they won't strike you as insurmountable providing you have patience enough; and some things which seemed impossible with the orthodox plan of composition seem quite possible with this.

A peal in two equal parts with two singles? Why not? First of all join four blocks together with a single, an omit, a single and an omit. There is a basis for a peal. All you have to do is to join the right 40 blocks to the first two blocks. That's all, but you will find you will want all your wits and perhaps somebody's else too. When you have done it you will be entitled to be proud of yourself, but it is the sort of pride which belongs to the solving of a very difficult crossword puzzle. The doing it is the thing that matters. The result is nothing. Ought we not to ring such a peal then? Good gracious, no!

THE UTILITARIANS.

A CRITIC AND 'ANTI-SILENT.'

To the Editor.

Sir,—I haven't the time nor you the space for me to follow 'Anti-Silent' through all the labyrinthian arguments in his last letter; neither would your readers have the patience to read such a long reply. I shall, however, be glad if you will kindly let me make one or two comments upon his latest effusion—not with the idea of silencing his criticism. I wouldn't try to do that for worlds even if I could, but I couldn't, for he is obviously one of those who, like Tennyson's 'brook,' goes on for ever.

When I ask 'Anti-Silent' to devote some of his energy to getting a move on in the association (if any) to which he owes allegiance, he replies by saying he owes his allegiance to the Exercise as a whole and that 'this is not an individual association question.'

If this is not an association question I ask in the name of all that's righteous whose business is it? If, as 'Anti-Silent' suggests, the Central Council is no good for the purpose because it only pushes one way (presumably not the way 'Anti-Silent' would have it go), who is there left to do anything if the associations don't do it? The Exercise, to which 'Anti-Silent' owes allegiance, is inarticulate without either the associations or the Central Council, and 'Anti-Silent' might as well go out and plough the sands of the Sahara as to expect results.

'Anti-Silent' seems to have a penchant for misrepresentation. He goes to some length to make me look absurd over the lantern lectures, by quoting his own experience in bygone years when for the sake of entertainment which it afforded the audience he gave 15 talks. He conveniently ignores the circumstances to which I deliberately referred when I asked, 'Does "Anti-Silent" imagine that in a parish where . . . 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?' Not quite the same thing, sir, as the circumstances under which 'Anti-Silent's' talks were given.

In this connection, may I call your readers' attention to the fact that this is not the first piece of misrepresentation on the part of 'Anti-Silent,' and I have not yet observed any kind of apology from him for his misquotation of the article by the Rev. A. A. Liney, of Bampton?

Just one other word. In answer to my challenge as to what 'Anti-Silent' is doing (again made in connection with his actions in this campaign of his and not to his past peace-time activities) he refers your readers to his letter of August 15th. Well, sir, I have referred to that letter and I give him credit for the fact that two years ago he made a house-to-house collection towards a bell fund 'in a parish of 600 houses, out of which 391 gave.' Then, of course, we may add his many long letters to 'The Ringing World' which must have taken up a lot of his time. Next he tells you that he notices I do not tell you what I am doing. Actually I was too modest, but I can't let the challenge pass, so here I recount my many glorious deeds, beginning with peace time, as 'Anti-Silent' does, so that we can start all square. Now, let me see. I have taught quite a lot of young people how to ring; I have helped many of them through their first peal. I have acted, for a short time, as a district secretary, and I have served for ten years as the general secretary of my association. I have also given lectures on bells and bellringing. I once raised over £600 for a bell restoration. There is one other thing I have done—but in my modesty wild horses will not drag that from me. But wait a minute—there is another admission I will make. I have, like 'Anti-Silent,' written letters to 'The Ringing World,' but happily for your readers not at such length, although this one, I fear, threatens to be so.

'PLAIN HUNT.'

This letter has been unavoidably held over for a time. The correspondence may now cease.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World.'

THE ALDBOURNE FOUNDRY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. F. Sharpe's article in your last issue is very interesting. But he omits to say that the Wells, both Robert and James, used to make 'rumbler' on crota bells, usually used for horses. I discovered a lot when 'hiking' across the Wiltshire Downs and calling at farms.

Mr. Sharpe says that James Wells sold out to Thomas Mears in 1876. Is this correct? I always understood it was in 1815. Thomas Mears made these 'rumbler' with the casts used by Robert and James Wells and bearing the latter's initials. Would Mr. Sharpe tell us more about the Burford foundry of Thomas Bond? I am sure many of your readers would be interested, seeing the interesting details mentioned by Mr. F. Sharpe.

EDWARD J. THOMAS.

Elephant and Castle, Carmarthen.

A ROUND PEAL.—A Round Peale is to ring the Bells what space is to the Ringers please.—R. Holme, 'Armoury,' A.D. 1688.

ECKINGTON, DERBYSHIRE.—On Saturday, December 27th. 1260 Bob Royal in 45 minutes: *Gordon Briggs 1-2, *G. Gordon Graham (conductor) 3-4, *Roy Fox 5-6, *Norman Fox 7-8, *Percy J. Jervis 9-10. *First quarter-peal. †First quarter-peal 'in hand.'

NATIONAL GUILD OF POLICE RINGERS.

GOOD PROGRESS IN LEICESTER.

In these very difficult times meetings of the Police Guild are almost out of the question and it is very difficult to keep in touch with all members. In view of this it was decided to send to each member at the last known address a Christmas and New Year greeting card. Particular difficulty is experienced with regard to the Metropolitan Police members on account of the inter-divisional changes. Any member of the Guild who did not receive the greeting is asked to communicate with the hon. secretary, Inspector H. J. Poole, 150, Narborough Road South, Leicester, to whom should be forwarded the member's present address.

Three or four months ago an effort was made to take advantage of the ringing ban and the clapperless bells to teach some new ringers at Leicester Cathedral. About a dozen members of the Leicester City Police were invited to try their luck and they soon made rapid progress in the handling of a bell. As was to be expected, on two occasions a stay proved to be ineffective in stopping the long and strong pull and had to be replaced, but this was considered not at all bad in view of the number of persons taught and the hours spent at teaching. Progress generally has been very satisfactory and the efforts of the teachers well worth while. One learner has rung Stedman Triples and several have rung the treble and tenor to Grandsire Triples. As a result of this effort the Leicester City Police now have 14 members who are keenly interested in the art of ringing, and the National Guild of Police Ringers will benefit accordingly.

The thanks of the police learners are due to Mr. Ernest Rawson and Mrs. Poole, of the Cathedral band, for their weekly attendances at practices in all weathers, not forgetting Jill Poole, who, in making up the band, has made good progress herself. Thanks are also due to Messrs. Ernest and Josiah Morris for their kind assistance at the occasional morning practices for the 'night-duty' men.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL.

THE OLD YEAR AND THE NEW.

In spite of the handicap imposed by the Control of Noise Order, the year 1941 was duly rung out and the New Year rung in by the Leicester Cathedral ringers, and so the old English custom was not allowed to lapse. The Order was not contravened. There were too many policemen present. The ceremony was performed on handbells and this was followed by a visit to the belfry for ringing on the peal of twelve, the clappers of which have been removed.

The assembly was arranged for 10.10 p.m. at the Cathedral Church House. The entertainment included selections on the set of 37 handbells, the handbell band being Miss Jill Poole, Harold J. Poole, Miss F. A. Poole, Mrs. H. J. Poole, Harry Wayne and Arthur Moore. Friend Bromley duly acquainted the audience by song how Auntie Fanny was buried in a hole, and with Messrs. F. A. Poole and D. Robinson rendered the 'Policeman's Night Out,' a mixed medley showing the variety of a policeman's lot at night. Carols were also sung to the accompaniment of the accordion.

Refreshments were handed round by the gentlemen, who did their 'Nippy' stuff quite well and to the apparent satisfaction of the ladies.

Midnight was preceded by a course of Grandsire Caters on the handbells by the following: Miss Jill Poole, Frederick E. Wilson, Ernest Morris, Harold J. Poole and Josiah Morris.

The New Year was welcomed in by a 'rise and fall' on a specially selected heavy peal of eight handbells and a dark man with a black face, who wished everyone present a very happy and prosperous New Year. A visit was then made to the belfry and a survey here revealed that 42 persons were present. Rounds were rung for the learners and the ringing also included a touch of Stedman Caters and courses of Grandsire Triples and Cambridge Surprise Major. Nine learners were made members of the Midland Counties Association, and as rounds were being rung each new member called out his name, which was taken down by the general hon. secretary of the association. They were proposed and seconded and each duly footed the bill. This resulted in quite a rush for the honour of being the first member to pay his subscription in the new year.

A return was made to the Cathedral Church House, where, in the meantime, tables and chairs had been cleared. The younger element, fully represented, then enjoyed some dancing.

The proceedings concluded about 1.15 a.m. with the song, 'Should Old Acquaintance be Forgotten,' everyone well satisfied that the New Year had been signalled in in the best and old traditional style.

WOODMANCOTE.

There are only three bells in the steeple at Woodmancote and one of them is cracked, but at a carol service on Sunday, December 21st, for the first time in living memory, changes were rung in the church from the chancel steps. The ringing, which lasted for ten minutes, consisted of courses of Grandsire Doubles, and the band was Miss Stella M. Wickens (aged 10 years) 1-2, Charles Tyler 3-4, Charles H. Wickens 5-6. Mr. Tyler is the grand old man of the Sussex County Association.

GRANDSIRE CATERS. THE HISTORY OF THE METHOD.

By EDGAR C. SHEPHERD.

(Continued from page 10.)

Squire Fortrey, of Kings Norton-by-Galby, had given the two trebles to St. Margaret's, Leicester. He had an interest in the Leicester Scholars and in the Society of Sherwood Youths in Nottingham, and the worthy gentleman offered a peal of handbells to the society that rang the first peal of 10,000. With recollection of their recent 6,012, the Leicester Scholars went to work enthusiastically to secure the prize. The following extract from John Martin's MS. book tells the story in inimitable fashion:—

'It was agreed by the Leicester Change Ringers To Go for a peal of Ten Thousand and Eighty Grandsire Caters in ye Tittoms, which They Did Every Monday Morning, and after a Tryal of several Times, They compleated Their Desires. Foure Times They Rung Eight Thousand, and Once they Rung Nine Thousand, and then ye Man that Rung the Third Missed his Salley, and ye peal was lost. Another Tryal Took place on the 25th Day of February, 1776, and 5,000 changes Was Rung in the Morning and In ye afternoon of ye same Day they Compleated the Great peal of 10,080 Grandsire Caters in ye Tittoms, in Seven hours and Twelve Minuets, the Next Day the Society Met and Cheard Three of the Oldest Members Through the principle Streets of the Town, and the inhabitants of ye town Made a Subscription and it Ris to the Eight (i.e. height) of Thirty Three pounds and upwards, which Names are hear wrote under. Begin from St. Margaret's Church.'

Then follow 22 columns of names and the amount each gave. Contributions ranged from 2d. to a guinea, given by 'Mr. Watts for Ale.' The collectors missed very little (In the Combshop, 2s. 6d.), and their enthusiasm was in no way abated by the next day, for we read: 'Received the Next Day of people that was not at home 2s. 2d.'

The ringers were: William Ryder Treble, Benjamin Warburton 2, Thomas Armstrong 3, Thomas Scott 4, William Thacker 5, John Martin 6, Mark Graham 7, Joseph Smith 8, William Bull 9, James Slack and Richard Wright Tenor. The peal was composed by John Martin and was conducted by William Bull.

In the following year the Society of Sherwood Youths rang 10,260 at St. Mary's, Nottingham. This ancient society, which had been established in 1672 with the title of the 'Northern Youths,' was now in a very strong position under the able leadership of William Doubleday Crofts. Crofts was a Nottingham attorney-at-law, and was famed as a ringer and composer throughout England. From 1761 until 1820 the society appears to have rung at least twenty peals, including first peals on the bells at Gainsborough, Uppingham (Rutland), Newark, Mansfield, Grantham, Norton-by-Galby, Caythorpe and York Minster.

Crofts, we are told, was physically a powerful man. In the 10,260 at St. Mary's, Nottingham, when the ropes were 30ft. longer than they are now, he rang the 9th single-handed for the whole seven hours and twenty-two minutes. The record of the peal is as follows:—

'On Tuesday, March 3rd, 1778, A Peal of 10,260 Grandsire Caters was rang by the following persons: Jno. Smith Treble, Rd. Peat 2nd, Wm. Bradley 3rd, Saml. Roe 4th, Jno. Mason 5th, Rd. Sharrah 6th, Jno. Fetti-

place 7th, Frans. Draper 8th, Wm. D. Crofts 9th, Jas. Coppock and Rd. Wilson Tenor. Conducted by Wm. D. Crofts. Time, 7 Hours and 22 minutes.'

James Coppock was great-grandfather to the late Mr. Albert Coppock, who revived the Society of Sherwood Youths in 1924. It is said that Squire Fortrey gave a set of 'cup' handbells to the Nottingham men and a set to the Leicester men to commemorate the two notable peals.

In the opening decade of the 19th century two long lengths of Grandsire Caters are recorded. In 1803, 10,336 changes were rung on the fine ring of ten at Kingston-on-Thames. The tenor was rung single-handed. In 1808 a peal of 10,097 was rung at Shrewsbury with two men on the tenor. The latter peal was rung on the back ten and contrary to the usual practice, the record begins with the 3rd bell. The tablet in St. Chad's reads as follows:—

'This tablet was erected by the Union Society to record an excellent Peal of Grandsire Caters rung here on Tuesday, April 5th, 1808, which if surpassed by future Practitioners will stand as a memorial that their predecessors were not deficient in skill and Perseverance. It contained 10,007 changes and was performed in 6 Hours and 50 Minutes (by) T. Spendlove 3rd, E. Roberts 4th, G. Roberts 5th, S. Lee 6th, C. Bigg 7th, R. Cross 8th, W. Bull 9th, R. Wilding 10th, T. Parker 11th, J. Parrett, T. Hill Tenor. Called by W. Bull.'

It would be interesting to know if the conductor, William Bull, was the former conductor of the Leicester Scholars. There is no direct evidence, but Bull vanished from Leicester records soon after the famous 10,080, and here at Shrewsbury is an able conductor with the same name, the same fondness for a heavy bell and the same liking for long lengths.

On March 27th, 1815, the Society of Oxford Cumberland Youths rang 10,008 Grandsire Caters at New College, and two years later Painswick set up a new record which stood for many years. Since the 12,006 in 1737 no account appears of the activities of the Painswick Youths, but after 1811 peals were rung at frequent intervals. Among these, peals of Grandsire Caters were rung in 1811, 1814, 1815, followed by 10,273 in 1816. It means that this was beaten shortly afterwards by the rival band at Bristol, but details of the performance are lacking. The Painswick men settled the matter, however, in 1817 by ringing 12,312 in seven hours and forty-four minutes, and setting up a record that remained unbroken until the peal at Appleton in 1888. The composition of the Painswick peal is referred to as 'Tittum Grandsire Caters,' not a very accurate description, for the figures are J. Reeves's 6,660, augmented to 12,312 in the manner shown in the 'Clavis.' The second half has 789 in the Plain Course position.

The tablet in the tower gives the following particulars:—

'This Tablet Records the Greatest Achievement of Change Ringing in England, by ten men only, in that Musical Composition of Tittum Grandsire Caters, comprising 12312 changes, Rung in this Steeple by Painswick Youths being on the 5th day of May, 1817, which was Nobly Performed in 7 hrs. 44 mts., and the Artists were Stationed as follows:—Danl. Gyde Treble. Gils Mansfield Second. Geo. Harding Third. Wm. Estcourt Fourth. Jno. Tunley Fifth. Jas. Savory Sixth. Robt. Selwyn Seventh. Thos. Bethell Eighth. Thos. Handy Ninth. Jno. Wood Tenor.

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.**

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual meeting will be held at the Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, January 10th. Handbells available 2.30 p.m. Business meeting 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m., followed by further handbell practice. A hearty welcome awaits all.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

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.

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.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 17th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.7, at 3 p.m. The payment of 1s. 8d. to enable those members who have not attended the required number of meetings to vote on matters of finance is now due.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 17th, in St. Peter's Institute, Hatfield Road, St. Albans. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Will all members please endeavour to attend as important business must be discussed. — H. J. Hazell, Dis. Sec., 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch. — Quarterly meeting at Halesowen (D.V.), Saturday, Jan. 17th, 3 p.m. Tower bells available for silent practice. Tea, Central Café, 5.15 p.m. Usual evening arrangements.—B. C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The annual district meeting is being held at the Heathcote Arms, Croft, on Jan. 17th, at 6 p.m. Back entrance and bring your own 'eats.' Handbells, etc., follow meeting. Silent tower bell ringing from 3.30. All welcome.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Pudsey on Saturday, Jan. 24th.

Handbells available from 3 p.m. in the Park Hotel. Usual arrangements. — H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—The annual district meeting will be held at St. John's, Newhall, on Saturday, Jan. 31st. Short service 4 p.m. Tea at 4.30 p.m. Meeting to follow. Handbells available after tea in Church Room. Important business. Good attendance requested. Everyone welcome. — J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, Jan. 31st. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. All welcome. — H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

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AN INTERESTING SUGGESTION.

Whatever opinions we may form about the practical value of the suggestions that have been made lately for forming a National Association or for more activity on the part of the Central Council we must recognise that behind them lies a very real and very important idea. It is that every effort should be made to maintain the active life and interest of the Exercise so that when peace comes, as come it may sooner than perhaps we expect or even hope, we shall be ready to meet the difficulties and the duties which will then front us. At the back of the minds of people is the fear that if we let things take their course now without troubling about them and merely hoping for the best, when the testing time does come it will find us wanting.

There is much that is sound in these views. Yet we must face facts. However desirable it may be for the Central Council to try to carry on now as if there were no war, it simply cannot be done. Members have not the time nor opportunity to spare to attend a meeting, and we all know and recognise that the first and overwhelmingly important thing is to do what may be our part in winning the war. Nevertheless, when that claim is met most of us have a little to spare for other things. It would not be well if it were otherwise; for everyone, and the nation as a whole, will keep to the highest pitch of war effort if there is some other interest strong enough to prevent staleness.

So far as ringers are concerned, we cannot imagine anything which can so well or so easily give the necessary relief as a continued and lively interest in the art they love.

Yes, but unfortunately we are debarred from all activity in the belfry, and to many that must seem the end of the matter. But need it? There are scores of things connected with bells and ringing that a man may interest himself in even when he is by himself at home after his day's work is done. And if he does he will be doing himself good, for he will obtain relief from strain and boredom; and he will be doing others good too, because when the time comes that England will call for her bells to be rung he will be ready to answer the call.

In our columns this week we print a letter from a valued correspondent who suggests that we should try and arrange for an exchange of ideas and opinions among ringers and that it should take the form of a series of debates carried out, not at a meeting, but in our pages. The idea is an attractive one. Nothing more stimulates a man's interest than the attempt to

(Continued on page 26.)

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explain his views and opinions to others. Nothing is better for a man's outlook than to hear and study the views and opinions of others. When all is said and done that is the value of the Central Council itself. There are plenty of subjects that ringers could discuss and nothing but good could come out of such discussion.

We do not profess to have formed any definite opinion on the matter. There are obvious and serious difficulties to contend with; but, at any rate, there are great possibilities in the suggestion, and we invite our readers to tell us what they think and say if they would be prepared to co-operate.

OUR SILENT BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent 'Robert Triples' asks what is going to happen when the armistice is signed to end the war, and he then proceeds to give an answer. Ringers, he says, will lay down their tools and rush to the belfries, but when all is ready the parson and the policeman will enter and forbid them because the ban is not yet lifted. Something, he says, should be done now.

I fully agree and have already planned my own course of action. The war is over and we have got together what is left of the band in the belfry, raised the bells, and are preparing to ring a touch of Grandsire Triples. Enter the authorities of Church and State with a peremptory order to stop. What shall I do?

This. After having assumed a firm but graceful attitude in the middle of the belfry, I shall raise my right arm with a dignified motion, and, having spread my four fingers as widely apart as is physically possible, I shall place my thumb on the tip of my nose and direct the little or smallest finger towards whichever of the visitors as shall appear to be the greatest in status and honour, whether it be the Bishop of London, the Chief Commissioner of Police, the Mayor of Ealing or the Vicar of the parish. If the occasion seems to call for it I shall reinforce the action of my right hand with that of my left.

Having performed this ancient and solemn ritual, I shall courteously invite the strangers to take a seat and thereafter carry on with the ringing.

This seems to meet the case adequately.

J. A. T.

HANDBELLS.

IS THIS THE OLDEST SET?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I think that Mr. Sanger and your readers will be interested to know of a very old peal of handbells that I saw about eleven years ago. The owner of these bells, not being a ringer, aroused my interest when he described them to me, and it was arranged that I should go and see them. The bells are a peal of twelve by R. Cor, of Aldbourne. On the inside of the soundbow is a raised outline of what looks like a duck, and the name R. Cor. They have leather straps and the clapper springs are very long, the clappers being of iron with long slender flights.

Writing from memory, the size of the tenor would compare with our present-day No. 16 or 17. The tone of the bells was quite good, considering that they appeared not to have been tuned, and they were thicker than present-day bells and of good shape.

At that time I wrote to Mr. A. A. Hughes, of the Whitechapel Foundry, and explained them to him. He kindly sent me a short history of the Aldbourne foundry, which I enclose.

S. G. CHAPLIN.

Birmingham.

The information given by Mr. Hughes was as follows: There is no doubt the handbells were made at Aldbourne, Wilts, where a bell foundry existed from 1649 to 1825.

From 1686 to 1750 it was in the hands of the family of Cor (William, Robert, Oliver and John successively). The foundry then passed to Edward Read until 1757, when it was taken over by Robert Wells, in whose family it remained until 1825, when it was taken over by us. As your bells bear the name Cor they must be over 180 years old. They are, therefore, the oldest set of handbells of which I have heard.

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HANDBELL PEALS.

SEDGEBERROW, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(SOUTHERN BRANCH.)

On Monday, January 5, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

AT ADBYNS, CHELTENHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor size 18 in G.

THOMAS HARRIS ...	1-2	JOSEPH D. JOHNSON ...	5-6
GEOFFREY J. HEMMING ...	3-4	AUBREY W. LLOYD ...	7-8

Composed and Conducted by JOSEPH D. JOHNSON.

Arranged for Mr. T. Harris, now of Bristol, and rung as the branch quarterly peal.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, January 5, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor size 15 in D flat.

GEORGE H. SPICE ...	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE ...	5-6
BETTY SPICE ...	3-4	Mrs. G. H. SPICE ...	7-8

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE,

* First attempt for a peal 'in hand.' This is believed to be the first peal in which father, mother, son and daughter have taken part.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, January 6, 1942, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

IN ST. PETER'S HALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 40 six-scores in ten different callings and one Morris' 240.

Tenor size 11 in G.

Mrs. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY	1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS...	3-4
FRANCIS S. WILSON ...	5-6		

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

First peal of Doubles 'in hand' by all. Rung on the Feast of the Epiphany in thanksgiving for a beautiful Christmas festival at St. Peter's Church, Bournemouth.

BARNEHURST, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, January 9, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,

AT 9, BRVERLEY ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

HARRY HOVERD ...	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE ...	5-6
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ...	3-4	EDWIN BARNETT ...	7-8

Composed by H. J. HOWLETT. Conducted by J. E. SPICE.

HAVERCROFT, WAKEFIELD; YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Friday, January 9, 1942, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT 36 BRIAR LANE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

DANIEL SMITH ...	1-2	PETER WOODWARD ...	5-6
HAROLD CHANT ...	3-4	RAYMOND FORD ...	7-8

Composed and Conducted by HAROLD CHANT.

Specially arranged and rung as a compliment to the parents of Mr. 'Dan' Smith—Mr. and Mrs. H. Smith—who celebrated their golden wedding on the above date at Ruardean, Glos.

BIRMINGHAM.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, January 10, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOR STREET, CITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor size 19 in A.

FRANK E. PERVIN ...	1-2	FRANK E. HAYNES ...	7-8
FRANK W. PERRENS ...	3-4	GEORGE F. SWANN ...	9-10
ALBERT WALKER ...	5-6	GEORGE E. FEARN ...	11-12

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

Referee—Mr. Bernard W. Ashford.

First peal on 12 handbells.

A PROBLEM IN STEDMAN TRIPLES.

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—I have read the letters and comments on my two-part peal of Stedman Triples which have appeared in 'The Ringing World' with some interest and (dare I add) amusement.

With many of your statements I am in complete agreement. As a musical production the peal is a vile one. As a well-balanced composition it is foul. As a collection of Q-sets it is an abomination before the face of Mr. Trollope. As an easy example in 'conducting in six easy lessons' it would be a hopeless failure. But it is an exact two-part peal of Stedman Triples with only two singles. And it was the first to be obtained with those properties.

Of course, such a peal was impossible, or so Heywood and Bulwer supposed, and this was, I believe, confirmed by Mr. Trollope, so that is perhaps the reason why it has such blots on its escutcheon. The existence of such a collection of rows might fulfil all the usual requirements of continuity, etc., but it seems that its essential bastardy remains. One can almost hear of 'Six bob sets—good heavens, do such things exist? Oh, yes, didn't a man Edwards, Noonan or was it Tabbs use some such thing before the days of Board School education' or perhaps it is merely a little more of the usual tradition which a little historical research will dispel.

One section of your remarks, however, I entirely fail to understand. In your leading article you say that 'the so-called courses are not courses at all, nor are the apparent course-ends really course-ends. We cannot imagine anyone dividing the peal like this if they wanted to call it, nor can we imagine anyone writing the peal out like this if they want to understand its composition.'

This, sir, is double Dutch to me, as in the composition as submitted to you by me there were no courses indicated, nor were any course-ends marked. The arrangement adopted was to give the six-ends of the first half-peal. This was done for two reasons:—

(1) It was the form in which the peal was first obtained. (I expect that some people would have done it in a better manner and could probably tell how it should have been done—now!) However, as it was put together in the course of an hour or two one Sunday afternoon after 'The Cross-eyed Yokel' or some other such anonymous gentleman had stated in your previous issue that such a peal was impossible of attainment, I cannot be held responsible for its lack of form.

(2) As it was not on any of the usual plans with the seventh a fixed bell, the most convenient form for independent proof was to give it by six ends, and whilst I personally was certain of its truth, inasmuch as it was proved first and composed afterwards, I did not expect other people merely to take my word for it.

One other point remains. If you desire a simple explanation of the way in which the peal was obtained, and it is on an exceedingly simple plan, I should be quite pleased to provide it if I could be furnished with a copy of the figures of the peal in the form I submitted them to you, as I myself have no copy.

G. W. SLACK.

Mill Lane, Winterslow, Wilts.

[The form of Dr. Slack's peal which we criticised was that sent by the conductor and which the Hertfordshire resolutions asked to be printed.—Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

PUBLICATION IN ASSOCIATION REPORT.

Dear Sir,—I am sorry to trouble you for space again, but the remarks of our friends, Messrs. Cross and Pulling, call for some comment and I would like to assure them both that the fact that the Hertford County Association do not publish compositions has caused concern in this district on more than one occasion. At the same time I would inform the two gentlemen that we in this district have very little influence in the association affairs.

There is, however, one point on which the ringers of this district are agreed, and that is that more false peals have been rung owing to the fact that the compositions have appeared in the various associations' reports than in 'The Ringing World.'

The article on Stedman Triples by 'An Average Composer,' appearing in your current issue, has not, I suppose, made much impression on your readers. People may state their views, but an anonymous writer who ridicules a performance either theoretical or practical of others is not calculated to command respect.

EDWIN JENNINGS.

Bushey

JAMES W. WASHBROOK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very pleased to see the suggestion of Mr. G. H. Cross in last week's 'Ringing World.' I feel sure that some interesting events in the careers of men like J. W. Washbrook and other giants of the past 50 years would be welcomed and much appreciated by ringers generally. The records and doings of the men of 100 years ago and upwards are not entirely uninteresting, but are less interesting than the experiences of many we knew in the flesh. Trusting you may be able to carry this suggestion through.

GEORGE R. NEWTON.

57, Amptill Road, Liverpool 17.

THE BELLS OF TWICKENHAM.

A NOTED MIDDLESEX STEEPLE.

The medieval tower of St. Mary's, Twickenham, contains a ring of eight bells which are very interesting both archæologically and from the part they played in the early history of change ringing.

The sixth is a pre-Reformation bell, one of the oldest in Middlesex and dates from the early days of the sixteenth century. It was cast by John Saunders, of Reading, who was probably then the leading bell founder in the country. The times were troublous and many changes were being made in Church and State which were strongly opposed by many men. Among them was John Saunders; he did not keep his opinions to himself, and as the following from the Acts of the Privy Council shows, got into serious trouble.

'Greenwich, the xxvij of May 1553. A lettre to the Mayour of Reading, Thomas Vachell, and William Edmondes, to cause on John Saunders of that towne to be set in the Pillorie the next market day, with a paper on his hed conteyning in great lettres these wordes— "For Lewde and Sediscious Woordes touching the Kinges Majestie and the State"; and when he hath stode there the hole market tyme to cause both his ears to be cut off, and his body to be returned to prison untill the Kinges Majesties further pleasure shalbe signified unto them.'

That was not the end of Saunders' punishment; his fellow townsmen took a hand. For the above offence 'and for other seditious, lewd and slanderous words by hym at sundry tymes after that spoken to the great perturbation and disquiet of his honest neighbours, hit was therefore thought by the Mayor and Burgesses, with one assent and consent, for causes aforesaid, the said day and yere, have expelled, discharged & clearly avoided the said Saunders from the said hall & company for ever.'

They were evil days in King Edward's time for poor John Saunders. He was getting to be an old man, the things he valued in religion were being swept away, and his work as a bell founder had come to an end. What happened to him I do not know, but there still remain a number of bells to bear witness to his craftsmanship, and among them this at Twickenham.

One of the things about which Saunders had uttered 'lewd and sediscious woordes' was no doubt the proposal made by the Government to confiscate the bells of the parish churches. In 1551 inventories had been made of all the church goods and ornaments throughout the country. That relating to Twickenham has not survived and we cannot say how many bells were in the steeple then. Edward Ironsides, who wrote towards the end of the eighteenth century, judged that the frame then in the tower had been built for five bells and had afterwards been altered to take the completed octave, from which he assumed that originally there was a ring of five. Evidently it was so just before 1669, and in that year William Eldridge added a treble.

Change ringing was already very popular in the parish, and that was the reason why in 1695 two more bells were added to complete the octave. At the same time one of the other bells, 'lately given by Madame Layton,' was recast. In 1708 Richard Phelps renewed the tenor, in 1722 the seventh and in 1730 the fourth. The first and last of these had been recast in 1660 'at the publick charge.'

Twickenham is on the way from London to Hampton Court, and the church stood then open to the high road, not, as now, shut off by high buildings. So at the not infrequent passings to and fro of royal persons there was ringing of the bells. When King James went by in 1606 with the King of Denmark the ringers were paid eightpence for their services. Nineteen years later, when Charles the First and his Queen went to Hampton Court, the fee was two shillings and sixpence.

In 1647, under very different circumstances, Charles came by again. It was harvest time, the ringers were all at work in the fields, and the bells were not rung; for which neglect the parish was fined thirteen shillings and sixpence.

There is a somewhat pathetic interest in this entry in the parish accounts. The civil war was over. Charles had surrendered to the Scots, and by them had been sold to the English Parliament, who hardly knew what to do with him. The King was moved from place to place, and in August, 1647, he came to Hampton Court. Then for a short time it looked as if he was going to be treated with his old royal dignity. Nobles and courtiers attended him, the proscribed Church service was said to the palace chapel, and the Parliamentary Commissioners who had charge of his person kept discreetly in the background. But they were there, and he had to ask their permission when he went to visit his two youngest children at Sion House, Isleworth. It was then that Twickenham parish was fined for not ringing. Perhaps the plea of harvest was only an excuse, and the churchwardens, who at the time doubtless belonged to the Puritan party, did not think it worth while to bother about a king, fallen and a prisoner.

Soon afterwards Charles fell into the hands of Oliver Cromwell and the army, and there followed the events which led to the 'memorable scene' on that bleak January morning outside the Banqueting Hall, Whitehall.

Twickenham bells were rung in 1647 on the anniversary of the Coronation, as were those of St. Margaret's, Westminster, and many a steeple throughout the land; but many years were to pass by before church bells were again rung for royalty, and this incident is, I think, the very last on which a parish was fined for neglecting to pay the tribute.

Ringing as a sport was, as I have already said, very popular in Twickenham. So much so that to some of the parishioners it became a nuisance. They appear to have obtained legal advice on the matter, and on September 20th, 1674, it was ordered that the bells were not to be rung 'but according to a declaration under My Lord Chief Justice's hand how they may be legally ringed.'

The sport, however, went on and when Dr. John Hartcliff was rector he had to complain seriously of it. The ringers were practising at all times and in defiance of his and the churchwardens' regulations. So the matter was brought before the Vestry, and on Sunday afternoon, May 13th, 1711, due notice having been given at the morning service, the following resolution was passed:—

'Whereas the late continual ringing of bells at unreasonable hours was represented as a very great disturbance to Dr. Hartcliff in his study, and whereas several disorderly persons did lately in a very insolent manner and contrary to the order of the said Dr. Hartcliff and the present churchwardens, with the help of a

ladder break into the steeple of the church and ring the bells to the intent and purpose to disturb and provoke the said Dr. Hartcliff, it is therefore ordered by this Vestry that for the future during the said doctor's residence in the parish there be no more ringing of bells for recreation (unless upon some solemn occasion) but two nights a week, viz., Thursdays and Mondays, and not to exceed the hour of nine.'

These terms are certainly not very severe, for nine o'clock was then a much later hour than it is now. We can sympathise with the doctor. His house was quite close to the church; evidently he had no objection to ringing kept within reasonable limits; and his name is cast on the tenor bell.

He was almost the last rector of the old medieval church, for a year after his death there is a short but significant notice that twenty trustees were appointed to consider the rebuilding of the church, 'it having fallen down in the night of Thursday, April 9th, 1713.' The present church of brick is of its style a very fine building. The ancient tower still remains.

By the second quarter of the eighteenth century Twickenham possessed one of the best bands of change ringers in the country. They called themselves the Twickenham Scholars and many of them belonged to the Society of College Youths. In 1734 they rang a peal of Middlesex Triples, a not very good variation of Plain Bob Triples by Benjamin Annable, and some time later one of the earliest Bob and Single peals of Grand-sire Triples, which they called Royal Tripples. In 1749 they rang 6,000 changes of Bob Major.

The band was composed of good class men, small gentlemen and farmers, of whom Robert Holmes and

Henry Cowley may be taken as typical. Holmes, who rang in Annable's last peal, was at one time churchwarden. Edward Ironsides (who was a contemporary) refers to him as a freeholder of Twickenham Common, not an 'esquire' or a 'gentleman,' and therefore a yeoman farmer. Afterwards he moved to the neighbouring parish of Richmond, but when he died in 1797, he was brought back and buried under the shadow of Twickenham steeple, where his tombstone still is. He had been a member of the Society of College Youths since 1750, and had taken part in three or four peals with them.

Henry Cowley was one of the subscribers to John Holt's broadsheet of peals, and Enos Redknapp, another of the band, belonged to a family well known in the district. The name can be seen on several tombstones in the churchyard and representatives of the family are still living in the town.

There was a good company at Twickenham throughout the eighteenth century and well into the nineteenth. They rang several peals on the bells, and visiting bands of the College Youths rang one or two others.

The bells are now rung from the ground floor, but formerly either from the chamber immediately beneath the bells, or from a floor which has since been taken away. In consequence the peal boards were removed from the walls and hidden in the space between the ceiling and the roof of the church. Fortunately, three or four have been recovered and replaced on the walls of the belfry.

The present Vicar of Twickenham, the Rev. Prebendary W. P. Cole Sheane, is the President of the Middlesex County Association.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

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MUFFLES,
Etc.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

The Editor wishes to thank all those friends who have made kind enquiries about him in his present illness. Although still confined to bed, he is progressing satisfactorily.

We should like to remind correspondents that though their letters may, if they so desire, appear anonymously, they cannot be printed unless the writer's name and address are sent to the Editor with the copy.

A previous attempt for the peal of Stedman Cinques at Birmingham was made on November 27th in St. Martin's belfry, when after 34 courses had been rung the tower lights were switched off in the church below and the ringers left in complete darkness, due to the tower window lights being blacked out.

The handbells used are a new peal of 12 by Mears and Stainbank, and this is the second peal on them, 1 Stedman Caters and 1 Cinques. They were a present to Mr. George E. Fearn from his wife.

On January 11th, 1911, the College Youths, with Mr. Henry R. Newton at the tenor, rang 5,088 changes of London Surprise Major on the back eight at St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside.

The Norwich men rang 6,048 Imperial the Third Major at St. Michael's, Coslany, on January 13th, 1772, and on the same date in 1903 the Birmingham men rang the first peal of Forward Maximus.

Fifty years ago to-day five peals were rung—Grandsire Minor 1, Triples 2, Stedman Triples 1, and Darlaston Bob Triples 1.

Ten years ago 27 peals were rung—Grandsire Triples 1, Stedman Triples 1, Bob Major 4, Kent Treble Bob Major 2, Oxford Treble Bob Major 2, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 2, Cambridge Surprise Major 1, Superlative 1, London 1, Stedman Caters 1, Bob Maximus 1, Cambridge Surprise Maximus 1, Minor 4, and Doubles 5.

One of the Bob Major was on handbells, the Bob Maximus was the first in the method on Halifax bells, and the Cambridge Maximus at Southwark was conducted by Mrs. Fletcher.

RINGERS' ENGAGEMENT.

The announcement is made of the engagement of Mr. Edwin A. Barnett, of Crayford and now of the R.A.F., and Miss Olive Hairs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hairs, of Burgess Hill. The young couple both come of families greatly distinguished in ringing circles. The marriage will take place shortly at St. John's, Burgess Hill.

DEATH OF MR. EDWARD MURRELL.

We much regret to announce the death of Mr. Edward Murrell, a well-known member of the band of St. Lawrence Jewry and of the Society of College Youths.

Mr. Murrell, who was suffering from a long-standing complaint, had been removed to hospital on the Sunday after Christmas. He had been a sergeant-major in the Grenadier Guards and was one of the Expeditionary Force in the last war, the Old Contemptibles. He lost a leg in the retreat from Mons and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

It will be remembered that he took a leading part in the discussion on silent apparatuses in our columns a few months ago and gave descriptions of a system he had been responsible for installing at St. Lawrence Jewry. He also wrote the article on New Year's Eve which we published on December 26th last.

CHRISTMAS BELLS AT CORSTON.

BY THE RECTOR, THE REV. J. W. TUNWELL.

'We shall miss the bells on Christmas Day. Couldn't we ring handbells in the tower? Well, we could, but I doubt if we could get a band together for practice; however, we can try.'

The trial was unsuccessful, but Mr. Arthur Prince heard about it, and if bells were desired to speak the Christmas message, bells there should be.

He gathered the bells together, prepared them for action, and, having satisfied himself that they were in tune with the organ, enquired the time of the first service on Christmas Day.

A four-mile ride on a bicycle at seven o'clock in the morning brought Arthur Prince to the church before the first worshippers had arrived, and we whose hearts were uplifted by the mystical music of the bells wish to record our gratitude and express our appreciation for his generous and devoted service.

Under a clear starry sky, in the clean crisp air the stained glass windows glowed rather alarmingly, but inside the church four candles had transformed the scene into a wonderland of shadows, where the evergreens and flowers shone with the undimmed glory of their own light. We appreciated this last year, but when the eyes were accustomed to the light there seemed something lacking.

This year we found it. Hardly perceptible at first, it seemed a pulsing, like the first stirrings of life, a moment of tense listening and then the music swayed amongst us, rippling and ringing, rising and falling, silver music that seemed to come from the stars. The bells sank to rest as the service started and spoke again during the offertory. Later they joined with the hymns, and so we had what many had not known before, the organ and the voices and the bells, and as so many have said, 'It was beautiful.'

It seemed rather hard to me that one man should be 'on duty' for three services on end without relief and without reward, and so the best tribute I can pay to campanology is to say that when I said good-bye, Arthur Prince was happy and we were uplifted.

A 'RINGERS' COUNCIL.'

MEETING IN 'THE RINGING WORLD.'

Correspondent's Novel Suggestion.

Here is a suggestion from a correspondent which we warmly commend to the consideration of our readers.

It opens a field for discussion which should provide both entertainment and profit.

We would willingly place our columns at the disposal of such a scheme because we believe it would lead to a new form of interest during these days when our church bells remain silent.

We would like to emphasise the point made by our correspondent that the success of the discussions must rest upon the ringers themselves, who must make their contribution to the scheme.

We invite our readers to give us their views on the subject.

DISCUSSIONS OPEN TO ALL.

To the Editor.

Sir,—From time to time we read in your columns references to the inactivity of the Central Council, and in one association there has already been a proposal to cease paying the annual subscription.

It seems obvious that in days like these the Council would have the greatest difficulty in meeting, and, even if it met, a greater difficulty in holding anything like a representative gathering. Moreover, if the members could be brought together it is hard to see what useful work the Council could perform.

Apart from the one burning question of the ban on church bell ringing, which at this stage no resolution by the Council or any other body would be likely to alter, there is no subject which in my opinion and in the opinion of a good many other ringers, including, I think, most members of the Council, would justify calling the Council together. The most that can be asked of it is that the officials should continue to hold a watching brief and that the committees should continue as far as possible to function.

There is, however, one way in which we as ringers might maintain our interest in ringing affairs on the lines which the Council has followed, and I make the following suggestions in all seriousness in the hope that your readers may think the scheme worth while.

It is just this: Let us hold a meeting in 'The Ringing World.' Instead of the Council meeting in session next Whitsuntide, let all ringers be invited to take part in discussions on various matters of interest through your columns, the debates being carried on in accordance with the rules usually recognised at meetings.

Let us have formal motions moved and seconded, and then openly discuss the subjects, but, instead of doing it by way of speeches, forward our observations to your paper for publication.

The discussion should not be limited to members of the Central Council; but should be open to all ringers. For this reason my proposal could not be carried on under the title of 'The Central Council,' but it might be called 'The Bellringers' Council' or something of the kind. I would make it a condition that any contribution made to the debates should be made under the name of the person and not under any nom-de-plume. Let us make it as real as we can, expressing our opinions frankly as we would do if we were present in person at a meeting.

VOTING BY POSTCARD.

It would be an excellent thing if our debates could have the guidance of the president of the Central Council, but it would probably be more practicable if the actual conduct of the business was left to the Editor of 'The Ringing World,' as a kind of acting chairman, because he would be more immediately in touch with the progress of the discussions.

Reasonable scope should be given to the debates, and when the subject appears to be exhausted I suggest that a postcard vote on the motion should be taken and that it should be open to all, whether or not they have contributed to the discussion itself, so that we may get a decision from a wider circle than merely those who have voiced their opinions.

Further, I would suggest that an effort be made to provide an agenda beforehand so that ringers may know exactly what is to be discussed and, with your permission, that here and now ringers should draw up motions on any subject of ringing interest which they are prepared to debate and send them to you with the name of a seconder, for publication when the agenda is complete.

When the 'meeting' opens it will be for the proposer and seconder of the first motion to send you their 'speeches' for publication, after which all who desire to do so should follow up with their contributions to the debate. When the subject has been disposed of by vote or otherwise, then the same procedure would be followed with the next motion, and so on to the end.

If ringers will co-operate I feel sure this would be a means of helping to maintain interest in the varied matters connected with ringing, but to make the scheme a success ringers themselves must

(Continued in next column.)

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The first meeting in the New Year, held on January 3rd, was well supported, and one new member was elected, Mr. George J. Strickland, of Putney.

Arising from a notice of motion, Mr. C. H. Kippen moved a resolution that Rule 12 'be suspended until the end of the war and a temporary rule be substituted to read: 'That no person be entitled to vote in matters of finance unless he shall have attended ten meetings or 50 per cent. of the total number of meetings held during the preceding twelve months (whichever is the lesser), or contribute the sum of 1s. 8d. to the society's funds between November 5th and February 28th following.' After a lengthy discussion the resolution, which was seconded by the treasurer, was carried.

The Master especially welcomed Capt. W. H. J. Hooton, B.A., librarian of the Central Council.

The Treasurer stated that he had received news that Mr. E. Murrell, who has been very dangerously ill, was a little better. Expressions of sympathy were extended to Mr. E. Murrell, also to Mr. Frank M. Butler and Mr. John S. Goldsmith, who are also on the sick list.

Members present, in addition to the master, treasurer and secretary, were Messrs. E. A. Young, H. G. Miles, W. H. Pasmore, H. Langdon, R. F. Deal, H. Hoskins, J. G. A. Prior, C. H. Kippen, F. E. Collins, E. Kennings, C. C. Mayne, H. Alford, G. N. Price, F. C. Newman, G. J. Strickland, G. M. Kilby and Capt. Hooton.

After thanking members for their continued support, the Master announced that the next meeting would be held on January 17th at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel.

A FAMILY HANDBELL PEAL.

FATHER, MOTHER, SON AND DAUGHTER.

An interesting handbell peal was rung at Sittingbourne on Monday week, when four members of the Spice family—father, mother, son and daughter—rang a peal of Grandsire Triples. This is believed to be the first family peal of its kind.

The member of the band most deserving of congratulation is Mrs. Spice, who is not keen on ringing, and hardly ever rings handbells. She had previously rung one tower-bell peal (also Grandsire Triples), and when this was over she vowed never to attempt another peal if she could possibly help it. She was no more enthusiastic over the idea of a handbell peal, thinking that the time would seem interminable (from her experience of quarter-peals, etc.).

The handbell peal now recorded was in no sense prearranged. At the beginning of the evening the family was engaged on its usual occupations. When a chance suggestion was made that a peal should be attempted, with the result that 15 minutes later, before Mrs. Spice had had time to protest, ringing had started. Considering the fact that months may go by without her touching a pair of handbells, the way she settled down to her task was remarkable, and because of the competent way in which she 'banged the tenor in,' a very good beat was maintained throughout. The ringing, we are told, was almost faultless, and it may also be recorded that Mrs. Spice does not now regard peal ringing with quite so much horror. The family hope she may possibly be induced to go for another in the future.

A 'RINGERS' COUNCIL.'

(Continued from previous column.)

help 'Speeches' need not necessarily be long, in fact very often, as we all know, the shorter they are the more effective. In any case, the chairman should have the power to put a 'time limit' on the 'speeches,' in other words, fix the length of the contributions.

No doubt many of us have at times fancied ourselves as members of the Central Council. The scheme which I suggest would enable everybody to fill the same role in another Council, even to the extent of having voting power, although all may not care actually to make speeches but to remain, as many members of the Council prefer to do, 'silent.'

If the scheme thus outlined has any appeal to your readers we could have discussions on such things as—

Would a National Association benefit the art of ringing?

Is a Ringing Association justified in accumulating large reserve funds?

Is it a good policy to try and interest the general public in church bell ringing or should ringing remain, as in the past, a semi-mystery to the outsider?

What can be done to raise the standard of striking?

There are many other subjects which will suggest themselves. For myself, if the plan goes forward, I propose to put down the following motion:—

'That a small committee be formed immediately to consider and report upon the best and quickest means of rehabilitating ringing when the war is over.'

and I do not mean this as any pious resolution. I hope such a committee can be set up to investigate the subject, to anticipate difficulties and to make practical suggestions in a report which will be subsequently published.

I hope the scheme which I have here outlined will be received as a constructive contribution to the difficult task of maintaining interest in ringing in these dark days and that you, sir, will be kind enough to allow the views of other readers to be published. J. P. PRICE.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham was held on Saturday, January 3rd, at the Guild's headquarters, the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City.

Councillor A. Paddon Smith presided over 'a good company.' Apologies were received from Messrs. James George, W. C. Dowding, E. C. Shepherd, John Jaggar and G. H. Williams. The ordinary business was quickly dealt with, and, owing to lack of ringing facilities, there were no new members to propose.

It is usual to hold the first quarterly meeting of the year at Aston. Mr. W. Davies pointed out the difficulties of arranging a tea as is usual there, but promised to do the best he could to make things comfortable, and it was unanimously agreed to hold the next quarterly meeting at Aston.

The Chairman referred to the loss the Guild and the ringing Exercise generally had sustained by the death of Mr. Gabriel Lindoff, of Dublin. He was sure that many present had had the pleasure of ringing with Mr. Lindoff and had enjoyed his lovable personality. He asked all to stand for a moment as a last tribute of respect to a really great man. Mr. Smith also referred to the illness of the Editor of 'The Ringing World,' Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, and the secretary was requested to write Mr. Goldsmith on behalf of all present expressing sympathy and best wishes for his complete recovery.

The Chairman welcomed the visitors, who included Messrs. Wilfred Williams, B. G. Ashford, John Bass and a very old member, Mr. William Short.

The Secretary announced the receipt of a letter from Mr. James George regretting his inability to be present in person, but he would be with them in spirit. He sent best wishes for the continued success of the Guild and enclosed a cheque for £2 as a donation to the funds. The best thanks of the Guild were accorded, and the secretary was requested to convey same to Mr. George.

Before proceeding with the election of officers, the secretary announced receipt of the following motion: 'That the office of Master be allowed to remain vacant for the duration of the war.' In the opinion of the proposer and seconder it was not essential that the office of Master, rendered vacant by the death of the late Alderman J. S. Pritchett, be filled during the war. An interesting discussion followed, when the duties of the Master were explained and also the position from an historical point of view, so much so that the proposer and seconder asked permission to withdraw the motion, which was granted.

It was proposed by the chairman and seconded by Mr. F. W. Perrens that the president and vice-presidents be re-elected en bloc. This was carried unanimously.

The Secretary, in proposing that Councillor A. Paddon Smith be elected Master, pointed out that this was the highest honour to be held by any member and should be reserved for outstanding services rendered. In his opinion, no one deserved that honour more than the chairman. He became secretary at a time when the Guild's affairs were in an almost hopeless condition. He restored order out of chaos and for 20 years carried on the good work. He was still keenly interested in the Guild's welfare and when normal days came along would be amongst them as much as ever. Mr. Albert Walker seconded and also referred to the good work done by Mr. Smith during many years and hoped he would still continue to come amongst them. This was supported by Mr. G. F. Swann and several others present, and, on being put to the meeting by the secretary, was carried unanimously. Mr. Smith suitably responded, thanking the members for the honour conferred on him, which he greatly appreciated.

Mr. F. W. Perrens proposed and Mr. A. Morris seconded that the rest of the officers be re-elected en bloc, and this was agreed to.

It was proposed by the chairman that the Henry Johnson Commemoration be held on similar lines to that of last year, namely, a luncheon at the Imperial Hotel at 1.30 on Saturday, March 7th, and that the proceedings be cut down to enable everyone to get home before black-out, and that Mr. Albert Walker should occupy the chair. This was seconded by Mr. G. F. Swann and carried unanimously. This concluded the business.

Reference was made to Mr. John Jaggar, who attained his 80th birthday that day. The Chairman expressed the hope that his legs would soon be all right again and that he would continue to enjoy good health and come amongst them for many years. The secretary was requested to convey their hearty congratulations.

The remainder of the evening was taken up in social intercourse and handbell ringing, several good touches being brought round, ranging from Grandsire Triples to Stedman Cinques.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT COLCHESTER

At the annual meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association at St. Peter's, Colchester, on Saturday, January 3rd, 25 ringers attended from 12 different towers. St. Peter's, Colchester, Harwich, Mistley, Clacton-on-Sea, Great Bentley, Thorington, Ipswich, Penn (Bucks), Wivenhoe, Springfield, Halstead and Dedham.

Handbells were rung in various Minor, Major and Royal methods. A service in church at 4 p.m. was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Edward H. Shaw, who gave an inspiring address and mentioned that he thought the Government officials were entirely wrong when they denied the country its bells for holy worship. If, he said, we were the enemy and knew that the bells were only to be used to call the defenders together against invasion, we should at once make the towers our targets.

The business meeting followed and then tea at Crispin Court. The District Master, Mr. G. Waterman, presided, supported by the district secretary, Mr. L. Wright. The Master extended a hearty welcome to the visitors, including Corp. W. A. and Mrs. Randall, from Penn. Bucks, Mr. J. Jennings, of Ipswich, Mr. H. A. Shadrack, hon. district secretary of the South-Eastern Division, Mr. E. Runter, of Springfield, and Miss H. G. Snowden, hon. district secretary of the Northern Division.

In his annual report the hon. secretary mentioned that meetings had been held at Little Clacton, Ramsey and Bradfield, with an average attendance of 17. Although no peals had been rung, there had been considerable activity in handbell ringing. One honorary member had been elected and the membership now stood at honorary members 7, paid up ringing members 71. Fourteen other members had not paid their subscriptions. Twenty-three members were serving in H.M. Forces, and the number of towers in union with the association was unchanged. The district had lost by death during the year four of the most active members.

The retiring Master thanked the members for their attendances during the year, and said that if they could carry on for another year in the way they did last year, they would be pulling their weight for the Essex Association.

Mr. H. A. Wright proposed and Mr. H. T. Pye seconded the re-election of Mr. G. Waterman as Master, and this was carried.

Mr. C. A. Andrews proposed and Mr. W. Chalk seconded that Mr. L. Wright should retain his office as district secretary and treasurer. This was agreed to.

Mr. Alan R. Andrews and Mr. C. A. Ellis were elected as members of the General Committee.

For the next meeting Mr. C. A. Andrews proposed and Mr. H. T. Pye seconded Great Tey some time in April, leaving the secretary to fix the date.

Silence was observed for the passing of Pte. Jim Durrant, of Thorpe-le-Soken, killed at the evacuation of Dunkirk. The secretary was instructed to write to Mrs. Durrant and to Mr. Gabriel Lindoff's son conveying the sympathy of the members in their bereavements.

A hearty vote of thanks are accorded the Vicar for having the meeting and for his very touching address; and to the organist, Mr. D. J. Durrant, the vergier and the St. Peter's ringers for helping to make the meeting a success.

The Vicar replied in very humorous vein, and said he had come from a great ringing family of at least three generations. He had often wished he could ring, but, like a good many more when young, he preferred the rugger field or boxing ring. However, they had his sympathies, for he knew full well the difficulties in trying to carry on, but 'stick it,' he said, 'and pray God the time won't be long when you can meet here again and ring the joyful tower bells.'

The collection for the Bell Restoration Fund amounted to 17s. 3d.

THE SUGGESTED NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The letter from Mr. Harris tells us it is no use waiting for the older members of the Exercise to give a lead, and then says it would be very helpful if some of the older members gave us their opinion on the matter. Why not resolve to start the scheme without consulting the older members and thereby have a new broom?

Our Central Council has done a vast amount of real hard work since its inception and has uplifted the Exercise in many ways. It has not been possible to please everyone, but I for one certainly think that their work over a great number of years deserves thanks for its fine work towards the betterment of ringers and ringing.

Mr. Harris suggests that leaders be selected for their business ability, not social standing or ringing ability, but I should be very sorry to see any ringing body put a bar on anyone because of these qualifications in order that those of business ability should get a seat. Ringers elect the members of the Central Council and have given the Council some of the finest brains in the Exercise, and I wonder what sort of meeting would result if a selected body of business people ran a National Association of Church Bellringers.

Those who are of the opinion that a National Association could play a big part in the life of the Exercise should work out its aims and objects now rather than wait for the future and have to rush many important points at the last minute.

W. SHEPHERD.

J. A.
TROLLOPE'S

'COLLEGE YOUTHS'

A History of the Society

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GRANDSIRE CATERS.**THE HISTORY OF THE METHOD.**

By EDGAR C. SHEPHERD.

(Continued from page 22.)

In the year 1817 the Painswick Youths rang 12,312 changes of Grandsire Caters and set up a record that remained unbroken until the peal at Appleton in 1888. William Estcourt rang the fourth.

William Estcourt was born in 1798, so that he was only 19 years old when the long peal was rung. His son became Mayor of Bristol, and presented the second bell to St. Michael's, Gloucester, in 1897, when the ring was augmented to ten. Of Painswick and William Estcourt, the Rev. H. A. Cockey writes:—

‘Many notable feats of change ringing have been performed on these bells in bygone days, as well as in more recent times, and the members of the Painswick Society of Change Ringers have greatly distinguished themselves in the ringing world. Mr. William Estcourt as composer, conductor and ringer was one of the most noted in England, and amongst other fine performances took part in a peal of 12,212 changes of Grandsire Caters in May, 1817, the ringing taking seven hours and forty-four minutes.’

Some of Estcourt's Treble Bob compositions will be found in Snowdon's ‘Treatise on Treble Bob.’

On October 16th, 1820, the Wakefield Society rang 6,030 Grandsire Caters in 3 hours and 44 minutes, composed and conducted by William Woodhead. The only clue to the figures is provided by the part ends. A footnote states that the peal contained the 60 nine-six-eights and the 60 eight-nines. It is clear that each part must contain 67 leads and that 6, 8 and 9 are the fixed bells; but beyond these facts there is no certain means of determining the calling. If, however, the student will turn to George Gross' peal, 7,001 changes, he may find the following interesting fact. The 115th lead of Gross' composition is 5 2 6 3 7 4 8 9. From this point a block of changes leads to 2 3 4 6 7 5 8 9 in 67 leads. If this block is repeated four times a round block of 6,030 changes is obtained, ending where it began, at 5 2 6 3 7 4 8 9, and containing 60 nine-seven-eights and 60 eight-nines. If this calling is used, starting from Rounds, a peal of 6,030 is obtained, and this composition contains the 60 nine-six-eights and the 60 eight-nines. The part ends will be the same as the Wakefield peal. It is probable, therefore, that these are the actual figures of the Wakefield peal.

Whether Woodhead ‘lifted’ the block wholesale from Gross' 7,001 or whether he composed it independently cannot be determined. He certainly was an able composer, for the first peal of Cambridge Royal was composed by him and conducted at Wakefield in 1822. Later, in 1826, he conducted the first peal of Superlative Surprise Royal.

The importance of keeping exact records is emphasised by the long peal at Fulham in 1837. The words of Jasper Snowdon will best illustrate the point. He says:—

‘As I am endeavouring to state correctly the precise lengths attained in this method, the following example will show the necessity of all ringers co-operating to arrive at correct conclusions in such matters. The incompleteness of the information possessed in the case I

am about to mention by persons whom it might have been thought would be in full possession of such particulars, will be a matter of surprise, and were it not that the facts are before us, they might not readily be credited. In 1837 the St. James' Society, after ringing unsuccessfully over 9,000 on a previous date, accomplished on May 15th 12,096 changes at All Saints', Fulham. This peal they recorded as ‘the greatest number of changes ever performed by ten men only,’ and as such the performance was generally accepted by the London ringers. Unfortunately, just twenty years before, the Painswick men had rung their peal, which was 216 changes longer than this one; and thus, by want of correct information on the point, this arduous performance stands only second on the list of single-handed lengths, and by the lack of a few hundred changes its original purpose was entirely defeated. It is, indeed, very hard to go so far, and yet not get to the top of the tree.’

The tablet in the belfry of All Saints', Fulham, reads: ‘To record an extraordinary performance by the young ringers of St. James' Society, who on Whit-Monday, 15th of May, 1837, rung in this steeple, a true and complete peal of 12,096 changes of Grandsire Caters, in 7 hrs. and 50 minutes, being the greatest amount of changes ever performed by ten men only; the truth of which is attested by several of the ablest judges of the art, who witnessed the whole performance, and which can only be equalled by the same ability and persevering exertions. The performers were: T. Tolliday Treble. Jas. Rogers Second. Jno. Fairbairn Third. Jos. Harrison Fourth. Geo. Stockham Fifth. Chas. Randall Sixth. Geo. Clayton Seventh. Rich. Turner Eighth. Jno. Bradley Ninth. Rt. Burgess Tenor. The peal was composed by T. Brooke and conducted by T. Tolliday. The Revd. R. G. Baker, Vicar, Wm. Matyear, Wm. Hicker, Churchwardens.’

In 1877 what appears to have been the first peal of Grandsire Caters on handbells was rung at York. The figures of the composition are to be found on page 69 of the ‘Central Council Collection of Peals.’ The number of changes is given as 5,039, but the ‘Corrigenda Leaflet’ corrects this to 5,057. The performance is credited to the Yorkshire Association, but in Banister's book it is claimed by the College Youths. Mr. P. J. Johnson has pointed out that prior to the formation of the Yorkshire Association in 1875 the College Youths were fairly strong in York and Sheffield, and this would account for the peal being booked by both societies. The particulars are as follows:—

‘York. On Monday, March 5th, 1877, in 3 hrs. and 5 mins., at Fetter Lane, A Peal of Grandsire Caters, 5,039 changes. Thos. Dixon 1-2. Geo. Breed 3-4. C. Underwood 5-6. Wm. Howard 7-8. Wm. Morrell 9-10. Composed by C. Hattersley. Conducted by T. Dixon.’

Although there is no claim that this was the first peal of Grandsire Caters in hand, no record of any previous performance can be traced, and the footnote to the following peal indicates that the York men were first in the field.

‘Birmingham Amalgamated Society. On August 20, 1882, at 63, Heaton Street, Hockley, Birmingham, 5,003 Grandsire Caters in 2 hrs. and 50 mins. Thomas Russam 1-2. John Carter 3-4. Thomas Miller 5-6. (Continued on next page.)

THE HERTFORDSHIRE RESOLUTIONS.**THE COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—It is nice to know from Mr. Russell Spears that the Hertfordshire Resolutions were not aimed at any individual members, but at the Council as a whole. But what do these good people think the Council could have done? In the ordinary way it meets once a year. Could it have done so these last two years? A meeting takes quite a lot of organisation and calls for the expenditure of both time and money from the members. I, for one, could not afford either to make the long journey to London at this time.

When the Council is not in session its activities are carried on by its officers and the various committees. The efforts made by the secretary to get the ban lifted have been acknowledged. As for the committees, they will probably be able to say what they have been able to do when the next meeting comes. The work of the Towers and Belfries Committee is largely to give advice when asked. I do not suppose many parishes are doing much now in the way of bell restoration. The ban has made the work of the Analysis Committee largely a sinecure, the Methods Committee, I suppose, are waiting until the Surprise Book can be published, the Literature Committee we may be sure is quite alive, and the Peal Boards Committee has, I have been told, been promoted to the rank of corporal, and is now looking after the British Army somewhere in the North of England. What more do these people want?

I suggest that the best plan would be for these Bushey people to take over the duties of the Central Council for the duration and see what they could do. Half of them could easily do that job and the other half could run 'The Ringing World.' In the intervals between their activities they could amuse themselves by ringing Dr. Slack's peal of Stedman Triples, for they at least have the figures.

A MEMBER.

DEATH OF TWO LANCASHIRE RINGERS.

Through the deaths of William Booth and Edward Kittins, Liverpool has sustained further serious losses. The former died at Aigburth some weeks ago, having been 'blitzed' from his home last spring. He was 79 years of age and was formerly a very active member of the St. Peter's (Pro-Cathedral) Company. He had not done much ringing of late years, but in his younger days was a great enthusiast.

Mr. Kittins, who was 77 years of age, started ringing in his early days at Bromborough, Cheshire, removing many years ago to Liverpool. He was for long a regular Sunday service ringer at Childwall and was a loyal supporter of the Lancashire Association, of which he was a member for many years.

It is believed Mr. Kittins rang only two peals, one of Grandsire Triples at Bromborough in 1883 and one of Bob Major at Garston in 1908. The passing of these two old friends will cause much regret, and sincere sympathy is extended to the relatives in their sad bereavement.

THE LATE GABRIEL LINDOFF.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In reply to the query by Mr. Keeble in 'The Ringing World' dated December 5th re the late Gabriel Lindoff's books and manuscripts, I regret that it was not possible for me to reply up to the present.

A number of Mr. Lindoff's notebooks were handed over to me for safe keeping by his son. As these books have yet to be sorted out, I am unable to give any further information at the present. If any ringer is interested and writes personally to me, I shall endeavour to give the required assistance.

FRED E. DUKES.

23, Skreen Road, Cabra, Dublin.

GRANDSIRE CATERS.

(Continued from previous page.)

Walter Bryant 7-8. Richard Hackley 9-10. Composed and conducted by John Carter. The first handbell peal of Grandsire Caters to be rung in Birmingham.

A footnote given in Mr. Miller's 'Peal Book' says: 'The only peal before the above was rung in Yorkshire.'

The Birmingham peal was rung at the second attempt. The first attempt reached the very last course (the familiar 'Round at hand by 9 in and out at 2'), and at this point Walter Bryant in his excitement threw his bells across the room! Nearly sixty years later the veteran Tom Miller could repeat with glee all the details of those early days, and could unhesitatingly recite the calling of the peal. The figures are No. 67 in the 'C.C. Collection.'

(To be continued.)

GOOD COPY AND OTHER SUBJECTS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I am in entire agreement with you in not publishing the figures of Dr. Slack's peal of Stedman Triples. The space it would take up could be used for more useful purposes. The figures can always be obtained by anyone who wishes to by applying to those who have them in their possession.

My friend, Mr. G. H. Cross, criticises the style in ringing of the late William Pye, but admits his bell was always in its place. So far so good, but might I ask which is the most important—style or striking? I have rung many peals, both on tower and on handbells, with Mr. Pye, and certainly should not class him as a slovenly ringer on either. Practical experience is worth a ton of theory.

I now come to my friend, A. H. Pulling, on first things first, and my only comment is, Alf, you have hit the nail bang on the head with one blow. I should also like to congratulate Mr. George Symonds on his recent letter. Plenty of old fogies (and I can claim to be one) are willing to stand aside if there are others as good to take our places. We are quite content to rest on our laurels, but those who come after us should not forget that we old fogies, as a recent writer dubbed us, have all done our bit and have helped to blaze the trail for those who follow.

Lastly, I come to my friend, J. W. Dyer, of Tey, on silent church bells. I, too, am puzzled why church clocks are allowed to chime every quarter, day in, day out. Here is a point that should be taken up by the associations or possibly the hon. secretary of the Central Council.

Colchester.

WILLIAM KEEBLE.

THE SUGGESTED NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Replying to Mr. T. Harris' letter, may I ask him what would be the really worth while advantages of such an association? 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

A. A. HUGHES.

THE BIG OAKS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I wish to thank the two gentlemen who replied to my inquiry for their kind and informative letters.

I can assure them that several kindred spirits who read their replies were as interested as myself. One gentleman who is an undertaker was anxious to know the whereabouts of the big oaks I mentioned. I did not tell him, for, enthuse as he would, and try as I would, I could not interest myself in his 'art,' and should be sorry for him to get them.

R. ALSOP.

NOTICES—Continued from next page.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Romford on Saturday, Jan. 31st. Service at 4 p.m. Business meeting to follow. Handbells available. All ringers welcome. — J. H. Champion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

BIRTH.

On Friday, Jan. 9th, at The Stork's Nest, Exeter, to Kathleen and Harry G. Stokes, of Webber's Farm, Woodbury, Devon—a son. Mrs. Stokes is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Hughes, of the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel.

HANDBELLS WANTED.

WANTED, a set of either 6 or 8 handbells, second-hand; must be in good condition; state lowest price.—Rev. F. Gibson, Hensingham Vicarage, Cumberland.

WANTED, good set of Handbells; 2 to 3 octaves; chromatic.—H. Halford, 4, All Saints' Road, Cheltenham.

FOR SALE.

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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.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 17th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.7, at 3 p.m. The payment of 1s. 8d. to enable those members who have not attended the required number of meetings to vote on matters of finance is now due.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 17th, in St. Peter's Institute, Hatfield Road, St. Albans. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Will all members please endeavour to attend as important business must be discussed.—H. J. Hazell, Dis. Sec., 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Halesowen (D.V.), Saturday, Jan. 17th, 3 p.m. Tower bells available for silent practice. Tea, Central Café, 5.15 p.m. Usual evening arrangements.—B. C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The annual district meeting is being held at the Heathcote Arms, Croft, on Jan. 17th, at 6 p.m. Back entrance and bring your own 'eats.' Handbells, etc., follow meeting. Silent tower bell ringing from 3.30. All welcome.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Pudsey on Saturday, Jan. 24th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. in the Park Hotel. Usual arrangements.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting, St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, Jan. 24th. Handbells, service and business meeting.—W. A. Farmer, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—The annual meeting will be held at Leicester on Jan. 24th. Ringing (silent) from 3 p.m. till 5 p.m. at St. John's. Tea at the Cathedral Church House 5.30 p.m. at about 1s. 9d. each, followed by a meeting. Afterwards there will be a social evening at the Globe Hotel, near the Cathedral. It is important that all those requiring tea should notify me not later than Jan. 21st.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—The annual district meeting will be held at Broxbourne on Saturday, Jan. 24th, at 2.30 p.m. Silent bells, together with handbells, available. Tea at the Welcome at 5 p.m. Business meeting to follow. Please make a special effort to be present. With best wishes to all my ringing friends for 1942.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon, Herts.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Peter's Parochial Hall, Derby, on Saturday, Jan. 24th. Handbells available 3 p.m. Business meeting for election of officers 4 p.m. Will all towers please send representatives?—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Peter's on Saturday, Jan. 24th. Service 3.45 p.m.—J. C. Dean, Hon. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch, Gainsborough District.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 24th, in All Saints' Ringing Chamber, Gainsborough. Service 5.30 p.m. Business meeting 6 p.m. Ringing up to 9 p.m. on handbells and 6 clapperless tower bells.—Geo. L. A. Lunn, Hon. Sec., 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—The annual district meeting will be held at St. John's, Newhall, on Saturday, Jan. 31st. Short service 4 p.m. Tea at 4.30 p.m. Meeting to follow. Handbells available after tea in Church Room. Important business. Good attendance requested. Everyone welcome.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, Jan. 31st. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. All welcome.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Holy Trinity, Dartford, on Saturday, Jan. 31st. Tower open for handbell ringing at 3 p.m. Tea, at the kind invitation of the local ringers, at 4.45 p.m. Business meeting to follow. Members requiring tea must notify Mr. R. A. Jenkins, Cosette, 76, Brent Lane, Dartford, not later than Tuesday, Jan. 27th. Subscriptions are now due and should be paid at this meeting.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., temporary address: 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—The district annual general meeting will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, Jan. 31st. Eight silent bells available. Business meeting in the belfry at 3.45. Service at 4.30. It is regretted that arrangements for tea cannot be made, but efforts are being made to engage a room for the evening for a social chat and handbell ringing at which all ringers and their friends are welcome.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellingborough District.—The branch annual meeting will be held at Irthlingborough on Saturday, Jan. 31st. Service at 4.30, followed by tea in Co-operative Hall, Queen Street. Please come for 'old times sake,' but let me know early and bring your sugar. Handbells available.—A. Bigley, Hon. Branch Sec., 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

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. 31st, at 3 p.m. prompt. Unfortunately, it has not been found possible to make arrangements for tea, but an announcement regarding this matter will be made at the meeting. A social evening will take place on the same premises at 6.30 p.m., for which the small charge of 1s. per head will be made to cover expenses. All members are cordially invited. Subscriptions are now due and reports will be available at this meeting.—Leslie W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

(Continued on previous page.)

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 23rd, 1942.

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LIVES OF GREAT MEN.

The suggestion made by Mr. George Cross in a recent issue that we should publish an account of the life and work of James W. Washbrook has met with the approval of many of our readers. Mr. George R. Newton points out that while the records and doings of the men of one hundred years ago are not entirely uninteresting, they are not so interesting as the experiences of those whom many ringers knew in the flesh.

We fully agree, and we may say that this thing has not for some time past been absent from our thoughts. But there are difficulties in the way, and we should like to take our readers into our confidence respecting them.

When we are writing an account of any person who is dead and who in his lifetime had distinguished himself in any way, there are one or two points which must be kept in mind. First, the truth must be told, and told free from bias either in favour or against the person. Secondly, it must be told so as to be both interesting and instructive to present day ringers. That means that we must try and portray the whole man with his good qualities and his limitations too. It is a mistake to think that we can increase a man's reputation by recounting his good qualities only. The sort of thing which is proper for an obituary notice will not serve when we are dealing with someone of fifty years ago.

But to do justice to a man the writer must have not only a mass of information about the details of what he did, but he must know what he was. It is not enough to say that a man rang so many peals. What is wanted is to know something about his character and the gifts which enabled him to stamp his influence on the men of his own time. Without that no worthy account of the man can be written.

Perhaps the hardest task a writer can undertake is to describe a man, and especially a man of great and diverse gifts. James W. Washbrook was, in the opinion of many people competent to judge, the most outstanding ringer of his generation and perhaps of all time. No one has better earned the right to have his life written as it should be written, and in our opinion he would make a first class subject for a biography, but the task of writing it is a formidable one.

In the account of the Central Council which appeared in our pages an attempt was made to portray some of the early members as they really were, and in one or two instances—Heywood, Bulwer, Davies, Law James—without some degree of success. Washbrook was an obvious figure to add to that gallery and the omission was not due to want of intention, but on account of the difficulties of carrying it out.

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HANDBELL PEAL.

WEST GRINSTEAD, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, January 11, 1942, in Two Hours and Six Minutes,
At 92, BUTCHER'S ROW.

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings.

Temor size 13 in F.

GEORGE W. MASSEY ... 1-2 | EDGAR R. RAPLEY ... 3-4

CECIL R. LONGHURST ... 5-6

Conducted by EDGAR R. RAPLEY.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The Master, Mr. E. Fenn, presided at the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths last Saturday, and was supported by the hon. secretary (Mr. A. W. Peck) and the treasurer (Mr. A. A. Hughes). Among those present were Mr. E. A. Young, Mr. G. Price, Mr. R. F. Deal, Mr. J. Shepherd, Mr. C. H. Kippin, Mr. F. Collins, Mr. C. C. Mayne, Mr. E. Hartley, Corpl. K. Arthur, Pte. Len Fox, Pte. C. W. Munday and Guardsman F. A. Munday.

The treasurer reported that a very satisfactory arrangement had been made about the insurance, and the sum of £163 9s. 3d. had been allowed for the property destroyed in the fire raid. This would not be paid until after the war, but interest on the sum would accrue.

The Rector of St. Magnus the Martyr wrote pointing out that the bells of that church had been taken down from the steeple and so would not be available for ringing for peace. He suggested the formation of a handbell band to ring at St. Magnus' and other damaged churches when the time comes. It was decided to arrange a meeting with him to discuss details.

The Master called attention to the loss the society had sustained by the death of Mr. Edward Murrell, of St. Lawrence Jewry, and said that though he had come into ringing fairly late in life and had no particular pretensions to be a twelve-bell ringer, there was no more regular and loyal supporter of the society than he.

Mr. A. A. Hughes added his tribute. He said that Mr. Murrell with Mr. Shorter had been the mainstay of the Jewry band ever since the bells were rehung. Although he had but one leg, Mr. Murrell was very active about the very difficult frame at St. Lawrence's, and had designed and himself installed the very efficient silent apparatus they had read about in 'The Ringing World.' He was an exceptional man in many ways, and, being musical, was a source of strength to the choir. Mr. J. A. Trollope said he had been much struck by the ability shown by Mr. Murrell's letters to 'The Ringing World,' and mentioned that the unsigned article on New Year's Bells was by him. Mr. Deal and Mr. Young both referred to Mr. Murrell's career as a soldier and a sergeant-major in the famous Guards Brigade. It was decided to send a letter of sympathy to Mr. Murrell's son.

The Master congratulated the hon. treasurer on the birth of his first grandchild, and hoped the grandson would follow in his grandfather's footsteps.

Mr. A. A. Hughes drew attention to the suggestion made in 'The Ringing World' that a 'Ringers' Council' should be held in its pages. He stressed the fact that it is impossible for the Central Council to meet. Even the Standing Committee cannot be brought together; and if it were possible there is nothing that could be done at present. He thought, however, that a scheme for discussing different subjects among ringers generally would be a splendid thing, and he recommended it strongly.

Mr. Trollope explained some of the ideas which had occurred to the Editor of 'The Ringing World'; and an interesting discussion followed, in which, among others, Mr. C. C. Mayne, Mr. G. N. Price and Mr. E. A. Young took part. The feeling of the meeting was entirely in favour of the suggestion. It was decided to adjourn the debate and talk more about the matter in a fortnight's time.

The Master said his brother, Roland, sent his best wishes. Pte. Len Fox brought greetings from the junior steward, Mr. G. W. Cecil. Pte. C. W. Munday said he had received a card from Mr. Peter Kearvell, who is in the R.A.F. in Durban, which stated that he had met the Durban ringers and a practice had been arranged.

The dramatic escape of Mr. Derek Sharp in an aeroplane accident was mentioned, and the society decided to write and congratulate him.

Mr. Slack's Two-part peal of Stedman Triples furnished food for a keen and informal debate, which did not end at the formal meeting place.

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DEATH OF MR. C. W. CLARKE.

A LEADING BEDFORDSHIRE RINGER.

We regret to announce the passing of yet another well-known figure from the Exercise; one who did yeoman service for the Bedfordshire Association, of which he was one of the earliest members. Charles William Clarke died at St. Peter's Hospital, Bedford, on January 9th, at the age of 77 years.

In the period just before the present war advancing age somewhat restricted his activities, but ringers of an older generation will recollect the energy and enthusiasm he displayed, mainly in and around Bedfordshire. He was a fine all-round ringer, but he excelled most of all on six bells, having a complete mastery of Minor ringing and conducting in the days before 'splicing' came to the fore. He was something of a marinet in the belfry, but it was all well intentioned and he raised the standard of six-bell ringing in Bedfordshire to a high level.

Mr. Clarke was born at Oundle, Northants, on May 8th, 1864, and rang his first peal before he was 20 years old. His first peal as conductor was the first peal by the Bedfordshire Association. This was seven different 720's of Minor and was rung at Biddenham.

From this point Mr. Clarke gave much attention to Minor ringing and eventually his peals in seven methods alone numbered over 360, of which he conducted more than 250. In addition, he called two peals of London Minor, four peals of Cambridge Minor and 16 peals in less than seven methods. His performances also included peals in 10 and 14 extents, and on one occasion, before such performances were frowned on by the powers that be, a peal of Minor in 14 methods rung in 360's.

On higher numbers Mr. Clarke rang peals which extended from Triples to Cinques; among them one peal of 10,176 Treble Bob Major. As well as 66 peals of Surprise Major and Royal. Altogether he rang no fewer than 720 peals, of which he conducted over 430. The peals were rung in 131 towers for nine associations.

Mr. Clarke had lived in Bedford for the greater part of his life and for many years was associated with the six-bell tower of St. Peter's.

He was buried at his native Oundle on January 12th.



THE LATE MR. C. W. CLARKE.

THE LATE EDWARD MURRELL.

FUNERAL AT WHITCHURCH.

The funeral of the late Edward Murrell, who, as announced in our last issue, died on Sunday, January 11th, took place on the following Thursday afternoon at St. Lawrence's Church, Whitchurch, Canons Park, Middlesex. Mr. A. A. Hughes represented the Ancient Society of College Youths.

Mr. Murrell, who was 53 years old, was born at Thurnby in Leicestershire. He had been a company sergeant-major in the 1st Battalion of the Grenadier Guards and won the Distinguished Service Medal in the retreat from Mons. He was a first rate all round athlete and was skilled in rowing, football and swimming.

He was musical and a leading member of the choir of St. Lawrence Jewry. That brought him into contact with ringing and he adopted it with enthusiasm, though naturally he was hampered by coming to it fairly late in life. He had rung one or two peals.

Mr. Murrell leaves a widow, and a son.

PATRONAL FESTIVAL.

A quarter-peal of Bob Major was rung recently at St. Mary and All Saints', Beaconsfield, in honour of the patronal festival of the church: H. Wingrove (conductor); 1-2, W. Lee 3-4, D. R. Fletcher 5-6, Miss V. Look 7-8.

THE BELLS OF ENGLAND.—"There are sweet bells in France, in Italy, in Belgium; but the English country is their true home. And it will never do for England to listen to the fretful fuss of those who would silence her church bells, whether over her fields or over the noisy towns in which they are the only music."—The Times, March 23rd, 1934.

DEATH OF THE REV. W. C. PEARSON.

RECTOR OF HENLEY, SUFFOLK.

We much regret to announce the death of the Rev. William Carter Pearson, which took place suddenly on Tuesday, January 13th.

Mr. Pearson, who had been Rector of Henley, near Ipswich, for 47 years and was 82 years old, lived alone. He was found by his woman helper on her arrival in the morning at the foot of the rectory stairs in a dying condition. He had a torch in his hand and it is assumed that he collapsed as he was about to go upstairs to black-out.

Mr. Pearson was a man of great determination. Although he had a serious illness last summer, and was incapacitated for a time, he recently walked from Henley to Ipswich and back, in compliance with a wish he had expressed to one of the parishioners that before he died he proposed going the five miles between Henley and Ipswich on foot.

He carried out the full morning service at his church on the Sunday before his death, and preached a sermon, although there was only a small congregation.

Mr. Pearson was laid to rest on Saturday in a spot selected by himself at the foot of the steeple.

The Revs. C. W. Wordsworth (Rector of Coddensham), J. R. Chapman (Rector of Redfield) and L. B. C. Newell (Rector of Claydon) took part in the service, which included the hymns, 'Jesu, lover of my soul' and 'Abide with me,' the 23rd Psalm and the Nunc Dimittis.

The principal mourners were Commander Pearson (brother) and Mr. H. S. Gotelee.

Before the service a course of Grandsire Caters was rung on handbells by Messrs. C. E. Mee, Charles Mee, C. J. Sedgley, E. Rivers and F. Rolfe. There was a large congregation.

Mr. Pearson learned to ring in his early days, and when he went up to Cambridge in 1879 he, with the help of some friends, founded the Clare Association of Ringers, which shortly after became the Cambridge University Guild.

At Henley he restored the bells and completed the octave, and very many peals in numerous and advanced methods were rung with the help of the Ipswich men. Mr. Pearson rang 229 peals for the Norwich Diocesan Association, but he did not approve of the changes which led to the formation of the Suffolk Guild, and thereafter Henley bells and the Rector disappeared from peal records.

Mr. Pearson was for many years a diligent and successful collector of books dealing with bells and ringing, and his collection of early and rare works is unrivalled outside the British Museum. In some respects it is the finest of all, for while all the British Museum copies have been rebound and 'cut,' some of Mr. Pearson's are in the original bindings with uncut edges. He had also the copy of the 'Tintinnalogia,' which for long was supposed to be the only one extant. Mr. E. H. Lewis has now a rather better copy.

Some years ago Mr. Pearson, referring to his books, wrote: 'The "Tintinnalogia" formerly belonging to Mr. Lukis is in my possession. I have a nice clean and perfect copy of Stedman's "Campanalogia," published in 1677. In 1677 J. White published "A Rich Cabinet with a Variety of Inventions," in which is an article on ringing cribbed more or less from the "Tintinnalogia." White also published the same article about 1700, under the title of "Tintinnologia." I have an imperfect copy of this and a good copy of the former.

The "Campanalogia" by J. D. and C. M. went through five editions, 1702, 1705, 1733, 1753 and 1766, the last corrected by J. Monk. I have copies of all these five editions. I have copies of the 1788 "Clavis," one of the so-called second edition, and three of the third. I have two copies of Shipway's book, 1816, one of which is in the original paper boards with rough uncut edges. I have the first and fourth editions of Hubbard's book, 1845 and 1876. I have J. W. Snowdon's copy of B. Thackrah's book. I have two copies of Sottan-tall's book, one of which was formerly J. W. Snowdon's and contains a photo of the author published in 1874. Also "The Bell News" reprints, and the later books by Snowdon, etc.; J. P. Powell's "Stedman Triples" and Thompson's "Grandsire." Also I have all the county volumes that have been published on bell inscriptions, etc.'

Mr. Pearson at one time owned a large and handsomely bound manuscript, folio size. It is entitled, 'The Peal Book of the Union Scholars of Newport, Isle of Wight,' but actually is a collection of miscellaneous records of early performances in different parts of the country. This volume Mr. Pearson presented to the British Museum.

From time to time Mr. Pearson contributed articles on various historical subjects to the pages of 'The Bell News.' They included an account of Theodore Eccleston and a transcript of the book just mentioned. He also published a little book giving a list of the rings of eight, ten and twelve bells in the Eastern Counties with the founders and weights.

ST. PETER'S TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

The band at St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells, are among the many who are doing what they can to tide over these difficult times and keep the spirit of the Exercise alive. Under the inspiration of their captain, Mr. B. Collison, they hold fortnightly Wednesday practices with lashed clappers. They have now six fully qualified ringers, and two others are in training. Two of the six qualified ringers are women, and so is one of the learners. The other is the Rev. E. F. Yorke, Vicar of St. Peter's.

THE BELLS OF FULHAM.

RUDHALL'S FAMOUS RING.

Among the bells in the metropolitan area none have been better known or more loved than those of All Saints', Fulham. In recent years perhaps restrictions on ringing have made them less familiar to ordinary ringers than once they were, and opinions on bell tones and qualities have much changed; but even now if the question were asked which of all the rings of London should we most regret to lose, many would not hesitate to answer, Fulham. I personally think that there is no belfry throughout the length and breadth of the land where musical requirements in peal ringing are more completely and pleasantly met than here.

When the first church at Fulham was built no one knows. The present fine building is modern and was erected in 1881, but the tower, which it so completely matches, dates from 1440. In the Edwardian inventory of 1549 it is stated that there then were 'V greate belles and a lyttell bell in the steeple, and iij hande belles.' The latter were sacring bells and, being no longer required, were sold. There remained 'in the steeple V greate belles and a saunce Bell.'

During the seventeenth century the churchwardens' accounts contain many entries relating to repairs, which are interesting as showing the cost of such things. In 1638 a set of bell ropes cost 18s. 6d. Two years later a set cost £1 2s. 6d. It rather looks as if in the first instance the churchwardens had gone to the cheapest market and had got rubbish for their pains. In 1649 Bastian, of Hammersmith, was paid 18s. for a new clapper for the great bell, 'the owld one being unserviceable and indangering the bell.' In 1650 Robert Turner, bellhanger, received £12s. 6d. 'for taking down and new hanging fower of the bells (the brasses, googions and baldricks being decaied and worne out) and for new casting the sd. brasses and googians and adding to them five pounds more of mettall, and for new baldricks and roolls and other worke appearing by bill.'

In that same year some soldiers had damaged one of the bells, how it does not appear. Here is the entry: 'To him more (that is to Robert Turner) for taking down and new hanging the second bell over throwne by the Soldiers, and for locks and rayles, 6s. 8d.' The probability is that the soldiers having nothing better to do, amused themselves with bell ringing, and not being skilful ringers, damaged the hanging. Something similar happened about the same time at Peterborough Cathedral, where 'the neighbourhood was continually disturbed by the soldiers jangling and ringing the bells auker (backwards) as though there had been a scare-fire (though there was no other but what themselves had made).' So some of the inhabitants went by night and took away the clappers and hid them in the roof of the church.

The Fulham churchwardens' accounts contain numerous entries of payments for ringing. Usually it was for some royal anniversary such as the King's birthday or Coronation Day, or for some national event, such as Gunpowder Treason Day, the signing of peace (at Utrecht) or some naval or military victory, or it was on one of the many occasions when the King passed by on his way to Hampton Court. Easter Day and Christmas

Day were two of the occasions on which the bells were rung.

Time and again the vestry tried to restrict both the amount of ringing, and the amount paid for it. On May 6th, 1672, it was decided 'for ringing on Gunpowder Treason, tenn shillings and no more. And on the king's coronation tenn shillings, and on the king's birthday the like sum of ten shillings and not to exceed more in the p'teculars aforesaid.'

In 1731 the vestry decided that no more than ten shillings should be paid on any day and that there should be nine ringing days and no more.

In 1636 ten shillings had to be paid to 'the king's footmen' for not ringing; and in 1642, the year in which the civil war broke out, although nine shillings was paid on the king's coronation day, it was ordered that 'it was not to be allowed for tyme to come.' The bells, however, were still rung on the king's birthday.

Fulham was one of the several places where the ringers claimed the right to an annual supper. In some cases there was an endowment; in others an ancient custom. It usually took the form of a leg of pork, but at Fulham it was a shoulder of veal, eaten on Easter Tuesday. The only survival of this once widely-spread custom seems now to be in the Middlesex village of Harlington.

In 1652 Fulham bells had fallen into a bad state of repair. The parish elected as churchwarden a certain Colonel George Langham, but he was anxious not to serve and the matter was settled in this manner—'Coll. George Langham did voluntarily give to the parish of Fulham, on Fulham side, the somme of five pounds, and the inhabitants did consent to execute the said Col. langham from all offices for the repaire of ye bells wch are now in decay.'

Mr. Thomas Crooke was elected in Langham's stead and he forthwith set about the restoration of the peal. This was at the time of the Commonwealth and is one more proof that bells and ringing were not then neglected. The work was entrusted to Bryan Eldridge of Chertsey, and then happened a rather curious thing. Crooke and his co-warden, or successor, John Shorecroft, had entered into a bond with Eldridge 'in ye penall sum of 120 li' for the payment of the contract amount of £60. Crooke was supposed to have paid part and Shorecroft to have discharged the balance, but Eldridge did not return the bond, disputing the payment. He sued Crooke, who had judgment passed against him, and was himself taken in execution. He appealed to the vestry and the minute book contains a detailed account of the matter.

According to him, when he paid Eldridge the latter said that the bond was not then in his custody, but he promised to deliver it up in a short time to be cancelled; but nevertheless 'ye said Eldridge putt ye aforesaide bonds in suits, and although the said Thomas Crooke made a legal defence and proof of ye aforesaid sums paid yet judgement went against him.'

The vestry believed Crooke and reimbursed him the money, but we should like to have Bryan Eldridge's version of the matter. The Eldridges were a family of bell founders who were held in high esteem, and the original sum may not have been paid.

Eldridge cast a peal of six, but by 1728 they had become cracked and out of tune. 'At a Vestry held ye

24th day of July, Anno Domini 1728 pursuant to due and legal notice for that purpose, it was unanimously agreed and order'd that the whole peal of six bells be recast, it appearing that the tenor was broken, the third crack'd, and ye rest untunable, and that a rate should be made and levied at four pence in ye pound to defray the expense of casting and hanging ye said bells and other necessary repairs in and about ye same.'

A leading man in the parish at this time was William Skelton, a skilled ringer and a member of the Society of College Youths. I have already told how his father came to the notice of the Bishop of London by detecting an attempt to poison the bishop, and how the latter educated him and set him up in life. William Skelton was an Oxford graduate and for many years held the office of registrar to the Bishop of London. He now became the prime mover in the scheme to restore the church bells and was the leading man in the committee appointed to deal with the matter.

The vestry found that the proposed rate of fourpence was insufficient, so they raised it to eightpence, and if that were not enough, to tenpence, but it seems this was rescinded. The committee decided to instal eight bells and applied to the Bishop for a faculty to recast the old six and supply two trebles by voluntary subscription; accordingly at the next vestry meeting Skelton, as registrar, presented the parish with the 'Bps Licence for ye new bells, which was read and thanks returned him.'

The response to the appeal for subscriptions does not appear to have been very lively, and in the end Skelton, who had made himself responsible for the money, had to bear the bulk of the cost, and the vestry decided that two bells should bear his name!

The order was given to Abraham Rudhall, of Gloucester, then at the height of his fame. It was the last of the five rings he cast for London churches, the others being St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, 1702, St. George's, Southwark, 1718, St. Bride's, Fleet Street, 1710, and St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, 1726.

From Gloucester the bells were brought overland to the Thames and then by water; and as the barge was passing under the bridge at Oxford it sank. It was a week before the bells could be hoisted out of the river, but at length, in January, 1730, they arrived at Fulham none the worse for their adventure.

The supervision of the tuning was entrusted to John Harrison, who is famous as the inventor of a clock for determining the longitude at sea. For this he received (though after long delay) the sum of £10,000 which Parliament had offered for such an invention. He also made other improvements in clocks and escapements. 'He had a musical ear and made experiments in sound with a curious monochord of his own invention, from which he constructed a new musical scale or mechanical division of the octave according to the proportions which the radius and diameter of a circle have respectively to the circumference.'

(To be continued.)

J. A.
TROLLOPE'S

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

As Dartford is in the defence area, ringers attending the meeting on January 31st should, if they are questioned, explain that they are attending a business meeting of the Kent County Association.

The daily papers have reported that Mr. Derek M. Sharp, a well-known member of the Crayford (Kent) band, who is now a cadet in America, had an alarming and dramatic experience. He was flung out of a plane while flying and saved himself by clinging to the tail elevators. His friends will congratulate him on his marvellous escape.

The many ringing friends of Mr. W. Honeywood, of Mistley, will regret to learn of the death of his wife at the age of 77. Mr. and Mrs. Honeywood celebrated their golden wedding during 1941.

Fifty years ago to-day eight peals were rung. They were: Minor 1, Grandsire Triples 1, Caters 1, Stedman Triples 3, and Kent Treble Bob Major 2.

Ten years ago to-day 26 peals were rung. They were: Stedman Triples 1, Bob Major 2, Oxford Treble Bob Major 1, Spliced Treble Bob Major 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 4, Superlative Surprise Major 2, Belgrave 1, Cambridge 4, London 1, Bob Royal 1, Oxford Treble Bob Royal 1, Doubles 2, and Minor 5.

The Norwich Scholars rang 7,126 changes of Stedman Cinques at Mancroft on January 18th, 1844. It was the longest length in the method at the time, and, according to tradition, was a splendidly struck performance.

The first peal definitely known to have been rung by the College Youths was 5,060 Grandsire Cinques at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, on January 19th, 1725. Matthew East called the bobs.

The Norwich Scholars rang the first peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Maximus at St. Peter's, Mancroft, on January 20th, 1817.

The College Youths rang the first peal of Stedman Triples on handbells at the Whittington and Cat, Bothnal Green, on January 21st, 1854.

James Motts, of Ipswich, died on January 21st, 1923, at the age of 63.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at the Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, January 10th, and members were present from Cawthorne, Eastwood, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Sandal, Sprotborough, Sheffield (St. Marie's) and Wath.

The business meeting was at 3.30 p.m., and the honorary president, Canon W. E. Wilkinson, Rector of St. Mary's, occupied the chair.

The balance sheet was very encouraging, as it showed that after a year of difficulties and no tower bell ringing the society had a balance of £1 7s. 10d. On the motion of Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Gill, the auditors, it was adopted unanimously.

The secretary's report stated that since the last annual meeting ten monthly meetings and one committee meeting had been held, the average attendance at the meetings being nine. Considering the small number of handbell ringers in the society's area, this was fairly good. Handbells had been made good use of since the ban on tower bells. Many subscriptions were outstanding, but this was chiefly due to the annual shield contest not being held, for that brought together a lot of members with whom the officials do not otherwise get into touch. No doubt this will be put right when normal times return.

It was very encouraging to the secretary to know that despite all the difficulties the work of the society had been carried on, and he hoped that this would continue until the end of the war, when with normal times the belfries would be full again with the old keenness. The report was adopted.

Two new members were elected. The officials were all re-elected: Mr. E. V. Brookes, Hoylandswaine, president; Mr. H. Chant, Felkirk, treasurer; Mr. D. Smith, Felkirk, secretary; Mr. C. Robinson, Cawthorne, and Mr. J. T. White, Felkirk, auditors.

The Chairman mentioned that something ought to be done about the handbells which are allowed to go to ruin in towers. It might happen that some peals of handbells which are valuable might be taken for salvage and so lost. He thought the society as a body should assume responsibility and try to find out how many towers possessed handbells and in what condition they were. If they were not cared for they should try and arrange to collect them so that any that were good might be saved and any that were bad might be sent to the founders as scrap. The suggestion was accepted and the secretary was instructed to get into touch with all the towers either through the ringers or the incumbents.

It was thought best to change the date of the meetings temporarily and to arrange them as near to the full moon as possible during the winter months. The February meeting will be on the 28th, and it was agreed to accept an invitation to hold it at Wath-on-Dearne.

After the vote of thanks to the chairman for all he had done, the members adjourned to the dining room, and after tea the handbells were made good use of until 8.30 p.m. The methods rung were Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain and Treble Bob Minor, Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Plain and Little Bob Major Spliced, Grandsire Caters and Bob Royal.

THE PROPOSED 'RINGER'S COUNCIL.'

SUGGESTION 'CATCHES ON.'

Views of Representative Ringers.

The suggestion, put forward in last week's issue of 'The Ringing World,' that discussions might be carried on in the form of a meeting through our columns on subjects of general interest in connection with ringing has aroused considerable interest, and below we print some representative views on the subject. The novelty of 'running a meeting' through 'The Ringing World' seems to have caught the fancy of many ringers, and we shall be glad to have the views of other of our readers on the subject.

MEANS OF MAINTAINING ACTIVE INTEREST.

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent's 'novel suggestion' is a very interesting one, and for my part I cordially welcome it as a means of maintaining active interest in our art and of promoting practical preparation for the undoubtedly difficult task awaiting us after the war.

Allow me to make two suggestions. First there is the question of a name for the movement. Clearly it would not constitute a 'Council.' 'Symposium' would sound too highbrow: 'Ringers' Brains Trust' too onirously suggestive of the dialectical subtleties of the Methods Committee and its critics.

I suggest that it be known as the 'Ringers' Conference.'

My other point is that, while all those taking part should be free to express their views with perfect frankness and without reserve, one and all should be required to treat their opponents with the utmost courtesy, and any tendency to undesirable personalities should be rigidly and uncompromisingly excluded.

In conclusion, it seems to me that for purely practical reasons the 'president of the conference' must be none other than the Editor.

F. LI. EDWARDS.

Kington Magna Rectory.

SUPPORT FROM LEEDS.

Dear Sir,—I was greatly interested in the letter appearing in the current issue of 'The Ringing World' over the name of Mr. J. P. Price. As a long standing and regular member of the Central Council, one cannot but recognise all the difficulties facing the Council, both as regards the arranging of meetings, accommodation and travelling facilities, which I am of opinion are likely to get more difficult in the near future.

At the same time one can quite see the essential point (which is more obvious than much correspondence that you are expected to insert) that in the meantime it is of utmost importance to maintain the interest of the Exercise in these trying and difficult times, and I am of opinion that the suggestion of Mr. Price would form a valuable nucleus to arouse interest and enthusiasm. For my part, I would be only too pleased to take part in any discussions that may be introduced, if the proposals come to fruition, and to help in making the scheme a success.

PERCY J. JOHNSON.

Leeds.

AN EXCELLENT SUGGESTION.

Sir,—I read with interest the letter from J. P. Price in 'The Ringing World' of January 16th. It is an excellent suggestion and one that should appeal to many members of the Exercise.

It is generally acknowledged that it is impossible for the Central Council to meet in session during the war, for many reasons which are obvious. At the same time, tribute should be paid to the secretary, Mr. G. W. Fletcher, and others for their efforts, however unsuccessful, in many directions in trying to remove the ban on church bellringing.

Unfortunately, there are ringers who are always ready to criticise generally under a 'non-de-plume' without making any effort themselves to improve or put forward constructive proposals. I feel certain Mr. Price's letter will be read and studied with interest, and I welcome the suggestion that views sent to the Editor of 'The Ringing World'

for publication must each be published in the sender's own name. No doubt, sir, you will be having the views of others, so that it will be possible to get things moving as soon as possible. Personally, I am prepared to support Mr. Price's proposed motion that a small committee be formed immediately to consider and report upon the best and quickest means of rehabilitating ringing when the war is over. I feel sure, too, that your leading article of January 16th encourages the hope that you will assist in this excellent work.

ALBERT WALKER.

Birmingham.

COMPENSATION FOR C.C. ACTIVITIES.

Dear Sir,—I have read with very great interest the letter of Mr. J. P. Price, and welcome most cordially the suggestion contained therein. I feel very certain that there are many subjects that could be profitably discussed in your columns, and now, is the time for it to be given a trial through the means suggested.

In your excellent leader you say, 'Nothing is better for a man's outlook than to hear and study the views and opinions of others.' With that I am certain we are in total agreement. There is no keener member and supporter of the Central Council than myself, and no one regrets more the impracticability of its holding, at present, its meetings.

If Mr. Price's suggestion was put into practice it would compensate in no small way for the temporary cessation of the Central Council's activities.

As you point out, 'There are obvious and serious difficulties to contend with.' We agree with that. You also say 'there are great possibilities in the suggestion.' With that we also agree. I would very much like to see the suggestion put into practice, and I, for one, can promise my wholehearted co-operation.

GEORGE R. NEWTON.

Liverpool.

OPPORTUNITY TO FIND HIDDEN TALENT.

Dear Sir,—I read with great interest your correspondent's suggestion that we hold a Council meeting through the pages of 'The Ringing World.' I think it is one of the brightest ideas we have had put forward for some time, for not only will it help to keep the interest in ringing, it will also give the guilds and associations the chance to study the form of possible future candidates and be a great help in choosing future representatives to the Central Council.

Who knows! There may be a lot of hidden talent among the younger generation, and I think this is a fine opportunity to bring it out.

R. RICHARDSON.

Surfleet, Lines.

A CHANCE FOR THE CRITICS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The novel proposal suggested in the last issue of 'The Ringing World' appears to be worthy of much serious attention. It has for some time been obvious that there is a great deal of dissatisfaction amongst ringers at the present state of affairs, but very few suggestions have been put forward which seem to be of a practical nature. Most of the critics are merely critics of other people's alleged inactivity, and even those who can see 'obvious advantages' in a certain proposal, like the anonymous person whose letter appeared on December 9th, can only call for 'somebody to do something.'

Now an opportunity occurs which will give everybody a chance to put forward their own ideas for the welfare of ringing, both during the period of the ban and after, and also to say something for or against other people's ideas. I, for one, therefore, welcome the proposal.

There should, however, be no thought of interfering with the rights of the Central Council or of the several associations; and no decision taken should be in any way binding on those bodies. At the same time, the Council and the association will no doubt be very glad to have well expressed opinions of ringers, for guidance in the difficult days ahead.

Further, the proposal that no anonymous contributions to the debate should be admitted will provide an opportunity to ringers to find the many new and capable young men who will be required after the war to take up office in the associations and the Council.

C. T. COLES.

Highams Park.

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STEDMAN TRIPLES.

MR. SLACK'S PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As Mr. Slack mentions my name, perhaps you will allow me to say that, so far as I know, neither Bulwer nor Heywood ever expressed any public opinion about the possibility of obtaining a peal of Stedman Triples in two exactly similar parts and two singles. What they may have said in private letters and correspondence I have, of course, no means of knowing.

Both of them had studied and understood the early multi-bob peals, but they treated them as stages in the development of the composition of the method which had become obsolete when Thurstans' peal appeared, and neither would seem to have so much as considered whether the B Block plan was capable of development and improvement. For them peals of Stedman Triples meant twin-bob peals. Now a twin-bob peal in two exactly similar parts is so obviously an impossibility that they accepted the fact without comment, and there was for them no problem in the matter. There certainly was not for Heywood, for more than once he publicly stated that the only outstanding problem in Stedman composition was a seven-part peal. That Law James afterwards supplied; but whether it was the sort of peal Heywood was thinking about I am not sure.

The practical objections to peals composed of B Blocks are so obvious that they have been almost entirely neglected. When I wrote my book on Stedman there was not the slightest evidence that composers considered a peal in two equal parts was a particularly desirable thing to be aimed at. It was, I think, Mr. Slack who first mentioned the thing in public, and the statement by the anonymous writer whom he calls 'The Cross-Eyed Yokel' that it was impossible, was obviously an attempt to draw him. Since it resulted in Mr. Slack's peal we may not altogether regret the attempt.

The peal cannot be said to mark any particular stage in the development of Stedman Triples composition, and has little practical value, but that does not mean it has no interest as a composition. Many people will hold that it is not worth ringing, but no one will for a minute seek to belittle the merits of Mr. Slack in composing it, or of Mr. Maurice Hibbert in calling it.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Ealing, W.5.

THE MUSIC OF TRIPLES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Whilst suspecting Dr. Slack made his statement re musical properties of his peal in the vein of ironic sarcasm permeating the context, it always amuses me to hear of people talking of Triples peals as musical or otherwise, as this constantly occurs in ringers' conversation. The only way I know to make any Triples composition apparently musical is to have as many of the most musical changes as possible at backstroke, where they are emphasised by the hand-stroke pause, of which Messrs. Pitman and Parker have produced good examples.

But there are only 5,040 changes of Triples, and all have to be rung good or bad, in any Triples method or composition, so if you have jam in one place you have margarine in others! When you come to Major and upwards you can pick 5,000 changes from any number between forty thousand and forty million, but not in Triples.

Personally, I have never heard any *bad* triple changes in a *well-struck* touch or peal, on bells of average musical quality (probably due to a defective musical education), and even so-called musical changes are nothing if murdered.

I have been struck by the fact that chief opposition, or intolerance, to peals of Triples, Stedman in particular, comes from ringers who have a reputation on Major methods, often a good one. I quite appreciate that all orthodox peals of Major have at least three observation bells, continuously, and another two for longer or shorter periods, according to plan of composition, and can realise their difficulty in sympathising with or understanding peals with none. We all have met, for instance, the experienced ringer of Stedman Cinques, who affects to despise Doubles, because if he unfortunately gets entrapped in the latter he doesn't know how to make a single!

Mr. Keeble's naive suggestion that figures can 'always' be obtained from those who have them is good. Who wants to keep writing out half a peal of Stedman, for people to keep as a museum piece? It was precisely to stop this that figures were sent to 'The Ringing World.' The necessity of this has been emphasised this week by even the composer's admission that he now has no copy of figures. Now, sir, that you have had some destructive criticism on the way the peal was presented, how about a little article, under your own name, telling us how it should be arranged and learnt? Everybody will be interested in the correct way.

Finally will 'A Member' not be too hard on these Bushey people, please, and remember that it was a *district* meeting of the Herts Association attended by members outside the county. Even Bushey people are human, or so they say!

In any case, they had the courage of their convictions and didn't hide behind a nom-de-plume.

MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ST. GILES'.

A most successful meeting was held at St. Giles', Norwich, on Saturday, January 10th. Various methods were rung during the afternoon on the eight bells, which seem to go as well as ever. The service was conducted by the general secretary, the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, and a most interesting address was given by the Vicar of St. Giles', the Rev. D. E. Rae.

A splendid tea was provided in St. Giles' Hall by certain ladies who seem quite undaunted by war difficulties, and this was followed by the business meeting. Mr. W. L. Duffield was in the chair, supported by ringers from Acle, Attleborough, Bergh Apton, Buxton, Diss.



THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES, NORWICH.

Forncett, Great Yarmouth, Long Stratton, Lowestoft, Mulbarton, Norwich, Redenhall, Wymondham and Warsop (Notts). The general secretary read a letter from his predecessor, Mr. Nolan Golden, and another from Mrs. Smalls about her husband, who is a prisoner of war in Germany. It was decided to make the next meeting the annual general meeting, and to hold it at St. Peter's, Mancroft, on the Saturday after Easter, April 11th.

The general secretary's review of the past year's work showed that keenness is well maintained, in spite of the difficulties. The five meetings held had all been well attended. The financial position is satisfactory, the smaller income being offset by smaller expenses than usual. It was decided to issue an annual report in a very much abbreviated form. Members stood in silence as a tribute of respect to the members who had passed away during the past year, including the president, Canon Aubrey Aitken, Vicar of Great Yarmouth.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar for the use of the bells and the Parish Hall, and for preaching the sermon and playing the organ at the service; to the ladies who had provided such a splendid tea; and to the foreman of St. Giles' tower for silencing the bells (had he been a policeman 30 years ago, during the suffragette movement, he would probably have had to try silencing the belles as well). A few courses on handbells brought a very happy afternoon to a close.

INFORMATION ASKED FOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The loss to the Exercise by the death of so many of its great and respected composers during recent years makes it all the poorer. Very difficult will it be to fill their places.

Some time ago Mr. J. A. Trollope gave some articles on methods and proof which made interesting reading and study, from which many of us were let into secrets we had not known before.

There are other men who appear to hold secrets, and I wonder if they too could be persuaded to reveal them to the Exercise through the medium of 'The Ringing World,' and not leave it till they have passed to the place from whence no traveller returns. Recently we have heard a bit about Round Blocks, Transpositions, etc. What does it all mean? What is its usefulness and what does it prove? Perhaps with more detailed explanation we might begin to understand and see through the darkness. The science of permutation is very fascinating and gives the life to our ringing which otherwise would become dull and moribund.

Thanks to those who from time to time give lectures in their own particular associations to add interest at the meetings.

Ashton-under-Lyne.

W. W. WOLSTENCROFT.

ESSF ASSOCIATION.

BLIND ORGANIST IS MADE RINGING MEMBER.

At the annual district meeting of the Northern Division at Bocking on Saturday, January 10th, Mr. I. T. Chapman, A.R.C.O., who can already ring Bob Minor, was elected a member. Altogether 14 members attended the meeting from the seven following towers: Boreham, Halstead, Earls Colne, Braintree, Dedham, Dunmow and Bocking. The ringers availed themselves of the handbells, and a fine course of Bob Royal was rung just before the service, which was conducted by the Dean, the Very Rev. E. Rogers. Mr. I. T. Chapman was at the organ and during the singing of the last hymn a collection was taken for the Bell Restoration Fund, and amounted to 8s. 6d.

The ringers then adjourned to the Church Hall, where tea was very kindly provided by Mr. and Mrs. R. Suckling and ably served by Mrs. Suckling.

The business meeting followed, with the District Master (Mr. H. W. Smith) in the chair.

The secretary (Miss H. G. Snowden) presented the annual report, which showed that meetings had been held at Bocking, Halstead and Braintree with an average attendance of 12. Seven handbell peals were rung, 3 of Bob Major, 2 Bob Royal and 1 Minor in four methods, the conductors being C. W. Woolley 5, O. Broyd 1. Attempts had been made throughout the year to keep the Exercise alive with handbell practices, and the practice at Bocking under the conductorship of Mr. L. W. Wiffen had yielded two recruits. The report ended with an appeal by the secretary to members to support the meetings more

Mr. Ridgwell congratulated Miss Snowden on the report. In these very difficult times he considered the report an excellent one.

Mr. L. W. Wiffen then took the chair during the election of the District Master. Mr. Wiffen paid a tribute to the way Mr. Smith had carried out the duties of Master during the past year, and his re-election was agreed to on the motion of Mr. F. Ridgwell, seconded by Mr. H. Hammond.

It was proposed by Mr. R. Suckling, seconded by Mr. F. Claydon, that Miss H. G. Snowden be re-elected secretary for the ensuing year.—Mr. W. Keeble, in a letter he had written, expressed a wish to associate his name with the re-election of the officers.

Both officers accorded their thanks to the members for their re-election.

The two committee members, Mr. F. Ridgwell and Mr. F. Claydon, were re-elected.

The election of new members then took place, and the secretary proposed Mr. I. T. Chapman, A.R.C.O., and Miss C. Chapman as ringing members. Miss Snowden said that Mr. Chapman, in spite of his tremendous handicap, had succeeded in the short space of three months in ringing Bob Minor. The company had witnessed during the afternoon the very creditable performance by both these new and very enthusiastic recruits.—The proposition was seconded by Mr. R. Suckling and carried unanimously.

Earls Colne was chosen as next place of meeting, which the secretary said would be some time in April.

The District Master then proposed a vote of thanks to the Dean for kindly conducting the service and for his address, to Mr. Chapman for playing the organ, and to Mr. and Mrs. Suckling for so kindly providing the tea.

Several methods were rung on handbells, including a course of Treble Bob Royal.

LEAVING BELLS UP.

A DANGEROUS CUSTOM.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A few weeks ago one of your correspondents asked the question whether it is right to leave bells up. He was thinking of damage that might happen to the bells themselves, and he got a reply from Mr. John H. B. Hesse dealing fully with that point.

But I have been wondering why no one has pointed out the danger that might happen to any person who might go into the bell chamber whether on business or curiosity, who did not understand how and why bells are up. Such a person might easily push off a bell that set lightly or even by leaning heavily on it break a defective stay.

I remember some years ago going into a tower where one or two bells were up. There were workmen just beginning to put some wire netting over one of the windows, in front of which was one of these raised bells. They were climbing about it and about to put up their ladders on the frame. I asked them if they thought it safe, and they seemed surprised when I told them that a very little would push the bell off, and if one of them slipped into the pit when it did so it would be very nasty for him.

They had only just begun their work, and, of course, I took the liberty of dropping the bell, but there might have been a nasty accident.

Bells should never be left up if there is any chance that strangers may get among them. But did I not read somewhere in 'The Ringing World' that the bells of one London church were left up during the four years of the last war?

A VILLAGE RINGER

THE HERTFORDSHIRE RESOLUTIONS.

THE COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Apropos the letter from 'A Member' in your current issue, this effusion, although written by an anonymous writer, needs, I think, a reply.

His remarks, however, in the second and third paragraphs are very amusing and, I am sure, are certain to be of interest, inasmuch that we are assured that at the first meeting of the Council after the war the present members of the various committees will then offer to the Council a report. One thing, however, your correspondent has forgotten, and that is that this year all the members need re-electing.

We all know in this district that the Analysis Committee will be all right in the very capable hands of Mrs. Fletcher, that the Methods Committee meet every Sunday, and we further know that several committees have not met since they were appointed.

The whole thing is this. In June, 1940, the Ringing Exercise received the greatest blow to its activities in the whole of its history, and in the opinion of this district the Standing Committee should have met and discussed the matter in a broad light.

We know and appreciate the great services rendered to the Exercise by the secretary of the Council, but I must assure your readers that Mr. Fletcher is not the Central Council.

As the mover of the resolution at Bushey last November, I would like to inform your readers that we do not expect the Council to meet in session, but we do expect a little more life from the Standing Committee.

I am fully aware that several of our friends will shout out about being on war work, and I can assure these people at once that the great majority of the people who meet at Bushey on the last Saturday in each month are also on war work and also working long hours. For the benefit of 'A Member' these meetings start at 3 p.m. and finish at 11 p.m., and he will be made very welcome if he cares to come along.

Now I come to his last paragraph. This calls for drastic action. Have we in this district ever said or hinted that we could run the Central Council or 'The Ringing World' better than the people who are at the moment in charge of the foregoing two affairs? No, but we assert the right to criticise the actions of both of them at any time, and further that any member of the said Central Council who replies under the guise of a non-de-plume is not fit to be a member of the Central Council.

Regarding the remarks about Dr. Slack's peal, I must inform him at once that we in this district have already rung the peal, but we are wanting to give him the chance to ring and also to call the peal.

There is just one more point. My resolution with regard to the Central Council is only a matter for the Hertford County Association, and while welcoming any critic, I resent a puerile attempt at cheap wit and sarcasm by anyone.

EDWIN JENNINGS.

Bushey.

SOMEBODY MUST ACT.

Dear Sir,—In reply to 'A Member's' letter, I would like to point out that it must be obvious to even him that the future of the Exercise has got to be planned by somebody, and the most able body to do that should be the Central Council. However, a solution to the problem might be found in the suggestion of a Ringers' Council. That remains to be seen.

The remarks passed by 'A Member' in the last part of his letter show, to my mind, very bad taste. Nevertheless, I can assure him that the capabilities of the Bushey people, being far in excess of his, could manage the whole bag of tricks, as he suggests.

Finally, it is my opinion that if 'A Member' is not good enough to sign his name, he is not good enough to be a member at all.

RUSSELL G. SPEARS.

7. Glenwood Grove, N.W.9.

FATAL BELFRY ACCIDENT.

AUSTRALIAN RINGER'S DEATH.

During the ringing at St. Philip's Church, Church Hill, Sydney, Australia, on June 11th, Roy Herbert Henry Livett received injuries from which he died.

Evidence was given in the Coroner's Court that three men assisting Livett to ring the bells saw him suddenly drawn to the belfry ceiling on the bell rope. He struck the ceiling, and then fell 20 feet to the floor. One of his wrists and one of his feet were fractured.

The deceased's father said that the men had gone to St. Philip's Church to practise bellringing. The accident occurred after three rounds on the bells had been rung.

'My son was dazed after the fall,' said Livett. 'Later, he said to me: "When it came to my turn on the fourth round I felt dizzy, and I don't remember anything after that."'

Witness added that his son was taken to Sydney Hospital, where he received treatment and was allowed to go home. On the following day he was advised to go back to the hospital, but he did not do so. He developed pneumonia and pleurisy, and died on July 23rd.

The Acting City Coroner recorded a finding of accidental death.

GRANDSIRE CATERS.

THE HISTORY OF THE METHOD.

BY EDGAR C. SHEPHERD.

(Continued from page 34.)

In 1883 four members of the Birmingham Amalgamated Society rang 10,176 Grandsire Caters in hand. According to Tom Miller's peal book it was 'rung in first class style.' Apparently these lively young men were not regarded too favourably by the St. Martin's Society. Mr. Miller has related how Henry Johnson maintained that John Carter would never compose and ring 10,000 Grandsire Major. Carter took up the challenge, and composed and conducted the peal. It is significant that, of the witnesses, three were members of the St. Martin's Society and five were of the Amalgamated Society.

In December of the same year the Amalgamated Society rang on handbells 6,137 Grandsire Caters, and this remained the longest length of Grandsire Caters until the 8,099 at New Cross in 1912. The figures of the 6,137 may be found in the C.C. Collection, No. 63.

In 1888 the Oxford Diocesan Guild rang 13,247 Grandsire Caters at Appleton, and so beat the record established at Painswick 71 years before. The peal was rung in 8 hrs. 5 mins., and the band stood as follows: E. Holifield treble, C. Hounslow 2, H. Baker 3, W. Bennett 4, Rev. F. E. Robinson 5, F. White 6, J. Avery 7, G. Holifield 8, J. W. Washbrook 9, F. S. White tenor. Composed and conducted by J. W. Washbrook.

The Rev. F. E. Robinson, in his book, 'Among the Bells,' speaks of the perfection of the ringing, no word except 'bob' being spoken for hours at a stretch.

The figures are given on pages 75 and 76 of Mr. Robinson's book, where they are rather carelessly printed. The length is given there as 13,265, and there are other errors. The composition, after the first four courses, is in five parts, each part having one bell behind the 9th. It is in long courses, with calls on 78 or 89 throughout.

In the following year the Appleton performance was superseded at Cheltenham by a mixed band drawn from Birmingham, Sheffield and the local town. The peal board reads: 'On Easter Monday, April 22nd, 1889, Ten Members of the above Association (i.e. the Gloucester and Bristol Association) rang in this Tower a true peal of Grandsire Caters 15,227 changes in 9 hours and 43 minutes. This peal supersedes all previous records in any method on Ten Bells.'

Treble, F. Musty, Cheltenham; 2nd, G. H. Phillpott, Esq., Cheltenham; 3rd, S. Reeves, Birmingham; 4th, H. Roberts, Cheltenham; 5th, F. E. Ward, Esq., Cheltenham; 6th, C. H. Hattersley, Sheffield; 7th, J. Plant, Birmingham; 8th, W. T. Pates, Cheltenham; 9th, T. Reynolds, Birmingham; Tenor, A. W. Humphris, Cheltenham. Composed by Mr. Henry Johnson, of Birmingham, and conducted by W. T. Pates. Mr. J. Belcher, Umpire.

When Mr. William Dyer very kindly sent this information and the figures in April, 1941, the only surviving member of the band was Mr. Humphris, who was then still an active service ringer. The conductor, Mr. W. T. Pates, had never called a bob or single in Grandsire before starting for the peal!

The composition is in four parts. The first part has 789 in the Plain Course position and is a mixture of long and short courses. The second part turns the bells into

the Tittums and thenceforward all courses are called 2, 3, or 1, 2, 3. This part is three times repeated, producing 42563, from which the bells are brought round in the usual way. There are only two Singles (in Parts 2 and 4), and these splice in a large round block of Tittum rows.

On Jan. 8th, 1900, Mr. G. E. Symonds called 5,003 Grandsire Caters on handbells for the College Youths, and in 1902 the 'heaviest' peal in the method was rung at Exeter (tenor 72 cwt.).

On July 7th, 1912, the Kent Association set up a handbell record that has not yet been broken. Five members rang John Nelms' 8,099 Grandsire Caters at New Cross, London, in 4 hours, 17 minutes. The ringers were: Miss Elsie Bennett 1-2, William Shepherd 3-4, Arthur Shepherd 5-6, Frank I. Hairs 7-8, Frank Bennett 9-10. Conducted by William Shepherd. The figures of the peal are given in No. 21, C.C. Collection. The peal was the longest length by all except the brothers Shepherd, who, it will be recollected, were associated with Alfred H. Pulling, Frank Blondell and James Hunt in the 19,738 Stedman Caters on handbells in the August of the same year.

On May 2nd, 1914, ten veteran ringers met at Aston Parish Church, Birmingham, and rang 5,003 Grandsire Caters. They were: John Carter, Birmingham; Reuben Hall, West Bromwich; John Smith, Tipton; John Bradney, Wolverhampton; James George, Rugby; James Jones, Birmingham; Samuel Spittle, Dudley; William R. Small, Tipton; Thomas Horton, West Bromwich; John Sanders, Birmingham.

Their total years were 653 years 10 months.

This survey of the history of the method may fittingly conclude with an account of the record length rung in 1932. 'Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers. Appleton, Berks. On December 27th, 1932, in 9 hrs. and 20 minutes, at the Church of St. Lawrence. A peal of Grandsire Caters, 16,271 changes, tenor 14 cwt. 2 qrs. 19 lbs. Cuthbert G. White Treble, William Simmonds 2, Frank Taylor 3, Richard A. Post 4, Walter F. Judge 5, R. Thomas Newman 6, F. Donald Boreham 7, George Holifield 8, Richard White 9, Frederick White Tenor. Composed by G. Holifield, sen. Conducted by G. Holifield, jun.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

WHAT IS THE GOOD OF IT?

To the Editor.

Sir,—Surely Mr. Harris realises that even we older ones were young once, and my experience of over thirty years mixing with boys on the unofficial side has taught me that times may change, but human nature remains the same.

What is behind the idea of a National Association? Let us be candid. Finance. I am willing to admit when we were young no one looked with relish on paying a subscription to an association after the expense of travelling miles. But as we get about we realise that if we are granted permission to attempt a peal that is a privilege. Let no one think they have a right: they have not. Even in our own towers it is a favour from the rector or vicar. This is a free country, there is no compulsion to join, and if anyone considers he cannot support the local association as a slight return for the privilege then let him stay away.

The main thing, in my view, against the suggestion is that our Exercise is not a sport, but a church organisation. The whole trend now is to split up these big dioceses into smaller ones for workable effort. What would our own Guildford diocesan authorities say if it was suggested they should close down and join a national guild? I certainly cannot see the county associations jumping at the idea. Just fancy all the counties in the Midlands breaking up to join one big association. If they did, then they would still have to split up into districts, and what would be the gain?

As Mr. Hughes asked this week, will it improve ringing? No, that is the one view we want to keep in mind with new suggestions.

The Grammar School, Guildford.

A. H. PULLING.

NOTICES

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

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Annual meeting, St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, Jan. 24th. Handbells, service and business meeting.—W. A. Farmer, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—The annual meeting will be held at Leicester on Jan. 24th. Ringing (silent) from 3 p.m. till 5 p.m. at St. John's. Tea at the Cathedral Church House 5.30 p.m. at about 1s. 9d. each, followed by a meeting. Afterwards there will be a social evening at the Globe Hotel, near the Cathedral.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Derby District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Peter's Parochial Hall, Derby, on Saturday, Jan. 24th. Handbells available 3 p.m. Business meeting for election of officers 4 p.m. Will all towers please send representatives?—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch, Gainsborough District. — The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 24th, in All Saints' Ringing Chamber, Gainsborough. Service 5.30 p.m. Business meeting 6 p.m. Ringing up to 9 p.m. on handbells and 6 clapperless tower bells.—Geo. L. A. Lunn, Hon. Sec., 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 31st, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.7, at 3 p.m. The payment of 1s. 8d. to enable those members who have not attended the required number of meetings to vote on matters of finance is now due.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—The district annual general meeting will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, Jan. 31st. Eight silent bells available. Business meeting in the belfry at 4.15. Service at 4.30. It is regretted that arrangements for tea cannot be made, but efforts are being made to engage a room for the evening for a social chat and handbell ringing at which all ringers and their friends are welcome.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District. — The quarterly meeting will be held at Holy Trinity, Dartford, on Saturday, Jan. 31st. Tower open for handbell ringing at 3 p.m. Tea, at the kind invitation of the local ringers, at 4.45 p.m. Business meeting to follow. Members requiring tea must notify Mr. R. A. Jenkins, Cosette, 76, Brent Lane, Dartford, not later than Tuesday, Jan. 27th. Subscriptions are now due and should be paid at this meeting. — A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., temporary address: 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellingborough District.—The branch annual meeting will be held at Irthlingborough on Saturday, Jan. 31st. Service at 4.30, followed by tea in Co-operative Hall, Queen Street. Please come for 'old times sake,' but let me know early and bring your sugar. Handbells available.—A. Bigley, Hon. Branch Sec., 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, Jan. 31st. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. All welcome. — H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

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. 31st, at 3 p.m. prompt. Unfortunately, it has not been found possible to make arrangements for tea, but an announcement regarding this matter will be made at the meeting. A social evening will take place on the same premises at 6.30 p.m., for which the small charge of 1s. per head will be made to cover expenses. All members are cordially invited. Subscriptions are now due and reports will be available at this meeting.—Leslie W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Romford on Saturday, Jan. 31st. Service at 4 p.m. Business meeting to follow. Handbells available. All ringers welcome. — J. H. Champion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — Dorchester Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Dorchester, on Saturday, Jan. 31st. Handbells in the church from 2.30 p.m. (It is hoped the silent apparatus will also be ready.) Service at 4, followed by tea and business meeting at Major's Cafe—opposite the church. Kindly notify for tea by Tuesday, 27th inst.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Staverton on Saturday, Jan. 31st. Silent and handbell ringing. Kindly notify me for tea and bring your own sugar.—W. C. Moore, 5, William's Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD. — A meeting will be held at Wadhurst on Saturday, Feb. 7th. Handbells and six silent tower bells. Tea for those who notify by Feb. 4th.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec., 3, Pen-drill Place, Wadhurst, Tunbridge Wells.

DEATHS.

CLARKE. — At St. Peter's Hospital, Bedford, on Friday, Jan. 9th, 1942, Charles William Clarke ('Charlie'). Interred at Oundle, Northants, Jan. 12th.

POTHECARY.—On Tuesday, Jan. 13th, 1942, after prolonged suffering, May Elizabeth, wife of C. Potheary, 73, Fernlea Road, Mitcham, Surrey.

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ANONYMITY.

One of the most encouraging things for ringers in these sombre and difficult days is the correspondence which has taken place in our columns. We have received and printed a large number of letters dealing with a great variety of subjects and written by men from all parts of the country. These letters not only show that the writers are doing what they can to keep their own interest in our art alive until the better times come, but they help in no small degree to keep alive the interest in other people. The man who writes on some subject is not only amusing himself but he is doing good to others, and we welcome correspondence on any matter which may be helpful or of interest to ringers.

Nor do we make any distinctions between the writers. All alike are welcome. Many, in fact, are old and valued friends whose opinions carry weight with the Exercise, whatever they say. Others are newcomers and comparatively unknown. And others still prefer to hide their identity behind a nom-de-plume and withhold their names.

This latter thing seems to be to some of our readers a stumbling-block. They do not like anonymous letters. They think there is something underhanded about them, and they hold that if a man has something to say he should say it over his own name, or else hold his peace.

Of course, there is a sense in which anonymous letters are an unmitigated evil. The man who from behind the smoke screen of anonymity unfairly attacks another is universally and justly condemned as a despicable character, and it is undoubtedly true that anonymous letters of that sort have brought all anonymous letters into very bad odour with many people.

But the abuse of a thing must not blind us to its legitimate uses, and the anonymous letter has its recognised position in English journalism. From 'The Times' downwards all the great newspapers print letters over nom-de-plumes, and the higher the standing of the paper the more perhaps it does so. There was a time well within memory when it was quite the exception for letters and articles in newspapers and reviews to be signed, and even great statesmen and leading public men said what they had to say without putting their names to it.

If therefore a man when he writes to us prefers to remain anonymous, he has in most circumstances a perfect right to do so, and no one should try to impugn his right. He may have very good reasons for not signing his name. He may prefer that what he says should be considered objectively and free from personal considerations. He may wish not to be publicly identified with opinions which he knows are objected to by his friends. He may not care

(Continued on page 50.)

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to advertise his own personality. And generally ironical and leg-pulling letters are unsigned.

All these are valid reasons, but, of course, there are rules and limits to be observed. The anonymous writer must play the game fairly and not try to deceive other people. To decide where the line must be drawn is, of course, one of an editor's functions.

We do not, then, intend to discourage anonymous letters to 'The Ringing World,' but the case will be entirely different if the proposed scheme for a Ringers' Council in our pages takes effect. Then the idea will be to reproduce as far as possible the conditions which obtain at a conference where people are present in the body. At such a meeting a speaker cannot pretend to be anything but himself, nor can he divorce his opinions from his own personality. It will be necessary, not only for the 'speaker's' name to be published in the report, but he must also supply the name of his tower. In some respects this will be an excellent thing for, as has been pointed out, it may be the means of bringing forward some young and as yet unknown men who will be able to carry on in the future the direction and leadership of the Exercise when those to whom at present we look for guidance are no longer present.

HANDBELL PEAL.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, January 22, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16½ in B flat.

*MRS. JOHN THOMAS 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
GEORGE W. FLEYCHER ... 3-4	MRS. G. W. FLEYCHER ... 7-8
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 9-10	

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal of Treble Bob Royal.

OCTOGENARIAN DEFIES SNOW.

A happy little gathering took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Munday at Liss, Hants, recently. It was another 'variation' of the regular Saturday afternoon handbell practices which originated in Guildford. On this occasion Messrs. Pulling and Hazelden, of Guildford, and Ayliffe, of Haslemere, were joined by Messrs. G. Williams (Master) and F. W. Rogers (secretary), of the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild. A number of touches were rung on handbells, and Mr. and Mrs. Munday's sumptuous tea was much enjoyed.

One of the most amazing things was the presence of Mr. Williams, who had had to travel from Eastleigh. The country was snow covered, but this did not keep the 84-year-old Master from fulfilling his engagement. His vitality is amazing.

We wonder if he recalls a tramp through almost a blizzard from Hayward's Heath Station to Cuckfield, in the old Sussex days, on a Saturday in January, 1897? The weather caused one absentee, but the other seven went on in faith, and, finding a local treble man, who afterwards became well known in ringing, rang a peal of Superlative, and then had to walk back! That night Keith Hart collected his 100th peal.

AN IPSWICH RINGER'S RECORD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—When visiting Ipswich this New Year, I went to St. Mary-le-Tower belfry, where they meet for handbell practice on Sunday mornings, 10 till 11.30, and heard the following mentioned.

Mr. W. P. Garratt is the only ringer who has rung 100 peals of Maximus, and also he is the *only* ringer who rang in *all* the first peals of Surprise Maximus by this talented company of ringers.

Having known Mr. Garratt for nearly 56 years, I am pleased to bring this achievement forward, as personally I think it is well worthy to be published in your valuable paper.

R. W. STANNARD.

153, Beeches Drive, Bocking.

THE BELLS OF FULHAM.

RUDHALL'S FAMOUS RING.

(Continued from page 41.)

The opening of Fulham bells was made an occasion of much rejoicing among the townsfolk, and leading ringers took part—probably the College Youths, and certainly the London Scholars, then nearing the end of their distinguished career.

Several professors of music listened to the ringing, some of the company went along the towing path on the Putney side of the river, others along the Bishop's Walk, and others to different parts of the town where they could best hear the bells. It was characteristic of the times that there was no religious service in the church and no dedication of the bells, but afterwards a dinner was held at the King's Arms, where the opinion was freely expressed that for its weight the peal was one of the best in England.

Since then ten generations of ringers have endorsed that opinion. Even those who have little good to say about bells which are not cast and tuned in the modern style, will usually make an exception in favour of the Fulham ring. The older and more unsophisticated opinion is given by J. T. Smith in his 'Book for a Rainy Day' (Smith died in 1833)—'Next evening away I truded to take water with George Heath at Strand Lane. "I find the Swan to be your usual sign on the river," said I. "Why, yes," replied George, "I don't know what a coach, or a wagon and horses or the high mettled racer have to do with our river. Bells—now bells—we might have bells, because the Thames is so famous for bells." "You like bells, then?" "I was a famous ringer in my youth at St. Mary's, Ovaries. They are beautiful bells, but of all the bells give me Fulham. St. Margaret's are fine bells, and so are St. Martin's; but, after all, Fulham for my money."'

George Heath, the waterman, was a well-known character at the time and the original of a popular theatrical sketch. His claim to have been a famous ringer in his youth was perhaps a bit of pardonable exaggeration, but he was for some years one of a number of ringers who without ever getting into the really leading bands were active among the London belfries. It was he who gave to the ancient Society of College Youths the book which was damaged in the fire raid and about which Mr. E. A. Young wrote in 'The Ringing World.'

Heath rang one College Youths peal, not with the men from headquarters, but with a band made up from the villages of Middlesex. It was in 1791 at Battersea and one of Union Triples. He also took part about the same time in another interesting performance, a peal of Oxford Treble Bob upon St. George's Day by eight men all named George. The attempt was made first at St. George's-in-the-Borough, but after rotten ropes had caused a breakdown the band adjourned to St. Olave's, Tooley Street, and rang the peal there. The elder George Gross was the conductor and this was probably the first name peal ever rung. It was a non-society performance and no board was put up to record it. It would have been clean forgotten, but that George Heath, who was a genial chatty sort of person, loved to talk in his old age about what he had done in his youth.

The old man was quite right when he claimed that the Thames is famous for its bells. It is remarkable

how many well-known towers stand on its banks or within a few score yards. Leaving aside the towers of Oxford and many others upstream, Twickenham, Isleworth, Brentford, Mortlake, Chiswick, Battersea, Fulham, Putney, Lambeth, St. Saviour's, St. Magnus', St. Olave's, Rotherhithe, and Greenwich are all on the river bank, and there are a dozen or so others very close. St. Olave's and its bells were destroyed by fire.

William Skelton was a member of the Society of College Youths, and it was only natural that he should invite them to ring the first peal on Fulham's new bells. They did so on August 24th, 1730, ringing a peal of Bob Major.

The band was an interesting one. At the time the rivalry which existed between Benjamin Annable and John Cundell had led to the temporary exclusion of the former from the society's peal ringing band. Cundell called the peal at Fulham from the tenor, and his friend, John Hardham, the celebrated tobacconist of Fleet Street, rang the treble. Laughton rang the second; and William Thompson, who had left the College Youths for the London Scholars, came back for this peal, perhaps because Annable was not in it.

A local band was formed in the parish, but we have no account of any early peals, and the next we know of in the steeple was also by the College Youths. It was one of Union Triples on July 16th, 1733, and Annable conducted. Hardham rang the tenor.

By January, 1736, the local men, who called themselves the Fulham Youths, were far advanced enough to rang 10,080 changes of Bob Major. It was the fifth peal that so far had been rung of over ten thousand changes, and was a notable performance; so much so that we must suppose that they had already rung shorter peals now forgotten. The name of none of the band appears elsewhere, but among them were two men of the name of Hudnott, a family which supplied several ringers during the eighteenth century.

For many years a member of the family held the office of beadle and sexton to the parish, and that carried with it the control of the bells and ringing. In the belfry there is a large oil painting of an elderly man in a red coat, holding a quart pot in one hand and smoking a long churchwarden pipe. It represents John Hudnott, who was beadle in 1690, and since his portrait was painted, evidently an important person in the parish. Who the painter was and what are the artistic merits of the painting I cannot say. It is hung high on the wall and needs cleaning.

The College Youths rang Double Bob Major at Fulham in 1739 and the Eastern Scholars the same method in 1740. The Union Scholars rang Bob Major in 1739 and in 1741; and the Eastern Scholars Oxford Treble Bob Major in 1741.

Fulham bells were increased to ten in 1746, and through the generosity of Theodore Eccleston and William Skelton. The details of the transaction are somewhat obscure, but what happened appears to be this. Eccleston, who was a wealthy young man and a keen ringer, lived at Mortlake, and also had an estate in Suffolk. In that county he gave a ring of eight bells to Coddensham and one of ten to Stonham Aspal, and at Mortlake in 1741 he added two trebles to the old six.

(Continued on next page.)

THE BELLS OF FULHAM.

(Continued from previous page.)

Five years later he married and (it may be to celebrate the event) he decided to increase the bells at Mortlake further, and make them into a ring of ten, besides replacing the two Robert Catlin had supplied in 1741. The bells were supplied, but when an attempt was made to hang them it was found that there was no room in the steeple. It seems a rather curious story, for one would have thought the bellhangers would have known all along if the bells could be hung. The story depends on a very vague tradition, but the known facts corroborate it.

Since the two smallest bells could not be hung at Mortlake, Eccleston offered them to Fulham, which is not far away on the other side of the river; William Skelton undertook to pay the cost of hanging, and on January 29th, 1746, the vestry decided to accept the gift, on the understanding that the parish should be at no expense whatever for the same or any part thereof.

The bells were opened in March, and on the 16th the College Youths rang 5,076 changes of Grandsire Caters. Benjamin Annable conducted from the second and called his well-known 5,076, the figures of which were given by Mr. Edgar Shepherd in 'The Ringing World' of October 31st last. It was the first time the peal was rung. A fortnight later the Eastern Scholars, with Joseph Prior as conductor, rang 5,886 changes in the same method.

The tenors at Mortlake and Fulham are much the same note, and it was probably hoped that the trebles cast for one steeple would fit into the other with a little tuning, but it soon became apparent that the new bells were not good enough but Rudhall's bells, and it was decided to recast them. On May 26th the vestry 'agreed that the churchwardens do deliver the new small bells to Mr. Robert Catlin, the bell founder, to be new cast, Mr. Theodore Eccleston by letter having desired the same, and Mr. Holland having engaged to deliver the same with all convenient speed as the property of the parish.' Holland was one of the ringers and had rung the seventh to the long peals.

Catlin's recast bells were not a great success, and in 1760 they were exchanged for two others which had been the trebles at St. Martin-in-the-Fields. They, too, had been a failure there, but in their new home were a complete success. One is still in the steeple and has the peculiar distinction of being the only one in a family of ten that has taken part in a peal of Cinques.

For a time after 1746 we have no account of any peals on Fulham bells, but probably some were rung by the local men, including one of Fulham Triples. In 1754 the Union Scholars rang Bob Major, and in 1756 the Eastern Scholars 5,040 Bob Major Royal, otherwise Ten-in. The latter was called by Richard Royce, who, though he is now forgotten, was for a short time a leading composer and conductor.

In 1759 George Partrick, the founder and first Master of the Society of Cumberland Youths, left his old friends and went for a time to the ancient Society of College Youths, and on July 17th he called for them at Fulham the first peal of Grandsire Caters ever brought round at hand. Francis Roberts was the first man to find out the way to bring Grandsire Caters round at hand, but when he called a peal in the method at Fulham in 1761 it was an ordinary round-at-back composition. The third in this peal was rung by William Skelton, the son of the man we

have been talking about, and the third of the name. Like his father and grandfather, he was an ecclesiastical lawyer, a proctor in the Court of Arches.

The first ten thousand of Caters on the bells was rung by the ancient Society of College Youths on March 29th, 1762. William Underwood conducted, the elder Samuel Muggeridge rang the tenor, and Christopher Wells the fifth. The performance is not recorded in the College Youths' peal book.

In 1776 Charles Purser composed and called with a band of College Youths 5,040 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal with the sixth the extent right and wrong. All Purser's figures are lost, and perhaps their truth is very doubtful.

What seems to have been the first peal of Grandsire Royal ever rung was accomplished at Fulham on November 26th, 1780, when John Povey called for the College Youths 5,360 changes of Grandsire Tittum Ten-in; and the only peal of Bob Caters in London was called for the same society at Fulham in 1783 by Edward Simmonds. The other eighteenth-century performances in the steeple are of no particular interest.

The Junior Society of College Youths was founded in 1820, and on May 20th they rang at Fulham their first peal, one of Grandsire Caters conducted by Henry Symondson.

The longest peal on Fulham bells was 12,096 changes of Grandsire Caters by the 'St. James' Society on Whit Monday, 1837. The composition was by Thomas Brooke, who is well known in connection with the familiar variation of Thurstans' peal of Stedman Triples. Thomas Tolladay conducted, and the claim was made that it was the greatest number of changes ever performed by ten men only. Actually the Painswick men had already in 1817 rung 12,312 changes.

The Fulham peal is recorded in the belfry by a very elaborate tablet given by John Powell Powell, as was also the tablet recording the Junior College Youths' peal. Powell is best known as the owner of Quex Park and the ring of twelve bells there. His family had a long connection with Fulham, where he had a residence, Park House. On the gallery of the old church it was recorded that in 1773 John Powell Powell, Esq., paid £100 for a piece of land taken from the common, called Eel Brook, the interest arising thereof to be equally divided between Fulham and Hammersmith and distributed in bread and meat to the poor.

Henry Haley called the first peal of Stedman Caters on Fulham bells in 1843, and on December 8th, 1883, the then longest length in the method, 11,111 changes, was rung in the steeple. It was by the Ancient Society of College Youths, and was conducted by James Pettitt. An earlier attempt was lost after nearly ten thousand changes. Next year the Cumberlands attempted Cox's peal with the 120 Tittum course-ends, but a shift occurred after six hours and thirty-three minutes.

Another interesting performance on the bells was the peal of London Surprise Major by the band from Burton-on-Trent on December 8th, 1888. It was not until ten years later that one of the metropolitan societies was able to ring a peal in the method.

(To be continued.)

ECKINGTON, DERBYSHIRE.—On Friday, January 16th, 1,800 Bob Royal: *E. Drabble 1-2, G. G. Graham (conductor) 3-4, †R. Fox 5-6. †N. Fox 7-8, P. J. Jervis 9-10. * First quarter-peal. † Longest length rung. Longest touch 'in hand' for the rest.

THE MUSIC OF TRIPLES METHODS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I was much surprised to see the opinions on the music of Triples methods given in your paper by so practised and skilful a ringer as Mr. Maurice Hibbert.

Mr. Hibbert tells us that in a peal in any seven-bell method every row, good and bad, must be included and so there can be no difference in the music, and all that matters is the striking. Surely that is quite wrong. Music in change ringing does not depend only, or even mainly, on what rows are rung, but on the way in which they follow each other, that is on dodging and coursing order. It has been generally agreed by ringers at all times that double dodging is the most musical movement there is. Many people have admired the triple dodging at the bob in Treble Bob Major, and some find little fault with the four-pull dodging we get in some of the new methods.

But that is as far as people generally are prepared to go except in one particular circumstance. They will tolerate the five-pull dodging of Superlative, but if you ask for their real opinion most people will agree that they find it rather monotonous and a defect in an otherwise excellent method.

But what ringers do not object to, and do not much notice, is the five-pull dodging we get at the bob in Double Norwich and Stedman. That no doubt is because these do not appear to be five-pull dodges, but in each case a double dodge followed by a triple dodge. This probably is the reason why four and six-bob sets in Stedman Triples do not seem to some men so intolerable as they otherwise would do.

We can hardly imagine a band ringing a method which calls on a ringer to dodge for 42 changes in 6-7 up, but that is what a six-bob set in Stedman does.

I should be very much surprised to learn that average ringers do not notice any difference between the music of Grandsire Triples and Stedman Triples. It may be very difficult to say which is the better, or even if one is better than the other; but that they are not the same is, I think, certain. In both methods the numbers of bobs alters the amount of dodging and therefore alters the music, but it can hardly be denied that while in Grandsire the more bobs there are the better is the music; in Stedman, since the method already gives you as much dodging as you want, the more bobs there are the worse is the music.

The plain courses of Double Norwich and Double Oxford Major contain exactly the same rows. Will anyone seriously maintain that the first is not altogether the more musical of the two?

I quite believe that Mr. Hibbert did not find the fifty 6-bob sets in Mr. Slack's peal monotonous either to listen to or to ring; but he was the conductor and had his mind fully occupied without much opportunity for paying attention to music or monotony.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

**DEATH OF MR. DAVID GRAHAM TAYLOR.
GREAT SERVICES TO ILMINSTER.**

By the sudden death of Mr. D. G. Taylor, of Iminster, Somerset, Iminster has lost one of its best known residents, a man who has figured prominently in the business and public life of the town. He was 75 years of age. The news was a shock to those closely associated with him.

It was not till he was 34 years of age that the then churchwarden, Col. Paull, persuaded him to take up ringing, and in the course of his career he took part in 49 peals, some of which he conducted. He was ever ready to offer assistance and nearly all the towers of West Somerset have appreciated his invaluable help, not only financially, but when the bells have been restored to help to teach the recruits. Only recently the clergy at Iminster, having a view that they should have a band able to ring when victory comes, obtained the instructorship of Mr. T. H. Taffender to teach the new men when he is able to attend from his war-time duties. Mr. Taylor went along to help and was of real assistance and will be truly missed. Mr. Taylor had held the position of churchwarden at the Iminster and was for some years secretary to the Ruri-decanal Conference. A former member of the Urban District Council, being its vice-chairman at one time, he was also Governor of Iminster Endowed Schools. Iminster Fire Brigade had his services in his younger days, and other secretarial posts which Mr. Taylor held up to the time of his death was that of the Iminster Reading Society, one of the oldest organisations in the town, and not least secretary of the Crewkerne Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association of Ringers. Mr. Taylor was a man of considerable accomplishments and introduced much enthusiasm and competency into everything he undertook.

Much sympathy is felt with Miss Louise Taylor, who resided with him. The funeral took place on Thursday, January 15th, the first part of the service being held at the Iminster. The clergy taking part were the Rural Dean, the Rev. H. C. Tritton (Curry Mallet), the Vicar of Iminster, the Rev. G. G. Hickman, and the curate, the Rev. J. L. Leslie. Mr. G. H. Fowler Sharpe was at the organ. He first played 'O rest in the Lord' (Parry). During the service the psalm, 'The Lord is my Shepherd,' and hymn, 'Jesus shall reign,' and the Nunc Dimittis were sung. There was a large congregation. After the interment at the New Road Cemetery, at the graveside handbells were rung three whole pulls of rounds with interval three times, etc. This was originally introduced by the late Mr. C. F. Winney, who conducted Mr. Taylor's first peal of Stedman Triples.

Mr. Taylor was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths. The ringers were Mr. T. H. Taffender 1-2, P. W. Lenthall 3-4, Gordon Rice 5-6, and Mr. S. V. Crabb 7-8. Another good ringer has passed on, his place difficult to fill.

T. H. T.

John Taylor & Co.**LOUGHBOROUGH**

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The Editor of 'The Ringing World' (Mr. J. S. Goldsmith) is making slow progress towards recovery. He is still confined to bed. He desires to thank all those friends who have made inquiries and regrets that his condition has not allowed him to reply to them individually.

The Vale of White Horse Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild has lost a very valuable and keen ringer by the death of Mr. Harold A. Edwards at Buckland on December 13th last.

One hundred years ago last Sunday the Painswick men rang 8,105 changes of Stedman Caters, the then longest length in the method. It was composed and conducted by William Estcourt, but afterwards turned out to be false. So did an 8,081 of Grandsire Caters rung on the same day in the neighbouring town of Stroud.

Elijah Roberts, who made a name by his marvellous feats of tapped peals, committed suicide at Liverpool on January 26th, 1865.

The first peal by the Sussex Association, one of Grandsire Triples, was rung at Cuckfield on January 26th, 1885. Two of the band, Mr. G. King and Mr. C. Tyler, are still alive. Mr. King has been living for several years in Canada.

The second peal by the association was Oxford Bob Triples at Horsham on January 31st. It was conducted by Henry Burston, who was a noted character of the town. He died on January 30th, 1916, at the age of 89.

Not all the peals rung by the College Youths were recorded in the peal book. There is a board in Ealing Parish Church for a 6,048 Bob Major rung on January 28th, 1798, conducted by James Bartlett.

The College Youths rang at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on January 28th, 1911, the first peal of Cambridge Maximus in London.

Henry Haley died at Bethnal Green on January 29th, 1886, at the age of 66.

The record peal of Superlative Surprise Major, 11,312 changes, was rung at Bolton on January 29th, 1927. The composition was by Mr. Thomas B. Worsley and the conductor was Mr. E. Jenkins.

Fifty years ago to-day six peals were rung. One was Grandsire Triples, two Stedman Triples, two Kent Treble Bob Major and one Cambridge Surprise Major.

One of the Stedman Triples was rung at Lindfield in Sussex. Mr. George Williams conducted and it was Mr. James Parker's first peal in the method.

As early as 1780 John Reeves called a peal of Cambridge Major at St. Giles-in-the-Fields, and another in 1783. Both, however, were false, and it was not until January 30th, 1892, that George Newson called on the same bells the first true peal in the method in Central London.

Ten years ago to-day 29 peals were rung. They were: Bob Triples 1, Major 2, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Royal 1, Spliced Oxford and Kent Major 1, Stedman Triples 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1, Cambridge Surprise Major 2, Royal 2, Superlative Surprise Major 1, Maximus 1, Ipswich Surprise Major 1, London Surprise Major 1, Doubles 2, Minor 7.

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES MEE.

LEADING SUFFOLK RINGER.

We greatly regret to announce the death of Mr. Charles Mee, of Sproughton, who passed away on Monday last at the age of 77 years.

For nearly sixty years Mr. Mee was one of the foremost ringers of Suffolk, and although there were only six bells at Sproughton, he rang many peals, first with the St. Mary-le-Tower company, and then with a band he had got together at his home village. They progressed so far as to be able to ring peals of Cambridge and London Surprise Major single-handed on handbells, as well as many tower-bell peals. For many years he represented the Suffolk Guild on the Central Council.

The funeral took place yesterday at Sproughton Church.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY GUILD.

GENERAL MEETING.

A general meeting of the Oxford University Society was held in New College on Tuesday, January 20th. The treasurer showed that in spite of large expenses during the previous term the society had been able to pay its way and to start the new year with a satisfactory balance.

The Master gave his report of the activities of the society during the previous term, a summary of which has already appeared in 'The Ringing World.'

Elections to vacancies on the committee were made as follows: Mr. D. Boulton (New College), Miss P. Seadon (St. Hilda's), Miss R. M. Wrong (Lady Margaret Hall).

In spite of war-time conditions, it was decided to hold an annual lunch during the term, if a restaurant could be found to cater for it.

It was proposed that the society should be reinstated on the Central Council, and after a short debate the motion was carried.

The meeting discussed the 'Ringers' Council' suggestion put forward by Mr. J. P. Price in 'The Ringing World,' and a resolution was passed expressing general agreement.

The meeting closed after some efficient handbell ringing, which included a course of Bob Royal.

THE PROPOSED 'RINGERS' COUNCIL.'

WIDESPREAD SUPPORT.

More Opinions.

WILL STIMULATE INTEREST AND ENTHUSIASM.

Dear Sir,—I have read with great interest your leading article of January 16th, which is prompted by the suggestion contained in the letter of Mr. J. P. Price published in the same issue.

I agree completely with all your remarks and think there is no method better calculated to stimulate and keep alive our interest and enthusiasm during the continuance of the ban than some scheme on the lines suggested by your correspondent.

It will require a great deal of effort to rebuild the Exercise, and the longer the ban lasts the harder it will be to find the requisite number of rebuilders unless something is done now to keep alive our interest.

It is also essential that 'The Ringing World' shall continue, and it cannot do this without the necessary copy. You have managed to keep the paper going up to the present, but it is quite obvious that the material for each week's copy will be increasingly difficult to find unless the Exercise itself provides it.

Here in Mr. Price's suggestion appears to be the required combination, interest for your readers, material for your paper, hoped for result—a live Exercise kept in being.

I hope Mr. Price's suggestion will meet with general approval and that it will be possible for you to launch some scheme based thereon. If you do I will, for one, do my best to help you make it 'go.'

G. L. GROVER.

East Clandon.

WILL MOTIONS BE RECEIVED AS LAW?

Dear Sir,—The suggestion made by your correspondent is an admirable one, and, provided it can be carefully directed by you, sir, it ought to provide every opportunity for some very interesting discussions.

There is one point, however, which I think ought to be made clear at the outset, and that is how far will the motions debated and passed by the Ringers' Council be received as 'law' by ringers in general? Is the Ringers' Council to be something just to amuse us for the duration, and then when the war is over to be completely forgotten; or is it to be the authorised 'Central Council' of the war and be recognised as such by that body?

If the Ringers' Council has not this safeguard, then I feel that the discussions, interesting and valuable in themselves, would be nothing more than just points of view provided by so many individuals, without any authority to back them.

M. MELVILLE.

NOVEL, BUT PRACTICABLE.

Dear Sir,—I have read with particular interest the letter from J. P. Price in your issue dated the 16th inst. The suggestion of a Ringers' Council conducted through the medium of 'The Ringing World' is quite novel, but surely quite practicable, and could lead to some interesting discussions. Whilst it is impossible for anyone to foretell what conditions will be like after the war as regards facilities for ringing, yet I am sure if the items for discussion are run on right lines, then a lot of useful suggestions will result which could be put into operation should circumstances be favourable.

THOMAS H. REEVES.

Birmingham.

SUPPORT FROM MR. SMALLWOOD.

Dear Sir,—I heartily support the proposal for a 'ringers' forum' and will do everything possible to assist in the scheme. I congratulate the originator of the idea, and feel sure it will be a great success, provided good humour and commonsense are used.

Every good wish for the new scheme.

J. FRANK SMALLWOOD.

CARRYING ON IN TRYING TIMES.

Dear Sir,—I agree that the suggestion in your issue of the 16th would be an excellent idea of carrying on and keeping alive a keener interest in 'The Ringing World' during the very trying times through which it is now passing through the ban in stopping all church bell ringing and its activities in connection therewith. Of course, it is immaterial as to the name it may run under, but I quite agree with Mr. Hughes' prompt reply that there is no room for 'A National Association.' What about an 'Independent Ringers' Council'?

You want a send-off for the scheme to give 'The Ringing World' an opportunity of pushing it on with some hope of success. This ought to be forthcoming from our younger enthusiasts, and as Mr. W. Shoppard remarks in the first paragraph of his letter of January 16th, if an opportunity presented itself some of us old members may be able to 'butt in.'

Hoping these few remarks may help the scheme to develop and that we may get some real live debates in connection therewith from those who are always anxious to catch the speaker's eye.

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

Eastleigh.

SOME SUGGESTIONS.

Dear Sir,—I am sure that the opening of the columns of 'The Ringing World' for the purpose of holding such a 'Ringers' Conference' as has been proposed will prove a gain in many respects.

I agree with the Rev. L. Edwards that for practical reasons the Editor should act as president, and venture to offer the following suggestions for maintaining general interest:—

(1) That subjects for discussion should be submitted to a small selection committee, which should include the general secretary of the Central Council.

(2) That the committee should, after selection, publish an agenda, which would allow ringers opportunity to collect their matter.

(3) That, at the Editor's and committee's discretion, a limit should be placed upon the number of weeks to be allotted for the discussion of each subject.

(4) That the president shall exercise his prerogative to edit, or refrain from publishing, letters which introduce irrelevant matter, or overlap other subjects.

(5) That contributors should write with as much brevity as possible.

(6) That at the conclusion of each discussion the president might sum up in his leading article in 'The Ringing World.'

The Vicarage, Lyme Regis.

C. CAREW COX.

OPEN TO ALL.

Sir,—I should like to thank Mr. J. P. Price for his helpful and suggestive letter about 'Discussions open to all,' and to say that I hope you may be able to take steps to call together, through the medium of your paper, a Ringers' Conference on the lines, generally speaking, laid down in your correspondent's letter.

E. V. COX, President of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers.

WAR-TIME RECRUIT TURNS BELL HANGER.

Dear Sir,—I gladly write from a place in the most westerly deanery in England to support the suggestion for a 'Ringers' Council.' There is no doubt that it is a suggestion that the clergy should support and so encourage those ringers who are able to keep alive the spirit of the Exercise. It is the plain duty of those of us who can to provide for the future and train what ringers we can, and perhaps our 'discussions' will lead to some definite plan being settled upon. It seems to me that we should concentrate upon boys and girls of 12 to 15 years of age, and those of us who have evacuees in our midst to train them also, as they would be of great value to depleted town and city bands when they return. We could commend these young people to the care of well-known ringers later on.

After our 'debates' I hope we shall be permitted to have a 'social hour,' for then it is that so many interesting stories of experiences can be told. If you will allow the space I will tell you of one who was learning to ring and who became a competent bell hanger! Last summer I took a few young people to a nearby tower to teach them to handle a bell. My organist was one of the party and he became very keen and soon handled a bell quite well. This success gave him an interest in the one small bell in the tower here at Carbis Bay (which tower, by the way, will take a ring of bells, and we have a bell fund and all donations to this are loaned to the Government for the time being). He suggested to me that he should take the bell down and hang it for ringing, for it was hung up on one of the beams supporting the tower roof. I told him to carry on and do what he could. Getting the bell down was the worst job, as although it only weighed 75 lb. there was an iron wheel also weighing almost as much. I arrived in the tower one evening to find that, with the help of another man, the whole contraption was being lowered to the top floor of the tower. Everything was dismantled and he proceeded to make a wooden frame and hang the bell by following the drawing given in Troyte, and from his recently acquired knowledge of bells. But a problem arose—where could he get a wheel? To my amusement a trap wheel with an iron rim, from which the rubber tyre had been taken, was obtained from a wheelwright's shop and proved just the thing. I was doubtful whether it would hold the rope, but it does.

The whole thing is complete with headstock, stay and slider. It was finished rather hurriedly, as his calling-up papers came. So there the little bell is, with its clapper tied, a reminder of a war-time recruit and, I hope, the sign of an after-war enthusiast. Three weeks ago he was home on leave, and after the morning service he asked me for the tower key so that he could go up and 'ring.' I happened to have the key in my pocket, as that Cornish enthusiast, Cyril E. Lauxon (now Sergeant), had been to see me a few days before and had 'rung' the bell, much to his interest. I left my organist to ring his 'peal' alone whilst I went to my lunch, but it made me hope that the day is not far distant when he will hear a bell speak when he is at the end of the rope.

I am sure there are still many ringing enthusiasts who can be found if we will only search a little and struggle to provide for the future.

A. S. ROBERTS.

Carbis Bay, Cornwall.

(Continued on next page.)

'RINGERS' COUNCIL.'

(Continued from previous page.)

GAIN IN KNOWLEDGE.

Dear Sir,—The letters which appear daily (or weekly) in our well-known papers are looked for eagerly by thousands of readers. When winnowed out, edited or given only as 'extracts,' they form a valuable source of interest and help also to maintain the paper. It used to be said that all papers were prone to encourage debate in the so-called 'silly season' in order to keep up their daily sale. All topics, however, came at last to 'This correspondence must now cease.—Editor.' There had been a gain in knowledge (often special), a useful safety-valve and, of course, a welcome increase in circulation.

This may not be a silly season, but it is a very difficult one, and if a widening of our already useful correspondence column will advance or help our paper, I cordially support it, and I think it would.

E. ALEX. YOUNG.

A COMMITTEE SHOULD BE FORMED.

Dear Sir,—I read with interest of the proposed Ringers' Council suggested by Mr. J. P. Price in 'The Ringing World' and the correspondence with reference thereto. I think the idea will prove a sound one, has great possibilities and will ventilate a long-felt want.

Nevertheless, we should not lose sight of the fact that the Central Council has done some yeoman service until the war curtailed its activities and has been looked upon as the 'Ringers' Parliament' with as its members the delegates of the associations and guilds, which may be likened to the local governments in ringing.

I have always contended that to stand still is to go backwards, and as this proposed Ringers' Council makes for progress (though we do not know its limits as yet), by the reason of its uniqueness it should prove a success.

In any matter needing special consideration a committee could be formed (by vote), and the views of the committee sent to the address of the chairman, who should be impartial and act in an advisory capacity, and the findings of the committee forwarded to 'The Ringing World' for publication and subsequent criticism or adoption on the postcard vote system suggested.

F. E. PITMAN.

Bromley.

THE CHANGE IN 'THE RINGING WORLD.'

Sir,—The suggestion that the spoken discussion which would normally have taken place at Central Council meetings should be replaced by written discussions in your columns is likely to appeal to many.

Probably few papers during the war have changed their character as much as 'The Ringing World.' What was formerly to a considerable extent a catalogue of peals rung has perforce been replaced by articles covering a wide range of interests, and many have written to express their appreciation.

One subject which might be discussed is whether, when peal ringing is restarted, the paper should revert to its previous form, or whether peal reports should in general not be printed. There would certainly be strong arguments on both sides.

R. O. STREET.

Glasgow.

DISCUSSION BY THE O.U.S.C.R.

Dear Sir,—At the recent general meeting of the Oxford University Society was discussed the proposal of your correspondent, Mr. Price, that a 'Bellringers' Council' should meet by postcard in the columns of 'The Ringing World.'

The proposal met with the approval of the meeting, but at the same time it was pointed out that the topics which might be discussed would be of little interest to most members of the society, who have had no acquaintance with conditions of the Exercise in normal times. This must also apply to many other young bands of handbell ringers throughout the country which have been formed since the war began.

A motion was then carried to the effect that the society would welcome some scheme, to operate through 'The Ringing World,' whereby bands practising handbells could be brought into touch with each other, and thereby compare notes on aids to progress and similar topics.

The tendency for bands to operate as isolated entities is largely unavoidable in these days, and, of course, the only thing which holds us together at all is 'The Ringing World.' Nevertheless, those who are still practising handbell ringing would, I am sure, appreciate some scheme to bring them into closer touch with others at about the same stage of progress. To offer a few tentative suggestions, this might include a debate on the best ways of teaching handbell ringing (possibly incorporated in Mr. Price's idea), statistics on the proportion of failures to successes as regards recruits, records of unsuccessful peal attempts, etc.

After all, those who are painstakingly learning to ring at the present time may be expected to be the keen and active ringers of some future generation, and every endeavour should now be made to awaken and maintain interest in the wider aspects of our art.

JOHN E. SPICE.

New College, Oxford.

(Continued in next column.)

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

PUDSEY RINGERS' HOSPITALITY.

The first meeting in 1942 of the Leeds and District Society was held at Pudsey on Saturday.

Handbell ringing commenced soon after 3 p.m. and continued at intervals until the break for tea, which was again provided by the Pudsey ringers.

At the business meeting which was held soon after tea, Mr. J. F. Harvey, the president, presided, and members were present from Armley, Batley, Bradford, Drighlington, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's), Liversedge, Shipley and the local company.

The vote of thanks to the local company for their genial hospitality was proposed by the Rev. Canon C. C. Marshall and seconded by Mr. P. J. Johnson, who entertained the meeting with anecdotes relating to the days of tower-bell ringing, and said there was always a feeling of welcome at the Pudsey meetings. He hoped the company would continue to flourish. Mr. W. Barton acknowledged the vote of thanks.

The next meeting is due to be held at Headingley St. Michael's on February 28th. Members are asked to watch the notice columns of 'The Ringing World.'

After the business meeting further handbell ringing took place. It included touches of Plain Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob Major, Double Norwich Court Bob Major and Grandisré Caters and Cinques. Most of the ringing was of a very high standard, the striking being a real pleasure to listen to.

RINGING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Having read with interest the letter from Mr. A. P. Cannon in your issue of August 8th describing his tower snatching activities at Woodstock, I can also lay claim to have 'beaten the ban,' as you call it, having rung at St. Paul's, Durban.

There is a local stoney band and with these and some other young men in the Services I was fortunate in getting a pull at the short Friday practice. There is also service ringing on Sunday evenings and I have no doubt that there must be many others who have rung there.

The ring of eight, with a tenor of 14 cwt., was cast by Taylor's in 1921, and is hung in three tiers in a weak tower not intended to house a ringing peal, but the bells are quite pealable.

I gathered that so far no peal has been rung there and that there is also another ring of ten at St. Mary's, Durban.

HAROLD V. FROST.

This letter, dated December 12th, was received by airgraph. Gunner H. V. Frost is now with the Middle East Forces.

WINCHESTER.—At the Royal Hants County Hospital, by kind invitation of the matron (Miss Mackay), G. and Miss Noice played handbells in the wards on December 29th, 1941, and January 5th, 1942. The patients enjoyed the ringing very much.

'RINGERS' COUNCIL.'

(Continued from previous column.)

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPRESSION.

Dear Sir,—It was with great interest that I read the letter by Mr. J. P. Price which appeared recently in 'The Ringing World' regarding the proposed 'Ringers' Council.'

I am sure the suggestion will appeal to the majority of your readers and it should be a means of ringers giving expression to their opinions on various matters.

In these difficult times we cannot expect the Central Council to meet and the same would appear to apply to the Standing Committee. I, therefore, hope that the suggested 'Ringers' Council' with your good self as the president may be a success.

GEORGE H. CROSS.

SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION.

Dear Sir,—I certainly agree with the proposal of a Ringers' Council and will support it to the best of my ability if formed.

With regard to subjects for discussion, one I would like to see taken up is interaffiliation. I am a member of the Constitutional Organisation (Conservative Club), and Rule No. 1 is 'That it shall be in strict connection with the Conservative and Unionist Party and shall be affiliated to and interaffiliated with the Association of Conservative Clubs, subject to the rules and regulations thereof and as hereinafter provided.'

Well now as regards the proposal of a National Association recently suggested, are we not already one inasmuch as the affiliation of all ringing associations to the Central Council combines one body of ringers through its representatives on the Council?

An interaffiliation ticket (which I hold) need only cost a couple of coppers yearly. This entitles me to the social privileges of any other affiliated club in whatever part of the country I happen to visit.

If a ringer held such a ticket it would be evidence of his being bona fide and entitled to social privilege and to be received with greater welcome.

JOHN W. JONES.

Newport, Mon.

SILVER WEDDING BELLS.

A BEACONSFIELD CELEBRATION.

On Sunday, January 11th, Mr. and Mrs. H. Wingrove, of Malthouse Square, Beaconsfield, celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of their wedding day. An attempt for a handbell peal in honour of the occasion was made on Saturday at St. Mary and All Saints' belfry, but this came to grief, and a quarter-peal of Bob Major was rung by H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, K. E. Fletcher 3-4, D. R. Fletcher 5-6, W. Lee 7-8.

On the Silver Wedding Day, a 720 of Bob Minor was rung at 23 Malthouse Square: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, K. E. Fletcher 3-4, D. R. Fletcher 5-6. Some 'family' ringing also took place, when courses of Grandsire Doubles were rung by Mr. Wingrove and his daughter and son, the latter, who is in the R.A.F., being home for a fortunate week-end leave.

Mr. Harry Wingrove was born at Beaconsfield on March 12th, 1893, and learned to handle a bell at the village church in 1910. He rang his first peal in 1916 and his first as conductor in 1929. His first attempt was in 1913. It was Grandsire Triples, which came to grief after 2½ hours, and since then he has only rung one peal in the method.

His first peal was during the last war, a muffled peal of Oxford Bob Triples for two of the Beaconsfield ringers who had been killed in action. His first peal as conductor was Cambridge Surprise Major at Old Windsor, and since then he has called peals in many Surprise Major methods. Some of them were the first peals rung in the methods.

Among his other interesting performances were four non-conducted peals—two of Cambridge Surprise Major, one of Yorkshire, and one of Stedman Triples.

It was mainly due to him that for several years before the war Beaconsfield possessed a very skilful change ringing band.



MR. H. WINGROVE.

DISCIPLINE FOUNDED ON SELF-RESPECT.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I am sure your correspondent, Mr. J. E. Bailey, will allow me to correct his (may I say) rather unfortunate ideas on military discipline.

I have commanded and trained men for 40 years and certainly should not be still doing so had my 'discipline been founded on fear.' In this respect the soldier is in exactly the same position as the civilian. I do not think that in either case it can be substantiated that the basis of their rule to life is fear of the law; though doubtless there is an undercurrent.

Military discipline is founded on self-respect, as is the discipline of a civilian and to this may be added a great understanding and mutual trust between the officer and man.

For the rest, as one who has also tried to teach ringers, I think I agree with Mr. Bailey. One of the best strikers I know has a horrible stance as compared with the usually accepted standard, and another of the best has a perfect stance!

C. F. JERRAM.

Thurlstone, Devon.

RINGERS' WEDDING AT PRESTON.

The wedding took place at Preston Parish Church on Saturday, January 24th, between Mr. Cyril Crossthwaite and Miss Peggy Clarke, both of whom are prominent churchworkers.

The bridegroom is a leading member of the belfry, whilst the bride has learnt to handle both tower and handbells.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. I. G. Jones, curate, and was fully choral. A large congregation assembled and Girl Guides formed a guard of honour at the entrance to the church. The bride was charmingly attired in white satin and was given away by her father. Her brother, Mr. Harry Clarke, who is also a ringer and now in the R.A., was best man.

As the happy couple came down the aisle handbells were rung to rounds, Queens and Whittingtons. The bridegroom is shortly to enter the R.A.F., and the good wishes of his colleagues and also of the Lancashire Association go with him for a safe return.

THE LATE REV. W. C. PEARSON.

APPRECIATIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was with extreme regret that I read of the passing of the Rev. W. C. Pearson and Charles W. Clarke, who were both old and valued members of the Cumberland Youths.

In their various ways each has done much for the Exercise and such gentlemen can ill be spared.

I am afraid it was not correct to say that since the formation of the Suffolk Guild the name of the Rector and Henley bells disappeared from peal records. It was, I believe, a condition that if permission was granted for a peal on Henley bells that the peal should be rung for the Norwich Diocesan Association. From the records of the Norwich Diocesan Association it will be found quite a number of peals were rung at Henley after the formation of the Suffolk Guild, in one of which a peal of Cambridge, conducted by W. C. Rumsey, the Rector took part, together with myself.

GEORGE H. CROSS.

Barnehurst, Kent.

GIFT TO LICHFIELD COLLEGE.

Dear Sir,—I was very sorry to read in 'The Ringing World' of the death of the Rev. W. C. Pearson, of Henley, Ipswich. Although I never knew Mr. Pearson personally, I shall always remember him with gratitude, for it was he who presented to Lichfield Theological College a beautiful set of 16 handbells in 1938 for use among present and future students. I myself was a student at the college at the time, and my appeal through 'The Ringing World' for a set of handbells was met so magnificently by Mr. Pearson's gift.

At that time too, largely through the energies of the late Mr. Stephen Wood and Mr. E. H. Lewis, and the kindness of many of your readers, we were presented with many ringing books which enabled us to start a section on ringing in the college library. Alas, our two friends have now passed over, the one under tragic circumstances in the prime of his life and the other at the grand age of 82.

In one of his letters Mr. Pearson told me that he rang his first six-score of Bob Doubles on Henley bells in 1878, the year before he went up to Cambridge. Perhaps one of our Ipswich friends could tell me whether he was a native of the place where he afterwards served as Rector for nearly half a century. May his soul rest in peace!

Swindon

MALCOLM MELVILLE.

HENLEY BELLS.

When the late Mr. W. C. Pearson went to Henley in 1894 he found there a ring of five, of which the two biggest were pre-Reformation bells cast at Bury about the year 1480, the tenor being 8 cwt. In 1902 Taylors recast the second and added three bells to complete the octave. Bellfounders had by that time solved the problem of making good little bells, and some very fine light peals were being cast at Loughborough. Henley bells as restored are most musical and for their weight a splendid set.

The bells were dedicated on May 15th, 1902, and two days later the first peal, one of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, was rung on them by the St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, company. A little more than eight years later, on December 3rd, 1910, the one hundredth peal, one of London Surprise Major, was rung by the same society.

The hundred peals included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Plain Bob, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Forward, Double Norwich and Double Oxford, and Cambridge, New Cambridge, Superlative and London Surprise Major. There was also one peal of Minor in three methods.

In all Mr. Pearson rang about 150 peals in his own belfry. He was educated at Clare College, Cambridge, and graduated B.A. in 1881 and M.A. in 1926. He was ordained in 1882, and after holding curacies at Syston (1882-1886) and Southwold (1886-88), he was appointed Vicar of Henley in 1894.

We understand that he has bequeathed his splendid collection of ringing books to the Cambridge University Library. No better place could be found for them. The British Museum has already a very representative selection, and at Cambridge we may hope there will always be members of the University Guild who will be able to take advantage of Mr. Pearson's bequest.

LEAVING BELLS UP.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the enquiry by a correspondent a few weeks ago about damage caused to bells by leaving them up, may I point out that in many cases, especially during the winter months, rain and snow drive in through the louvred windows of the belfry, and if the bells are left up there is a possibility of the bells being partly filled with water, thus causing serious damage to crown staples, etc.

I seem to remember something about this happening somewhere a few years ago.

I think 'The Ringing World' has become even more interesting since the ban, and wish it continued success.

Caston, Attleborough.

C. E. G. RANHAM.

ELEMENTARY COMPOSITION.

FOR THE AVERAGE READER.

We propose during the next week or two to publish a few articles dealing with the subject of composition, and in doing so we do not intend to write for experts or to deal with any of the more difficult or abstruse parts of the question. We do not intend even to address ourselves primarily to those who hope to gain enough knowledge to become themselves composers. Those we hope to cater for are the men whose interest in ringing is essentially a practical one, who are content for the most part to leave composition and conducting to others, and to rest satisfied with what they do; the men, in fact, who form the majority of the Exercise.

But it may be asked, Why should we write for them, seeing they are not particularly interested in the matter? These men get all they need out of ringing without bothering their heads about composition. They can and do enjoy the ringing of a peal of Grandsire, or Stedman, or London Surprise, without knowing the least bit about how it is composed or how its truth may be made sure. They trust other people for those things and do not trust in vain. We do not need to know anything about the theory of music to enjoy a good song, and we do not need to know anything about the construction of Thurstans' Four-part to enjoy ringing a peal of Stedman Triples.

All that is very true, and it is true also that some men are by nature averse from taking an interest in mathematical subjects. On the other hand, most of us like to know something of the questions that are discussed and debated in our company. We shall not find a body of ringers talking together for long before something or other is said about some peal composition, and when one proceeds to argue on this wise and another on that, it is nice to be able to form some idea what it is all about. Besides, it is common proof that the more a man is interested in the various questions arising out of bells and ringing, the more interest he takes and the more enjoyment he gets out of the actual ringing itself. But to many the trouble of learning the preliminary technique of composition seems too great to make the effort worth while.

Now the greatest difficulty in writing about a matter like composition is not in the subject itself but in being sure that the words which are used convey to the reader the exact ideas that are in the mind of the writer. What seems to the one as clear as crystal, often only creates fog in the mind of the other. The most valuable gift a writer can possess is to be able to put himself in complete sympathy with his readers and them with him, but that cannot always be done by taking thought. We are going to do what we can, but we should very much like readers to help us by asking questions on anything they do not understand or on any points that may arise out of what we say. Perhaps in this way we may between us find one more interest to tide over the dull time before we can raise the bells once more.

Broadly speaking, composition includes all the work and all the activity which is necessary to produce something which ringers can practise when they go into a belfry, and it includes not only the production of this something but also the understanding of how and why things happen. The subject goes back over the centuries and seeks to find out why men first began to ring

changes, and then why the art developed as it did. It searches out the mathematical laws which control the science, it seeks to understand them, and it applies them to further discoveries.

It is indeed a noble science worthy of the attention of any mind, and it can and has afforded a lifelong interest to many.

We do not intend, of course, to attempt to deal with it on those lines. We shall only concern ourselves with some of the simpler questions which from time to time force themselves on the attention of ringers, and we shall try as far as possible to deal with each point by itself and free from the complications and distractions caused by side issues. But before we come to the subject itself, there is one point we think is worth making.

What is ringing? That seems a rather silly and superfluous question to ask a ringer, but it really is worth asking, because on the right answer depends to a very great extent how far we understand the problems of composition and how and why the art is what it is.

In its essence change ringing is not a branch of music, though it may be and is productive of music. It is not essentially the sounding of bells in different orders, and it is not the writing of figures on paper. Essentially it is movement. Starting with a row we call rounds, the bells move among themselves tracing more or less elaborate and complicated paths and producing varying orders. It is a condition laid down that the same order shall never be repeated; but it is a condition, not really a fundamental, for we could, and unfortunately we sometimes do, ring false peals.

We may illustrate what change ringing really is by comparing it to a very elaborate set dance where the dancers have to go through complicated movements, the movement of one being dependent on the movement of the others.

We should, then, keep this idea of movement being the essential thing in change ringing at the back of our minds. We shall not want it always or perhaps even often, but it will come in very handy and helpful if we should have to think about a method or the extension of a method, or those things called by composers Q Sets, which to some people seem so mysterious.

Incidentally we shall flatly refuse to recognise that what is produced by John Carter's machine is change ringing. We shall acknowledge to the full the extraordinary skill and ingenuity which went to the designing and making of that machine, but we shall maintain that it has nothing to do with our art. For the essentials of change ringing take place in the human mind.

On the other hand the Editor's famous ringing machine which he exhibited some years ago at a Central Council social was change ringing. It was funny and it was burlesque, but it had the essential things.

All this is preliminary. We will get down to business next week.

JUBILEE OF A PEAL.

Mr. Henry Ferguson, of Scarborough, has sent us a reminder that 50 years ago on New Year's Day the first peal was rung on the bells of St. George's Church, Jesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne. It was a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major, and the ringers were John Simm, Henry Ferguson, Robert C. Hudson, Joseph Pattison, Frederick J. Harrison, Charles L. Routledge, Robert S. Story and Francis Lees, and the peal was conducted by the late Mr. Robert Story. Only Mr. Ferguson and Mr. C. L. Routledge now survive of that company.

NOTICES.

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

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 31st, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.7, at 3 p.m. The payment of 1s. 8d. to enable those members who have not attended the required number of meetings to vote on matters of finance is now due.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—

The district annual general meeting will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, Jan. 31st. Eight silent bells available. Business meeting in the belfry at 3.45. Service at 4.30. It is regretted that arrangements for tea cannot be made, but efforts are being made to engage a room for the evening for a social chat and handbell ringing at which all ringers and their friends are welcome.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—

The quarterly meeting will be held at Holy Trinity, Dartford, on Saturday, Jan. 31st. Tower open for handbell ringing at 3 p.m. Tea, at the kind invitation of the local ringers, at 4.45 p.m. Business meeting to follow. Subscriptions are now due and should be paid at this meeting.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., temporary address: 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Welling-

borough District.—The branch annual meeting will be held at Irthlingborough on Saturday, Jan. 31st. Service at 4.30, followed by tea in Co-operative Hall, Queen Street. Please come for 'old times sake,' but let me know early and bring your sugar. Handbells available.—A. Bigley, Hon. Branch Sec., 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting

at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, Jan. 31st. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. All welcome.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western District.—

The annual district meeting will be held at Romford on Saturday, Jan. 31st. Service at 4 p.m. Business meeting to follow. Handbells available. All ringers welcome.—J. H. Champion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester

Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Dorchester, on Saturday, Jan. 31st. Handbells in the church from 2.30 p.m. (It is hoped the silent apparatus will also be ready.) Service at 4, followed by tea and business meeting at Major's Cafe—opposite the church.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 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. 31st, at 3 p.m. prompt. Unfortunately, it has not been found possible to make arrangements for tea, but an announcement regarding this matter will be made at the meeting. A social evening will take place on the same premises at 6.30 p.m. All members are cordially invited. Subscriptions are now due and reports will be available at this meeting.—Leslie W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Leeds on Saturday, January 31st. It has been decided that there shall be no charge for the social evening at the Conservative Club, South Parade, at 6.30 p.m. We hope for a good attendance.—C. C. Marshall.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Staverton on Saturday, Jan. 31st. Silent and handbell ringing.—W. C. Moore, 5, William's Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—A meeting will be held at Wadhurst on Saturday, Feb. 7th. Handbells and six silent tower bells. Tea for those who notify by Feb. 4th.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec., 3, Pen-drill Place, Wadhurst, Tunbridge Wells.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

—Chew Deanery.—The eight bells of Long Ashton will be available (with silent apparatus) from 3 o'clock onwards on Saturday, February 7th. All ringers are welcome and their pleasure assured on bells that go like tops.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Longton on Saturday, Feb. 7th, at 3 p.m. Bells available for silent practice and handbells. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. E. Steele, Hawthorne, Caverswall Wood, Meir, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, not later than Tuesday.

PUBLICATION.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE, Part V. (reprinted from the Berkshire Archaeological Society's Journal, by kind permission of the Society). To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire. Price one shilling, post free.

DEATH.

MEE.—At the Post Office, Sproughton, on Monday, January 26th, Charles Mee, after a short illness, aged 77 years.

HANDBELLS WANTED.

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No. 1,611. Vol. XXXVII.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6th, 1942.

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THE 'CONFERENCE' IS ON.

The suggested scheme put forward in our columns to enliven interest in ringing affairs in these dull days has met with such widespread and representative approval, that an attempt to establish this ringers' conference would appear to be well within the possibilities of success. That being so, we hope to launch the project as soon as details have been worked out. Letters continue to come in approving of the idea and promising support and, from the correspondence which we have published, the experiment will, we think, be welcomed. As far as we know it will be something entirely new in journalism, because it is intended to run the conference on the same lines as a discussion in Council, governed as far as possible by the recognised rules of debate. This, of course, is something widely different from the ordinary newspaper practice of inviting promiscuous correspondence.

There are a few points of detail which still remain to be settled, some of them raised in the letters which we have published. At the outset, however, we think it should be made quite clear that this scheme is in no way intended to usurp the functions of the Central Council. The Council is an elective body, the Conference is not, and while from the representative thoughts that may be expressed on any subject through the Conference, the Council may get some line on the views of ringers, no vote that could be taken could in any way bind the Council in the future. While the scheme before us is intended as a serious endeavour to maintain interest among ringers and to ventilate their opinions on topics of general importance to the ringing fraternity, it is not promoted in any desire to undermine either the purpose or the stability of the Council.

What it will do, we hope, is to bring under discussion many subjects of greater or less importance in which ringers of all types will take their part — expert and novice alike. The discussions will not be confined to 'front benchers' alone, contributions from the back benches will be equally desirable, because it is often from this source that valuable suggestions come; in fact the opinions of 'the rank and file' will be specially welcomed. And here we would remind the hesitant ones that it is not the length of expression of their views that carries weight. An opinion expressed clearly but briefly is always more convincing than a long speech.

(Continued on page 62.)

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In his letter last week the Rev. C. Carew Cox put forward a number of very useful suggestions, most of which will have to be embodied in the scheme if it is to work smoothly. The publication of an agenda before the Conference opens is, for instance, a necessity so that everyone may be prepared for the discussions that are to follow, but there are certain objections to the items themselves being chosen, from those submitted, by a committee. Whoever is responsible for conducting the Conference could, we think, be entrusted with the task of seeing that the subjects on the agenda are suitable for debate. This much, at any rate, we can say, as far as any control is exerted from 'The Ringing World,' this Conference will be treated with the seriousness we hope it will deserve, and any frivolous motions, or motions obviously dealing with petty personal grievances will be rigidly ruled out. There ought to be sufficient general topics to frame an interesting agenda, without resort to the types we have mentioned.

One objection, in our view, to making 'quick' decisions through a committee is the delay that must inevitably occur. Opinions cannot be obtained from half a dozen people, circulated and recirculated, often more than once, without a great deal of delay, not to say labour. It is true that a committee might lift from the shoulders of one individual the responsibility of accepting or rejecting a motion, but if such a decision were challenged it might be possible to take a postcard vote to decide whether or not the motion should be discussed. The other point which it is suggested might be referred to a committee is the number of weeks over which a discussion on any one subject will extend. That question, we think, will be decided by the interest displayed in the matter under debate, and will largely settle itself; in any case if it dragged on until boredom was threatened it would be open to someone to move 'that the question be now put,' and then the postcard vote could be made to serve a double purpose.

There is one other important question to be settled and that is the title under which this scheme shall be carried on. Various suggestions have been made and carefully weighed and, backed by the authority of the Oxford Dictionary, which defines the word as 'consultation,' we think 'Conference' is the name which best commends itself. What now remains is for the members of the Exercise to join in this effort wholeheartedly, not only to help make the scheme a success, but because we also think they will get some little pleasure and profit out of it themselves. We therefore invite ringers to submit suitable motions for the agenda, subjects which they are prepared to back by reasonable argument and which they think will interest others besides themselves. They should, at the same time, secure a seconder, and not leave this to chance, because one of the rules which will have to be observed is that when a new subject is opened the 'speeches' of both proposer and seconder shall appear together, so that others who wish to take part in the debate may be in a position to do so at once. A motion without a seconder previously secured will not be put before the Conference. This, we feel, is not only fair to the other 'speakers,' but is necessary to the smooth running of the scheme. Later on we shall publish more details of the arrangements, but in the meantime we repeat, 'The play is on,' send your notices of motion to 'The Ringing World.'

HANDBELL PEALS.

BIRMINGHAM

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, January 24, 1942, in Three Hours and Four Minutes;

AT THE TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOR STREET, CITY.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor size 19 in A.

FRANK E. HAYNES 1-2	FRANK E. PERVIN 7-8
FRANK W. PERRENS 3-4	GEORGE F. SWANN 9-10
WILFRED WILLIAMS 5-6	GEORGE E. FRERN 11-12

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by FRANK W. PERRENS.

Referee—Albert Walker.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(BRISTOL GUILD OF HANDBELL RINGERS.)

On Wednesday, January 28, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

AT 21, WATSEN ROAD, ST. ANDREW'S,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

ROYSTON G. BRYANT... .. 1-2	ALBERT M. TYLER 5-6
*THOMAS HARRIS 3-4	DONALD G. CLIFT 7-8

Composed by H. JOHNSON.

Arranged and Conducted by ALBERT M. TYLER.

* First peal of Major away from the trebles. First peal of Major as conductor.

YOKEL'S COMMENTS.

AND A GOOD TALE.

To the Editor.

Dear Zur,—I were looking through some old 'Ringing Worlds' t'other night, afore sending 'em for scrap to help the war along, and I came across my last letter to 'ee. Darn me if 'tweren't well over a year ago. How the time do fly; there were I telling 'ee about when I got married and now I've got a darter o' six months as sits on my knee and reads your paper. 'Er and the missus and me 'll be in the peal columns one of these days, perhaps.

I don't know nothing about this Dr. Slack's peal, but it seems a pity as there's this 'ere talk going round. I'll back you feels sometimes like filling up a page with all them figgers just to show some people, but for meself with paper so scarce I'd rather see a page filled with summat more interesting to most on us. And very interesting your paper's bin, I reckon.

My guy, didn't ole 'Anti-Silent' and 'Plain Hunt' have a go? Summat on both sides as usual—I be allus on about that, bain't I? But talking about ringing arter the war, I reckon in some ways us'll be better off, like you be arter a hoperation. This 'ere long silence 'll do one thing; it'll clear out the sluggards—they won't come back to the towers, and them as are left 'll be the keen 'uns. They'll have to larn young 'uns and hard going 'twill be, I know, but, bless my soul, in most towers it were the same afore the war. You teaches 10 youngsters and only 5 stays, and when you gets a good band one on 'em leaves the district and another gets hisself married to the wrong woman and you 'as to start agin.

Ah, but 'twill be harder this time, for there's many a ringer as'll be absent from ropes-end after this touch, unless (as I hopes) there's changes to be rung when the homing course is done and the Lord has called stand to 'ee 'ere.

'Y'know, I ain't sure as us couldn't a done a bit more about ringing if us adn't bin sort o' flummoxed at this silly Home Guard invasion warning business. It took us about a year at 'ome to realise as us could take the clappers out of all except the big 'un, and ring t'others silent. Oh ah, I know some folks did, but a good many didn't, and in our part of the world—though us be busier at work—I reckon us might a found time to larn some 'vacuees as 'ould go back to the towns ready for the towers as were left.

Us be a rum lot, 'y'know—us be that slow a-startin', and us wastes a devil of a lot o' wind yelling about the Nazis and Japs doing dirty things to us first. Same as the stopping of ringing; you don't often get the Government to change a order once they've made un, and arter us 'ad 'ad a good oller us ought to a got going on what was left.

Well, I must finish. Did 'ee ever 'ear the story about they ringers what never used to stay to church after ringing? Well, one Sunday night they stays, and the parson were that mumbered to see 'em 'e scraps the sermon he were going to preach and gives 'em one on that bit in the Gospel, 'Because there was no room for them in the inn.' Ah, that's a fact.

'Ere, e don't 'ee call I from the West Country like 'ee did last time: I be Oxfordshire, bred and barn—well, not quite, but I come from Wiltshire when I were 2. Well, 'ere's hopink you're feeling better, dear Zur, and with all the heat to all ringers for 1942, wherever they may be

YOKEL.

WINCHESTER & PORTSMOUTH GUILD.

AN UNOFFICIAL ANNUAL REPORT.

Master's Contribution to Records.

For sixty years without a break the Winchester Diocesan Guild and its successor, the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, issued an annual report, but at the last annual meeting it was decided to suspend this publication in view of war-time conditions.

Happily for the continuity of the records, however, an abridged report of the Guild's work has been issued to the affiliated towers unofficially by the Master (Mr. G. Williams) with the wholehearted concurrence of the hon. treasurer (Mr. W. Linter) and the hon. secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers).

This record includes the list of officers, the affiliated towers and their correspondents, the details of the seven peals rung in 1940 with the report of the Recorder of Peals, the resolutions of the Executive Committee in November, 1940, to suspend operations until the ban on ringing is lifted, together with the balance sheets. Thus most of the essential information concerning the Guild is on permanent record, to find its place with the reports of the previous sixty years.

In issuing this unofficial document, the Master says his reason was that having the first fifty years' Reports of the Guild bound in two volumes and the remaining years to 1939 intact, he adopted this course to make sure of getting some kind of 1940 record and keeping a record of the Guild's continuity. He hoped his action would 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,' adds the Master, 'I make no comment on the year's activities, beyond regrets at there being no official Report for 1940, and making 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). The Master concludes by saying that these remarks have the approval of the hon. general secretary, and the report, therefore, appears over their joint names in the usual way.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE.

MR. F. SHARPE'S NEW BOOK.

As announced on our notice page, the fifth part of Mr. Frederick Sharpe's work on 'The Bells of Berkshire' has been published and is now on sale. It follows, of course, the same style as the preceding parts and, like them, has many most interesting illustrations of bells, frames, wheels, carillons and inscriptions.

Archæologically, the towers dealt with are exceptionally interesting, the rings being in every instance made up of bells from various foundries. Two are eight-bell rings, and of Hagbourne, which contains the work of no fewer than six men, it is said that it is 'reputed by many campanologists to be the finest toud ring in the Diocese.' A suggestion was once made that Hagbourne bells should be tuned on more modern lines, but this met with great opposition from the parishioners. When the bells were recently rehung, a stipulation was made that they should not leave the tower and the tuning should not be altered.

It was here that on May 15th, 1935, the Rev. C. C. Cox called Holt's Original on the first occasion on which a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung by eight priests of the Church.

Mr. Sharpe has many interesting notes on the frames, from which we quote the following: 'An examination of bell frames of the 17th century, constructed to house either three or four bells, shows us that wherever space would allow these were planned so that all the bells swung side by side, and in the majority of cases to swing east and west. The mouth to mouth arrangement was a much later innovation.

'Medieval bells were longer in proportion to their respective diameters, owing to the scale of tuning favoured by their founders, than those of the 16th and succeeding centuries: the canons of medieval bells were long and the bells were "tucked-down" by reason of the canons not being let in to the headstocks very far; and the positions in which the drive-in type gudgeons then in use had to be fixed made the rim of the bell further from the centre of oscillation than with the strap type. This arrangement, while very effective for musical purposes, was not very convenient for the ringer, and after the introduction of change ringing early in the 17th century, bellhangers began to tuck up bells far higher into their headstocks than previously; and also the strap type gudgeon was invented allowing the centre of oscillation to be level with the bottom of the headstock. Then founders gradually shortened bells in proportion to their diameters, producing the distinctive tonal qualities so characteristic of post-Reformation bells and enabling bell pits to be further shortened.'

Other topics are dealt with in a similarly informative fashion and help to give the book a far wider interest than that which belongs merely to the particular bells dealt with.

Books of this sort are usually very expensive to buy, but as this is issued in parts at fairly wide intervals, it ought to find a ready sale among ringers and especially among those who pride themselves on their libraries of bell literature.

LONDON CHURCHES & ARCHITECTS OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

BY RICHARD F. DEAL.

In the year 1711, Parliament, under Queen Anne, passed an Act legalising the expenditure of £350,000 in building fifty new churches in London.

To raise this sum, a duty was imposed on coal entering the port. The Queen herself displayed much interest in the project, which it has been suggested, was an expression of thanksgiving for Marlborough's victories over the French in the Netherlands. Eleven or twelve new parishes were formed from parts of the ancient parishes of Stepney, St. Giles, etc., and were provided with new churches. During the first half of the century several of the old parish churches which had been dilapidated were completely rebuilt, in some cases with money granted under the provisions of the Act.

The style of architecture employed in every case was the one we now call 'Renaissance.' It came to us from Italy, and was first practised here by Inigo Jones in the 17th century, and later by Wren: but its earliest foundations are in ancient Greece and Rome. Renaissance architecture is based on the 'Orders,' five in number; an order comprehends the column, with its base and capital, and the beam, or entablature, which it carries, this being divided into architrave, frieze and cornice. The design and proportions of an order are governed by fairly rigid rules, but the complete order may be used in a number of ways, either decoratively or as part of the construction.

Wren was the first architect to use the orders in the arrangement of towers and spires, the one most favoured being the 'Corinthian,' distinguished by the conventional foliage ornamenting the capitals: this is characteristic also of the 'Composite,' generally seen when two orders are employed, as at St. Paul's; the lower order then being Corinthian, the upper one Composite.

Contemporary with Nicholas Hawksmoor, Wren's pupil (of whom I have given a short account) were several men whose work should be of interest to us as ringers: notably James Gibbs (1682-1754), John James (d. 1746), Henry Flitcroft (1697-1769) and George Dance, the elder (1698-1768). These men, in a general way, worked on the same lines as did Wren, but with certain differences, which we need not enter into here, except to note that they were rarely faced with the problems presented by confined or awkwardly shaped sites and, judging by the usually solid character of their work, were untroubled by considerations of economy, as no doubt Wren often was—a legacy of the Great Fire. Their buildings were faced with the durable Portland stone, and the internal work (particularly joinery, carving and plaster ceilings) shows craftsmanship of a high order. Several towers of this period were furnished with bells, and their designers usually seemed to appreciate the requirements of ringers.

James Gibbs, a native of Aberdeen, designed St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, built at a cost of £33,017 9s. 3d., and consecrated in 1726. I need not try to describe this church, which is well known to ringers, and was admirably illustrated in these pages a few weeks ago. The Corinthian portico is considered one of the best in London. Other works of Gibbs are the church of St. Mary-le-Strand, very ornate, but with much beautiful detail;

the steeple to Wren's church of St. Clement Danes, and St. Bartholomew's Hospital (greatly extended since his day). He was responsible for several buildings in the Universities, including the Radcliffe Library at Oxford. The fine cupola, 100 feet in diameter and 140 feet high, is a prominent feature in any view of the city. In recognition of the excellence of his work here, he was given the degree of M.A.

Gibbs designed the 'New Church' at Derby (All Saints', now the Cathedral), where the noble 15th century tower was retained. He has another small church in London, St. Peter's, Vere Street, externally of the plainest brickwork, but inside much resembling St. Martin's. His lineaments are recorded in a bust below the west gallery at St. Martin's.

John James, of Greenwich, designed St. Alphege's, Greenwich. It is believed that Hawksmoor was associated with him in this work. As Wren's assistant and clerk of works, Hawksmoor would enjoy much respect and influence at Greenwich: he was appointed 'Surveyor of all new churches,' and apparently had supervisory powers, which may appear rather irregular, as he designed several of these churches himself. Greenwich Church has suffered severely by enemy action, and has lost many objects of interest, but I believe the tower and ten bells are intact.

Another famous church by James, St. George's, Hanover Square, has a fine Corinthian portico, but it looks low and heavy compared with that of St. Martin's, which has the advantage of a broad flight of steps leading up to it. The tower, too, lacks the grace of St. Martin's. St. Luke's, Old Street, is another well known church by the same master; the spire is in the form of a fluted obelisk. In the tower is a Whitechapel bell of 29 cwt.

St. Giles-in-the-Fields (1733), its steeple not unlike St. Martin's, is by Henry Flitcroft, who rebuilt St. Olave's, Southwark (1740), demolished a few years ago. There were eight bells here until 1843, when they were destroyed with the interior of the church in the great 'Tooley Street Fire.' Hawksmoor's church at Limehouse passed through the same ordeal a few years later. I recollect St. Olave's tower as being very low, and having no louvre openings, and have wondered how the bells were accommodated—possibly at one time there was another storey. Many years ago I came across Flitcroft's grave, in the churchyard at Teddington, Middlesex.

George Dance, the elder, was Clerk of the 'City Works,' an office corresponding to the modern one of City Surveyor. He was responsible for some notable buildings in and around the City, including the Mansion House, the residence of the Lord Mayor during his term of office. Dance left two churches—St. Leonard's, Shore-ditch, with a good portico of the Doric order, its steeple resembling in some respects that of Bow; and another church not so well known to ringers, although it has a fine eight, St. Botolph's, Aldgate. This is a plain brick and stone building (our critics might be excused for calling it ugly). The tower is of fair dimensions, but not very strong, and ringing there has never been a pleasure.

The younger Dance, by the way, also attained eminence in his profession, but made only a small contribution to London's church architecture. He designed Newgate Prison, of which the grim facade, adorned with representations of fetters, etc., is remembered by many Lon-

doners. I believe his only remaining church is All Hallows', London Wall.

St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate (1725) is by James Gold, 'an architect otherwise unknown.' It is a spacious church with galleries, the tower being at the east end, its lower stage forming the chancel. The elevation to Bishopsgate is simple and not without dignity, but the tower is weak in design and construction. The whole of the west side from ringing floor level rests on a wide brick arch. Nevertheless, the bells do not go badly—but those who know them have the advantage!

St. John's, Westminster, is sometimes ascribed to Sir John Vanbrugh, famous architect and playwright, but is almost certainly the work of his pupil, Thomas Archer (d. 1743). This church (now badly damaged) has four towers, and wits of the day professed to see in it a resemblance to an inverted table, or to a great animal wallowing on its back with its feet in the air. Another and perhaps better example of Archer's work is St. Paul's, Deptford (1730), which has a pleasing arrangement of stairs and terraces leading up to the entrances, and a small round tower with three bells. Archer is remembered chiefly by St. Philip's at Birmingham, now the Cathedral.

St. John's, Horsleydown (1733), where ringing history was made, is one of the Queen Anne churches. I have been unable to find out the name of its designer. The tower is very small, and some ingenuity must have been required to fit ten bells into it! The spire is a much tapered Ionic column—an architectural absurdity. Only the walls and tower remain. In an old book I found a quaint yarn concerning the name of the parish. A King of England, while riding there, suffered inconvenience

and loss of dignity through his horse suddenly assuming a recumbent position, from which it refused to budge—hence 'Horse-lay-down.' It is more likely that the name was derived from 'Horse-down,' a public grazing place for horses.

The latter half of the century was a sterile period for church building, producing but two towers of note, those of the neighbouring parishes of Islington and Clerkenwell. The author of St. Mary's, Islington (1754) was Lancelot Dowbiggin, 'Citizen and Joiner of London,' and there is no record of any other building from his design. In the steeple he may have been inspired by Bow and Shoreditch; but there is a certain weakness in the arrangement to which I think is due the considerable oscillation during ringing. In spite of some faults the spire of Islington is very graceful and picturesque: the church has suffered severely by high explosive, and the tower may have been shaken, although it shows no outward sign of damage. This is a church in which I have a strong personal interest, and many 'old-fashioned' ringers will be sorry if ringing there is impossible in the future. We must await the decision of the architects. The spires of Islington and St. Giles' are the same height, 164 feet.

St. James', Clerkenwell (1790, James Carr, architect) is, I think, London's last eighteenth century church. It is a plain brick and stone structure of little interest, but is redeemed from the commonplace by a rather fine tower about 100 feet high, which carries an open stone lantern and spire in three stages. It is somewhat austere compared with earlier examples, being relieved only with Doric pilasters and the rather shallow cornices and

(Continued on page 71.)

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. R. W. Stannard asks us to say that his address is 133, Beccles Drive, Barking, not Bocking, as given with his letter in our last issue. Members of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association and the Sussex County Association will read with regret that Mrs. Hope passed peacefully away on December 24th. The Rev. N. E. Hope is Master of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association and was formerly at Hastings, Sussex. The deepest sympathy will go out to him in his bereavement.

Ten years ago last Tuesday, Henry Law James passed away at the age of 63. He had been almost throughout his life one of the most prominent leaders of the Exercise. He exercised a great influence during his lifetime and ringers still benefit by the work he did. The bells at Surfleet are his memorial, but hardly more so than the peal of Spliced Surprise Major.

Benjamin Annable died on February 1st, 1756. He was buried at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, where he had rung his first and many others of his peals.

The Rev. C. D. P. Davies, composer and author, died on February 5th, 1731, at the age of 74.

The first peal of London Surprise Major on handbells was rung at Romford on February 6th, 1904. The band was G. R. Pye 1-2, W. Pye (conductor) 3-4, Ernest Pye 5-6, and W. Keeble 7-8.

The bells of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, were opened on February 7th, 1783, and on the same date in 1925 the College Youths rang the first peal of Cambridge Maximus at St. Paul's.

The first peal of Forward Major was rung on February 8th, 1889.

Fifty years ago to-day eight peals were rung. They were Grandsire Triples 2, Caters 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 3, Doubles 1, and Minor 1.

Ten years ago to-day 28 peals were rung. They were Grandsire Triples 3, Caters 1, Bob Major 3, Royal 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Royal 2, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1, Superlative Surprise Major 3, Bristol 1, London 1, Doubles 6, and Minor 5.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The Master presided last Saturday at the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths, and was supported by the hon. secretary, the treasurer, and Messrs. E. A. Young, G. N. Price, H. Miles, H. Langdon, R. F. Deal, J. E. L. Cockey, J. Shepherd, C. H. Kippen, F. Collins, W. T. Elson, H. Hoskins, J. A. Trollope, R. W. Stannard, Gilbert Debenham, George Debenham and Charles Roberts.

It was reported that a meeting had been held with the Rector of St. Magnus, who is taking steps to form a band to ring handbells when peace comes instead of on the tower bells, silenced for various reasons. The band will be formed in the parish and the College Youths have promised their support.

Mr. Langdon called attention to the society's property now in charge of St. Paul's Cathedral authorities, and a number of members were appointed to call at the Cathedral and inspect the books so as to make sure they are not suffering from any deterioration.

Mr. Elson presented a copy of Mr. Nichols' 'Bells Through the Ages' to the society's library. This book belonged to the late Challis Winney and was given him by Mr. Young.

Reference was made to the collection of books formed by the late Rev. W. C. Pearson, and the secretary was instructed to make enquiries as to what will become of them.

A resolution was passed approving the proposed 'Ringers' Conference' in the pages of 'The Ringing World.'

The Master called attention to the deaths of two old members, Messrs. Charles Mee and D. G. Taylor, and the meeting stood as a mark of respect.

Mr. Stannard brought greetings from the St. Mary-le-Tower company of Ipswich.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The North Staffs Association's resolution reported in a recent issue of 'The Ringing World' against the uniting and re-forming of the Exercise into one national unit raises two questions. The first part of their resolution states; 'That the North Staffordshire Association of Change Ringers recognises the Central Council as the representative body of all associations.' Well! does any one suppose that under a National Association the said body would not hold the same status? The only difference would be that it would be considered the central body of all ringers instead of all associations, which would give it closer and greater ties. The second question is, on what grounds does the North Staffordshire Association object to any National Association being formed? To these questions I could add certain other remarks, but intend reserving the same pending a reply from a responsible source.

'COMMUNAL.'

DEATH OF MR. FRANK FOOT.

OLD WOKING RINGER.

The death has occurred of Mr. Frank Foot, who had been a ringer at Woking for about 20 years. He was 77 years of age. In the days when there was regular ringing at Woking Parish Church Mr. Foot was one of the mainstays of the band by his regular attendance.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

DECISION TO GO ON WITH SCHEME.

Notices of Motion Invited.

We appear to have received sufficient support for the proposal put forward by Mr. J. P. Price to 'set up a Ringers' Conference, to be conducted through the columns of this paper, to justify experimenting with the scheme.

'Conference' has been decided on as the title after due consideration, and in future the scheme will be run under that name.

Some comment on the preliminary aspects of the project is made in our leading article and further details as to the proposed working of the scheme will be published shortly.

In the meantime we invite ringers to send in notice of any motion they would like to discuss in the Conference. It should be accompanied, of course, by the name and address of the sender (no nom-de-plume will be accepted) and also of the seconder. Letters on this subject should be addressed to 'Ringers' Conference, "The Ringing World" Office, Lower Pyrford Road, Woking, Surrey.' Notices should be sent with as little delay as possible.

ENERGETIC SUPPORT DESERVED.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I have read with very great interest the proposal to hold a 'Ringers' Council' to be conducted through the columns of your paper. The idea should commend itself to all ringers who have the interests of the Exercise at heart, and deserves the energetic support of everyone, especially members of the Central Council, who, by the force of circumstances, are debarred from holding their usual meetings for the furtherance of our art.

You, Mr. Editor, are to be congratulated for the help and co-operation which you have so willingly offered.

For my part, I hope to be able to enter into any discussions which may be raised.

With all good wishes for the success of the scheme.

G. W. STEERE, Hon. Secretary.
Society of Royal Cumberland Youths.

Sutton, Surrey.

BENEFIT OF THE EXERCISE.

Dear Sir,—The suggestion contained in 'The Ringing World' of January 16th is certainly beginning in the right direction, and I give it my support in the belief that much valuable information will be available as the result of the discussions.

I think it matters little under what name the discussions take place. What does matter is that the main object must be for the benefit of the Exercise as a whole, taking into consideration—and I stress this point—the circumstances which may arise during and after the war as far as can be determined.

F. W. HOUSDEN.

Wanstead

ENCOURAGEMENT TO SHY RINGERS.

Dear Sir,—I think the suggestion of a Ringers' Council is an excellent one, and I, for one, am quite willing and ready to do all I possibly can to further the scheme.

Many ringers are found to be shy when attending association meetings and generally leave all the talking to the more matured members.

I know from experience that many useful suggestions have been in the minds of these shy members, but they only mention them when the meeting is closed.

The suggestion of a Ringers' Council will, I am sure, remove the embarrassment and encourage these shy ringers to talk.

EDGAR GUISE, General Hon. Secretary, G. and B.D.A.

(Continued in next column.)

HANDBELLS WANTED FOR GIBRALTAR.

READERS' HELP INVITED:

Ringers stationed at Gibraltar with the Forces want the use of a set of handbells. Can any of our readers assist in this matter? It would be worth some sacrifice to help relieve the tedium of the long vigil at this vital bastion of Empire.

Mr. Edgar Guise, hon. secretary of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association and Bristol United Guilds, has received the following letter dated from the Officers' Mess, Royal Engineers, South Barracks, Gibraltar:—

Dear Sir,—We have several men in this garrison interested in campanology, and I am writing to know whether it would be possible to obtain the loan of a set of handbells; or if you know of a set for sale at a reasonable price we might be able to raise the money. I expect some of the destroyed churches in Bristol had a set, and since most ringers are now away perhaps we could borrow them.

The men here welcome most eagerly the opportunity to take part in any activity which relieves the monotony of the comparatively restricted life on the Rock.

W. F. E. BURNLEY, C.F.

FULHAM AND MORTLAKE BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. A. A. Hughes tells me that Mortlake tenor is only 14 cwt., and as Fulham tenor is just under a ton, the two bells can hardly be said to be 'much the same note,' as I stated. The difference in weight will, however, account for the fact that after the two peals of Caters had been rung it was found necessary to recast the two trebles.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

(Continued from previous column.)

BE UP AND DOING.

Dear Sir,—I should like to congratulate Mr. Price on his excellent idea and I should like to say that I consider the motion he himself proposes to put down overrides all the others he mentions, viz., that a committee be formed to consider and report upon rehabilitating ringing after the war. It must be plain to any Simple Simon that after the war associations in general will not start where they left off. The causes will be varied and numerous, so it is up to those that remain, even old fogeys, to be up and doing. Far too often has it been the case in some of the national efforts of 'Too late.' So ringers beware and get going whenever and wherever you can.

W. KEEBLE.

Colchester.

UNDER WHAT TITLE?

Dear Sir,—Mr. Price's suggestion for using the columns of 'The Ringing World' as a common meeting ground for ringers' views on specific subjects seems to me an ideal substitute for the Central Council during these adverse times. I welcome the idea and hope for its success. One or two matters need illuminating, however.

First, as regards a title, I agree with Mr. Edwards that 'Council' is not fitting, but surely 'Conference' does not fit either, for the contributors will in no way be elected representatives of either associations or belfries. I suggest the 'Ringers' Forum' as the best title.

Again, will all the 'speeches' on the subject under discussion be published? Or must one be 'on the Front Bench' to 'catch the Speaker's eye'?

Finally, will the resolutions be formally adopted as would be the case with those of the Central Council in the normal way? I notice that Mr. Coles would have such resolutions 'as guidance' for the Central Council 'in the difficult days ahead.' If this is to be, then I fail to see the purpose of the whole thing. The decisions must carry weight for the debates to be productive.

There are, of course, almost an unlimited number of subjects that can be introduced into the 'Forum,' but personally I should like to see the following discussed:—

'Whether it is desirable that the so-called Standard Methods be revised in the light of modern development, in the art, and, if so, what methods should be recognised?'

'Should the practice of ringing peals for "Aunt Emma's birthday" and other such unbecoming reasons be encouraged?'

KENNETH ARTHUR (Corporal, R.A.F.).

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Estimates submitted for New
Clocks, Chime Additions, Re-
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THE LATE CHARLES MEE.

FUNERAL AT SPROUGHTON.

The funeral of Mr. Charles Mee, who, as announced in our last issue, died on Monday, January 26th, took place on the following Thursday at All Saints' Church, Sproughton.

There was a large congregation, and the church service, conducted by the Rev. R. Lee (Rector), with Mr. Samson at the organ, included the psalm, 'The Lord is my Shepherd,' and the hymn, 'O God, our help in ages past.' A course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells by Percy May, Edgar Rivers, Frank Rolfe and Gordon Hagger after the service.

Chief mourners were Mr. C. F. Mee (son), Mrs. N. V. Hover and Mrs. R. A. Beeston (daughters), Mr. F. Hover and Mr. F. C. Beeston (sons-in-law), Mr. Ralph Mee and Mr. J. Mee, R.A.F. (nephew).

Many business firms with which Mr. Mee had been associated were represented. Members of the British Legion were present, and the National Association of Master Monumental Masons, of which Mr. Mee had been a member for a long period, was represented.

Among many floral tributes were wreaths from the family, the St. Mary-le-Tower Society, the British Legion, and parishioners and friends, including the Parish Council.

Mr. Mee had lived in Sproughton all his life, and his many activities, together with his cheerful and helpful disposition, won him many friends in the district. He had served as postmaster for nearly 50 years. He had also been clerk to the Parish Council and Church Council, and was sexton for nearly 60 years.

Mr. Mee was well known throughout the land as an active and prominent ringer. In his young days he was one of those (who included James Motts and William Catchpole) who made the Ipswich district one of the chief centres of the art of change ringing. He rang 119 tower-bell peals and 21 handbell peals for the Norwich Diocesan Association, 26 peals for the Suffolk Guild and several others for various associations.

In 1886 he called the first peal of Bob Triples rung by the Norwich Diocesan Association, in 1900 the first peal of New Cambridge Major, and in 1903 the first peal of Forward Major. He also called the first peals of Cambridge and London Surprise Major by the association in the diocese. Earlier peals of these had been rung at Hackney by non-resident members.

On handbells his peals included the first by the Norwich Diocesan Association of Grandsire Triples (1888), Bob Major (1889), Grandsire Caters (1889), New Cambridge Surprise Major (1900) and London Surprise Major (1903). The last two were single handed and rung by the members of a six-bell band. They also rang double handed a non-conducted peal of Kent Treble Bob Major.

Mr. Mee represented the Suffolk Guild on the Central Council and was the district secretary of the Hadleigh branch of that Guild. He was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths. In his younger days he was a keen cricketer, and in later years played a good game of bowls.

THE LATE REV. W. C. PEARSON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. Melville's enquiry, I am able to say that the late Rev. W. C. Pearson was a native of Henley. He succeeded his father as Vicar, and they held the living between them for nearly a century.

Like Mr. Melville, my son and I will always remember him with gratitude. About 10 years ago he wrote to me saying how interested he was in my son's ringing activities and he would like to give him a set of handbells 'if I would accept them from a stranger.' In due course a splendid peal of 18 arrived. Had it not been for this, in all probability neither of us would have taken up handbell ringing.

A year later, when returning from a holiday on the East Coast, we broke our journey and went to see Mr. Pearson, and I well remember the pleasure it was to meet him—a quiet, scholarly old gentleman.

We saw his wonderful ringing library, and I am glad to know this is to be preserved.

I am also glad to see Mr. Cross correct the statement about the disappearance of the Vicar and Henley tower from ringing. He strongly disapproved of the formation of the Suffolk Guild, and this, perhaps, was the reason why peals at Henley were not as frequent as previously, but the reason he dropped out of active ringing was due to an accident from which he never fully recovered. He fell from a ladder and dislocated his shoulder.

E. BARNETT.
Crayford.

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES WEBB.

The death is announced of Mr. Charles Webb, of Kings Norton, Birmingham, who died on January 13th last at the age of 55. He was buried in the churchyard of St. Nicholas' Church, Kings Norton, on January 16th. The St. Martin's Guild was represented by Mr. Harry Withers and Mr. Downes, and the Worcestershire Association by Mr. W. B. Cartwright.

Mr. Webb had been in charge of Kings Norton tower for a good many years and had rung upwards of 50 peals, including peals in all the standard methods and Cambridge and London Surprise.

MUSIC IN TRIPLES METHODS.

STRIKING COUNTS MOST.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Perhaps I did not make myself quite clear in my last letter on the points raised by Mr. Turner. In the first place, I pointed out the difference between Triples and Major, and which cannot be compared together. You can do a little picking and choosing in Major, but *not* in Triples, also there are plenty of unmusical Major changes. I contend, however, that all possible Triple changes are at least bearable.

Of course, the character of Triples methods varies. Grandsire, for instance, has a more running or fluid sound than Stedman, but, as I have said before, all the possible changes have to be rung, and my experience has been that the outside public, for whom we ring, only judges on the striking.

Whilst not being so hypersensitive to six bob blocks as some people appear to be, I certainly do not say they are ideal, but if they are in any particular composition they have to be rung.

In the particular composition under review no mention is made of the 122 pairs of bobs, or isolated calls, only six bob blocks.

In various parts of the country a very old method called 'Stoney' is alone rung, where *all* the bells keep repeating, not merely the back pair, and we must assume that a lot of the congregation, as well as parson and choir, have musical ears, but, as long as bells are struck, they like it!

I have even rung 'Stoney' in some of the most exclusive London towers, on civic occasions, etc., with some of the foremost ringers of the day, and none of them appeared unduly depressed.

Of course, we all differ on different points. Mr. Turner, for instance, cites the five-pull dodges in Superlative as monotonous; now most of us around here, weaned on Superlative, like them, especially when tenors are on the front, and the little bells gambelling out behind, whilst if you are on the back it gives you a chance to blow your nose and look at the clock!

MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT.

Bushey.

GRANDSIRE CATERS AND CINQUES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It has been my intention for some weeks to write to you and congratulate Mr. Edgar C. Shepherd on his very good and interesting articles on Grandsire Caters, which method, in my estimation, produces some of the best music to be heard on ten bells.

His review of the Central Council Collection of Peals of Grandsire Caters was excellent, and I agree with him that there is still scope for other variations.

In the same book I have looked through the peals of Grandsire Cinques, but cannot find one coming home from 4256387x90. The similarity of Cinques to Caters is shown in the following touches:—

Caters.

23456789

65324978 2S. 4S.

42563 8 in and 1

Rounds as usual in five leads.

Cinques.

234567890x

6532487x90 2S. 5S. 10S. 12

42563 11 in and 2

Rounds by 1. 2S. 3. 4S. in five leads.

So again there is room for other compositions of peals.

I wish also to corroborate Mr. Arthur V. Davis in appreciation of the Rev. M. C. C. Melville's clear explanation of calling Bob Major on handbells.

I spent a few enjoyable evenings in his company, one ringing a peal of Superlative Maximus and another ringing several Surprise methods on the six bells at St. Clement's, Ipswich, with Mr. Fred Bowell and his band.

On that occasion I had the pleasure of pointing out to him the birthplace of Cardinal Wolsey and Wolsey's Gate at the east end of St. Peter's Church, which was to have been the entrance to seven acres of colleges which Wolsey intended to build, but it never materialised.

G. E. SYMONDS.

57, Mornington Avenue, Ipswich.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

FUTURE MEETINGS IN ST. ALBANS DISTRICT.

A meeting was held in St. Peter's Institute, St. Albans, on Saturday, January 17th. Although numbers were small, a homely little company was able to ring some touches on handbells.

The principal business was a discussion on the question of future meetings. As it is not possible to hold meetings in the St. Albans district very frequently, there was a desire to make the meetings more or less periodical, and it was, therefore, decided to make an attempt at quarterly meetings.

Ringers were present from the immediate locality, and Mr. W. Ayre was a welcome representative of the Western District.

DR. SLACK'S PEAL.

A PROBLEM FOR MR. TROLLOPE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—It is with interest that I have read the letter in a recent issue by Mr. Trollope on the above peal.

I suppose we have to take Mr. Trollope as serious and accept the verdict that when Heywood stated that the only outstanding thing in Stedman composition was a seven-part, that he, Heywood, was quite aware of the fact that an equal two-part with only two singles was possible. If so, I am afraid that I must differ.

The only arguments which Mr. Trollope seems able to put forward against publication appears to be these six bobs sets. We know quite well that he detests them and are appreciative of the fact that when 50 of them appear in a peal that this must cause a depression at Faling.

However, the position is this: Dr. Slack has so far been the only one to produce a peal of Stedman Triples in two equal parts; therefore, being the only one, surely it marks a development in composition in the method.

Mr. Trollope is perfectly entitled to his point of view. My own is that when a thing has been done it is easy to state, 'Well, it is nothing. We have known all these years that it was possible.'

Therefore, seeing that Mr. Trollope has been such an outstanding figure in the Exercise for several years, also possessing more than average ability in the subject of compositions, perhaps he will therefore produce a two-part with only two singles and eliminate these six bobs sets.

EDWIN JENNINGS.

Bushey.

THE EXPERTS CONFOUNDED.

Sir,—Those ringers who, like myself, are more concerned with the practical rather than the theoretical side of ringing may be forgiven if they indulge in a little mild amusement at the expense of the theorists. Dr. Slack has certainly put the cat amongst the pigeons by producing something said to be 'impossible.'

Not only that, but he did it in next to no time, and in a way which would probably not be approved by the experts—he proved his two-part peal first and composed it afterwards!

Now, during my ringing career I have noticed a vogue used by the theorists which is very arbitrary in its nature, and one of its best exponents was the late Rev. H. Law James. There was a certain 'That's it, and don't argue' attitude which produced a kind of finality.

Therefore, I feel we ordinary folk may be excused if we experience a little private satisfaction at the confounding of these gentlemen; and we are likely to get even more amusement out of the attempts of the experts to put themselves in the right again!

It all goes to show that there is plenty to be discovered yet concerning the theory of our art, and it is possible that gentlemen of Dr. Slack's undoubted ability may be able to provide the answers by using methods which I suspect are not known to the dogmatic experts who, up to the present time, have had it all their own way.

There must be some explanation for the wonderful achievements of Mr. A. T. Morris who, some years ago, staggered the Exercise by 'tapping' peals off in Surprise methods week after week. So far as I know, there has never been any explanation of these remarkable exploits, and we ordinary folk would like to know what it was that Morris had which the rest of us do not possess, and how he did it!

J. FRANK SMALLWOOD.

NOVEL NEW YEAR GREETING.

SURPRISE FOR CANADIAN VISITORS.

Ringing in the New Year took a novel form at Yateley, Hants. The occasion was a British Legion dance at the Drill Hall, when well over 200 persons were present, including many Canadian friends, who were taken quite by surprise. The ringers quietly assembled on the stage with the curtain down, and the company sang 'Auld Lang Syne' just before midnight. The hall was then put in darkness when 12 strokes were sounded on the tenor handbell. The curtain slowly rose upon the floodlit stage and the dawn of the new year to a well-struck course of Grandshire Triples.

At the completion the audience were spellbound, and when they realised it all surged forward amid deafening applause. After it had subsided the ringers gave a short performance of tune ringing, much to the delight of the overseas friends, who no doubt heard for the first time our method of ringing in the New Year and will long remember this little incident.

At some future date it is hoped to let them hear more. The ringers taking part were C. Bunch 1-2, S. J. Riddell 3-4, G. Butler 5-6, A. Goodall 7-8.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In answering Mr. Hughes, Mr. Pulling and Mr. W. Sheppard, I now realise that I have been supporting something to which I have so far given very little thought, and I unreservedly withdraw every word of my previous letter on this matter. I hope my remarks have caused no one any anxiety.

T. HARRIS.

Shirehampton, Bristol.

LIVES OF GREAT MEN.

JAMES WASHBROOK AND WILLIAM PYE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I was pleased to see the admirable suggestion put forward by Mr. G. Cross and supported by my friend, Mr. George R. Newton, requesting a biography of that great ringer, the late James W. Washbrook. Therefore, it is with interest that I have noted your remarks in your recent leader.

In Volume 1 of your paper you state, 'The Exercise has never seen a greater ringer than William Pye. William Pye's achievements mark him as our premier ringer, a position in which to-day he is unassailed and unassailable.'

At the foregoing year the respective ages of the late J. W. Washbrook and the late W. Pye were 47 and 41 years respectively, and, therefore, being only a period of six years between them, we can therefore place these two great ringers of the same generation, although Mr. Washbrook commenced peal ringing several years before Mr. Pye.

In your paper of March 15th, 1935, you state the following, 'By the death of Mr. W. Pye there passes the greatest ringer the Exercise has ever known.'

I do not wish your readers to think that I am trying to prove that Mr. Pye was a more outstanding ringer than Mr. Washbrook, but, having read all the volumes of 'The Bell News,' 'The Ringing World,' 'Campanology' and 'The Bell Ringer,' I suggest that any young ringer reading these papers will come to the conclusion that for all round ringing ability Mr. Pye was without question the greater ringer of the two.

For the benefit of your young readers, I think it will be as well to mention that Mr. Washbrook was born in 1864 and Mr. Pye in 1870, and that at the age of 25 Mr. Washbrook had rung 232 peals, calling 178 of them, and 70 of these were his own compositions.

I had the pleasure once as a boy of meeting Mr. Washbrook. In those days I looked at the heads of the Exercise from afar, but he gave me the impression that one could approach him, but this can also be said of William Pye.

Now, sir, I come to the point regarding the outstanding ringer of all time. I may be wrong, but in my own opinion, writing without bias, for an outstanding ringer such as you have mentioned you must take all-round ringing ability.

Therefore, comparing notes of the two great ringers before mentioned and taking their records, the only conclusion any young ringer can come to is that William Pye was the greater of the two. Anything Mr. Washbrook did (with the possible exception of ringing two tower bells to a peal) Mr. Pye equalled and excelled.

On handbells Mr. Pye's record is far the best, on tower bells, both for quality and numbers, Mr. William Pye's record comes before Mr. Washbrook's, and, therefore, their respective records and abilities are beyond comparison.

In conclusion, I must mention that I have never found anyone doubting any of the numerous records which Mr. Pye during his career put up, and at the age of 59 he rang the tenor to the long peal of Cambridge Maximus, a performance which few will deny to be one of the most outstanding ringing achievements of all time.

Bushey.

EDWIN JENNINGS.

JAMES W. WASHBROOK.*To the Editor*

Dear Sir,—On opening my 'Ringing World' this morning my first glance came on the letter of our friend, Mr. G. R. Newton, of Liverpool, re the above noted ringer. With his remarks I quite agree, as the doings of such giants of our art in the past are always welcome reading, more especially by our younger members of the progressive type.

Curiously enough, by same post as my 'Ringing World' I received a letter from one of my very old ringing friends, and one of his remarks was, 'I note G. H. Cross is asking about the records of Washbrook in "The Ringing World." I should think myself that he is easily the most gifted ringer of all time, as he was a master of all the arts (an all-rounder).'

He suggested that I might be able to go back as far as any present-day ringers who rang peals with him in his prime. Well, I may be able to tell many very interesting episodes, but I would like to see articles from one or both noted ringers, who were frequently ringing with him in his prime (viz., Canon Coleridge and Tom Hibbert) before he went to Arklow, Ireland. Of course, his double-handed peals on tower bells there may have exceeded anything I had known of him. But one thing we all know, clever men have made mistakes. I always remember one of his 'very dry remarks' when asked if he could ring a pair to a certain method, 'I expect I can manage a pair to anything I can ring in the tower.'

Eastleigh.

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

BURBAGE, LEICESTERSHIRE.—On January 20th, 720 Bob Minor: A. Jordon 1-2, A. Ballard (conductor) 3-4, F. Measures 5-6. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. Ballard. A peal had been arranged, but one of the band mistook the date. Any ringers in the Forces who are stationed in the district will be welcomed for handbell ringing at 74, Clarendon Road, Hineley, or 128, Sketchley Road, Burbage.

ELEMENTARY COMPOSITION.

FOR THE AVERAGE READER.

When we are dealing with a subject like composition it is a good thing to begin at the very beginning, though very few people ever do so. If we were writing a full treatise on the matter, complete in every detail, we should start with what happened three hundred and fifty years or so ago, when ringers were seeking for something better than the raising, round-ringing and ceasing which had served for so long, and were beginning to move the bells about among each other. We should show how, once this idea of movement was accepted, the invention of the Sixes followed naturally, and then we should go on to show how the Sixes contain the germs of all the composition that has appeared throughout the whole history of the Exercise. Our treatise would be the explanation of the logical and inevitable development of a single idea. And if it were done properly (a big if) a very fine and interesting treatise it would be.

But we do not intend to try to write such a treatise; we will leave that to the future, and to an abler pen. Our intention is much more modest. Still we will go back to the beginning, but to the beginning of a man's experience as a ringer, not to the beginning of the Exercise. After a man has learnt to handle a bell and can ring rounds he is taught to hunt a bell, and when that is done he learns the work of a simple method, Grandsire Triples it may be or Plain Bob. He notices that in these methods, if nothing is said, the bells will come again into rounds before very long; and if it is desired to keep them going still further, bobs, or perhaps bobs and singles, must be called and made. These bobs and singles are always made at the same place in a lead; and so the touch will consist of a combination of plain leads and bobbed leads. Which leads must be bobbed is settled first by the composer, and his intentions are carried into effect through the calls of the conductor, the ringer being no further concerned than that he must do what he is told.

That being so, the general impression is created that composition is the arranging of plain leads and bob leads in such a way that the required number of changes is produced without repetition. Quite a lot of people think that there is no more in composition than that. Of course, they recognise that a man must know something about how to combine plain and bobbed leads, and the more experienced he gets in the job, the more successful he will be. But essentially for them the thing is what we have just described.

A man starts with rounds and goes on to prick changes. He does not trouble about anything but the lead ends which are rows when the treble strikes the backstroke blow of its whole pulls at the lead. The rest of the rows in the lead he takes for granted. He combines his plain leads and his bob leads as he thinks he will, and in due time with a little luck he will come back to rounds and have his touch. All he has to do further is to prove the touch and see that there is no repetition of changes. In some methods he will work by course ends instead of by lead ends, but the general method of working is the same.

That style of composing is called the experimental or hit-or-miss style. It was at one time almost universal, quite a lot of good work has been done by it, and it still has its uses.

But the cleverer and more experienced composers found out in course of time that there are other and better ways of composing, which would give them larger and more certain results. The earliest composers of all worked on entirely different lines, but with them we are not for the present concerned.

We will go back again to our novice who has just learned to ring a plain course. Suppose it is Bob Major and he is ringing the sixth. He will find perhaps that when he has done all the work of the course the conductor will call a bob. He will then ring his work over again. Then there will be another bob, and another full course before rounds comes up. He has in fact rung three complete courses and at the end of each there is a bob.

These bobs have not affected him, but they have altered the work of the bells in 2, 3 and 4, and so have prevented repetition of rows. When he comes to prick down the course ends that have been rung he will find that they are 14235678, 13425678, and 12345678. He knew that they rang the whole of the plain course and the making of the bob was the only thing which stopped the bells coming into rounds. He knew that he himself rang the full work of a course three times over. Now, if he will take the trouble to write out all the changes in the touch, he will find that there have been included three complete courses all exactly alike except that one of them started from 12345678, one from 14235678 and the third from 13425678.

When he has got so far he will see the use of bobs in a rather different light. They are something more than just alternative lead ends to plain lead ends. They are links which join together courses. And composition becomes something different from the merely experimental combining of plain leads and bobbed leads. It is the joining together of a certain number of separate and independent courses which we have already selected and which we wish to include in our touch or peal.

The three courses of Bob Major joined together by bobs at the end of each is the simplest composition we can have; but it is typical of a vast number of compositions, some of which appear to be, and indeed are, very complicated indeed. It will pay us to study these three courses and see what they have to teach us. We shall find out later that bobs have other uses, but for the present we will consider them as links by which we can join together courses.

Courses, mark you, not leads. There are some authorities who tell us that bobs are one of the two ways in which leads may be joined, plain lead ends being the other. They tell us that especially with regard to Grandsire Triples. We are not going to contradict them, for they had their reasons for saying what they did. But for us, now at this present time, the things that are joined together are courses.

The reason we say this is because the course is the only thing in change ringing which is complete in itself. It is the unit with which we must work. The method gives us the course without being interfered with, as our novice found out when he rang his three courses of Bob Major. So long as the composer and the conductor leave the method alone it will keep on in the same course and go on repeating it over and over again without stopping.

When any composition, whether it is a course, or a touch, or a peal, has this capacity of so to speak going

on for ever, we call it a Round Block. It is really like a circle without any beginning or end. Though for convenience we select one row and call it the course end, the method itself takes no account of any beginning or end. If you start with 13527486 and prick down 112 changes of Bob Major you will have the plain course with rounds somewhere in the inside, just the same as if you started with 12345678.

Well then, our first point is that bobs are links by which we can join together courses. Our second point is that the course is the unit of composition and the first thing we notice about it is that it is a Round Block.

It is quite possible that there are people who will tell us that the course is not the only possible unit of composition. We know that quite well, but one thing at a time, please.

ALDBOURNE FOUNDERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The recent correspondence in 'The Ringing World' has brought to light many interesting details of old sets of handbells cast at the Aldbourne Foundry, which appears to have been one of the first, if not actually the first, to produce musical handbells.

But in the correspondence quite a number of conflicting dates have been given which require correction, and I append below a list of the earliest and latest known bells by the various owners of the Aldbourne foundry:—

WILLIAM AND ROBERT COR.

Earliest bell, Berwick Bassett, Wilts, 1694.

Latest bell, Marlborough, Wilts, 1724.

OLIVER COR.

Earliest bell, Chaddleworth, Berks, 1725.

Latest bell, Shalbourne, Wilts, 1727.

JOHN COR.

Earliest bell, Chieveley, Berks, 1728.

Latest bell, Great Bedwyn, Wilts, 1741.

JOHN STARES.

Earliest bell, Boxford, Berks, 1744.

Latest bell, Crawley, Hants, 1746.

EDWARD READ.

Earliest bell, Basingstoke, Hants, 1751.

Latest bell, Blewbury, Berks, 1752.

ROBERTS WELLS I.

Earliest bell, Hemington, Somerset, 1760.

Latest bell, Ashmansworth, Hants, 1780.

ROBERT WELLS II. AND JAMES WELLS.

Earliest bell, Shalbourne, Wilts, 1782.

Latest bell, Havant, Hants, 1799.

(The names Robert Wells and Son occur on the tenor at Hagbourne, Berks, dated 1781.)

JAMES WELLS.

Earliest bell, Ashbury, Berks, 1800.

Latest bell, Bremhill, Wilts, 1826.

Should any of your readers know of earlier or later bells by these founders, it would be of great interest if the details could be published.

There is a bell at Houghton, Hants, cast by William and Robert Cor, dated 1742, but this is an error for 1724.

Launton, Oxon.

FREDERICK SHARPE.

LONDON CHURCHES AND ARCHITECTS

(Continued from page 65.)

mouldings of the period: proportions and outline are good.

The London churches I have mentioned (necessarily in a rather 'sketchy' manner) have for the most part suffered to a greater or less extent during the recent troubled period. No doubt much of the excellent work which has been lost is recorded by photographs, or in the careful drawings of architects and students, so that restoration (or reproduction) is possible, though it might be costly. It is to be hoped that on the return of normal conditions every effort will be made to restore and preserve our 'Queen Anne' and other eighteenth century churches, for as a class they are distinct from any other style of church building we have known. They afford us a valuable object lesson in variety of plan and design, and in excellent construction and workmanship.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6. NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD. — A meeting will be held at Wadhurst on Saturday, Feb. 7th. Handbells and six silent tower bells.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec., 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst, Tunbridge Wells.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Chew Deanery.—The eight bells of Long Ashton will be available (with silent apparatus) from 3 o'clock onwards on Saturday, February 7th. All ringers are welcome and their pleasure assured on bells that go like tops. —Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Longton on Saturday, Feb. 7th, at 3 p.m. Bells available for silent practice and handbells.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 14th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.7, at 3 p.m. The payment of 1s. 8d. to enable those members who have not attended the required number of meetings to vote on matters of finance is now due.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—The branch annual meeting will be held at Rothwell on Saturday, Feb. 14th. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting afterwards.—H. Baxter, Branch Sec., 21, Charles Street, Rothwell, Northants.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Leatherhead District.—The annual district meeting will be held at the Duke's Head, Leatherhead, on Saturday, Feb. 21st. Details next week.—A. H. Smith, Recreation Bungalow, Dorking Road, Great Bookham.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at St. Thomas', Stourbridge (D.V.), Saturday, February 21st, at 3.30 p.m. Bells (8) available for 'silent' practice. Tea 5.15 p.m. Handbells and usual social evening.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

PUBLICATION.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE, Part V. (reprinted from the Berkshire Archaeological Society's Journal, by kind permission of the Society). To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire.. One shilling, post free.

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THE 'CONFERENCE.'

The arrangements for setting up the 'Ringers' Conference' are going ahead, and we publish this week the rules under which the proceedings will be conducted. They are based upon typical regulations which govern the procedure of a local authority, as far as they can be made applicable, but it has to be recognised, of course, that a Conference conducted by correspondence cannot be run in exactly the same way as a meeting at which the speakers are present in person. For that reason certain wider powers have to be given to the Chairman, otherwise it is possible to conceive a situation arising in which the proceedings would come to a standstill.

In relation to these powers given to the Chairman there is one other thing that must be made perfectly plain. It seems to be generally recognised that the Chairmanship must be in the hands of the Editor. Unless this is so the person who acts as Chairman, not being at hand to deal with the contributions as they arrive, would find himself at considerable disadvantage with the risk of discussions hanging fire. The Editor does not seek the office, and if there is any suggestion which would carry the scheme through more conveniently or with greater acceptance to the Exercise we should be glad to hear of it. But in view of the experimental nature of this scheme we think that, although the Chairman is in a sense 'self-appointed,' a trial should be given to this arrangement. In his capacity as Chairman the Editor will do his utmost to conduct the debates on the lines laid down in the rules, but there is always this overriding provision, that as Editor he has and must retain the right of editorial, as distinct from the Chairman's, supervision of what is printed. In a public meeting, if a man commits a slander, the responsibility is his; but if a libel (which as most of our readers know is the distinction between the written and spoken word) is committed, the printers, publishers and editor are alike responsible, and this responsibility cannot be evaded. Therefore, the editor will still hold the responsibility of finally deciding what shall and what shall not appear. Needless to say, this ultimate prerogative will not be exercised except to safeguard the interests of the paper.

The question of voting presents a somewhat difficult problem. There can be no 'show of hands' and yet a good deal of the value of the discussions will be lost if an opinion cannot be taken on any motion, or amendment. Thus it is that we propose to resort to post card votes, and we hope that all our readers will take the opportunity of participating whenever a question is put

(Continued on page 74.)

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to the Conference. The more readers who vote the better will be the guide provided to what ringers think on any subject, and the more weight will the decisions carry if, by any means, future action is possible. It is hoped to make the voting as simple as possible; in most cases by a mere 'Aye' or 'No' on the back of the post card, with the name and address of the sender. Readers who have made up their minds after following the discussions need thus not waste any time in recording their votes, and we hope that this simplification of procedure will lead to the wide expression of opinion to which we look forward. Again we would impress upon ringers that any reader may vote, whether or not they have previously taken part in the discussion concerned.

We have got to the stage now when we are ready to receive motions for the agenda—indeed already they are beginning to come in. We hope they will be numerous and varied so as to provide a diversity of interest. We look forward to the discussions being carried on in a spirit of friendliness and good will, with an absence of personalities and a modicum of humour. While the subjects which will be considered may be serious ones, there is no reason why contributions should not be witty; indeed a witty speech is often the leaven of a dull debate. Brevity is also the soul of wit, and while we hope that those who have something valuable to say will not hesitate to say it (it may later on be found necessary to fix a maximum length to which contributions may go) both short and breezy 'speeches' will be welcomed.

HANDBELL PEALS.

HAVERCROFT, WAKEFIELD, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Friday, February 6, 1942, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,
AT 36, BRIAR LANE,

**A PEAL OF SPLICED PLAIN AND CAINSBOROUGH LITTLE BOB
MAJOR, 5016 CHANCES;**

Tenor size 14 in D.

DANIEL SMITH	...	...	1-2	PETER WOODWARD	...	...	5-6
HAROLD CHANT	...	...	3-4	RAYMOND FORD	...	...	7-8

Composed and Conducted by HAROLD CHANT.

Arranged and rung as a compliment to Raymond Ford, whose birthday was on the above date.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Sunday, February 8, 1942, in One Hour and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANCES;

Seven different callings. Tenor size 14 in E flat.

*JOAN HOULDSWORTH (St. Hilda's)	...	...	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE (New College)	...	...	3-4
*PATRICIA A. SCADDAN (St. Hilda's)	...	...	5-6				

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal. An anniversary peal for the society, founded on February 2nd, 1872.

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FIRE EFFECT ON STEEL GIRDERS.

TOWER MASONRY CRACKED.

Major J. H. B. Hesse, a member of the Towers and Belfries Committee of the Central Council, writes:—

A short time ago I was asked to inspect a peal of bells belonging to a church where all wood work in the church and tower had been completely destroyed by fire caused by incendiary bombs.

The bells were hung in a modern iron frame mounted on steel girders. The heat in the tower must have been very intense. The wooden pads between the crown of the bells and the cast iron headstocks were completely burnt away. The fact that they were protected by the crown of the bells and the headstocks proves the excessive heat.

Owing to this intense heat the steel foundation girders would naturally elongate and when they cooled down again would contract. Therefore, because these girders have anchor plates fitted on all ends, something had to give, and the masonry round the girders has cracked, leaving the girders more or less loose in the tower walls.

The cracks were very difficult to see and might easily be missed if not very carefully looked for in other instances, and that is why I take the liberty of drawing this to the attention of others who may be examining towers with steel girder foundations. Of course, these girders will have to be regouted in.

CHURCHES DAMAGED IN AIR RAIDS.

THE NATIONAL BUILDINGS RECORD.

More than 300 churches in England have been destroyed or seriously damaged by enemy action, and more than 1,200 damaged less seriously. In London 33 churches have been destroyed, 47 have been rendered unfit for use, and 150 have been damaged.

As a result far-reaching proposals for parochial reorganisation after the war were discussed by the Church Assembly which met this week.

In connection with the scheme for making a record of churches and other buildings which might be destroyed in air raids, over 12,000 photographs have already been made for the National Buildings Record. A large part of this work has been done by a team of professional photographers, to-day numbering about a dozen, in London and other places which have suffered severely in air raids: Newcastle-on-Tyne, Liverpool, Leeds, Hull, Birmingham, Coventry, Norwich, Colchester, Bristol, and the South Coast from Dover to Plymouth.

Through the worst of the bombing of London the photographing of City churches and similarly imperilled treasures of architecture went on without respite. The photographer was sometimes just ahead of the bombs, occasionally just too late. The director of the National Buildings Record, Mr. Walter H. Godfrey, whose office is now in All Souls' College, Oxford, recalls how on one occasion he gave instructions overnight for a Wren church to be photographed next morning, but when morning and the photographer arrived the church was no longer there. At other times the photographer obtained pictures a day or so before the bombs fell, and the results survive in the National Buildings Record in pairs of photographs—'before' and 'after'—filed together.

It is the 'before' that is really important, of course, for the purposes of the record. To protect a building at all comprehensively is impossible, but it is not impracticable to make records that will mitigate the loss of it by preserving the design for posterity, if not to serve as a basis for restoration or rebuilding.

THE ESTCOURTS OF PAINSWICK.

A CORRECTION.

Mr. John Austin writes that the reference to William Estcourt's son by Mr. Edgar Shepherd in our issue of January 16th was not quite correct. Mr. A. Estcourt was Mayor of Gloucester from 1895 to 1898, not of Bristol. During his term of office he laid the foundation stone in 1896 of the public library and in 1900 he performed the ceremony of opening it.

'He still took an interest in ringing,' writes Mr. Austin, 'and would often run over to Painswick when he knew we were going for a peal. He honoured us with his presence at the St. Michael's Juniors dinner in 1896 and during the evening rang 5-6 through a course of Grandsire Caters with the brothers James, myself and F. E. Hart. I think that gathering was the prelude to the 10 bells at St. Michael's.'

THE EXPERTS.

A WORD FOR THE OLDER MEN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Smallwood is too hard on the experts. It is quite true that all of them made mistakes and were not infallible, but I never knew that they ever claimed to be so. On the other hand, every ringer has benefited by their work.

Mr. Smallwood refers to Henry Law James, but in ordinary fairness it should be admitted that while James did at times express in rather dogmatic fashion opinions which the Exercise has not accepted, he rarely was at fault when he was dealing with facts. If he did not himself contribute much material to thought, he stimulated thought in others to an almost greater degree than any of his contemporaries; and to him the Exercise mainly owes Spliced ringing on six and eight bells—the greatest development in practical ringing during a century.

Nor has Mr. Smallwood any real cause for feeling 'a little private satisfaction at the confounding of these gentlemen,' and there is little chance of his getting 'even more amusement out of the attempt of the experts to put themselves in the right again.'

To put it bluntly, it is all fudge to say that by composing his peal of Stedman Triples Mr. Slack has done something 'in next to no time' which older men had tried in vain for years to do and had said was impossible. Nor is there anything novel or startling in the fact that he proved his peal before he composed it. It is the sort of thing every competent composer does; and you have only to turn to the writings of Heywood or Bulwer (to say nothing of many articles in 'The Ringing World') to see how it is done.

Mr. Slack's peal is on a plan which men like Heywood, Bulwer and J. J. Parker did not investigate further than was necessary for them to understand the historical development of Stedman Triples composition. And the reason why they did not investigate it was because its disadvantages in their opinion far outweighed any good it might give. Heywood calls it 'a system of composition which has the effect of degrading Stedman Triples to the position of Doubles with two extra bells dodging behind.' He may have been right or wrong in his opinion, but it was quite good enough a reason for neglecting to investigate the possibilities of such a peal as Mr. Slack's.

I have not said that Heywood was 'quite aware of the fact that an equal two-part with only two singles was possible.' I said that so far as I knew he never expressed any opinion on the matter, but I can add now that the knowledge and ability he showed in dealing with composition on the twin-bob plan should convince us that he would not have been baffled by this problem had he thought it worth while to investigate it. He did not do so, but that is no sign of inferiority to any later man who may have tackled the problem. Whatever merits as a composition Mr. Slack's peal may have (and they are many), they will not be increased by belittling the work of older composers, or pretending there has been some revolutionary development of composition which has put the work of old men in the shade.

Mr. Jennings challenges me to produce a two-part peal with only two singles and without these six-bobs sets. I have no intention of accepting his challenge. If I did produce such a peal it would not have the slightest effect on this argument. I know it would be a very difficult job and I can see many obstacles in the way, but I certainly should not like to say that it is impossible.

A lot of fuss has been made about the publication of this peal. If the figures had been printed when it was first composed about four years or so ago, 99 people out of 100 would not have looked at them, and the others would have forgotten all about them by now. One thing 'The Ringing World' has done at least. It has given the peal a good advertisement.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

'THE EXPERTS CONFOUNDED'

A CHALLENGE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In your issue of February 6th there appeared a letter from Mr. J. Frank Smallwood under the above title, and I was much interested in his query about Mr. Morris' 'tapping.' I only met Mr. Morris once and then did not have any conversation with him about his tapping.

However, Mr. Smallwood might like to know that if he will provide a typist I will repeat a 5,056 London Surprise, in and 5th's, for the typist to take down, and the figures could be seen by anyone. Further, I should require the typist to be a non-ringer. Possibly Mr. Smallwood would prefer to write to me privately on the matter. If so, my address is Ward 1, Severalls Hospital, Colchester, Essex.

W. KEEBLE.

HANDLING THE BELL ROPE.

Mr. Charles E. Borrett writes, 'I do not think you were right in saying some weeks ago that it was "traditional" in Norwich to hold the tail end in the right hand. I think it was the other way: George Smith, Palgrave, Fiddament, Thorpe, Freeman and Skinner were all "lefts." I think Fred Knights started the "rights" with nearly all his pupils save Warnes.'

THE BELLS OF LONDON. THEIR ARCHÆOLOGY AND HISTORY.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

The publication of the fifth part of Mr. Frederick Sharpe's 'Church Bells of Berkshire' brings once more to our notice the subject of bell archæology, a subject which, although it lies outside the main interest of most ringers, has for a select few a special and absorbing attraction.

As far back as the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries there are many references in the writings of antiquarians to old and historical bells, but it was not until the middle of the nineteenth that a few men woke up to the fact that all over England in the towers and steeples of towns and villages there were hundreds of bells of great interest and many of them of high antiquity. Those bells were little cared for, and through neglect and misuse their number was diminishing year by year.

In 1847 a little book was published by the Rev. Dr. Alfred Gatty which marks and to some extent created a renewed interest among a section of churchpeople in the bells, the sound of which was so familiar to their ears, but which themselves were so remote and inaccessible. Gatty's book was popular in style and rather slight in texture, and its intrinsic merits are altogether less than its ultimate effect; but it was followed by the writings of a few men who brought real knowledge and learning to bear on the subject.

Two of them may be called the real founders of bell archæology — Henry Thomas Ellacombe and William Charles Lukis—and they, followed by others, began to make a survey of the belfries of the country, to copy inscriptions, and to search out the records of the old founders, with the result that a number of books were published giving details of all the church bells in many of the counties of England. Lukis' 'Church Bells' appeared in 1857; J. A. D. Tyssen's 'Church Bells of Sussex,' the first complete survey of any one county, appeared in 1864; Ellacombe's 'Devon' in 1872, and his 'Somerset' in 1875; Dr. J. J. Raven's 'Cambridgeshire' in 1869, and 'Suffolk' in 1890; L'Estrange's 'Norfolk' in 1874; Thomas North published his 'Church Bells of Leicestershire' in 1876, and in subsequent volumes covered most of the Eastern Midlands; Stahlschmidt's 'Surrey Bells' appeared in 1884 and his 'Church Bells of Kent' in 1887; while the bells of other counties were dealt with by later writers, and especially by Mr. H. B. Waters, whose profession as well as his inclination especially fitted him for antiquarian work of this sort.

The interest of all these men was archæological. The value of a bell to them lay in its age, its inscription, the beauty of its lettering, and the rarity of its founder's work. They were little concerned with a bell as a musical instrument, with the quality of its notes, the purity of its overtones, or the harmonic effect of the whole ringing peal. Some of them dealt very fully with the historical and archæological uses of bells, but for most of them change ringing had scant interest, and when they mention it in their books they do so without much understanding or knowledge.

Ellacombe was to some extent an exception. He was himself a ringer, though he did not progress much further than Grandsire Doubles, and he was keenly interested in ringers, but he cared far more about their

social and moral welfare than about the art they practised. He was a diligent parish priest of the old squire-parson type, and a born archæologist.

It is easy to see why change ringing had few attractions for these men. Between the scholarly, studious antiquarians and the rough unlettered village ringers of the mid-nineteenth century there could scarcely be much sympathy or points of contact. Both classes were interested in bells, but their points of view and modes of thought were utterly dissimilar; the ringers had not sufficient education to understand the things the antiquarians cared for, and the antiquarians quite missed the attraction that change ringing had for the ringers.

Yet these books had indirectly a very profound and lasting effect on the fortunes of the ringing Exercise. It was mainly through them that the clergy began to wake up to the fact that the bells in the steeples were among the most valuable and interesting of the Church's possessions. Interest in the bells led to interest in the ringers, and so the belfry reform movement was greatly strengthened. The actual readers of these books no doubt were few, but they influenced many.

Since the great war the interest in bell archæology has much declined, though Mr. Sharpe's book is a sign that it is by no means dead. The decline no doubt is mainly due to the feeling that most of the work has been done and there is little left for the newcomer. The pioneers were adventurers and discoverers, who when they visited some neglected tower could always hope to come across some ancient bell by an obscure founder. But that is all passed. There are few bells now which are not known and of which the inscriptions have not been copied; but though full surveys have been published of most of the counties there are still some districts where this has not been done and among them is London.

The difficulties which face the man who should attempt to take rubbings of all the bells in the London churches as Ellacombe did in the Devon churches and other men have done in other counties, are so great that one may fairly assert that it will never be done. It is one thing to visit a pleasant country village where the belfry key can usually be readily obtained from the neighbouring parsonage; it is another thing to gain admittance to a London City tower, and when that has been done, not without the expenditure of much trouble, patience and money, the investigator's task is not a very pleasant one. There is dirt in a country bell chamber, especially when the bells have long been neglected (a thing fortunately much rarer than once it was), but the dirt which is the result of the slow disintegration of stone and timber is not unpleasant dirt. The dirt in a London bell chamber is caused by the smoke laden atmosphere of centuries and will not only ruin any clothes, but gives a sense of personal defilement.

And should the enthusiast surmount these difficulties the harvest he will reap for his pains is meagre in the extreme. From an archæological point of view the bells in the London district are perhaps the most uninteresting in England. Except at Southfield and in Westminster Abbey there are none that date from medieval times. The fire in 1666 destroyed those in greater part of the City, and those that survived were afterwards sacrificed to the demand for larger and better ringing peals. There are many fine bells in London and some of the eighteenth and nineteenth century founders were excellent crafts-

men, but the inscriptions they placed on their bells are uninteresting and commonplace to the last degree.

In the country many of the oldest and most valuable (archæologically speaking) of the bells are to be found among the rings of three or five or as single bells; in London the majority of the churches possess but two and those not earlier than the end of the seventeenth century and the beginning of the eighteenth.

But though London presents such a poor field to the bell archæologist, to the change ringer and the historian of ringing her belfries are the most interesting in the country; for nowhere else was there so much development of the art in early times and nowhere else is there so much information available about the bells of past ages. Only this information is widely scattered in scores and even hundreds of places. In the Public Record Office there are the inventories of King Edward's reign which, though not quite complete, give ample information of the numbers of bells in the hundred City steeples of pre-Reformation times. The churchwardens' accounts of many parishes have survived and they tell us much about the bells and something about the ringing. These churchwardens' accounts are not easy to read and a vast amount of patience and knowledge is required in dealing with them, but fortunately a large number have been transcribed and printed, and so are available for use by anyone who has access to such a library as that of the British Museum. In addition much research work has been done in various parishes and information about bells can be found in dozens of books published from time to time relating to the history of different churches. Naturally these books differ very considerably in their quality and authority.

Though no complete collection of the inscriptions of London bells has been published, those of the principal rings have been printed separately at different times and are available to anyone who cares to take the trouble of searching for them. Whether these transcripts are always accurate is a little doubtful and the inscriptions themselves have very little interest.

I have been able to gather together a considerable amount of this information, and the articles which have from time to time appeared in 'The Ringing World' show that though a book on London bells would not compare in archæological interest with those that have been written on the county bells, from other points of view it might equal and perhaps surpass any of them.

EDWARD READ'S FIRST BELL PROBABLY HIS WORST.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I have read with interest Mr. Sharpe's letter concerning bells cast at Aldbourne, Wilts. I would like to point out, however, that Edward Read's first bell, cast in 1751, was recast by Taylors in 1938. This bell, the second in the ring at St. Michael's, Basingstoke, was of very poor tonal qualities, and was probably the worst bell in the tower, which, like East Hagbourne, Berks, also contained specimens of the work of six founders. But, unlike Hagbourne, their work constituted one of the worst peals in the county until the recent extensive restoration, when the front four bells and the tenor were recast.

It is interesting to note that when the founder placed the letters for his inscription in the mould he omitted the letter 'E' from Aldbourne, and afterwards put it in just above the rest. This omission was reproduced when the bell was recast.

That this bell was a very poor one may be accounted for by the fact that it was the founder's first attempt. Perhaps Mr. Sharpe can say if later bells by the same founder showed any improvement, and whether he cast any larger bells or complete rings. This bell weighed about 5 cwt.

C. W. MUNDAY.

A.D.O.S. Staff, R.A.O.C.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

A handbell peal of Bob Minor was rung at New College, Oxford, on Sunday, to celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the formation of the Oxford University Society.

The peal was called by John E. Spice and the others of the band were two young ladies, Miss Joan Houldsworth and Miss Patricia Scaddan, both of St. Hilda's College, who rang their first peal. It was an admirable achievement, as they began ringing only last October.

Miss Houldsworth is 'following in father's footsteps.' Mr. Houldsworth was one of the band at Immanuel Church, Oswaldtwistle, Lancs., who rang many peals in the first twenty years of the present century.

Mr. G. F. Doel, late of Poole, now residing in Salisbury, is in the local infirmary, where he has undergone a serious operation for internal trouble. He is now making satisfactory progress and his friends wish him a speedy recovery.

The first and only peal of Kent Treble Bob Cinques was rung by the St. Martin's Youths at Birmingham on February 1st, 1832.

George Bolland, a leading Yorkshire six-bell ringer, was born on February 2nd, 1852. On the same date in 1872 the Oxford University Society was founded, and seven years later on February 4th, 1879, the Cambridge University Guild was founded by the late Rev. W. C. Pearson.

At Walsall on February 4th, 1861, 10,032 changes of Grandsire Major were rung.

Last Saturday was the seventeenth anniversary of a peal of Stedman Triples rung at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields by a band all of whom were over 6ft. high. They ranged from Mr. Fred Rogers, a mere 6ft. nothing, to Canon G. F. Coleridge, 6ft. 4in.

On February 10th, 1849, the Woolwich band, who were members of the Ancient Society of College Youths and included five of the Banister family, rang 5,376 changes of Superlative Surprise Major, the first true peal of Surprise Major in London.

Just a year later on February 9th, 1850, the St. James' Society rang at Bethnal Green 5,600 changes of the same method. Henry W. Haley conducted and Matthew A. Wood rang the tenor. James Dwight, the ringer of the seventh, died fifty years ago last week.

Four years later, on February 10th, 1854, the St. James' Society rang the first peal of Stedman Cinques on handbells. This also Haley called and Dwight rang 11-12.

The first true peal of Cambridge Surprise Major, Middleton's full composition, 5,600 changes, was rung by Leonard Proctor's band at Benington in Hertfordshire on February 11th, 1873.

On February 12th, 1821, 14,016 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major were rung at Oldham, and on the same date in 1853 William Wakley was born.

The first peal of Kent Treble Bob Caters was rung at Aston by the Birmingham men on February 13th, 1848.

The College Youths rang 7,018 Grandsire Cinques at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on February 14th, 1731. There were three men to the tenor, including Benjamin Annable, who called the bobs. This is not surprising, as the heavy ring of bells was, then hung quite high up in the lofty tower.

On the same date in 1920 the Painswick men rang 13,001 changes of the same method.

Joseph Tebbs, of Leeds, the composer of a famous peal of Stedman Triples on the multi-bob plan, died on February 14th, 1836.

Fifty years ago to-day eight peals were rung. Three were Grandsire Triples, one Grandsire Caters, two Kent Treble Bob Major and one each Doubles and Minor.

Ten years ago to-day 30 peals were rung. They consisted of Grandsire Triples 5, Cinques 2, Stedman Triples 2, Caters 2, Cinques 2, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 2, Cambridge Surprise Major 1, Royal 1, Superlative 1, Bristol 1, London 2, and Minor 8.

Ten years ago to-day Mr. C. H. Kippin rang and called his first peal of Bristol Surprise Major.

MR. W. J. NEVARD. EIGHTY-SIXTH BIRTHDAY.

All our readers will join us in congratulating Mr. William J. Nevard on the attainment of his eighty-sixth birthday, which took place last Sunday.

Mr. Nevard, who was born at Langham in Essex on February 8th, 1856, began his ringing in 1870. His first peal was at Long Melford on February 7th, 1885, and since then he has taken part in about 450 others. He has held various offices in the Essex Association and represented it on the Central Council for many years. Some months ago he had the misfortune to have his house burnt down, and he suffered from a rather severe illness. There is no more popular member of the Essex Association, and we trust he will be spared yet many years.

GERMANY MELTS HER BELLS.

Hans Fritzsche, the Nazi propaganda broadcaster, declared in a broadcast from Berlin last week that every ounce of metal in Germany is being called in, including the church bells, which will serve the country as in the last war.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

RULES OF DEBATE.

What Contributors May and May Not Do.

We publish below the 'Rules of Debate' proposed for the Ringers' Conference. If they seem rather lengthy for such a simple method of discussion it is because we wish that there shall be no disputes as to the rights of those who take part and because we desire the procedure to be adopted to be known from the outset.

It may appear that the Chairman is given more discretionary powers than is sometimes the case at a meeting, but that has been found necessary to meet what would otherwise provoke unavoidable delays or deadlock, and perhaps acrimonious correspondence. The essence of success in this scheme is to keep the discussions flowing freely.

One other thing must be emphasised, and that is that editorial responsibility for what appears in the reports in 'The Ringing World' cannot legally be shelved and, while full scope for the expression of opinion within the limits already indicated will be given, the editor's decision on what is permitted to appear must be final and no correspondence can be entered into on the subject.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Notices of motion should be sent in as soon as possible so that the agenda may be drawn up and published. Each should be accompanied by the names and addresses of the proposer and seconder and forwarded to the address given below.

THE RULES.

1. Every notice of motion shall be sent to the Chairman, The Ringers' Conference, 'The Ringing World' Office, Lower Pyrford Road, Woking, signed by the proposer, and accompanied by the name of the seconder, whose previous consent shall have been obtained.

The Chairman shall have power to reject any motion which he considers frivolous or likely to bring the Conference into disrepute, but the proposer and seconder may request a vote of the subject. No discussion shall take place on the request.

2. No previous notice need be given of amendments, but to facilitate discussion an amendment must be accompanied by the names of the proposer and seconder. Under the same conditions motions to close a discussion may be submitted.

3. The order of the agenda shall be the order in which the notices of motion are received, and any dispute on this point shall be determined by the Chairman in his absolute discretion.

4. When a new subject is to be introduced the contributions to the debate by the proposer and seconder shall be forwarded to the Chairman in order that they may appear in the same issue of 'The Ringing World.'

Every person taking part in a debate shall direct his contribution to the question under discussion or to an explanation or to a question of order.

5. An amendment shall be either (i) to leave out words; (ii) to leave out words and insert or add others; (iii) to insert or add words, but such an amendment shall not have the effect of introducing a new proposal into or of negating the motion before the Conference.

6. If an amendment be rejected other amendments may be moved on the original motion. If an amendment be carried, the motion as amended shall take the place of the original motion and shall become the motion upon which any further amendment may be moved. Not more than one amendment shall be before the Conference at one time, but other amendments may be sent to the Chairman to be held in suspension until the one under discussion has been disposed of.

7. A person shall not make more than one contribution to the debate on any motion, or any amendment, except on (i) a point of order, or (ii) by way of personal explanation (which shall be confined

(Continued in next column.)

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

HALESOWEN RECTOR AND DANGERS OF SILENT BELLS.

A well-attended meeting of the Northern Branch was held at Halesowen on Saturday, January 17th. Good use was made of the handbells and it was gratifying to note the progress made by the young band from St. Thomas', Stourbridge, and particularly of their most recently joined member, Miss Flossie Wright, who, in the space of four months, has graduated to a pair in Grandsire Caters... Unfortunately, the progress of this band will be retarded by the early departure of Messrs. Derek Watson and Raymond Smith, the former for service in the Royal Navy and the latter in the R.A.F.

An excellent tea was provided at the Central Cafe, to which all apparently did full justice.

The quarterly business meeting followed, the chair being taken by the Rev. T. T. Davies, the Rector.

It was decided to hold the February practice meeting at Stourbridge on February 21st. Further meetings up to June were fixed as follows: Dudley, March 14th; Kidderminster, April 25th; Hartlebury, May 23rd; and Hagley Park, June 20th or 27th.

The Rector expressed his pleasure at having such a goodly gathering despite the unfortunate ban on tower-bell ringing, and was delighted to learn that all the meetings were similarly attended. He touched upon the possible adverse effects the ban might have if it endured for any length of time upon youngsters growing up, who had never heard bells rung as they were meant to be rung, and may come to look upon them as harbingers of danger, suffering and misery, instead of the beautiful and inspiring things they are in reality. There were many more efficient methods of invasion warning available without making our churches military objectives.

After the meeting the handbells were again in demand until the time came to adjourn to another rendezvous.

Members were present from Birmingham, Brierley Hill, Glent, Dudley, Stourbridge, Wollaston, Wolverley and the local tower.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

(Continued from previous column.)

to some material part of a former contribution on the same motion or amendment which may have been misunderstood). The ruling of the Chairman on a point of order or on the admissibility of a personal explanation shall be final and not open to discussion.

The foregoing paragraph shall not apply to the proposer of a motion or an amendment in as far as the proposer of a motion shall have a right to reply at the close of the debate upon such motion immediately before it is put to the vote, and if an amendment is proposed the proposer of the amendment shall be entitled to reply at the close of the debate upon the amendment. A member exercising the right to reply shall not introduce new matter.

8. When a motion is under debate no other motion shall be moved except as in paragraph 9, or (i) to amend the motion, (ii) to proceed to the next business, (iii) that the question be now put, but the Chairman shall have discretion as to accepting either of the last two.

9. In the event of either of the last two motions being moved and seconded and accepted by the Chairman, discussion on the next subject on the agenda shall be begun pending a vote on the proposition. Similarly, in order that there may not be undue delays, the debate on the next subject shall be begun, while a vote is taken on a motion or an amendment.

10. Voting shall be by postcard authenticated by the name and address of the sender and shall not be confined to those who have taken part in the debate. Any reader may vote, although he or she has not contributed to the discussion. The time limit for voting will be five days after the announcement that a vote is to be taken, thus postcards must be received by the Chairman by Wednesday in the week following publication.

11. Postcards recording votes and all correspondence relating to the Conference must be sent to

THE CHAIRMAN,
RINGERS' CONFERENCE,
'THE RINGING WORLD' OFFICE,
LOWER PYRFORD ROAD,
WOKING, SURREY.

In any point of dispute not covered by these rules the Chairman's decision shall be final, and he shall also have power, in an emergency, temporarily to vary the rules if it appears to him in the interests of the Conference to do so. He shall also have power to edit or refrain from publishing contributions or parts of contributions which introduce irrelevant matter or overlap other subjects.

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SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

DORCHESTER BRANCH TO 'KEEP GOING.'

Though the towers of old England still stand silent, members of the Dorchester Branch are seeing to it that the tradition of the ancient English art is well maintained as far as possible. This was evidenced at the annual meeting of the branch on Saturday, January 31st.

The ringers of St. Peter's had been working overtime during the previous week to get the silent apparatus in order, and thanks to them and the assistance of Mr. O. C. Vidler, a noted Dorset engineer and archaeologist, the back six of the peal of eight were quite ready for the meeting. As a result the handbells were neglected, for it was the first time any of those present had touched a rope since the ban. Everyone was enthusiastic and anxious to have a pull and to hear how the bells fixed in the belfry were striking.

The service was conducted by the chairman of the district (the Rev. Canon A. W. Markby), who also gave the address, taking for his text Romans x. 18, 'Their sound is gone out into all the earth.' He mentioned that he had received letters from ringers from practically every front, and one stated where he heard 'Big Ben' over the wireless in the desert it gave him quite a thrill.

Some well-known hymns were sung, and the service concluded with the hymn for absent brethren, 'Holy Father, in Thy mercy.'

Tea was served at Major's Cafe and a plentiful supply of food was in evidence.

At the annual meeting, which followed, 35 members were present, the towers represented being Abbotsbury, Bradford Peverell, Dorchester (St. Peter's), Fordington, Maiden Newton, Stratton, Sydling, Upwey, Wool and Wyke Regis. A welcome visitor was Lieut. P. Newington, R.A.F., of Spalding, Lincs. Several apologies for absence were received, the cause in nearly all cases being due to the petrol rations.

The Master of the Guild (the Rev. C. C. Cox) wrote: 'I am sure if we could only be allowed to sound our bells for Sunday services again it would do more than anything to inspire our people to labour for victory.' Mr. Martin Stewart wrote admiring the hon. secretary for endeavouring to carry on the good work of the Guild, while the general secretary (the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards) wrote wishing the members of the branch all success in their activities and desiring emphatically to express his gratification both at the way in which they maintained their interest in the work of the Guild under such adverse conditions.

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The hon. secretary presented his annual report, in which he regretted that the ban is to continue. As far as he could learn, it would not be lifted throughout the duration of the war. The land was thus robbed of the cheerful and encouraging sound of the music of the bells floating over the countryside, particularly for the Sunday services. The activities had been well maintained, three very successful meetings having been held. The call to duty with H.M. Forces and national service had caused a falling off of members and consequently of subscriptions.

He regretted the passing of one of their oldest members and a founder of the branch, Mr. James Orchard, of West Lulworth, who was a member for over 40 years. In the 'Roll of Honour' they had to regret the loss of one of the Wyke Regis ringers, who was killed in H.M.S. 'Barham.' He was a promising ringer, a member of the choir and a server.

They were glad to know, continued the report, that in spite of all difficulties St. Peter's band, Dorchester, met as often as possible for handbell practice, and now the silent apparatus was nearly completed they would carry on with the ropes.

Previous to Armistice Day, a wreath was placed on the branch memorial, to the brethren who gave their lives in the last great war.

Thanks were extended in the report to all those who had entertained the members at the respective meetings, and greetings and all good wishes were sent to all members serving with H.M. Forces with wishes for a safe return home. Lastly, the secretary appealed to the members to throw their whole weight into the fight for Christianity, victory and freedom.

The financial statement was presented and showed receipts of £33 8s. 9d. and expenditure of £14 16s. 3d., leaving a balance in the Post Office Savings Bank of £18 12s. 6d.

Both the report and balance sheet were carried with acclamation, and the best thanks of the meeting were given to the hon. secretary for his continued good work on behalf of the Guild.

A discussion then took place as to whether any further meetings should be held, and it was unanimously agreed to carry on if possible.

The Vicar of Wool invited the branch there in June, and the Rector of Stratton invited them to that village in August. The hon. secretary said if they required another meeting he would do his best to arrange one.

Further discussion then took place on the paragraph in the general secretary's circular, which stated: 'It is felt that while activities of the Guild are suspended, it is not reasonable to demand payment of the members' normal subscriptions, etc.'

Many expressions of opinion were offered, and it was unanimously resolved that, as far as the Dorchester Branch was concerned, the members wish to pay the usual subscription.

(Continued in next column.)

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

WELLINGBOROUGH BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING.

By the co-operation of the Rector (the Rev. R. S. Sleight), the annual meeting of the Wellingborough Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Irthlingborough on Saturday, January 31st. Ringers attended from Wellingborough, Higham Ferrers, Rushden, Wilby, Mears Ashby, Great Doddington, Irchester, Finedon, Earls Barton, Harrold, Turvey, Barton Seagrave, Warkton, Addington and members of the local band.

The Guild service was held in St. Peter's Church during the afternoon and was conducted by the Rector. In welcoming the ringers, the Rector said how much he was looking forward to hearing the peal of eight bells ring out, having as yet never heard them. He was quite sure that never more than now was the work of bellringers more appreciated, for since the ban the cheering voice of the bells had been missed.

The organist was Mr. Donald Cockings, of Harrold, now serving with the Royal Navy. Home on leave, he was asked at the last moment to officiate, and he did so with much credit, as he had never before seen the instrument.

Tea was provided in the Co-operative Hall by the wives of the local ringers. The Rev. J. H. Marlow (Bozeat) presided at the subsequent business proceedings, at which 28 were present. Apologies for absence were received from the Marquis of Northampton, Mr. C. Payne and Mr. E. W. Johnson (auditor).

The next place of meeting was left to the secretary.

Mr. A. W. Lovell, of Great Doddington, was elected an honorary member.

The report and balance sheet for 1941 were accepted with thanks to the secretary.

The officers were all re-elected, viz.: Branch president, the Rev. J. H. Marlow; secretary and treasurer, Mr. A. Bigley; Ringing Master, Mr. J. R. Main; Central Committee, Messrs. G. Basford and A. Plowman; Branch Committee, Messrs. A. Y. Tyler, C. Payne and A. Boddington; auditor, Mr. E. W. Johnson.

A very encouraging letter was read from the Rev. C. F. Westcott, at one time Rector of Wilby and branch president.

A discussion took place concerning Rule 5, whereby members are crossed off the books after two years' arrears, and it was decided to press for an amendment at the forthcoming general annual meeting of the Guild.

Mr. C. Newman proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Rector for the service, to the ladies for the splendid tea, and also to the voluntary organist, who unfortunately could not stay to tea. Handbells provided an alternative to the usual tower bells, but the chief pleasure was meeting old friends once again.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is with more surprise than interest I read of the suggestion to form a National Association of Ringers! it sounds to me like a 'political rebellion.'

What else is our Central Council but 'national'?

'D.'

A FIRST QUARTER-PEAL.

On Sunday, February 1st, at Ridout, Stoke Wake, Blandford, Dorset, a quarter-peal of Grandire Doubles (1,260 changes): Mrs. Joan P. S. Field 1-2, E. T. Paul Field (conductor) 3-4, William E. Trevett 5-6. First quarter-peal 'in hand' by all, and first quarter-peal on an 'inside' bell by the ringer of 5-6.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

(Continued from previous column.)

The Chairman referred to absent brethren and expressed the devout wish that those serving in defence of their country would return home safely. He stated only on the previous Thursday he had 'tied the knot' of their tower secretary, Mr. Jack Smith (now of the R.A.F.), who was home for a few days, and St. Peter's ringers turned out with the handbells.—The members sent the happy couple their best wishes.

The Vicar of Wool (the Rev. A. L. Edwards) and Mr. O. C. Vidler were elected honorary members, and Mr. C. H. Steemson, of St. Peter's, Dorchester, a ringing member.

The Chairman, in referring to the silent apparatus now being installed, said that it would cost from £15 to £20.—The meeting voted £2 2s. from the branch fund towards the fund, and thanks were given to Mr. Vidler and the captain of St. Peter's ringers (Mr. J. Squire) for the way they had worked to get it in readiness for the meeting.

The district officers were re-elected en bloc by acclamation, and the chairman and hon. secretary returned thanks. Both the Ringing Master, Mr. C. Smart, and the Deputy Ringing Master, Mr. P. Tuckwell, are serving with the Forces.

It was reported that Abbotsbury, which usually had nine ringers, had seven members serving with the Forces.

The usual votes of thanks were passed to all who had helped in any way to further the good work of the Guild, and particularly the chairman hon. secretary and Mr. J. T. Godwin, who made the local arrangements.

The happy meeting concluded, the members then adjourned to St. Peter's tower and enjoyed the use of the ropes until late in the evening.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT CHELMSFORD.**

The annual meeting of the South-Eastern District of the Essex Association, held at Chelmsford on January 31st, although not largely attended, was very enjoyable. Handbell ringing and a touch of Kent Major on the silent tower bells preceded the meeting in the belfry under the chairmanship of the District Master, Mr. H. Mansfield, who was again unanimously re-elected to this office.

The hon. secretary, Mr. H. W. Shadrack, and the representatives to the General Committee, Mr. G. Green and Mr. E. Runter, were also re-elected.

Mr. Shadrack reported the death of a life member, Mr. H. Bowers, of Broomfield. Mr. Arnold Bruntun, of Great Baddow, was elected a member.

Some discussion took place regarding meetings, the hon. secretary saying that the biggest difficulty was the catering, especially when it was not certain how many would attend, but all agreed that meetings should be held if possible so that members could meet and renew old acquaintances.

It was finally decided to hold a meeting at Great Baddow in late April or early May, Mr. G. Green undertaking to arrange for tea, and it was hoped that all who can will endeavour to attend and help to keep the association alive and ready to recommence its main activities when ringing can be resumed.

After the meeting the association service was conducted in the Cathedral by the Provost, Canon W. E. R. Morrow, during the course of which he welcomed the ringers once again to the Cathedral. Mrs. Harrison was at the organ.

In the evening several members met at the Spotted Dog, where a room had been engaged, for handbell ringing and 'chatting.'

MEETING AT ROMFORD.

The annual district meeting of the South-Western District of the Essex Association was held at Romford on Saturday, January 31st, and was most successful, about 20 members being present from Brentwood, Prittlewell, Chigwell Row, Leytonstone, Wanstead and Romford. Some of the members took the opportunity of ringing a few touches on the handbells until 4 o'clock, when a service was conducted by the Vicar of Romford, the Rev. E. C. Blaxland, who gave an address and said how sorry he was the members could not adjourn to the tower to carry on the art of bellringing.

The business meeting was held in the vestry, presided over by the Rev. E. C. Blaxland, supported by the District Master, Mr. J. Chalk. A letter was read from Mr. J. H. Crampion, saying that although he could not be present in person, his thoughts were there, and he hoped that the meeting would be a success. During the afternoon the Rev. E. C. Blaxland was made an hon. member of the association.

The acting secretary then gave a report on the activities of the district during the past year, and stated that in spite of the unfavourable conditions, the district had maintained its standard; that two very successful meetings had been held, at Brentwood and Loughton. The district had lost two members during the past year, Mr. Parker, of Barking, and Mr. Perry, of Loughton, who had been members of the association for many years. The secretary further stated that there were about 43 members in H.M. Forces, and on behalf of the district and all present he wished them good luck and Godspeed on their safe return.

It was proposed that the next meeting should be held at Hornchurch, or, in the event of Hornchurch not being available, at Dagenham. Mr. J. Chalk was re-elected District Master for the coming year and Mrs. J. H. Crampion was re-elected district secretary. Mr. G. Dawson and Mr. A. Prior were re-elected as committee members.

Mr. Lufkin, of Prittlewell, stated that he would like to put on record the name of Douglas Smoother, who, only 19 years of age, was killed on active service while serving with the R.A.F. Although not a member of the association, he had been a most keen ringer for three years and would in all probability have been made a member had not the war intervened.

A lengthy discussion then took place with regard to the formation of a National Association, which was strongly opposed.

The meeting concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the Rev. E. C. Blaxland for conducting the service, and for accompanying the hymns; to Mr. Butler for all that he had done, and to those who supported the meeting. Varied touches were rung on the handbells during the evening. During the service a collection was taken for the Bell Restoration Fund, which amounted to 13s.

LONDON MINOR AT GLASGOW.

A London Surprise Minor practice was held at St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, on the silent apparatus on January 31st. The band rang their first courses of the method and a short touch was rung by the following: W. H. Pickett 1, A. J. Smith 2, H. F. Sargent 3, E. Bournfreys 4, R. G. Townsend 5, W. H. Pve 6. This was the first touch of London by the ringers of 2, 3, 4 and 5.

As a matter of interest, the ringer of the 2nd, A. J. Smith, has never rung changes on 'open' bells. He has been taught entirely once the 'ban on ringing,' and can now ring Grandsire, Stedman Triples and Caters. Trouble Bob Major, and Cambridge and London Minor.

**DANGER OF LEAVING BELLS UP.
AN ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE INCIDENT.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should like to express my own personal views on the subject of leaving bells up, founded on practical experience. 'Before' answering the question, let me ask another, 'Why leave bells up?'

One of the most beautiful things in ringing is to hear a ring of bells raised in well-struck peal. Some adopt raising singly, a rather slow and monotonous job. I fancy I hear someone saying, 'All very well for those who have got a handy and easy ring of bells.' This may prompt many to be tempted to leave bells up on 'set,' also there is the racking of the bell ropes where they have to be pulled up by two and sometimes more person, owing to bad clappering, caused by worn crown staples and gudgeons through neglect or oversight, thereby shortening the life of the ropes and causing endless trouble through them breaking by the excessive strain put on them. When bells are left up and are ready for ringing, the effect is much more pleasing to and appreciated by the outside listener than when they are pulled up haphazard before beginning to ring, let us say, for church service. To their mind and ear is not this jangling a very jarring sound? Personally I must plead guilty to having caused the bells to be left up on 'set' many and oftentimes in past years.

Whether the bells should be left up at my own church was definitely once and for all decided through the following incident that took place a good many years ago. It was the harvest festival and we were to ring for the afternoon service, but the ringers, whether they had had too much dinner or, shall I say, a late one, none of them turned up except myself at the appointed time. In the meantime I had gone up among the bells, being doubtful about the clapper of the tenor being on the right side, when to my amazement some of the bells were pulled off. I leave you to guess my feeling as I stood on the bell frame in a precarious position. By putting on a brake of more than human effort I managed to prevent the bell (which was immediately over the exit trap door) from rising to the set and subsequently brought it to a standstill.

Upon descending to the ringing chamber I found a few young lads, including some of the choirboys. Didn't I let them have it! They remember it to this day. Bless them, they didn't mean any harm, but, you see, the Vicar, who did not realise the danger, had sent them up to pull the bells for service. When my wife, also a ringer, told the Vicar what had happened and what the result might have been by his action, he was very much moved and dumbfounded, and was most profuse and sincere in apologies.

No one is now allowed to go up in the tower except by the tower-keeper's permission, and I think you will agree the incident related is a very good reason why bells should not be left up.

Ashton-under-Lyne.

W. W. WOLSTENCROFT.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**WATFORD DISTRICT TO PUBLISH DR. SLACK'S PEAL.**

A very enjoyable meeting of the Watford District was held at Bushey on January 31st.

Mr. R. G. Bell was voted to the chair and interesting discussions ensued on a variety of subjects.

Mr. E. Jennings raised the question of Dr. Slack's peal of Stedman and said that he did not think that any argument would induce 'The Ringing World' to publish the figures, and he suggested that they be sent to 'The Ringing World' as a notice and that a collection be made among members to defray the cost of publication.

A resolution to this effect was put to the meeting and carried. The question of compiling a record of all peal compositions rung by the association was considered, and a proposition that the matter be placed before the County Committee was adopted.

The following resolution was put to the meeting and enthusiastically approved: 'That this meeting extends to the members of the Ancient Society of College Youths an invitation to hold a meeting at Bushey during the summer months on a date to be selected by the Ancient Society.'

The secretary asked for the opinion of the meeting on the resolution from the Western District that the Annual Report of the Association be discontinued for the duration of the war.

It was decided to oppose the resolution. Handbell ringing in a variety of methods was indulged in before and after the meeting.

DR. SLACK'S PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your decision not to publish Dr. Slack's peal of Stedman Triples is, in my opinion, not in the best interest of all concerned. It certainly will not encourage him or anyone else to further investigate the problems of Stedman Triples if what he has already achieved is not to be made available to the majority of ringers, or shall I say readers of 'The Ringing World.' So, Mr. Editor, perhaps you may be persuaded to use another right you have, that is, change your mind and let us have a look at this peal.

Will the correspondents who recently advocated the forming of a National Association give us more information on the following. Is it to be an additional association having no connection with the existing associations, or is it intended to put them all in the melting pot and make them into one?

Cambridge.

E. G. HIRBINS.

ELEMENTARY COMPOSITION.

FOR THE AVERAGE READER.

If you were going to build a wall, you would first of all get together a number of bricks. You would then arrange those bricks in a certain order, and you would join them together by mortar. It might be, that to get the result you wanted, you would have to cut some of the bricks into two pieces, and it might be that in the completed wall half of an original brick was in one place and the other half in another. Or it might be that you would have to throw away a part of a brick and not use it at all.

Something very similar happens when you set out to compose a peal. Instead of bricks you have a number of courses as your material, and these courses are like the bricks in that they are all similar, but all separate; and they can be cut into two or more pieces, and the pieces can be used in different places in the composition.

The course then is the unit of composition. It is what the method supplies, and neither the composer nor the conductor can alter the changes it produces, nor the order in which they occur. All they can do is to decide which courses are rung.

The Plain Course of a method is the one most familiar to ringers, and it is the only one which is ever rung by itself. In Bob Major, for instance, we always start from rounds, and if no calls are made we ring 112 changes and come back to rounds again. Those 112 changes are always the same and they are divided into seven leads. But in theory we need not necessarily start from rounds and ring to rounds again. We could begin with the bells in any other order—Queens, for instance—and if we rang the method, we should produce 112 changes divided into seven leads, and having done so, we should return again to Queens, whence we started. Courses of this sort are occasionally rung on handbells.

When we are pricking changes on paper, and are free from the restrictions and conventions of practical ringing in the belfry, it is just as easy to write out a course from a row like 16423578, or 14523678, or any other, as it is to write one out from 12345678; and the course we then produce is exactly similar to the Plain Course in every way, except that it consists of different rows. Although in actual practical ringing the Plain Course is the only one which ever appears by itself, for the purposes of composition any block of 112 changes produced from any row by Bob Major or any other method, without the aid of bobs or singles, is a separate and independent course. Such a course is called a Natural Course, to distinguish it from the courses produced by a combination of plain and bobbed leads.

Now, in a method like Bob Major (and we shall confine our remarks for the present to that method) it is usual to ring touches and peals without altering the relative positions of the seventh and tenor. The seventh always courses next after the tenor and turns it from the front or from behind. This keeping the tenors together, as it is called, is for the sake of the music, but it also simplifies to a great degree the question of composition. These two bells form what are called the observation bells and their work supplies the backbone of the structure of the composition.

Last week we pointed out that the Plain Course (and similarly every Natural Course) is a round block and properly has neither beginning nor end; but for con-

venience we generally assume a Natural Course as beginning and ending with a row we call the course-end, just as in actual practical ringing the Plain Course begins and ends with rounds. We must not, however, forget that this is no more than a convenience, and we shall find that not seldom when in any composition a full Natural Course appears, its course-end comes in the middle of it. This will create no difficulty if we get firmly into our minds the fact that every Natural Course is a round block and the calling one particular row in it the course-end is only a convenience.

Which row we call the course-end is decided by the position of the two tenors; it is the row when they are both in their home positions while the treble is leading. Since these three bells are always in the same positions, it is usual, when writing down a course-end, to assume them and to omit them from the figures. Thus we say that the course-end of the Plain Course is 23456, which stands for 12345678; and, similarly, if we wrote down 64235 as a course-end, that would stand for 16423578.

As we just remarked, whenever we start from rounds and ring the Plain Course of Bob Major, we always ring the same changes. In the same way, if we select any other course-end and prick down a Natural Course, it must always be the particular set of rows which belongs to that course-end. There can never be any variation from this, and that enables us to use the course-end as the signature of the whole Natural Course, as its title, and the means by which we can identify it. When we speak, for instance, of the course 64235 we mean the whole 112 rows which would be produced if we pricked a full course from the row 16423578.

This method of using Natural Course Ends as the signature of the whole Natural Course is a very great help in composition. It was introduced by John Reeves in the 'Clavis' which appeared as far back as 1788, but its full possibilities were not discovered until much later when Sir Arthur Heywood used it and recommended it to the Exercise generally in his book on 'Duffield.'

In Bob Major there are 120 rows in which the treble and the two tenors are in their home positions, and consequently there are 120 rows which can act as course-ends. Half of these are even or in-course, and half of them are odd or out-of-course, but we will not bother about that for the moment.

Now, if we were to sit down and from each of these course-ends prick a Natural Course, we should have 120 separate and independent round blocks which together would contain 13,440 changes, the full extent of the method with the tenors together. We happen to know, too, that there is no row which appears twice in the 120 Natural Courses; the whole set is true, though, of course, it is not a composition but a group of independent units.

How we know there is no repetition of rows does not for the minute concern us. We can take it as a matter of fact that the 120 Natural Courses of Bob Major, Double Norwich Court Bob Major and similar methods are true. We shall find that there are methods where this is not so, and that introduces further complications into the question of composition.

These 120 Natural Courses form our stock of bricks from which we can build our wall. They are all good,

(Continued on next page.)

NOTICES.

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

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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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 on Saturday, Feb. 14th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.7, at 3 p.m. The payment of 1s. 8d. to enable those members who have not attended the required number of meetings to vote on matters of finance is now due.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—The branch annual meeting will be held at Rothwell on Saturday, Feb. 14th. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting afterwards.—H. Baxter, Branch Sec., 21, Charles Street, Rothwell, Northants.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at St. Thomas', Stourbridge (D.V.), Saturday, February 21st, at 3.30 p.m. Bells (8) available for 'silent' practice. Tea 5.15 p.m. Handbells and usual social evening.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, Feb. 21st. Eight silent tower bells available from 3 o'clock. Service at 4.45. Tea and business meeting following at 5.30 at the Duke's Head. Will those requiring tea please send notifications to Mr. G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, as early as possible? Handbells also available, and everybody will be welcome.—A. H. Smith, Dis. Hdn. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at the Corn Exchange, Spalding, on Saturday, Feb. 21st. Service at Parish Church 3.30 p.m. Tea at 4.15 p.m. Will those intending to come to tea please let me know **before** Tuesday, Feb. 17th?—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glen-side, Pinchbeck.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at The Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, on Saturday, Feb. 28th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. All welcome.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kington District.—A meeting will be held at Eardisland on Saturday, Feb. 28th. Bells (6, silent) and handbells available 3 p.m. Service 4.45. Tea 5.15. Business after tea. Please advise me by Tuesday, 24th, the number to expect for tea.—J. C. Preece, Dis. Sec., Lea Lodge, Staunton-on-Arrow, Leominster.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The 54th annual Henry Johnson Commemoration will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 7th. Owing to prevailing conditions this will be a luncheon to commence at 1.30 p.m. prompt, Vice-Presi-

dent, Albert Walker, Esq., 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 28th. Apply T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

BIRTH.

POWELL. — On Saturday, Jan. 24th, at Victoria Cottage, Lyme Regis, to Laura, wife of Cuthbert W. H. Powell, a daughter (Hilary).

PUBLICATION.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE, Part V. (reprinted from the Berkshire Archaeological Society's Journal, by kind permission of the Society). To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire. One shilling, post free.

ELEMENTARY COMPOSITION.

(Continued from previous page.)

sound bricks, and we need not fear to use any one of them if we need it and provided it will fit into the place where we want it. We could, if we chose, compose by cutting the paper on which the Natural Courses are written into 120 pieces and fitting the pieces together like a jig-saw puzzle, or like the bricks in the wall. In effect that is what we do when we compose a peal, but we get the same results by rather less laborious means.

The other day a correspondent in 'The Ringing World' made some fuss about the work of another person who had proved a peal first and composed it afterwards, and he suggested (why was not very clear) that such a method of working would not be approved by 'experts.' Well, that is just what we should be doing if we selected any of the Natural Courses from those we had written out and joined them together by bobs and singles. We make sure before we begin to build that our bricks are good, sound bricks and our mortar is good mortar. We do not build first and then get somebody to lean against the wall to find out if he can push it over.

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RULES AND REGULATIONS.

What authority will attach to any resolutions passed by the projected Ringers' Conference? This question has been asked, and Mr. Malcolm Melville suggests that unless such resolutions are accepted as laws binding ringers in general, the discussions will be no more than just something to amuse us for the duration of the war and when it is over will be completely forgotten.

The obvious and only proper answer is that the Central Council is the constituted and recognised legislative body of the Exercise, and that nothing agreed to by the Conference is intended to bind the Council formally, or can do so. However successful the Conference may turn out to be, and we hope it will be very successful, it cannot be more than a temporary expedient to tide over abnormal times. It lacks the authority which belongs to a properly representative and elected body, and it was never intended that it should usurp functions which rightly belong to the Central Council.

That should be made quite clear, but it by no means follows that the debates by the Conference will be merely temporary amusement, and will have no permanent value. In our opinion, though it will be well to sum up the arguments on any particular motion and to take a vote, the real value of the discussion will lie not in the results arrived at, but in the increase of knowledge, the stimulation of interest, and the broadening of vision which will accompany the exchange of views and the ventilation of opinion.

The same thing we firmly believe is true of the Central Council itself. It has been stated, and we fully agree, that the real value of that body lies not so much in any resolutions it has passed, but in the fact that it exists; and though the Conference must not challenge its authority in any resolutions it may pass, it may fully share in its work of keeping alive the spirit of the Exercise and the interest in the art of change ringing. After all those are the things that matter most.

Rules and regulations are made for the Exercise, not the Exercise for rules and regulations, and we shall do well to remind ourselves now and again what place laws have in our art. There once was, and to some extent still is, a tendency to think that a number of rules have been laid down by some indefinite authority to forbid ringers to do certain things which otherwise by ignorance or perversity they would do. They must not ring certain classes of methods, they must not have other than certain calls in their peals—these things and many more they must not do, and when they asked, as some did ask, why they must not, they were in effect

(Continued on page 86.)

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told that authority had so decided and authority must be obeyed. But that is not the right way to look at the matter. No rule of change ringing is primarily intended to forbid a ringer to do anything. No rule, that is, except those which are really ordinary rules of common morality adapted to peculiar circumstances, such as, for instance, the rule that you must not say you have rung a true peal when actually you have rung a false one. But most of the rules are codified expressions of the accumulated experience of the Exercise and the knowledge of its leading members. The rules do not really say you must not do this or that; but, if you want to get the best out of ringing you will not do this or that; and the Council from its position of authority can say: Since it is our business to foster and maintain a high standard in ringing, if you do do this or that, we shall ignore your claims to have rung a peal, and we shall expect others ringers to do the same.

Perhaps it will be said that this comes to the same thing. But it does not. The Council's action would be of no avail unless it were supported by the active and conscious assent of the best opinion in the Exercise. It is in that opinion that the real authority ultimately lies, and the Council does no more than foster, guide, and give expression to it. Any ringer or any body of ringers may take a share in the development of opinion on which ultimately rules are based, and this will be the real function and value of the Conference.

The same thing applies to all the questions which arise regarding the many activities of the Exercise. They may not be subject to such definite regulation as the actual art of change ringing itself, but rules of conduct and procedure have been and are being evolved by accumulated knowledge and experience, and the more the results of this knowledge and experience are made available the better it is. Moreover, nothing better helps that sense of unity and brotherhood, which is perhaps the highest possession of the Exercise, than the free and wide exchange of opinion.

WEDDING OF MR. C. ERNEST SMITH.

The marriage of Mr. Christopher Ernest Smith, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Smith, of Godalming, and a prominent member of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, to Joan Mary, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Herrington, Minsted, Peperharow Road, Godalming, took place at Godalming Parish Church on February 14th.

The bride, who was given away by her father, carried a bouquet of yellow orchids and was dressed in a short honey-coloured suede crepe dress with nigger brown accessories.

The Vicar, the Rev. H. E. Hone, conducted the service, and Dr. Hunt was at the organ. The music was the Bridal March and Wedding March with two hymns, 'The Voice that breathed o'er Eden' and 'Love divine, all loves excelling.' There was a large congregation, including ringing friends.

The reception at The Refectory, Milford, was attended by about sixty guests.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Smith afterwards left for a few days' honeymoon in London. Over 70 presents were received. The bride is on the staff of the Cornhill Insurance Co., Shalford. Mr. C. E. Smith is a member of the band of ringers at Godalming Parish Church and Ringing Master of the Guildford District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild.

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HANDBELL PEALS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Tuesday, February 10, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

At ST. BARNABAS' SENIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in E flat.

ELEANOR J. MACNAIR (Somerville) 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE (New College) 5-6
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE (St John's) 3-4	*JOAN HOULDSWORTH (St. Hilda's) 7-8

Composed by H. J. HOWLETT.

Conducted by J. E. SPICE.

* First attempt for a peal on eight bells. First peal of Major for the society.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY
AND THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY GUILD.

On Saturday, February 14, 1942, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

At New College,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in D flat.

WILLIAM L. B. LEESE (St. John's College, Oxford) 1-2	
KENNETH S. B. CROFT (St. John's College, Cambridge) 3-4	
JOHN E. SPICE (New College, Oxford) 5-6	
*PATRICIA A. SCADDAN (St. Hilda's College, Oxford) 7-8	

Composed by E. M. ATKINS (St. Catharine's College, Cambridge).

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal on eight bells. The first joint peal by the two University Societies.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Sunday, February 15, 1942, in One Hour and Forty-Seven Minutes,

At New College,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings. Tenor size 15 in D flat.

G. BROMLEY (St. Catherine's) 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE (New College) 3-4
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE (St. John's) 5-6	

Conducted by WILLIAM L. B. LEESE.

First peal as conductor.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, February 15, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

At II, EXTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores in ten different callings.

*MISS JESSIE C. CHICK ... 1-2	MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4
FRANCIS S. WILSON 5-6	

Conducted by MRS. F. J. MARSHALLSAY.

* First peal. First peal of Doubles as conductor. Miss Chick was elected a member of the Guild before starting. Mr. Wilson has now rung peals of Doubles, Triples and Caters on handbells.

DEATH OF MR. THOMAS JENNION.

The Liverpool Exercise has suffered yet another loss through the passing away of Mr. Thomas Jennion, who for many years was a ringer at Grassendale. He had rung 44 peals for the Lancashire Association, of which he had been a member since 1909.

Mr. Jennion for the last two or three years had had very indifferent health and his death in hospital was not unexpected. He was an excellent ringer and staunch friend, and his loss will be mourned by those who knew him. He was a widower, his wife having predeceased him, but has some grown-up children, to whom sincere sympathy is extended.

DEATH OF MR. G. F. DOEL.

We regret to learn that Mr. G. F. Doel, to whom reference was made in last week's Belfry Gossip, passed away on Saturday last. He had a relapse necessitating another operation, from which he failed to recover.

The interment took place at the London Road Cemetery on Wednesday, and the Rev. H. H. Bloomfield, Rector of St. Martin's, conducted the service. Mr. Doel leaves a wife and two sons. He had been a member of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild for a number of years.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

The Lewisham District of the Kent County Association held a very successful meeting at Holy Trinity, Dartford, on Saturday, January 31st.

Some useful practice was obtained on the tower bells during the afternoon, under the direction of Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., and, despite tied clappers, bad striking did not escape the lynx-eyed conductors. Touches in the standard methods were brought round in creditable style, but 'London' defeated the best efforts.

Tea, of which 20 ringers from Chelsfield, Chislehurst, Crayford, Dartford, Erith, Penge and Balham partook, was served in Sutton's Hall, the local band being the generous hosts. The Vicar, the Rev. Canon Elliott Mitchell, presided and gave the members a warm welcome to Dartford.

The business meeting followed, the Vicar in the chair. The Chairman called on the members to congratulate their Ringing Master, Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., on the completion of 50 years' membership of the association, accomplished on Christmas Eve, 1941. Members responded with a will.

Correspondence between the secretary of the association and Government officials concerning the exclusion of bells from the war damage insurance scheme without premiums was read and commented upon. It was agreed that no useful purpose could be served by pursuing the matter any further at present.

Beckenham was provisionally selected as the place for the April meeting.

Mr. E. Barnett read an airgraph he had received from Mr. Pat Murphy, serving in the Middle East, and Mr. J. Bailey gave news of Mr. Derek Sharpe, whose remarkable experience in an aeroplane mishap had been reported in 'The Ringing World.'

The secretary was instructed to convey the meeting's congratulations and good wishes to Mr. E. A. Barnett and Miss Hairs on their engagement and to Mr. Derek Sharpe on his thrilling escape.

The proposed postal conference to be conducted by 'The Ringing World' was then discussed, and it was agreed to support the scheme in all possible ways as a very promising field of activity.

Mr. A. A. Jenkins asked for early consideration to be given to arranging a plan to ensure that all towers in the district have their ropes manned on occasions, as otherwise he thought that bands would be so depleted for a long period that the chances of a general revival would be much impaired. At the suggestion of the chairman, Mr. Jenkins undertook to prepare a draft scheme to form a basis of discussion at the April meeting.

Mr. E. Barnett moved a cordial vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells and for presiding at tea and meeting; to the Dartford ringers for their generous hospitality, and to Mr. R. A. Jenkins for his arranging of a very pleasant meeting, and it was carried with applause.

WAR-TIME 'RINGING WORLD'—AND AFTER.

To the Editor.

Sir,—From the very flattering comments you are getting from all parts of the country, the Ringers' Conference appears to be going to meet a very great need. The added interest to the readers of 'The Ringing World' will be enormous. To me 'The Ringing World' in its present form is more interesting than it has ever been since its publication, and I have subscribed to it from No. 1. And this opinion is being endorsed every week in the correspondence columns.

Unfortunately in my opinion it has taken a war for us to have a really interesting paper. Before the war, as Mr. Street so aptly puts it, it was more or less a catalogue of peals. I dread to think that after the war (and God grant that it may end quickly) we may have to return to pre-war type paper.

This brings me to my point. I have always maintained that the publishing of peals should be paid for. The conductor of a peal should, say, collect 3d. from each ringer and send the money with peal for publication. I can hardly think that any decent principled ringer would object to this small fee. The extra money thus brought in perhaps may be the means of retaining the peals and the interesting articles, etc., we have been getting lately could. Could this be debated through the Ringers' Council?

Your serious illness must have brought home to all seriously minded ringers the debt of gratitude we owe to you for our ringing paper. I hope that you will continue still to make progress to a complete recovery and that you may be spared to us for many years.

'CORNUBIA.'

DEATH OF WOKING RINGER.

The death occurred on February 1st at Woking War Hospital of Mr. Frank Powell Foot, at the age of 77, after a short illness. Mr. Foot was born at Collingbourne Ducis and was for many years a member of the church choir and bellringer at St. Andrew's, Collingbourne. After the death of his wife he went to live at Woking with his daughter and was a regular member of St. Peter's Parish Church and a bellringer there for many years.

The funeral was at St. Peter's, Old Woking, on Wednesday, Feb. 4th, and was conducted by Canon Askwith, who paid high tribute to the late Mr. Foot. Many floral tributes were received, including one from his fellow bellringers.

THE BELLS OF LONDON.

(Continued from page 77.)

SOME EARLY USES.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

London in the Middle Ages was pre-eminently a city of churches. Within the small area of the City there still remained, until the fire of 1666, one hundred and seven parish churches besides St. Paul's Cathedral, and a century earlier there were, in addition, numerous chapels belonging to hospitals and monastic houses, and seven great conventual churches.

Old St. Paul's was one of the largest churches in the world, 720 feet long, 130 feet wide, and 150 feet high, with a central tower and spire 520 feet high. What St. Bartholomew's Priory and the church of the Augustine Friars were like we may judge from the remains that still exist, or, in the latter case, did exist until recent air raids. At Aldgate was the wealthy Holy Trinity Priory, which might still have been standing as a parish church if the people of St. Katherine's, Creechurch, had not feared that in accepting it as a gift they would be running the risk of incurring unknown liabilities. The Grey Friars church did become a parish church, but perished in the fire. St. Martin-le-Grand and the church of the Black Friars were pulled down in the sixteenth century.

Since the parish churches were so numerous, many of them were sure to be small and insignificant, but there were also wealthy parishes where the churches were large and magnificent, even if none of them quite equalled the greatest in the provincial towns, such as St. Mary Redcliffe at Bristol, St. Michael's at Coventry, or St. Peter Mancroft, at Norwich.

The last part of the fifteenth century, which saw the introduction of the Perpendicular Gothic style of architecture, was a great time of church building in England. The English parish churches, as a whole, are unequalled in Europe and many of the most magnificent date from a few years before or after the year 1500, and probably most of the larger London churches were rebuilt or reconstructed at that time. Examples of them remain in St. Andrew's, Undershaft, St. Margaret's, Westminster, and (until recently) St. Giles', Cripplegate, and they give a good idea of what others were like.

All of them, large and small, had towers and ringing bells; for one bell at least was a necessary adjunct to every church in the Middle Ages, and no parish which could afford more was content with only one.

In the Middle Ages bells played a very important part in the ordinary life of the people, and we must realise that before we can understand how the birth of such a thing as change ringing became possible. The churches were full of elaborate and costly fittings, but the most costly and probably the most prized by the laity were the bells.

The uses of bells may roughly be divided into three kinds—liturgical, social and civic. The liturgical uses included such things as the sanctus bell rung in the service of the Mass, the ringings at processions, funerals and obits, and (so far as it was done) for the Angelus. The social uses included ringing to celebrate victories or other rejoicings, to mark the visits of kings, bishops and other great persons, and at weddings and the like. The civic use was by order of the magistrates and was part of the government of the city.

This latter use went back to very early times. Not only in England, but all over Christendom every town had a communal bell which was rung to call the citizens together for meetings connected with the civil government. Stow says that the common bell belonging to the City of London was in olden times hung in a clochiard or bell tower, which stood in the north-east part of St. Paul's churchyard and was rung to call the people together for their folke-motes. What his authority for the statement was we cannot say. The earliest extant account of any civic use of bells is an order in the reign of King Edward I. relating to the curfew at St. Martin-le-Grand, but bells had been rung for civic purposes centuries earlier.

St. Martin's was a large conventual church which stood not far from the north-east corner of St. Paul's. Strype says it had a great bell which could be heard at a great distance, and so was used to give the citizens warning of the time of night and to keep within doors. Probably for some reason the bell in the clochiard could no longer be used and the bell in the neighbouring church was substituted. There is still a survival of the use of this bell in the tolling of the great bell of St. Paul's by the order of the civic authorities on the death of the sovereign or the Lord Mayor.

The bell at St. Martin's set the time, but curfew had to be tolled at every parish church in the City. 'On Wednesday next before the Feast of Pentecost in the 10th year of Edward I. (A.D. 1282) the underwritten ordinances were made. At each parish church curfew shall be tolled the same hour as at St. Martin's and ending at the same time, and then all gates as well as taverns, whether for wine or ale, shall be closed, and no one shall walk the streets or places.'

The following, although not dated, belongs to about the same time: 'Articles confirmed by the lord the King touching the state of the City, and the street observances of the place, which articles are signed with the Great Seal of the King. Whereas murders, robberies and homicides have in time past been committed in the City by night and day, it is forbidden that anyone walk the streets after curfew tolled at St. Martin-le-Grand with sword, buckler, or other arm, unless he be a great lord or other respectable person of note or their acknowledged retainer bearing a light. No taverner to keep his tavern open for wine or beer after curfew nor admit anyone into his tavern unless he be willing to answer for the King's peace, etc.'

In 1321 it was ordered that the main city gates were to be closed at sunset while the wickets were to be kept open until the curfew rung at St. Mary-le-Grand, and not to be reopened until the first bell be rung at St. Thomas de Acon. This was a church in Cheapside and is represented to-day by the Mercers' Chapel.

These orders were repeated several times in following years; in 1352 with the addition that no one was to wander about the city by night with a mask or with his face covered. In 1362 and 1369 the bell at St. Mary-le-Bow (our Lady of the Arches) is mentioned instead of that at St. Martin-le-Grand, and in 1370 and 1376 four churches in four parts of the City—St. Mary atte Bowe, Berkyngeschurche in Tower Ward, St. Bride's, and St. Giles' without Cripple-gate—are appointed to set the time.

This continued to be the custom for a very long time, and an incomplete entry in one of the letter books of the City Corporation dated April 22nd, 9th Edward IV. (A.D.

1469), refers to an ordinance of the Common Council to the effect that it hath been of old accustomed for the peace of the City and keeping due time at night for the great bell called Bowbell, and the bells of the churches of All Hallows, Berkynge, St. Giles' without Crepelgate, and St. Bride's in Flete Street to be struck at the accustomed hours.

Twenty-six years later, the Lord Mayor, Sir Henry Colet, gave directions to the Quest of Wardmote that if any parish clerk rang curfew later than at these four churches he was to be reported.

The ringing of the curfew was thus originally an order to the citizens to keep within doors, but it was continued because it was a convenient means of letting people know the time of day, and so long as it remained a convenience it was still rung, and after that it gradually lapsed; though in a few places the use lingered on till modern times.

In London the use was gradually superseded as churches were one after another supplied with clocks that struck the hours. These clocks were becoming fairly common by the middle of the sixteenth century, but the early morning and evening bells were still rung from many steeples at the beginning of the next century and for long after. Apparently both were called the curfew, for, in 'Romeo and Juliet,' Shakespeare makes old Capulet, who had been up all night, say, 'The second cock hath crow'd, the curfew bell hath rung, 'tis three o'clock.'

In the year 1844 a writer said that the curfew was in London a practice then confined to four or five East End churches, St. George's-in-the-East, Spitalfields, St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, and St. Leonard's, Shoreditch.

Four years later, in the 'Proceedings of the British Archæological Association of 1848,' three City churches were said to have continued the custom—St. Edmund, King and Martyr; St. Michael, Queenhithe; and St. Antholin's, Budge Row. In the previous year it had been discontinued at St. Mildred's, Bread Street, by order of the Vestry. The last three churches no longer exist.

Dr. Edwin Freshfield, writing in 'Archæologia' in 1880, said that he remembered three churches in London where the early bell was rung at five o'clock and was called the apprentices' bell.

ESSEX VETERAN'S BIRTHDAY.

As an 86th birthday compliment to Mr. William J. Nevard, a 720 of Grandsire Doubles was rung on five 'silent' bells at St. Mary Magdalene's, Thorington, on Saturday, February 7th: Geoffrey Andrews 1, Alan R. Andrews (conductor) 2, William J. Nevard 3, Harry J. Millatt 4, George A. Andrews 5. It had been intended to ring Minor, but the company met short. Mr. Nevard's first peal was a 'birthday peal' for him. It was one of Bob Major at Long Melford in 1885. Mr. F. Pitstow and Mr. Nevard are the only survivors of the company.

BROKEN SALLY SPOILS 720.

On Saturday, January 24th, five members of Rochdale Branch made the journey to Friezland Church for a tower-bell practice. They were met there by Mr. Harry Nutt, who had previously spent much time and patience in installing an apparatus which operated hand-bells in the ringing chamber. Bad weather conditions had affected the ropes considerably and made the bells rather difficult to handle. Eventually it was decided to attempt a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, to be conducted by Operator-Telegraphist Harry Byrom, R.N., who was on leave. Unfortunately, this came to grief after about 15 minutes' ringing, owing to the third rope sally breaking clean through the centre. Buses and trains having to be caught left no time for a further attempt.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The Editor (Mr. J. S. Goldsmith) is progressing slowly, but is still confined to bed. He desires to thank warmly the many friends who have written to convey their sympathy, which has been much appreciated, and to inform inquirers that his present illness has no relation to that of a year ago.

Anyone who knows anything about the present whereabouts of a set of ten handbells which belonged to the late Challis F. Winney is asked to communicate with Mr. H. M. Page at 47, Harbord Street, Fulham, London, S.W.6.

The handbell peal of Bob Major which is reported in this week's issue is the first peal by a joint band of the Oxford and Cambridge University Guilds, but not the first scored by members of the two universities. On March 10th, 1877, seven members of the O.U.S.C.R., assisted by C. A. W. Troyte, of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, rang Holt's six-part peal of Grandsire Triples, conducted by F. E. Robinson. This was two years before the Cambridge University Guild was founded.

On February 16th, 1858, the Painswick band, by ringing 8.448 changes of Stedman Cinques, beat the record (7,524) set up by the College Youths at St. Giles', Cripplegate, seven years earlier.

The only peal of Imperial the Third Major accomplished outside Norwich was rung by the Soham men on February 17th, 1800.

On the same date in 1836 the ring of twelve bells at Christ Church, Spitalfields, was destroyed by fire.

The College Youths rang 10,000 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch on February 18th, 1777. It was one stage in the famous long peal contest between the College Youths and the Cumberlands.

The second peal of Stedman Cinques ever rung was scored by the College Youths at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on February 18th, 1792.

Nathan J. Pitstow died on February 18th, 1914, at the age of 67.

Henry W. Haley was born at Bethnal Green on February 19th, 1819.

Today is the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the Oxford University Guild.

Mr. W. H. Barber rang and called a peal of Stedman Triples blindfolded at Gateshead on February 21st, 1908.

Fifty years ago to-day seven peals were rung. They consisted of Bob Triples 1, Stedman Triples 2, Kent Treble Bob Major 2, Royal 1, and Minor 1.

Ten years ago to-day 25 peals were rung. They consisted of Stedman Triples 2, Caters 1, Cinques 1, Bob Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 2, Royal 3, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1, Double Oxford Bob Major 1, Cambridge Surprise Major 2, Superlative 2, Norfolk 1, Bristol 1, London 2, and Minor 5.

MR. A. PADDON SMITH.

The Lord Chancellor has recently added twenty names to the Commission of the Peace for the City of Birmingham, and among them is Alfred Paddon Smith, of Handsworth. The new J.P. is already a member of the City Council and his many friends will congratulate him on his latest honour.

Councillor Paddon Smith, who for 20 years was the hon. secretary of the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham and its representative on the Central Council, was recently elected Master of the Guild in the place of the late Alderman J. S. Pritchett.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

There was little formal business to be transacted at last Saturday's meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths, but a very pleasant and harmonious gathering was enjoyed by about two dozen members, who were pleased to welcome as visitors Mr. C. T. Coles and Mr. E. A. Barnett. Among those present, in addition to the Master, the hon. treasurer and the secretary, were Messrs. E. A. Young, G. N. Price, C. W. Roberts, M. F. R. Hibbert, R. Stannard, G. M. Kilby, E. Barnett, H. Hoskins, D. Cooper, C. Potheary, F. E. Collin, C. C. Mayne, H. G. Miles, E. Hartley, R. F. Deal, R. G. Spiers, and C. H. Kippen, members of H.M. Forces, Pte. H. Thompson and Aircraftman K. Arthur.

An invitation was received from Mr. Harold G. Cashmore, the hon. secretary of the Watford District of the Hertfordshire Association, to hold a meeting at Bushey in the summer. The invitation was cordially accepted, and June 27th fixed as the provisional date.

A new member, Mr. Russell G. Spears, of Kingsbury, was elected.

The Master said that his brother had received an airgraph from Mr. Harold Warboys from somewhere in the East. He said he had made a set of handbells from Italian steel helmets and was teaching a band to ring Grandsire Triples.

Mr. F. R. Hibbert brought greetings from Mr. Francis Smith, of Watford, and Mr. C. W. Roberts brought greetings from Mr. Wilfred Williams.

The next meeting will be on February 28th at Whitechapel Bell Foundry, E.1, at 3 p.m.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY. SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED. Lady Members Make Prospects Good.

The activities of the Oxford University Society, founded just 70 years ago, and never very quiescent nowadays, were brought to 'concert pitch' last week-end on the occasion of the annual lunch, which was held on Saturday, February 14th, at the City Restaurant, where, despite war-time restrictions, the members and visitors were catered for in excellent style. Thirty-one guests and members sat down to the lunch. The former were the Master (Mr. Roger Leigh, St. Catharine's College, Cambridge) and the secretary (Mr. Kenneth S. B. Croft, St. John's College, Cambridge), of the Cambridge University Guild, the secretary of the Oxford Society (Mr. V. Bennett), Miss Marie R. Cross and Mr. William C. Porter, both of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. The president of the society (the Rev. C. Elliot Wigg, Keble), with whom was Mrs. Wigg, was supported by Mr. H. Miles, Dr. R. Emlin Havard, the Rev. R. Milford, the Dean of New College, the Rev. J. P. Pelloe, Mr. G. Bromley, the Master, the secretary, the treasurer, etc.

After lunch a course of Grandsire Caters, followed by a course of Bob Royal, was rung on handbells before an appreciative audience. The ringers were Eleanor J. Macnair, Joan Houldsworth, Pat Scaddan, John E. Spice and William L. B. Leese.

The President then welcomed the guests, saying how pleased he was that the Cambridge University Guild was represented. He announced that Mr. J. Armiger Trollope was to have been present also, but was prevented at the eleventh hour owing to a bereavement in his family. Mr. Wigg requested on behalf of those present that the secretary should convey sympathy to Mr. Trollope in his sad loss.

The Rev. John P. Pelloe (Master of the O.U.S.C.R. 1933-1934) said he was agreeably surprised at the standard of ringing the society had attained. In his day Grandsire Doubles was the usual method rung, and if they felt very daring they used to attempt Bob Minor. He exhorted the lady members to keep to ringing, extolling the happy times ringing could provide.

A BRIGHT OUTLOOK.

The Master (Mr. John E. Spice) reviewed the society's activities in contrast to those of the Cambridge University Guild. Oxford men, he said, had always concentrated on tower bells, and after the ban the Oxford University Society had had to start handbell ringing almost from scratch. It took at least a year to be able to ring tower bells adequately, and in a University with so many counter attractions, Oxford ringers must have heaps of enthusiasm.

Before this year three peals only had been scored for the society; two in a peak period in 1930 and one many years before. Last year, with the invaluable help of Miss M. R. Cross, experience had been gained both in ringing and in teaching handbells. At the end of the academic year there were seven proficient ringers, but of these four left Oxford. The new academic year brought nearly 30 recruits, which included a breath-taking number of ladies, but the society went about its job well.

The principle of teaching adopted was to concentrate on Plain Bob. The idea of ringing was explained to the beginner, who was then put on one bell in a plain hunting course on six bells. As soon as he could do this adequately, he was given 1-2, then 3-4, then 2-3, to the plain hunting course. After that he had all the position for 1-2 to a course of Bob Minor through which he was put. This method of teaching had produced some good ringers, who appeared to have a sound understanding of what they were ringing.

Last term, after the Cambridge Guild had rung a peal of Bob Minor, the Oxford University Society felt that that had to be bettered, and after some time they rang a peal in three Minor methods. At the moment there were six members of the society who had rung peals, and as five of these would be up for five more terms at least, the outlook for the society was bright. But one word of warning was necessary. When victory is ours and tower bells shall ring forth again, let not the handbells be forgotten.

The Rev. D. Mitford (vice-president and Vicar of St. Mary the Virgin's, Oxford) said that it had been a custom for the O.U.S.C.R. to ring St. Mary's bells before, the undergraduate service on Sunday evenings. This tradition was being carried on by ringing handbells inside the church; the pattern weaved by the changes were to him an attractive act of worship.

CAMBRIDGE GUILD'S WORK.

The president then called on the Master of the Cambridge University Guild.

Mr. Leigh said that although not much had appeared about his Guild in 'The Ringing World,' there had been a lot of work going

(Continued in next column.)

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

The arrangements for the Ringers' Conference are being completed. Meanwhile we shall be glad to receive notices of motion as early as possible so that the agenda can be published. Proposers and seconders of motions should prepare their 'speeches' so they may be ready for publication as soon as needed.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

SOME QUESTIONS.

Dear Sir,—It may be that the Ringers' Council, which it is suggested you should establish, will talk about the National Association which some ringers want to see set up. I do not want to trespass on any discussion that might take place under this Council, but I should like to point out that the advocates of a National Association have never yet to my knowledge given any arguments to show how that form of organisation would be of benefit to the Exercise compared with the present system.

What could a National Association do that the present associations and guilds, with the Central Council, cannot do?

What additional benefits could it confer on ringers except perhaps save a non-resident's subscription when a visiting ringer rings a peal?

Would it not be more costly to run a national organisation, which almost certainly would involve paid officials, than the associations which are now carried on almost entirely on a voluntary basis? And would the business be run any more efficiently?

Would ringers feel that they are in any closer union with each other than they are at present, and would it be worth while to disturb the harmony that at present exists by dividing the Exercise into two opposing camps—those who would stick to their old associations and those who would join a national organisation?

This latter is, to my mind, the greatest risk of all and would be the worst calamity that could fall upon the Exercise at the very time when all its energies will be needed in a united effort to reorganise ringing after the war.

Will the National Association advocates give us their answers to these questions? It would enable some of the rest of us, perhaps, to form more balanced conclusions. I must admit that of the advantages of a National Association I am at present

'DUBIOUS.'

THE OLDEST BELL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Could you or any of your readers inform me which is the oldest existing bell and the oldest existing peal of bells in England and the person who cast them? ALFRED W. PICKNELL.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

(Continued from previous column.)

on in teaching beginners, most of whom were up at the University two terms only nowadays. Directly a Bob Major band was trained, members were called up and the work of teaching had to begin again. He hoped, however, that the society's work would not be in vain, and that towers in England would reap what the Cambridge University Guild had sown. Stedman and Kent Treble Bob Minor was now in the society's repertoire. He gave his best wishes to the joint O.U. and C.U. S.C.R. band who were to attempt a peal that evening. Cambridge had rung a peal of Bob Minor, and Bob Major was booked for a not too distant date.

The secretary of the Oxford Society said how pleased the city ringers were to help on the University Society, and as there had been good co-operation in times past, he hoped such a state would long continue. The ringing of the course of Bob Royal had been a real eye opener as to the state of affairs in University ringing.

After the lunch guests and members adjourned to New College bell tower, where six bells were working with the electric apparatus. Lack of oil on the bearings made the ringing hard work, and lack of practice on the part of the ringers soon gave them stiff joints, but it was good to handle a bell rope again.

Tea in the Master's room came next, and this was followed by handbell ringing, which included courses of Grandsire Caters, Bob Royal, Stedman Triples and Gainsborough, and touches of Grandsire Triples and Plain. Reverse, Double, Little, Gainsborough and Wellington, spliced. The day finished with the joint peal of Bob Major by members of both Universities—a fitting end to a successful day.

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STEDMAN TRIPLES,

DR. SLACK'S PEAL.

To the Editor.

Sir,—May I once again crave the favour of your space and the indulgence of your readers to reply, finally, I sincerely hope, to the various remarks by you, Mr. Editor, those of our friends, Messrs. Trollope and Turner, and also the rest of the opposition, prior to the publication of the above peal at the expense of the 'Watford District.'

During the correspondence on the above peal, you, Mr. Editor, well supported by our friends from Ealing, have on several occasions drawn your readers' attention to these six bob sets.

Now, sir, this was not your attitude in 1932 when you published the two-part peal arranged by Mr. J. W. Parker from Cooper's course ends.

I would like now to point out that six consecutive calls appear 60 times in Mr. Parker's peal, further that from the 24th course until the 35th course the 4th bell is behind for 111 sizes out of a possible 137 sizes, also that the peal contains about 580 bobs and singles.

This peal was published by you, and quite rightly so, but why have you not published Dr. Slack's peal, because, to use the words of Dr. Slack, this peal of Mr. Parker's contains the same blots on its escutcheon.

Mr. Trollope, now supported by Mr. Turner, has been very outspoken regarding these six bob sets and has tried to convince your readers that peals containing these calls should not be rung, but I do not remember either of these two able men raising any objection to the publication of Mr. Parker's peal.

I am sorry to have to state that the general opinion in this district and also in a lot more is that Mr. Parker's peal was published because it was by Mr. Parker, and that Dr. Slack's was not published simply because it was by a practically unknown composer, and also the peal was not rung exactly where you, sir, expected it to be rung.

Now a few lines to reply to Mr. Trollope's letter in your current issue. In my letter of the 6th inst. I did not try or intend to belittle the efforts of older composers, but when Mr. Trollope quotes these older composers in support of his dogmatic attitude in regard to multi-bob peals he must expect to receive a little criticism.

EDWIN JENNINGS.

Bushey.

Between the figures of Cooper's peal as arranged by Mr. J. W. Parker and the figures of Dr. Slack's peal as sent to us there is a vital difference. In the first case they convey information about the composition to the ordinary reader and conductor, and in the other they do not.

Cooper's peal has a historical interest as being one of the very earliest composed. If it had been a modern peal its defects would have far outweighed its merits.

Whatever Mr. Jennings and his friends may think, it is not true that there has been any discrimination against Dr. Slack on personal grounds. He has been treated as anyone else would have been treated. No special favour has been shown to Mr. J. W. Parker, though of all living composers he is the one who has most earned and deserved it.—Editor, 'The Ringing World.'

A REPLY AND A COMPARISON.

Dear Sir,—I am sorry that Mr. Trollope frowns so disapprovingly upon my amusement, but would assure him that his latest effort in defence of the older experts has yielded me that little extra amusement I had anticipated.

The attitude he has adopted towards Dr. Slack's composition has rather distressed me. He seems to want to brush it aside rather contemptuously as being of no particular importance, and I, for one, emphatically register my protest at this attempt to discourage brilliant men like Dr. Slack from making what I feel sure will be very useful contributions to the theoretical side of our art.

I expect Mr. Trollope would feel very annoyed if his own composition of the extent of Bob Maximus were condemned out of hand as being of no practical use or interest and not worth publication. Well, Dr. Slack's peal has been rung, and if I had to choose between the two compositions, I should prefer to see the figures of the two-part peal of Stedman, even though it is not considered 'good copy.'

However, I think I can detect a little more 'sweet reasonableness' in Mr. Trollope's tone, and if this controversy has done nothing else it has certainly removed some of the cocksureness which has been all too evident in the past. Even Mr. Trollope seems to be a little less dogmatic in his efforts, and we should all do well to profit by the lessons learned.

May I also say that I think Mr. Hibbert is right in his contention that as all the 5,040 rows have to be rung in a peal of Stedman Triples the music is there anyway, whatever the composition.

Regarding what my good friend W. Keeble says, may I say at once I do not doubt his ability to repeat a 5,056 of London to a typist, and if times were happier I would very much like to see him do it. My point was, however, *how* did Mr. Morris tap those peals of Surprise? Was it purely a feat of memory, or did he work on some system not generally known? If we could obtain the answer it might be of priceless worth and revolutionise the whole system of instruction.

J. FRANK SMALLWOOD.

38, Penn Lea Road, Bath.

THE EXPERTS CONFOUNDED?

WHAT THEY DID FOR STEDMAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is not surprising that Mr. Trollope has replied to Mr. Smallwood. It was hardly to be expected that the attack (?) on the experts by the latter would be left unanswered.

Of course, the so-called experts are always the persons to blame if anything goes wrong, but what should we do without them? I have been looking through a chapter or two of Snowdon's 'Stedman' (1903 Edition), which deals with Stedman Triples. On page 119 I read: 'The earliest known peal was composed by Thomas Edwards, of Stourbridge, in the year 1792. This peal contains 620 bobs and 100 common singles, besides two singles introduced at the fourth change of the last six in each peal.' Then follows an explanation of these special singles and a statement that the peal was first rung by the Ancient Society of College Youths on December 4th, 1803, at St. Mary's, Kensington, conducted by Charles Barber. There were 722 calls in that composition, i.e., 620 bobs, 100 common singles and two singles in 4-5. Would Mr. Smallwood care to be forced to ring that composition if he wished to ring a peal of Stedman Triples?

The next composition shown in the book contains 350 bobs, 230 common singles and two turning singles. It was composed by Henry Cooper, of Birmingham, and was first rung on June 5th, 1819, at St. Shifnal, by the St. Martin's Youths (please note, Mr. Smallwood), and it is stated that the peal was conducted by the composer from a manuscript copy.

Well, I suppose that Henry Cooper was an expert of his day, and was looked upon as a clever man for reducing the number of calls by 140. It is quite likely, too, that this good gentleman was of the opinion that he had produced the best possible composition, and it is even conceivable that he had expressed such an opinion. Therefore, when, some eleven years later, J. P. Powell produced a peal containing only 382 calls (240 bobs, 120 common and 22 Holt's singles), one can quite imagine the Smallwoods of 1830 having a good laugh at the discomfited experts of a few years before.

But in spite of the laugh against them the experts kept pegging away—Joseph Tebbs, Thomas Day, William Shipway, William Hudson, Henry Johnson, J. J. B. Lates (quite a number from Birmingham, Frank!), until in 1846 Thomas Thurstans produced his famous peal, which is described by Snowdon as the first peal of genuine Stedman Triples ever published. This, doubtless, to use Mr. Smallwood's own words, 'put the cat amongst the pigeons,' and confounded the experts, who had perhaps previously stated that such a peal was impossible. (If the earlier experts had not made such a statement they should have done so, which is the same thing!)

The fact is, of course, that all of us, even including Mr. Smallwood, are greatly indebted to experts for the progress made in our art, and I suggest to him that if we had only the earlier compositions of Stedman Triples, there would be few peals of Stedman, including Caters and Cinques, rung, and what would Mr. Smallwood do then?

There are other kinds of experts. There is the expert conductor who sometimes misses a bob (he would be a wonder if he didn't). There is the expert handbell ringer who sometimes swaps his bells (but we do not get a laugh against him as the fact is not put in the paper). There is, too, the expert at leg-pulling, and here it is that Mr. Smallwood no doubt excels. Indeed, I suspect that the only object of his letter was to draw somebody out, and I can almost hear him 'aughing' as he reads this, and saying, 'I've done it.' 'Here's good health, Frank, and may we ring together again soon.'

C. T. COLES.

Highams Park.

CARRYING ON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was with great pleasure that I read the following passage in to-night's 'Evening News': 'To keep in trim for after the war, members of the Lewisham District of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers are to practise on the bells of Holy Trinity, Dartford, which will be silenced by securing the clappers.'

It is very nice to know that we ringers are trying to let the general public know how we are keeping the Exercise going so that we shall be able to ring to celebrate the day of our victory, which we all hope is not far off.

May I add an appreciation of the grand way in which the old 'Ringing World' is keeping going in the face of the present situation? I eagerly await the post which brings me my copy each week.

P. M. BOND.

SILENT?

To the Editor.

Sir,—I suggest that 'dumb' is the word. When clappers are lost or removed it follows that dumb-bells are swung.

There is the dumb-bell at Knowle to remind us of an earlier time before the word was applied to modern exercising weights, when rope-and-wheel dumb-bell ringing was a fashionable pursuit among members of the Exercise.

'Silent' is used with intention to imply something to be desired, e.g., a silent typewriter; but 'dumb' surely implies the hope of speech renewed!

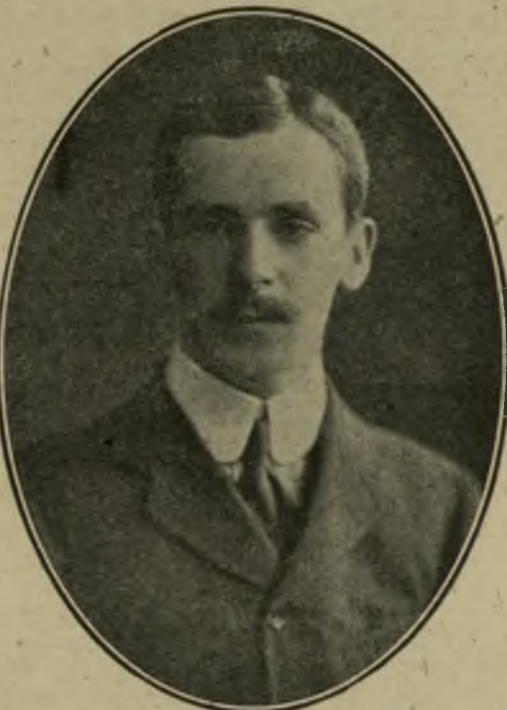
'DUMB-BELL.'

MR. CHARLES E. BORRETT.**ANNIVERSARY OF HIS FIRST PEAL.**

Next Monday is the fiftieth anniversary of the first peal by Mr. C. E. Borrett, which was rung on handbells at Norwich on February 23rd, 1892.

Charles Edward Borrett was born at Norwich on December 21st, 1874, and came of a family which has produced more than one active and skilful ringer. His brother Harry was for some years a member of the Mancroft band and rang several peals; his two cousins, Frederick Robert, and Egbert, of Pulham Market, were for long among the most prolific peal ringers of the Eastern Counties.

But it was not through family influence that Charles became a ringer; he was one of the select few who seem to be preordained to be captivated by the art and over whom church bells throw a spell almost from their infancy. Some months ago, behind a thin screen of anonymity, he told us in 'The Ringing World' how as a small choirboy he took part in the celebrations of Queen Victoria's first



MR. C. E. BORRETT,
when hon. secretary of the Norwich Association in 1911.

Jubilee in Norwich Cathedral, and afterwards was one of some thousands of school children who assembled in the market place and sang hymns and patriotic songs. And how what remained in his mind was the impression created by the roll of the military drums and the ringing and firing of St. Peter Mancroft bells.

Then two years later he heard those same bells ringing a muffled peal for Nathaniel Bolinbroke, the secretary of the Norwich Diocesan Association, and that finally decided that he should be a ringer.

But he knew nothing about bells and nothing about ringers, and it was not until he had hung about churches where he heard ringing and after timidly venturing within the belfry and enduring some snubs that he was invited to become a pupil.

When he did begin, his progress was rapid. He had his first lesson in handling a bell on September 24th, 1890; he rang his first course of Bob Minor on February 9th, 1891, and his first 720 on May 11th; he rang his first 1,008 of Bob Major on February 18th, 1892, and his first tower-bell peal on February 29th. In those days means of getting about were scanty and there was little change ringing within easy distance of Norwich.

The great days of the Norwich Scholars had long since passed, but there still remained survivors from those days, and the old traditions, both good and bad, were strong. Sunday ringing was quite unknown, and the only regular practice was once a fortnight in the twelve-bell tower of Mancroft, not the best place for a young beginner to learn the rudiments of the art. The bells in the other churches, though not all quite unringable, were by modern standards in very bad order and were only rung when a band of ringers had a fancy to visit the steeples.

But there was one tradition which was very strong, the tradition of good striking. That probably was the best feature of Norwich ring-

(Continued in next column.)

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.**MEETING AT WADHURST.**

Although wintry conditions rather curtailed the attendance, quite a good meeting of the East Grinstead and District Guild was held at Wadhurst on Saturday, February 7th. Members from several local towers attended, and visitors included Miss B. Richardson (Sevenoaks), Mr. T. Sone (Paddock Wood) and Driver H. W. Lawrence (St. Peter's, Bedford), who cycled from Bodiam.

When the meeting opened a visitor was practising on the organ, but as the bells were silent the ringing was not seriously interfered with, and some good practice was had with Minor methods. When the organ finally ceased, out came the handbells, of which the local band have a fine set, the tenor being an enormous bell in C natural. Although they are rather heavy to handle, the cathedral tone more than repays the effort.

The methods rung were Grandsire Caters and Triples, Stedman Triples and Bob Major and Minor. The bells were lowered about 5.30 and the company proceeded to the Queen's Head Hotel for tea.

The main item of business was the fixing of the date of the annual meeting, but this could not be done, as it transpired that the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association had arranged a meeting some time in March. It was decided to wait until they had fixed their date and the meeting will be held at Hartfield, the Rector having kindly offered a room in the Rectory. Handbells and six silent tower bells will be available.

It was agreed that such gatherings, while rather small, were well worth while.

MR. CHARLES E. BORRETT.

(Continued from previous column.)

ing through the ages. Fifty years earlier Edward Osborn wrote to John Hopkins, of Birmingham, that the Norwich men did not trouble much about peal ringing: they were satisfied if they rang good touches.

In those days the hearing of the twelve bells in Mancroft belfry was perfect, and there was no excuse for bad striking. If a man did not strike as he should, he was quickly told of it, and for beginners and novices there was little mercy. One or two of the older men were extraordinarily good and graceful handlers of a bell rope, especially George Smith, whose stance and action on the tenor box were a delight to see. Mancroft tenor in those days was not an easy bell to ring.

The lesson of good handling and good striking Mr. Borrett learned from the start. He had the advantages of good example and stern training, and he never had the opportunity of acquiring bad habits. He carried on the old tradition and always rated good striking as a higher thing than method ringing.

But he did more than just carry on an old tradition. The Exercise was then going through a time of reconstruction, when older ideas were being changed by the influx of a new and different style of man. How great that change has been in the long run only those who knew the ringers of fifty or sixty years ago and know those of to-day can realise. And Mr. Borrett was himself a thoroughly typical example of the new men on whom the hope of the Exercise depended.

There was a shortage of good ringers in Norwich at the time, and as early as 1893 Mr. Borrett was admitted within the select circle of the 'company,' the twelve men who shared all the privileges at Mancroft: and almost at once he became the conductor. During the next few years he called some peals at Mancroft, which, though they do not look much on paper, were outstanding performances in execution. One was a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal and another one of Grandsire Cinques. Only one peal of either method had previously been rung on the bells. He also called Kent Treble Bob Maximus and took part in one of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus, of which method only one other peal had been rung in England since the early days of the nineteenth century. He called his 100th peal, one of Stedman Cinques, at Ipswich.

Among the younger ringers at Norwich there was for a time quite a good handbell band. They rang several peals in different methods, including the then record length, 11,200 Bob Major. This and some of the others Mr. Borrett called.

When Henry Earle Bulwer died in 1902 Mr. Borrett succeeded him as the secretary of the Norwich Diocesan Association, and he represented that association on the Central Council for many years. It was chiefly due to him that the Analysis Committee was formed to revive the work which George Attree, of Brighton, had begun but after some years had dropped.

In 1906 the old Mancroft company was broken up through some disputes with the church authorities. Mr. Borrett took no part in those disputes, but the severing of the old traditions with their standards of striking was a severe blow to him, and ringing at Mancroft was never again quite the same thing. His opportunities for peal ringing had always been limited by business considerations and he did little more in that way.

All his life he was in the service of one business firm, and since his retirement he has lived at the seaside town of Sheringham. As our pages show, his interest in change ringing has never waned.

Mr. Borrett, who had a very pleasant light tenor singing voice, was a member of a church choir for 25 years.

ELEMENTARY COMPOSITION.

FOR THE AVERAGE READER.

Last week we compared composition to the building of a wall, and we said that the bricks we have to use are the Natural Courses of the method. We will now study these Natural Courses a little closely, and we will take for example the plain course of Bob Major.

We choose that method, not merely because it is easy and well known, but because it is the typical and elemental method in which the main problems of method construction and peal composition present themselves in the simplest and starkest fashion. In other methods they are often more complicated; but essentially they are no different and we shall the better understand the complex if first we make ourselves masters of the simple.

We go back to the beginning and to our axiom that change ringing essentially is movement. We realised that, if only subconsciously, when we first started to ring and were put to hunt the treble. Our whole work was a continuous forward movement, and we found out, when we took the trouble to prick out the rows, that, if all the others did the same thing, we should start from rounds and return to rounds in sixteen changes. These sixteen changes we call the Hunting Course.

A. Forward.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7
2 4 1 6 3 8 5 7
4 2 6 1 8 3 7 5
4 6 2 8 1 7 3 5
6 4 8 2 7 1 5 3
6 8 4 7 2 5 1 3
8 6 7 4 5 2 3 1
8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
7 8 5 6 3 4 1 2
7 5 8 3 6 1 4 2
5 7 3 8 1 6 2 4
5 3 7 1 8 2 6 4
3 5 1 7 2 8 4 6
3 1 5 2 7 4 8 6
1 3 2 5 4 7 6 8
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

B. Backward.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
3 2 5 4 7 6 8
3 1 5 2 7 4 8 6
3 5 1 7 2 8 4 6
5 3 7 1 8 2 6 4
5 7 3 8 1 6 2 4
7 5 8 3 6 1 4 2
7 8 5 6 3 4 1 2
8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
8 6 7 4 5 2 3 1
6 8 4 7 2 5 1 3
6 4 8 2 7 1 5 3
4 6 2 8 1 7 3 5
4 2 6 1 8 3 7 5
2 4 1 6 3 8 5 7
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

If we were told to ring a hunting course in the belfry, or if we were asked to write one down on paper, we should naturally do it as in the first of the above two examples. But when we examine the second one we find it equally consists of plain hunting and nothing but plain hunting, and therefore is equally a hunting course. The only difference between them is that one is the reverse of the other, and since the first is the normal and usual, we call it the Forward Hunting Course, while the other we call the Backward Hunting Course.

A good deal of unnecessary fuss has been made about these terms and a lot of irrelevant nonsense has been written. We ask our readers to ignore all that, and merely to recognise that the two do exist and have a definite relationship to each other.

The hunting course is the simplest form in which change ringing can exist, and is the ultimate unit on which everything is based. We said last week that the course is the unit, and so it is for the peal composer; but the course is itself built up on the hunting course. In some methods this building up is a very complex process; in Bob Major it is simplicity itself.

There are 5,040 rows on eight bells with the treble

leading, and if from each of these we pricked a hunting course, we should have the full extent of the changes twice over; for every hunting course would appear twice, once in its forward form and once in its backward form. If we examine any peal of Bob Major, we shall find that it is entirely made up of a number of these hunting courses, each one of which is complete and intact. First some of them are joined together to make up the Natural Courses, and then some of the Natural Courses (or parts of them) are joined together to make up the peal.

First some of the hunting courses are joined together

2 3 4 5 6 7 8

W 3 2 5 4 7 6 8

3 5 2 7 4 8 6

5 3 7 2 8 4 6

5 7 3 8 2 6 4

7 5 8 3 6 2 4

7 8 5 6 3 4 2

8 7 6 5 4 3 2

8 6 7 4 5 2 3

6 8 4 7 2 5 3

6 4 8 2 7 3 5

M 4 6 2 8 3 7 5

4 2 6 3 8 5 7

R 2 4 3 6 5 8 7

2 3 4 5 6 7 8

We have dealt with this matter thus fully because we want to explain presently what Q Sets are. To the uninitiated they are rather mysterious and forbidding things; and even many people who know enough about them to recognise their importance do not understand their real nature and position in the science. That is due very largely to the way in which they were first introduced to the Exercise by W. H. Thompson.

We will leave them till next week. Meanwhile, the reader may turn back to the lead heads and ends as set out above. A bob affects the bells in 2, 3, 4 and he will notice that there are three places where the tenors are clear of those positions. One is at the first lead end where the bells affected are 2, 3, 5. This is the Wrong. The second is at the sixth lead end where the bells affected are 2, 4, 6. This is the Middle. The other is at the course end where the bells affected are 2, 3, 4. This is the Home or Right.

These are the three places (and the only three places) where we can make bobs if we want to join together Natural Courses intact. This will apply to every Major method in which second's place is made at the lead end; for we do not nowadays recognise as 'regular' any method in which the lead ends are not the same as those of Bob Major; though they need not, and usually do not, come in the same order. Sometimes the Middle lead comes before the Wrong lead, but always necessarily in second's place methods the Right comes at the course end.

NOTICES.

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

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at St. Thomas', Stourbridge (D.V.), Saturday, February 21st, at 3.30 p.m. Bells (8) available for 'silent' practice. Tea 5.15 p.m. Handbells and usual social evening.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, Feb. 21st. Eight silent tower bells available from 3 o'clock. Service at 4.45. Tea and business meeting following at 5.30 at the Duke's Head. Will those requiring tea please send notifications to Mr. G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, as early as possible? Handbells also available, and everybody will be welcome.—A. H. Smith, Dis. Hon. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at the Corn Exchange, Spalding, on Saturday, Feb. 21st. Service at Parish Church 3.30 p.m. Tea at 4.15 p.m.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glenside, Pinchbeck.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at The Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, on Saturday, Feb. 28th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. All welcome.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kington District.—A meeting will be held at Eardisland on Saturday, Feb. 28th. Bells (6, silent) and handbells available 3 p.m. Service 4.45. Tea 5.15. Business after tea. Please advise me by Tuesday, 24th, the number to expect for tea.—J. C. Preece, Dis. Sec., Lea Lodge, Staunton-on-Arrow, Leominster.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Wath-on-Dearne on Saturday, Feb. 28th. Handbells available, Church House, 2.30 p.m. Tea at Warburton's Cafe 5 p.m., followed by business meeting, Church House, at 6 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. A. Gill, 84, Doncaster Road, Wath-on-Dearne, near Rotherham, not later than Feb. 25th. This meeting is arranged later to have it 'moon-leet.' All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Henlow on Saturday, February 28th, at 3 o'clock. Silent tower bells and handbells. Names for tea to L. H. Bywaters, 12, Newtown, Henlow, Beds.—C. J. Ball, Hon. Sec., 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at St. Michael's, Headingley, on Saturday, February 28th. Handbells in the tower from 3 p.m. to black-out time (approximately 6.45 p.m.).—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The 54th annual Henry Johnson Commemoration will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 7th. Owing to prevailing conditions this will be a luncheon to commence at 1.30 p.m. prompt, Vice-President, Albert Walker, Esq., 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 28th. 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 7th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Monday, March 1st? All welcome.—R. H. Howson, 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting (1942) will be held in the Chapter House, Christ Church, Oxford, on Saturday, March 14th, at 3.15 p.m. (D.V.). A good attendance is requested.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. C. Ernest Smith's address is now 17, Peperharow Road, Godalming, Surrey.

WANTED.

WANTED, any edition of the following books: 'The Clavis,' 'Tintinnalogia,' 'Campanologia,' 'Shipway,' and Rev. F. E. Robinson's 'Among the Bells.' Write, stating price, to Box 77, 'Ringing World' Office, Woking.

BIRTH.

CASTLE.—On Sunday, Feb. 8th, at The Briars, Westfields Road, Winnersh, Berks, to Violet, wife of Bernard C. Castle, a daughter.

DEATH.

POWELL.—On Saturday, Feb. 14th, at Victoria Cottage, Lyme Regis, Hilary, infant daughter of Cuthbert and Laura Powell.

PUBLICATION.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE, Part V. (reprinted from the Berkshire Archaeological Society's Journal, by kind permission of the Society). To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire. One shilling, post free.

MUSIC IN TRIPLE METHODS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Recent correspondence prompts me to ask why Court Bob Triples, which, in my opinion, is the most musical of the Triple methods, has never been popular.

E. BARNETT.

Crayford.

J. A.
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SEVEN-BELL RINGING.

In his short letter published in our last issue, Mr. Edwin Barnett raises a matter of considerable interest. Why, he asks, has Court Bob Triples never been popular? and we may amend and amplify his question and ask, 'Why has there been so little development in method ringing on seven bells compared to that on other numbers?'

The fact is undoubted. Though, probably, the majority of the ringing in eight-bell towers is Triples, it is practically confined to two methods, Grandsire and Stedman. When a band turns its tenor in, there are, even for average ringers, several methods they can practise, while for the more expert the selection is wide and varied. During these last fifty years scores of new Major methods have been rung and some have been added to the group of standard methods, but actually fewer Triples methods are rung now than during the closing years of the last century. Then, in addition to Stedman and Grandsire, Bob Triples was rung regularly, and not only so but Oxford Bob and Court Bob were beginning to be popular in different parts of the country.

Bob Triples was killed by the action of the Central Council, and we need shed no more than a sentimental tear over its disappearance; but the others are first-class methods which should form a useful addition to ringers' repertoires. They belong to a group of eleven methods, all with a bell-in-the-hunt like Grandsire, and four of them, Court and Double Court, Oxford Bob and Double Oxford Bob, were introduced to the Exercise as far back as Shipway's book. Joseph J. Parker did much to popularise Oxford Bob, and for a considerable time it looked as though it was going to take a regular place among the standard methods. Court Bob had also some vogue, though not so long or so widespread as the other. Double Court, which in some respects is the ideal seven-bell method, was most unaccountably neglected, and the only peal so far rung of it was the one at Ealing in recent years, conducted by Mr. Ernest Turner. Double Oxford has had scarcely more attention, the first peal being rung at Chester in 1908, with Mr. Edwin Lewis as conductor.

For bands whose capacity is not yet developed enough to tackle Major ringing, and who are practically confined to Grandsire, Oxford Bob supplies an ideal alternative. It is very similar and just as easy, while the method is fully worthy of the attention of men who are able to ring a variety of other methods. So are the rest, but they are neglected, and the hopes that the Central Council's book

(Continued on page 96.)

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on Triples would do something to alter the neglect have not so far been realised.

Several reasons can be, and have been, given for this. There is a charm about the music and rhythm of Major ringing which is largely lacking in Triples, though when we think of the long and widespread popularity of Stedman and Grandsire, we are not disposed to attach too much importance to that point. There is the lure of the title 'Surprise,' which has deluded so many into the feeling that only the methods in that class are really worth striving after. And there is the deep-seated conservatism of the Exercise which impels men to keep to the old things or, if they make progress, to progress in the old fashion. Years ago, a band's development followed a fixed path. If they began with Grandsire, they went on in due course to Stedman, and there usually they stopped. If they began with Plain Bob, they went on to Treble Bob, Double Norwich, and with luck to Superlative, Cambridge and London. Perhaps they stopped for a little to take in Stedman on the way. Of late years there has been far greater development of method ringing, yet it is notable how much it has conformed to the old pattern. Most of the new methods rung have been Surprise, and the merits of the plain Major methods have only just begun to be recognised. It is a good and healthy sign that they are being recognised, and perhaps it will lead on to a recognition of the merits of the Triples methods.

One other reason for the neglect of the seven-bell methods may be found in the fact that they are not easy to call. It takes more skill and knowledge to conduct a peal of Grandsire Triples than to conduct a peal of Superlative Surprise Major, and the other Triples methods are not less difficult to call. There is also the necessity of using Holt's singles in them, and to modern ringers Holt's singles appear as something abnormal and displeasing. Their use has practically been dropped in Grandsire, and the Ten-part, magnificent composition though it be, is almost obsolete. But their use cannot be dropped in Oxford Bob, Court and the others, and that is a disadvantage. However, we hope that when the time of reconstruction comes, ringers will bear these Triples methods in mind, for we believe they would prove to be very useful.

A FALSE REPORT.

Among the extracts from 'The Norwich Mercury' of more than a century ago sent us by Mr. Charles E. Borrett is the following:—
Dagenham, Essex. On Saturday Oct. 5th 1804 the Society of Cumberland Youths opened the new peal of bells on which they rang 7008 changes of Oxford Triple Bob Majors in 4 hours 49 minutes, but as they were commencing another peal in the evening Mr. Channon Master of the Society got his leg entangled in the rope which drew him to the next loft and falling on his head, he was killed on the spot.

The account reads very circumstantially, but it certainly is not true. The record of no such peal appears in the 'Cumberland's' peal book, and we believe that at the time there were only six bells at Dagenham. Less than six weeks after he was supposed to have been killed, Malachi Channon rang the treble to 5,039 Grandsire Caters at Shore-ditch. His last peal was one of Treble Bob at Bethnal Green on September 26th, 1819. It was rung by his 'particular desire, it being the last he intended to ring, he having been a member of the society 52 years and 72 years of age.'

Channon lived to a good old age and Matthew Wood told Mr. Albert A. Hughes that as a boy he remembered him at Bethnal Green.

The writer of the paragraph in the 'Mercury' probably got hold of some rumour of another tale which was told about the elder George Gross. He was said to have got his foot entangled in the rope while trying to adjust the buckle of his breeches when ringing, and to have been badly hurt. That tale as told is also obviously inaccurate, for Gross was ringing peals when he was supposed to be suffering from a dislocated shoulder.

This is one piece more of evidence that old newspaper reports about ringing have to be very carefully tested before they can be accepted as true history.

SIX BELL PEAL.

DUBLIN.

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, February 15, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE, *

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

ARTHUR WORRELL Treble	DAVID MCGREGOR 4
FRED E. DUKES 2	WILLIAM E. HALL 5
MISS ADA C. DUKES 3	WILLIAM MCGREGOR Tenor

Conducted by FRED E. DUKES.

First peal. Rung with the bells half-muffled in memory of the late Gabriel Lindoff.

HANDBELL PEALS.

PRESTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 21, 1942, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF SPLICED TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven extents in thirteen methods, viz.: (1) Willesden, College Bob IV. and Old Oxford Delight; (2) Wragby, St. Albans and Neasden Delight; (3) Norbury and College Exercise Treble Bob; (4) College Exercise and Duke of Norfolk Treble Bob; (5) Kingston and Oxford Treble Bob; (6) London Scholars' Pleasure and Oxford Treble Bob; (7) Sandal and Oxford Treble Bob. Tenor size 15 in C.

E. ROGER MARTIN 1-2	C. KENNETH LEWIS 3-4
CYRIL CROSSBWAITE 5-6	

Conducted by C. K. LEWIS.

First peal in 13 methods 'in hand' by all. First peal in 13 methods by the association. There were 39 changes of method.

CAMBRIDGE.

THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY GUILD.

On Saturday, February 21, 1942, in Two Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

Tenor size 13 in E.

REV. A. C. BLYTH (Selwyn) 1-2	KENNETH S. B. CROFT (St. John's) 3-4
ROGER LEIGH (St. Catharine's) 5-6	

Conducted by ROGER LEIGH.

First peal of Kent Treble Bob by all.

KENT VETERAN'S DEATH.

SERVED UNDER SIX VICARS.

The death occurred on February 15th at Charing, Kent, of Wallace Charles Good, at the age of 76 years. Mr. Good was born at Chelmondiston, Suffolk, later moving to Sproughton, where one of his boyhood friends was the late Charles Mee. He went to Charing when a young man, where he learned to ring and joined the choir in 1885, and so had been a ringer and chorister for over 56 years, serving under six vicars. He was a member of the Kent County Association. On completing 50 years' service he was presented with a chiming clock by the parishioners.

Mr. Good rang for the Golden and Diamond Jubilees and the funeral of Queen Victoria, the Coronation and funeral of King Edward, the Coronation, Silver Jubilee and funeral of King George V., and the Coronation of King George VI.

The funeral took place at St. Peter and Paul's Church, Charing, on February 16th. He leaves a widow and three ringing sons in bereavement.

LEICESTERSHIRE RINGER'S DEATH.

MR. STORER WEST'S FIFTY YEARS' SERVICE.

We regret to record the death at the age of 71 years of Mr. Storer Whitcraft West, of Whitwick, Leicestershire, who passed away on January 27th. Last September he completed fifty years as a bell-ringer, and he had also served the church and parish in other capacities with equal loyalty. He had been three times churchwarden for a total period of 17 years, besides being a chorister and Sunday School teacher. He had also served for many years as one of the managers of the Day Schools. In these directions he had devoted his long life to the service of his fellow parishioners, but, married on August 7th, 1893, Mr. and Mrs. Storer have been denied their golden wedding to which they were looking forward. In addition to the widow, four daughters, all married, are left in bereavement.

Mr. West, who had rung a number of peals, first joined the Midland Counties Association on October 26th, 1895, and was well known and highly respected among ringers in Leicestershire.

BELFRY TRAGEDY.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT ST. GILES'-IN-THE-FIELDS.

A sad tragedy occurred in the tower of St. Giles'-in-the-Fields, London, last week, when as the result of an accident Mr. Reginald Edward Geare, one of the churchwardens and a ringer, who was also a fire watcher, lost his life.

The curate of the church, the Rev. Joseph Jones, heard one of the bells sound once, and went to find out what had happened. He noticed blood trickling from the floor above into the porch.

Hurrying upstairs with other church officials, he found Mr. Geare dead on the first floor. Only a few minutes before deceased had received the Sacrament from the curate at the altar.

At the inquest on Saturday it was suggested that deceased might have gone to the bell chamber to fill a fire bucket. The flap of a trap door through which the bell rope runs on to the second floor gave way and he fell with it, fracturing his skull.

A verdict of 'Accidental death' was returned.

Mr. Geare, who was 65 years of age, although not a very skilled ringer, was the mainstay and secretary of the band formed some few years ago at St. Giles'. The respect in which he was held by members of the Middlesex County Association was shown by the fact that he was elected to a seat on the Central Committee.

The funeral was on Monday. It was conducted by the Rector of St. Giles' and was attended by the Mayor and Corporation of the Borough of Holborn. The principal mourners were Mr. Geare's brother and sister, and Mr. Albert W. Coles represented the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild. The interment was at Wallington Cemetery.

A memorial service for Mr. Geare will be held at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields on Sunday next at 11 a.m., and the Rector would like to see as many ringers present as possible.

STOCKPORT SOCIETY'S LOSS

DEATH OF MR. G. L. BURGESS.

The death has occurred at Stockport of Mr. George Leonard Burgess, for the past eight or nine years secretary of St. George's Society of Ringers. Mr. Burgess, who leaves a widow, and one daughter, underwent a serious operation last year, from which he recovered sufficiently to resume his work for the borough gas department. Unfortunately, a relapse occurred recently and he succumbed on February 15th, at the early age of 39 years.

The funeral service at St. George's on Wednesday week was conducted by the Rev. T. A. Parker, who subsequently read the committal prayers at the crematorium. Besides four brothers and two sisters present, eight of his ringing comrades attended the service, including Mr. Hiram Meakin, 'father' of the society, now 75 years old, and Mr. A. Barnes of Reddish, also in the seventies, who braved the bitterly cold wind to be present. Two ringers, with two of the deceased's workmates, acted as bearers.

In spite of a rather frail physique, Mr. Burgess had rung a few peals, including Bob Major (the first of Major on the bells), Bob Royal, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Major, and Stedman Triples, and invariably did his best to be present for Sunday ringing. He may perhaps be best remembered for his undoubted gift as organiser of the society's summer outings. Three or four of these, among the towers of Cheshire and Derbyshire, will ever remain high spots in the memory of those privileged to take part in them. The society mourn the loss of a genial and good comrade.

SEXTON FOR 65 YEARS.

DEATH OF MR. W. A. TANTON AT LYMINGE.

At the advanced age of 88 years, another pioneer of change ringing in Kent has passed away in the person of Mr. William Albert Tanton, of Lyminge, who died on February 13th. He had been sexton at Lyminge Parish Church since 1877, and two peal boards hang in the tower commemorating his completion of 50 and 60 years' service respectively.

During this long period he had taught many ringers, among the best known being Mr. Louis Head and the late Mr. John H. Cheesman.

Mr. Tanton had not rung many peals himself, but his first was scored as long ago as 1882—a peal of Bob Minor, when Lyminge had only six bells.

There were many friends present at the funeral service on Monday week, including Mr. J. Andrews, of the local band, and Mr. Louis Head. Two of the deceased's favourite hymns were sung, 'Let saints on earth' and 'Jerusalem the golden.' He was laid to rest beside his first Vicar, the Rev. Canon Jenkins.

It was with the greatest regret that Mr. A. Castle, of Fulham, could not be present at the funeral, 'for,' he writes, 'Bert Tanton had been indeed a rare old friend since 1892—ever ready to help and give the best advice both in striking and method ringing. It was something of a tragedy that, as in the case of so many departed ringers in these days, no bells could be rung to mark the passing of this old and loyal servant of the Church.'

THE BELLS OF LONDON.

(Continued from page 89.)

SOME EARLY USES.

In the provinces and especially in the villages the morning bell and the curfew continued to be rung generally until the nineteenth century, not because they were interesting survivals from the past; but because they supplied a real want. When that want was met by other means the use gradually died out, though long established custom prolonged it further than would otherwise have been the case.

The morning bell was a general summons to men that it was time to begin work; the curfew was a notice that the day's toil was done. 'I ring at six to let men know,' says the inscription on a Coventry bell, 'When to and from their work to go'; and a bell at St. Ives by Henry Penn, of Peterborough, has, 'Arise and go about your business.'

The evening bell was for ages intimately associated with the close of the day in the English countryside, and has inspired one or two passages of supreme poetry. Milton's lines in 'Il Penseroso':—

Oft on a plat of rising ground
I hear the far-off curfew sound
Over some wide-watered shore
Swinging slow with sullen roar,

give the very spirit of a noble tenor heard in the distance, on a quiet evening across an English landscape; and only a supreme master of the use of words would have thought of such an adjective as 'sullen' in connection with a bell. Here Milton consciously or unconsciously followed Shakespeare.

Just as familiar and equally fine is the superb description of nightfall in the opening stanzas of Gray's 'Elegy,' where the first line, 'The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,' with its long open vowel sounds, strikes the solemn keynote of the whole poem.

There is, perhaps, only one other passage in poetry that I should care to put alongside these two and Shakespeare's reference to the passing bell, and that is Tennyson's 'Twilight and evening bell, and after that the dark.' Bells are often mentioned by poets, but these four are perhaps the only instances where they come into really great poetry. Three of them concern the curfew and that shows how much the bell counted for in the life of the people.

In the middle years of the nineteenth century there were still scores of towers where both morning and evening bells were rung; but every year saw the number getting less. In a few places the custom lasted into the present century, but little survived the first great war.

The early morning bell, naturally, was the first to go. It required some effort on the part of the sexton to get up every morning in time to ring the bell at five or six o'clock, and when other people ceased to bother about whether he did it or not why should he trouble himself? Also its lapse may in places have been hastened by similar reasons to those that led to it being discontinued at Hammersmith, where, in the reign of George I., an invalid parishioner, named Martin, found it an intolerable nuisance. He offered to erect a cupola on the church steeple with a bell to strike the hours if the ringing were stopped, and the parish agreed to accept the offer, but a later churchwarden resumed the practice. Martin then appealed to the law and the Earl of Macclesfield, Lord

Chancellor, granted him an injunction, restraining the churchwardens from having the bell rung.

This case is sometimes cited as an instance of an aggrieved parishioner procuring by legal process the cessation of bell ringing; but the injunction was granted on the grounds that the parish had entered into an agreement in return for a valuable consideration, and had broken the agreement.

At Pershore in 1894, although the curfew was still rung at eight o'clock in the evening from November 5th until Candlemas Day, the morning bell, which used to be rung at five o'clock, had been discontinued. The reason given was that the old sexton, whose name was Blake, one day mistook the time and rang five hours too early.

In several places the ringing of the evening bell was endowed. In 1472 John Donne, mercer, gave to the parson and churchwardens of St. Mary-le-Bow a tenement with the appurtenances to the maintenance of Bow Bell and the nightly ringing of it. Sometimes the gift was associated with the delivery of the donor from some danger. Thus the Ashburton bell at Chelsea old church was given by Thomas Ashburton in 1679 and endowed with money so that it could be rung every evening at nine o'clock, because on one dark night he lost his way and was in great danger of falling into the river when the sound of the bell from the church steeple warned him of his peril. Chelsea old church was destroyed in a recent air raid, but what happened to the Ashburton bell, which had not been used since 1822, I do not know.

John of Colton, citizen of Norwich, in his will, dated January 9th, 1457, directed that his body should be buried in St. Giles' Church. 'I give and devise a piece of land containing one acre with its appurtenances in Heygham-next-Norwich to the parishioners of the said church, on condition that they for ever cause the ringing called curfew bell faithfully to be observed in the said church every night.' Kirkpatrick, the Norwich antiquary, notes from a deed of 1474 that the land was called Colton's acre and that the ringing was to be during one quarter of the ninth hour. Tradition says that Colton, coming home towards the city late one night, lost his way and would have walked into the river and been drowned, had he not heard the great bell of St. Giles'.

'For ever' is a long time. The bell was duly rung during nearly four and a half centuries after the testator's death, but the custom ceased some fifty years ago. I have a personal interest in this curfew, for, by means of it, I first learned to handle a bell. I and my contemporaries, in our earliest ringing days, were, I think, the last to 'put the curfew out' at St. Giles'.

The curfew was also endowed at the neighbouring parish of St. Peter Mancroft. Peter Read gave his house in St. Lawrence's parish to the end that the great bell of St. Peter Mancroft should for ever be rung at 4 o'clock a.m. and 8 o'clock p.m. for the help and benefit of travellers. This house came into the hands of the parish in 1569 and was said to be given for 'the ringing of the Bow Bell called the 4 o'clock and 8 o'clock.' In my time the ringing of both morning and evening bells had ceased, though the latter was a recent memory.

The title 'Bow Bell' seems to have been generally used all over the country for the evening bell, and shows that the bells of Cheapside were already famous. In 1467 the Ordinances of Worcester decreed—'Also the

Bow belle accustomed in the seid citie to be rongen at ix of the belle to be contynowed yerly for grete ease of the said citie. The paryish clark ther to have his fees accustomed therfore.'

In addition to the morning and evening bells, which at one time were rung from practically every steeple in the land, a mid-day bell was rung in many places. Like the others, this was a civic use and was for the purpose of letting people know the time.

In the case of the evening bell there is no doubt that in its origin and its use throughout it was primarily a secular one, though for a time it was associated with the Angelus. The morning bell probably served the double purpose of ringing for the service of prime and the beginning of the secular day, and in a similar fashion the mid-day bell may have served a double purpose, religious and secular. In the nineteenth century antiquarians like Henry Thomas Ellacombe saw in the ringing for medieval church services the origin of all the uses that had survived. 'Bells rung at strange times and called by strange names are all lingering relics of the Angelus or Ave bell, which, previous to the Reformation, was rung in every parish church morning, noon, and evening, where practicable, in memory of our Saviour becoming man for us and our salvation, and of the morrow Mass bell. The people had so long been accustomed to their sound, and they became so useful for social purposes, that they continued after the Reformation, when they were given new names.'

So wrote Ellacombe in 'Church Bells' in 1872, but though there may be some truth in what he said, I do not think it is all or most of the truth. Church bells and the church fabric served in the Middle Ages wider purposes than merely religious services. They had their

place in the social and civic life of the people and ministered to many purely secular needs. Ellacombe, and those who thought as he did, were engaged in a crusade against what they considered the profanation of church bells in their time, and they looked back to the Middle Ages as a period when bells were considered to be sacred objects not rung for any profane or secular purposes, or by any persons who were not properly ordained to the office.

In another letter to 'Church Bells' (1871) Ellacombe said that in pre-Reformation times all the bells were rung from the floor of the church and in the presence of the congregation, 'and there was another thing which would have made it very inconvenient for a ringer of those days to climb up a narrow winding staircase of a tower, that he was vested in *camisia*, which was put on him when he received minor orders. After the Reformation, the ringers, being no longer in minor orders and church discipline much relaxed, the evil extended to the belfries, just as it affected the musical services of the church when the singers were expelled from the chancels to galleries at the west end set up for their own special accommodation.' Such evidence as there is entirely contradicts these opinions and they appear to be merely unfounded conjecture.

RINGING, TOLLING AND CHIMING.—The great superiority of tone of bell's ringing over tolling and even tolling over striking by a clock hammer has often been noticed, but never accounted for. I think the explanation is this:—It is now known well that the note of an approaching sound like a railway whistle is sharper than when it is receding because the velocity of transit is added to or subtracted from the velocity of vibration which fixes the note. The bell in full swing, while it also vibrates from the blow, is always sending out vibrations of slightly different velocity.—Sir Edmund Beckett (Lord Grimthorpe).

John Taylor & Co.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

In response to the appeal made in our issue of February 6th by the Rev. W. F. E. Burnley, Chaplain to the Forces, Mr. Charles Dean, of Croydon, has sent a set of fourteen handbells to Gibraltar. His generous action was made possible by the co-operation of the Colonial Office.

The peal of Kent Treble Bob Minor on handbells by Cambridge University Guild was rung after meeting short for Bob Major. It had been the Guild's intention to attempt a peal of Kent before the end of term, so it was suggested that this opportunity should be taken. The attempt was successful, and great credit is due to the conductor, who was able to call seven 720's at such short notice.

Another interesting performance recorded this week is a peal of Treble Bob Minor on handbells in thirteen methods, rung at Preston, Lancs. It was the first peal of Minor in 13 methods by the Lancashire Association. There was obviously nothing unlucky about the number 13 in this case.

The first peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major on handbells was rung at Cambridge on February 23rd, 1891. Henry Law James called it and the composition was by Mr. E. Bankes James.

On February 25th, 1777, the Leicester company rang 10,080 changes of Grandsire Caters. This is the peal composed by John Martin, of which Mr. Edgar Shepherd recently gave us very interesting information.

On the same date in 1889 John Carter called at Walsall 10,032 Grandsire Major, the longest length rung in the method.

The Senior Society of Cumberland Youths rang on February 26th, 1805, 6,129 Stedman Caters composed and called by the younger George Gross. It remained the record length for 40 years.

A peal of Bob Royal rung on handbells at Abingdon on February 26th, 1777, may have been the first double-handed peal in the method, but there is at least the possibility that it was lapped as so many of the early performances were.

John Briant, the bellfounder, of Hertford, died on February 27th, 1829.

Fifty years ago to-day eight peals were rung. They consisted of Grandsire Triples 2, Stedman Triples 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 2, Oxford 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1, and Minor 1.

Ten years ago to-day 24 peals were rung. They consisted of Bob Major 2, Canterbury Pleasure Major 1, Stedman Triples 2, Kent Treble Bob Major 3, Oxford 1, Little Bob Major 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1, Cambridge Surprise Major 2, Bristol 1, London 1, Spliced 1, Grandsire Caters 2, New Cambridge Surprise Royal 1, and Minor 5.

ELLACOMBE AND CHANGE RINGING.

HIS ACTIVITY IN DEVON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is to be hoped that Mr. Trollope will give us his authority for numbering the Rev. H. T. Ellacombe among those for whom 'change ringing had scant interest.' It is true that Mr. Trollope qualifies this statement by acknowledging that 'Ellacombe was to some extent an exception'; but the general trend of the article is that Mr. Ellacombe, in company with numerous other well-known authorities on bells, had but lukewarm interest in practical ringing.

A very cursory examination of Ellacombe's famous 'Church Bells of Devonshire' would produce much evidence in a contrary sense. For example, on page 256 he writes: 'The peals of bells are generally very badly hung, very few are fitted with stays and slides, the ropes are too heavy, and without tufting for the sally; certainly most discouraging to scientific ringing.'

In his lists of bells in the various churches of the county he includes the first recorded performances of change ringing in the following towers: Clyst St. George, Devonport Dockyard, Kelly, Milton Damerel, Plympton St. Mary. It is indeed evident that he went to considerable trouble to verify the beginnings of change ringing in Devon.

Further, on two separate occasions he obtained skilled bands of ringers, once from Bristol and once from London, who rang various methods, including Grandsire (Doubles and Minor), Stedman, Plain Bob and Treble Bob, on the bells of Clyst St. George. In the middle of the last century this was no small undertaking and must have involved him personally in considerable expense. On the second of these occasions he himself shared in the ringing.

How far it is true that 'he did not progress much further than Grandsire Doubles' I do not know, but to those who are aware that most of his lifework was done in isolated country parishes with little if any opportunity for practice, that he was able to ring Grandsire Doubles (as was unquestionably the case) is evidence of real keenness and enthusiasm.

And on the top of all this when over 80 years of age he was one of the founders of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers, the first territorial association of change ringers in England. It is at least probable that his own enthusiasm was mainly responsible for its establishment.

E. S. POWELL.

Staverton Vicarage, Daventry.

ANONYMITY.

USE THE WASTE PAPER BASKET.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your recent defence of the practice of publishing letters written over a nom-de-plume appears to be to be somewhat unconvincing. There are only two points in the article with which I can entirely agree; one is that some readers do not like anonymous letters, the other is that the man who behind the screen of anonymity unfairly attacks another is condemned as a despicable character.

But where do you draw the dividing line? How far would you allow an anonymous writer to go before either using the blue pencil or refusing to publish the letter? I suggest to you that there have been several letters published recently which should have had the writers' names appended. There was a lengthy correspondence in which a person who called himself 'Anti-Silent' not only called upon 'somebody to do something,' but was somewhat abusive because other people would not agree with him. Later another correspondent who wrote over the nom-de-plume of 'Looking Forward,' referring to the National Association proposal, said that the benefits must be apparent to everyone, and then set about the 'older members of the Exercise who are too much set in their old ways and satisfied with things as they are,' concluding his outburst by calling for the scrapping of these old fogies if necessary!

Then there was a letter signed 'A Member' in your issue of January 16th, the last paragraph of which was, to say the least of it, in very bad taste.

More recently, too, another anonymous person, referring to a resolution passed by the North Staffordshire Association, asked for reasons why the resolution was passed, adding, 'To these questions I could add certain other remarks, but intend reserving the same pending a reply from a responsible source.' Responsible, indeed! Is not one of our affiliated associations responsible enough without being called to account by a person who gives members of that association no opportunity of judging if he is himself 'responsible'?

I venture to suggest to you, Mr. Editor, that letters of the type I have drawn attention to should be consigned to the waste paper basket, even though the insertion of them may stir up some sort of excitement in the minds of a few of your readers. The majority, I believe, do not like anonymous letters, especially as we members of the Ringing Exercise are generally well known to one another.

Your statement that 'The Times,' amongst other great newspapers, inserts anonymous letters may be true, but it is only on very rare occasions that one is published, and then it does not infringe in any way on the niceties of correspondence. During the past week, for instance, 49 letters were published in that paper, of which two only were anonymous, and in neither of which were any personal matters dealt with. It is admitted that it may be difficult to say what is strictly fair or otherwise, but I think that in all cases where there is the slightest infringement of decency then the letter should be excluded. Many of your correspondents, like the late William Willson and James Hunt, could hit hard in correspondence, but they were not afraid to sign their letters, and they were highly respected for so doing. Not so the anonymous writer, who can never command respect.

Higams Park, E.4.

C. T. COLES.

THE PERSONAL FACTOR.

Sir,—There was a time when I used to think, like many of your readers, that if a person's letters or articles were worth anything, they were worth his or her own name being put to them, but of late years I have come to regard this as a cheap 'cry or excuse' by a section of people. They are usually the people who hate rivalry and are all right while they can be holding the reins. Whether in verbal debate or in written correspondence, the person to them will always come before the subject; but it is strange how these people will sometimes express complete agreement with the same sentences when they don't know the name of the person who is writing. I have proved time and again that there is nothing like a nom-de-plume for 'catching these people out.'

I well remember writing to 'The Ringing World' once under a nom-de-plume, and the day following the appearance of my letter sitting opposite one of my bitterest opponents at a tea table at a ringing meeting. Needless to say, the man was one who had an old-standing grudge, and it wouldn't matter what I said it would always be wrong.

On this occasion it so happened that the topic I had written about started a conversation at the table, and I well remember the individual concerned 'jumping in' with the remark, 'Ah, didn't ole so and so (mentioning the nom-de-plume) put a jolly good bit in "The Ringing World" yesterday!' Then he turned to one of his pals and continued, 'It's about right what he says, you know, Lou!'

I laughed to myself until he had finished talking and praising my letter, then I butted in with saying, 'Well, do you know who wrote that letter?' He replied sarcastically, 'No, nor more do you!' I then 'let the cat out,' 'Well, you happen to be talking to the very man,' I said.

Rather than shake hands the man got up with his cup of tea in his hand and went and sat at another table across the room with his back to me and beckoned his three pals over to join him—and so the enmity continues to this day.

(Continued in next column.)

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

MOTIONS BY MARCH 7th.

We hope to publish a preliminary agenda in our issue of Friday, March 13th. We hope, therefore, that those who have motions to propose will send them in time to reach us by Saturday in next week, March 7th.

The motions may be on any subject relating to bells, bell ringing, or ringing organisations, and should be accompanied by the names of the proposer and seconder.

Proposers and seconders, also, should lose no time in preparing their speeches, ready for insertion in our columns, and, by way of an early hint, we would like to remind those who will contribute that they should be prepared to send in their 'speeches' immediately on the appearance of the proposer's and seconder's contributions. If everyone waits before writing to see what everybody else says, the discussions will be hung up.

Motions by March 7th to—

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE,
'THE RINGING WORLD' OFFICE,
LOWER PYRFORD ROAD,
WOKING, SURREY.

IRISH SECRETARY'S VIEWS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have read with great interest the correspondence regarding the Ringers' Conference. I agree with all that has been written in support of the project, which certainly should stimulate the Exercise.

The decisions arrived at will be a guide to the Central Council as to the side they should take, and discussions at the Central Council should be considerably reduced because perhaps most of the views will have been ventilated in 'The Ringing World.'

Much has been written recently regarding a National Association. I am opposed to such a scheme, but it would be worth while discussing whether it would be a benefit to ringing or not. Personally, I do not see that such an association would be a benefit, as we already have a Central Council.

With best wishes for the success of the Conference and hoping to be able to take part in the discussions.

FRED E. DUKES,
Assistant Hon. Sec., Irish Association.

Dublin

TAPPING PEALS.

WHY ARE NOT MORE DONE?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Thirty years ago I tapped a few peals of Minor, including a 7,200 in ten plain methods and a 5,040 in seven Surprise methods, but I have not previously taken part in any correspondence on tapping.

Peals can be rung on tower bells, on handbells or tapped, and they have to be composed. In a spirit of friendly competition we can try to beat each other's records in any of these four branches of ringing. Tapping appears to be either the least attractive or the most difficult, because in the whole history of ringing, peals (on six or more bells) have been tapped by four men only. Their names in order of date are Roberts, Segar, Broyd and Morris.

Many conductors have spent weeks in picking a band and obtaining permission, etc., sometimes to meet one short on the day. A tapper has none of these difficulties. He can go for a peal any time of the day or night convenient to his umpire and himself.

Men of ability, great energy and plenty of spare time now count their peals in hundreds. Some of them can tap even London Surprise Major. It would be interesting to know how it is that during a long and successful career they have not been able to spare the time to tap one peal and bring the number up to five.

Those who would like to know how it is done will find an article written by me in Mr. Ernest Morris' book.

J. SEGAR.

Market Place, Retford.

ANONYMITY

(Continued from previous column.)

During the 22 years that I have been taking 'The Ringing World' I could quote numerous similar instances where personal enmity has revealed its presence and changed the whole course of a subject when a person's name has been signed. As an inveterate correspondent to your columns I have decided, therefore, that a nom-de-plume is the best, despite what some might say to the contrary.

'ANON.'

RINGERS' GOLDEN WEDDING.

MR. AND MRS. R. WHITTINGTON'S RECORD.

The congratulations of their many friends will be extended to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Whittington, of Cranleigh, Surrey, upon reaching their golden wedding. Both are ringers and are, we believe, the first ringing couple to reach such a noteworthy anniversary. They were married on February 25th, 1892.

They were the first married couple to ring a tower-bell peal together, having rung this at Cranleigh in 1912; indeed, at the time of their silver wedding five years later they were still the only couple to have achieved this distinction.

Although a silver wedding peal was lost on the actual anniversary, they had the satisfaction of ringing together a commemorative peal before the year was out.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Whittington were great cyclists, and at one period travelled over 100,000 miles on a tandem cycle, in the course of which they visited and rang in 400 towers. They have still many happy memories of these journeys left to them.

Unfortunately, Mrs. Whittington does not now enjoy good health, but Mr. Whittington is as keen on cycling as ever. The war has necessitated his going back into the business from which he had retired three years previously, so that his activities outside have been severely restricted since, but we have a recollection that just before the war his granddaughter took 'grandpa' on a hundred mile cycle ride one day—and grandpa was over 70.

Mr. Whittington has rendered valuable service, both to the old Winchester Diocesan Guild and the present Guildford Diocesan Guild. He has served on the committee of both, and was one of the leading spirits in the formation of the latter when the division of the old Winchester Diocese took place. He has also been a member of the Central Council. The present circumstances have brought him one great disappointment, namely, that it will not be possible to attempt a peal on the 25th anniversary of that which celebrated the silver wedding.

KATE.

A MYSTERY SOLVED.

It is ten years ago now, or will be in a couple of days, since a peal was rung at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields. There was nothing remarkable about the peal and there was nothing remarkable about the band that rang it. They were a lot of quite ordinary people, and anyone who, going into a saloon bar, should have suddenly come into their company would have experienced no thrill, nor would he have lingered over his beer hoping to catch some words of wisdom that might fall from their lips. They were commonplace men. Among them were some heroes who had fought for their country and watered with their blood the fair fields of France and the thirsty deserts of the East; poets, chiefly of the mute inglorious class; orators, who might have swayed grave senates or stirred to the depths the hearts of vast multitudes; and suchlike. In fact, they were an average band of ringers, and there would have been no necessity and no excuse for saying anything about them but for one thing. They were bachelors.

Is bachelorhood a thing to be praised or a thing to be condemned? We do not know. Ought we to congratulate a bachelor or pity him? We cannot say. This we know that these men were bachelors and they gloried in their state; else why ring the peal?

But their glory was shortlived, for there appeared a letter in 'The Ringing World' signed by Kate, who told them just what she thought of them. It was only a short letter, and from a literary point of view not a good letter; but it was to the point, and throughout the country over the faces of ringers there spread a broad grin.

Who was Kate? Nobody knew, and, though suggestions were made and hints thrown out, still nobody knows. But now after ten full years we are permitted to reveal the secret. Kate was not a human being fashioned of earthly clay. The hand that held the pen was indeed a hand of flesh and blood; but the influence that dictated the message came from the world of spirit and fancy. Kate was no ordinary woman; she was an inspiration; still more, she was a good joke.

PREFERMENT OF LANCASHIRE RINGING CLERGY

Members of the Lancashire Association, and particularly those of the Liverpool Branch, have heard with much pleasure and satisfaction of the preferment of two of their clerical ringing brethren.

The Rev. D. P. Roberts has accepted the living of St. Catherine's, Edge Hill, Liverpool, and the Rev. J. A. Briggs has been preferred to the living of Emmanuel Church, Everton, Liverpool. Both of these clergymen are very capable change ringers, and the best wishes of all ringers are extended to them in their new spheres of activity.

'DUBLIN JUBILEE QUARTER PEAL'

A quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes) was rung at St. George's Church, Dublin, in honour of the jubilee (50 years) of the 14th Dublin Company of Boys' Brigade, before the jubilee thanksgiving evening service. The ringers were Miss Sadie Lanigan, 1, Fred E. Dukes (conductor), 2, Miss Ada Dukes, 3, William E. Hall, 4, Mrs. F. E. Dukes, 5, William McGregor, 6, George McGregor, 7, Matthew Doolan, 8. The quarter-peal was rung on 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, with 7, 5, 8 covering.

EARLY FOUNDERS AND THEIR BELLS.

SOME GOOD WORK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. Munday's interesting letter regarding Edward Read's first bell, I am glad to state that later bells by this founder do not bear such a bad reputation as the former second at Basingstoke. Bells by Read are comparatively rare, but he cast a ring of six for Catherington, Hants, in 1751, some of which, I believe, have been recast. I have not heard any of Read's Hampshire bells, but his three Berkshire examples, viz., Blewbury, 1752, East Garston, 1752, and Farnborough, 1753, are quite good. The latter has a mediæval bell on each side of her, and Read appears to have endeavoured to match these in tone.

The tone of the seventh bell at Blewbury impressed me considerably when I examined these bells in 1939, and I remember asking Mr. Gregory, who accompanied me, to ring this bell longer than usual so that I might listen to her fine tone. But as the whole question of the partial tones of 'Old Standard' bells is so complex, and their strike notes to a great extent an aural illusion, others may think differently. The strike notes of both the Blewbury and East Garston bells are approximately F sharp.

With reference to the East Hagbourne bells, mentioned in your issue of February 6th, I have since received a letter from Mr. A. A. Hughes, of the Whitechapel Bellfoundry, in which he states: 'It is an extraordinary thing to find a ring of eight of such varied dates so nearly accurate for tune. I registered the vibrational pitch of each and, if I remember correctly, not one was more than about three frequencies out. I am, of course, referring to the "strike" notes.'

This is a very striking testimony to the skill of our old founders and tuners, who relied on their ears in these matters, and had no scientific instruments to guide them.

FREDERICK SHARPE.

Launton, Oxon.

EDWARD READ'S FIRST BELL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the letter under the above heading in your issue of the 13th inst., Mr. Munday, also Mr. Sharpe, will be interested to know that in the same year, 1751, Edward Read cast a ring of five bells for Catherington Church, Hants, the second and third bells of this peal being recast and a treble added to make six by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank in 1887. The peal was tuned and rehung by ourselves in 1935, and Read's bells in this peal were certainly more tuneful than his bell in the Basingstoke peal.

Incidentally Mr. Munday is not quite right with Read's spelling on the second bell, at Basingstoke, which actually is as follows:—

EDWARD: READ: AT: ALBOURN: WILLTS: FECIT: 1751:

The tenor at Catherington is 8½ cwt., and Read cast heavier bells, viz.: The 7th at Blewbury weighed 14 cwt. approximately, and the 5th at East Garston, Berks, 11½ cwt. approximately. Mr. Sharpe in his 'Church Bells of Berks' describes Blewbury 7th as a 'fine-toned' bell and gives the date as 1752, whereas in his letter to 'The Ringing World,' February 6th, he quotes this bell as Read's latest bell dated 1757.

JOHN TAYLOR AND CO.

THE OLDEST BELL.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In reply to your correspondent on this question, I would draw his attention to the tenor of the ring of four at Cold Ashby, Northants, which still bears the date 1317, and I might say there is another at Hardwick in the same county 1395, though this was cracked and welded by Bariman 1926. Whether the 1317 bell at Cold Ashby is the oldest I cannot say, but I should assume it is one of the oldest untouched. Its weight is just over 7 cwt.

P. A.

PENGE RINGERS MISSING.

Many ringing friends in Lewisham District of Kent County Association and London will be sorry to hear that Edgar J. Barrett, of Penge, has been posted missing while serving with the R.A.F. in the Middle East. At the time he was a Sergeant Wireless Operator on ferry duties.

He was one of the keenest members of the young band which was becoming quite well known at St. John's, Penge, just before the war, and his keenness led him to cycle many miles in search of practice in Kent and London.

He joined the R.A.F. at the age of 18½ and celebrated his twentieth birthday at home at Christmas time.

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GEORGE CONYARD.**AN OLD KENT RINGER.**

I have often thought when reading Mr. Trollope's historical articles how much I would like to have known personally some of the old ringers he mentions, and have regretted many times that I did not jot down my impressions of some I came in contact with who were active ringers nearly a century ago, and who were old men when I was a boy. There is one, however, with whom I was closely associated and who many will still remember in North Kent. This was George Conyard, and in appearance he looked exactly what he was, a typical vergar and sexton of a country church—as ours was at that time—with his side whiskers and round clerical hat.

He was a good old ringer as far as he went and a man of whom I was fond. I used to think him very clever to be able to chime three bells all by himself and would watch him at every opportunity. This had to be done twice every day, at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. and three times on Friday, when the Litany was said at noon. He would begin at a quarter to the hour, chime the front three for five minutes, then the third would be chimed for five minutes, and the treble the remaining five. In due course it came about that he would chime the three, and leave me to finish with the single bells, and eventually I was able to do it all by myself. This was a great asset to George Conyard, for until then he was unable to have a day off, as no one else could do the chiming. It was also an asset to me, for on those occasions when he was away I was allowed out of school to deputise for him. On more than one occasion I have told the schoolmaster that I had to chime for Mr. Conyard in order to get out of school at half-past eleven on a Friday.

A TWOPENNY FEE.

As I said just now, he was the sexton, and it was the custom until quite recent years in the parish for the passing bell to be tolled. It often happened that he was busy grave digging, and could not easily spare the time. On these occasions he would send to the school and ask for me to come and do it for him. This was a greater pleasure than chiming for service, for he always gave me twopence. I found, in after years, he received a shilling.

After I started ringing we went about quite a lot together, and these excursions sometimes provided what are now very amusing experiences, although some of them were not so at the time.

Once we went to Bromley. How we got there I cannot remember, but we walked home. On the way we came to a hop field through which he said there was a short cut. It was dark and we missed the path, and in endeavouring to find it we noticed a very strong smell. We pulled up just in time to prevent falling into a large tank of tar sunk into the ground.

Another of his short cuts which did not turn out according to plan was soon after Eynsford bells were increased from six to eight. We had been there for a peal and missed the last bus from Farningham to Dartford. It was then nearly ten o'clock and we were none too pleased at the prospect of a seven-mile walk home. 'Never mind,' said George, 'if we take the footpath across these fields we can cut off nearly a mile,' so away we went. All went well until we had nearly reached the road again, when George trod in a rut and sprained his ankle. We got him to the main road with great difficulty. The next problem was how to get him home. Eventually a cab was obtained at an exorbitant price, but there was nothing else for it at that time of night.

A VISIT TO GRAVESEND.

One Saturday night at Gravesend we went into the market where a cheapjack was selling watches, and we joined the crowd of on-lookers. Presently there was considerable commotion, and the vendor of these watches started to abuse poor old George when he refused to take one for which he was alleged to have made a bid. Needless to say, we did not stop and argue, and when we got away Lewis Silver told us that a local ventriloquist in the audience was the culprit. He evidently thought that George, with his whiskers and hat, was a fitting subject for his humour.

George was one of a band who rang a 10,080 of Canterbury Pleasure at Erith 50 years ago. My father had arranged to walk over with him. When father called at his home George said, 'I can't possibly start for a peal. I've got lumbago.' Father was most unsympathetic and answered, 'You'll have to. Who do you think we can get to take your place?' 'But I can't walk all that distance, let alone ring,' protested George. 'You must,' insisted father, and George gave in. They arrived at the tower and started. After an hour his lumbago left him. George lived nearly twenty years afterwards, but he never had lumbago again.

One of the things I regret most in my ringing life is connected with George Conyard. The late F. G. Newman at one time had William Eversfield's manuscripts. When he fell on hard times he parted with them to F. J. French, of Bevelx, who in turn gave them to George Conyard. At his death I asked his daughter to let me have his ringing papers, which she promised to do. I did not go at once for them as I should have done, and when I did was told 'There was only a lot of dirty old papers and I put them in the dustbin.'

E. B.

MR. F. DENCH'S JUBILEE.

To-morrow is the fiftieth anniversary of Mr. Frederick Dench's first peal, Court Bob Triples, which he rang at Crawley on February 28th, 1892.

Mr. Dench was one of the band that made history at this Sussex tower, under the conductorship of Mr. James Parker, their best performance being the then record length of Superlative Surprise, 9,312 changes, rung in 1894.

When the band broke up Mr. Dench went to London, where he was associated with the talented company at St. Stephen's, Westminster, and the College Youths. For many years now Mr. Dench has been in business in Saffron Walden. His contributions to the art have included many valuable compositions in a number of methods.

BANKERS' PEAL RECALLED.

The seventh anniversary of the bankers' peal falls on March 2nd. A band of ringers, all in the banking profession, met in London on March 2nd, 1935, and rang a peal of Bob Major on the bells of the Church of St. Olave, Hart Street, City, in three hours and one minute. The peal was arranged by Mr. F. S. Wilson, then manager of Lloyds Bank, Ltd., Wincanton, and it was conducted by Alan R. Pink, then of the Westminster Bank, Ltd., Eton. No less than five banks were represented. A correspondent, who duly reminds us of the anniversary, says: 'The witty and clever remarks of the Editor of "The Ringing World" upon the performance are worth repeating'. We blush at the compliment, but here they are:—

IN THE BANK.**'BANKERS RING THE CHANGES.'**

'A band of bankers rang a peal on Saturday in the heart of the City of London, in Hart Street in fact. It was quite appropriate that the peal should be rung in the world's financial centre, and while in these days of dealing in millions, a few shillings, more or less, count for little, unless the conductor had produced sufficient bobs to enable the financiers to "ring the changes" to good purpose, their peal stock would unquestionably have slumped. There was, however, a capital issue, and this peal is safely banked. Congratulations, therefore, to these "men of money" (other people's money they will probably tell you) upon their success.'

It is to be much regretted that the bells of St. Olave's Church have since been destroyed by enemy action.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.**NORTH STAFFS ASSOCIATION'S VIEWS.****To the Editor.**

Dear Sir,—I read the letter of your anonymous correspondent, 'Communal,' asking why we of the North Staffordshire Association oppose the formation of a National Association.

Apart from all political reasons, it seems fatal to want to destroy all the past traditions, all local interests and all local funds.

Mr. F. W. Housden, who wrote the first letter suggesting a National Association, gave no reasons why, except the general comment that 'the issues at stake could not be successfully dealt with' by the present many individual associations.

It is a very drastic proposal to make without giving any definite reasons.

ANDREW THOMPSON, Hon. Sec.,

North Staffordshire Association.

THE DEMOCRATIC WAY.

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent asks what reason we have for opposing the liquidation of all local societies and the forming in their place one big national association run by its all-powerful general secretary. This is certainly the modern political method of running a Fascist State (or Russian, for that matter), and many people in this country think it is the only way of getting things done. But opposed to this fascist way there is the richer democratic way—where power resides in the local bands, where ringing is run by the ringers themselves, not by a bureaucratic clique or all-powerful general secretary.

That is why some of us oppose it. And it is not as if the local societies were hostile to one another or refused any sort of co-operation through their central committee.

HUGH BENSON.

Sneyd Vicarage, Stoke-on-Trent.

HANDBELLS AT CHERTSEY

The old curfew town of Chertsey can claim but little in the way of handbell ringing, but it is recalled that on March 20th, 1909, a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung there for the Winchester Guild. This was the first and only handbell peal ever rung in the town, and the ringers were William Shepherd (conductor) 1-2, Arthur F. Shepherd 3-4, George Edser 5-6, J. B. Hessey 7-8. Those two splendid handbell ringers, Arthur Shepherd and George Edser, were great 'pals' together, but both passed from us during the last Great War.

After 33 years it is pleasing to record a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples rung in the tower on February 16th last by E. Morey 1-2, W. Shepherd (conductor) 3-4, J. B. Hessey 5-6, E. J. Crocker 7-8. It was the first handbell quarter-peal by E. Morey and E. J. Crocker, and the first quarter-peal 'inside' by J. B. Hessey.

ELEMENTARY COMPOSITION.

FOR THE AVERAGE READER.

We will turn back to our three courses of Bob Major which, as we said, is the simplest and most typical of all compositions. When we were ringing it we noticed that it consists of three full courses, and when we picked the rows we discovered that these were three full Natural Courses, one beginning with 12345678, one beginning with 14235678, and the third beginning with 13425678. These three were joined together by bobs.

We saw that the plain course (and similarly the other two courses) consisted of seven forward hunting courses joined together by a backward hunting course made at the lead-ends when the treble is leading. Now let us look at what happens when the bobs are made. Only three bells are affected, the rest work as they would do had there been no bobs, so we will write down the hand and back rows of these three bells.

We discover that they go through a complete six, that is a hunting course on three bells; and we notice further that this hunting course is in the opposite direction to that of the hunting course (on seven bells), which joined together the hunting courses (on eight bells) to make the Natural Courses.

In other words the operation which joins together the three Natural Courses is similar to that which joins together the seven hunting courses to make up the course. First we have the plain forward hunting course on eight bells. This is extended by the backward hunting course on seven bells to make the Natural Course. And that is extended by the forward hunting course on three bells to make up the 3-course composition.

It sounds a little complicated when put down in words, but really it is very simple, and it is worth studying and understanding; for here you have the easiest example of the fundamental idea on which the whole science and art of change ringing is based—cyclical movement on varying numbers of bells and in opposite directions.

When in any composition there are a number of bobs which together constitute a complete hunting course (as these do) they are said to form a Q Set.

When, as in Bob Major, Double Norwich Cambridge, London and many other methods, only three bells are affected by the bob, the Q Sets will consist of a hunting course on three bells. When, as in Grandsire Triples, Kent Treble Bob Major, and Bristol Surprise, five bells are affected by the bob, the Q Set will consist of a hunting course on five bells. We give the hand and back rows of the bob changes of Grandsire Triples with the 3rd called Before, and it will be seen that five bells, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, go through a complete hunting course.

But when we are writing out compositions we do not give hand and back rows where the bobs are made. We give only the back stroke row when the treble is leading and assume the rest. It is usual therefore to say that the Q Set in Bob Major consists of three members, and we should write the example above as 2345678, 4235678 and 3425678.

Similarly the above Q Set of Grandsire Triples would be written down, not by the rows given, but by the back-

stroke row that follows each pair. Thus—1532746, 1735624, 1637452, 1436275 and 1234567.

W. H. Thompson and those writers who immediately followed him had another plan so far as Grandsire Triples is concerned. They wrote down the backstroke row when the treble is leading before the bob is made. This was natural enough in the explanation that Thompson was giving, but it has a good deal confused the matter. The point is that the reader should understand what a Q Set really is.

We have used the term Q Set for a number of bobs which are definitely related to each other, but that is not the whole of the matter. Suppose we omitted all the bobs and wrote down the rows which would occur if our three Natural Courses remained separated independent round blocks not joined to each other. We should still have the rows of a hunting course on three bells, but in the opposite direction to that produced by the bobs. These rows we also call a Q Set, and to distinguish the two kinds we call one a bobbed Q Set and the other a plain Q Set.

Q Sets are almost the most important things that there are in composition. That is why we should try to understand something about them from the very start, and why we have thus early dealt with what to some people may seem properly to belong to the more advanced part of the science.

There are two reasons why Q sets are so very important. The first is that they supply one of the most efficient means of joining together Natural Courses. We have already had an example of that in our three courses of Bob Major, and we shall have more to say on that point. The second reason is that whenever we require to include in any composition the full extent of the rows, we must have all the Q Sets intact. If one member of a Q Set is bobbed, all the members must be bobbed. If one member is plain all the members must be plain.

It will not take us much trouble to convince ourselves that this is so. Suppose we call a bob at the end of the plain course of Bob Major. That will give us with the handstroke 2436587. Suppose, somewhere later in our peal 3425678 comes up plain. The handstroke will be 3246587. So far all is well. But how are we going to get the third member 2345678? We cannot have it plain for we should want 2436587 as the handstroke; and we cannot have it bobbed for we should want 3246587 as the handstroke, and both of them we have already used.

So far we have dealt with Q Sets consisting of bobs only or plain leads only. There is another class of Q Sets in which singles appear, and we shall have to consider them next.

ISLEWORTH VISITS CROYDON.

On Saturday, February 7th, the band of young ringers which has been formed and taught at Isleworth by Mrs. O. L. Rogers visited Croydon to fraternise and practise with the band of young lady ringers at St. Peter's who, despite some severe setbacks, are carrying on, not only by holding practices, but by ringing every Sunday for the evening services in church.

Well-struck courses of Bob Royal, Grandsire Caters and Grandsire Triples were rung and good practice put in on the silent tower bells. Afterwards the party was entertained to tea by Miss Terry and her mother.

It is good to know that such excellent work is being done to provide for the future of the art of change ringing.

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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HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at The Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, on Saturday, Feb. 28th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. All welcome.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Kington District.—A meeting will be held at Eardisland on Saturday, Feb. 28th. Bells (6, silent) and handbells available 3 p.m. Service 4.45. Tea 5.15. Business after tea.—J. C. Preece, Dis. Sec., Lea Lodge, Staunton-on-Arrow, Leominster.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Wath-on-Deane on Saturday, Feb. 28th. Handbells available, Church House, 2.30 p.m. Tea at Warburton's Cafe 5 p.m., followed by business meeting, Church House, at 6 p.m. This meeting is arranged later to have it "moonleat." All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Henlow on Saturday, February 28th. Silent tower bells and handbells. As tea cannot be arranged, the meeting will not commence until 5 o'clock.—C. J. Ball, Hon. Sec., 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at St. Michael's, Headingley, on Saturday, February 28th. Handbells in the tower from 3 p.m. to black-out time (approximately 6.45 p.m.).—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The 54th annual Henry Johnson Commemoration will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 7th. Owing to prevailing conditions this will be a luncheon to commence at 1.30 p.m. prompt, Vice-President, Albert Walker, Esq., 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 28th. 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 7th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Monday, March 1st? All welcome.—R. H. Howson, 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Blechley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—A meeting will be held at Loughborough on Saturday, March 7th, to elect officers and

consider future activities. Handbells in the Foundry campanile from 4 p.m. Please attend if possible.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Hanley on Saturday, March 7th, at 3 p.m. A committee meeting will be held at 4 p.m. in the tower, and the business is important. No tea arrangements will be made. All ringers welcome.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Belgrave on March 7th. Ringing (8 bells, silent) from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting, Hotel Belgrave, near church, at 5.30 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify me by March 4th.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Taunton Deanery Branch.—Annual meeting will be held on Saturday, March 7th, at St. James', Taunton. Bells, with silent apparatus, available 3.30 p.m.—R. W. Hayward, Hon. Sec., Tregoney, Hovelands Lane, Taunton.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting (1942) will be held in the Chapter House, Christ Church, Oxford, on Saturday, March 14th, at 3.15 p.m. (p.v.). A good attendance is requested.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

BIRTH.

COLMAN.—On February 20th, to Patricia (nee Humphrey), wife of Robert Colman, a daughter. 14, Chepstowe Crescent, W.11.

MARRIAGE.

CURSON—ROBERTSON.—On February 21st, at Christ Church, Eaton, by the Rev. B. M. Downton, Russell William, elder son of Mr. W. A. and the late Mrs. Curson, of Melton Road, Hethersett, to Mabel, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Robertson, of 7, Henley Road, Norwich.

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DANGERS IN THE BELFRY.

The recent tragic accident in the steeple of St. Giles'-in-the-Fields is a warning of the dangers that may await the man whose duties take him up the bell tower and among the bells. Exactly what happened on that occasion seems not to be known, but it appears that the late Mr. Geare had gone into the belfry in connection with A.R.P. duties and had fallen from the intermediate chamber below the bells on to the belfry floor. Whether he was trying to raise the trapdoor or the floor was defective is not known. His tragic death was not unaccompanied by features which gave it a certain nobility. He had gone from the service of Holy Communion to the service of his fellow men, and in his fall he was entangled with a bell rope and so rang his own knell.

The details of the accident are unimportant, but what is important is to remember that a man who goes up into a steeple to do any work among the bells runs a certain risk. It is a risk, of course, which all steeplekeepers and many ringers continually face without paying any attention to it. And that is well. Everywhere in daily life we run risks, and if we stopped to take notice of all of them we should never do anything. We cannot cross a road nowadays without running a risk. That does not keep us on one side only of a street, but it should create in us the habit of looking both ways before we step off the pavement. So when a man goes up into a tower he should cultivate the habit of taking certain precautions.

This is particularly necessary in the case of men who are getting on in years and are no longer so sound in wind and limb as they once were. When a man is young he can run up the winding stairs of a tall tower with little effect. As he gets older his heart, though still good, is not so strong; the exertion may put just that amount of extra strain on him that does harm. Not immediate harm perhaps, but harm that may have lasting though unnoticed effects. Better take the long climb steadily and slowly; it may make all the difference if, when climbing among the bells, a slip is made.

There are, we hope, many steeplekeepers who, even in these days of the ban, like now and again to visit their belfries to see that all is in order with ropes and bearings ready for ringing when the welcome time comes. They know their bells and bell frames so well that they could clamber about them blindfolded. It is well that it is so, but let them not forget that the time comes when the foot is less sure, the hand less ready and the brain less alert. Fatal or serious accidents may be rare, but even a slight slip may be awkward and uncomfortable.

(Continued on page 110.)

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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.

For it is the peculiarity of a church steeple that it is almost the most remote and inaccessible place in the parish. No one goes there except those whose duties take them on very rare occasions. A man who has an accident in a bell chamber might remain there for very long unnoticed unless he could attract outside attention by sounding one of the bells. It is well, if it can be done, to have assistance when a man, and especially an elderly man, attempts to do any work in a steeple. And always and for everyone it is well before going up the stairs to let somebody below know that you are going up and how long you expect to remain there. If anything did happen help would not be delayed for long.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, February 16, 1942, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

At 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2 | HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 5-6

EDWIN A. BARNETT 3-4 | CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 7-8

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

BURBAGE, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(HINCKLEY DISTRICT.)

On Tuesday, February 24, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

At STEDMAN, SKETCHLEY ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor size 15 in C.

ALFRED JORDON 1-2 | FRANK K. MEASURES ... 5-5

ALFRED BALLARD 3-4 | PTE. W. A. CLOUGH, R.A. 7-8

Conducted by FRANK K. MEASURES

First peal in the method 'in hand' by all. First peal of Triples 'in hand' by entirely Hinckley District members. Specially arranged for Pte. Clough, who was home on leave.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION
(BRISTOL GUILD OF HANDRELL RINGERS.)

On Friday, February 27, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes.

At 21, WATHEN ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 15 in C.

ALBERT M. TYLER 1-2 | THOMAS HARRIS ... 5-6

ROYSTON G. BRYANT 3-4 | DONALD G. CLIFT ... 7-8

Conducted by DONALD G. CLIFT.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Master Fred Harris, the eight-year-old son of the ringer of 5-6.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 28, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

At NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF SPLICED PLAIN AND GAINSBOROUGH LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5016 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in D flat.

WALTER H. DOBBIE 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6

WILLIAM L. B. LEESE 3-4 | JOAN HOULDSWORTH ... 7-8

Composed and Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

First peal of 'Spliced' by all the band and the first handbell peal in more than one method for the Guild. First handbell peal of Major by the ringer of 1-2, who was elected a member of the Guild before starting. This peal was specially arranged and rung as an 81st birthday compliment to Mr. N. Spice, of Tunstall, Kent.

J. A.
TROLLOPE'S

'COLLEGE YOUTHS'
A History of the Society

5/6 (post free) from

'THE RINGING WORLD' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD WOKING, SURREY.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

A SUGGESTED SCHEME.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I must confess that the correspondence that has appeared in 'The Ringing World' has provided me with interest, even some amusement, especially when the danger of a National Association looming in the distance (like Bolshevism) has caused a resolution to be passed deploring the idea of such a thing. No doubt if these menaces do not take root during this generation, they will in the next. Some members have asked as to what are the advantages to be gained by the formation of such an association. I tried to explain these some years ago in 'The Ringing World,' but although I have not retained the correspondence (through patriotic reasons, of course) these, I believe, were the main facts:—

All territorial associations to be abolished and the country split up into county, diocesan or other units, sub-divided into deaneries or other areas as may be considered expedient. The funds in hand would provide a substantial credit balance to commence operations.

The objects of the National Association would be: To do away with pin-pricking that goes on between rival associations, abolish the compounding member's subscription when peal ringers venture over the border of their native soil; abolish the Central Council (of which I am a member), which would be replaced by an Executive Committee of the National Association coming under more active control of the members; to take over full financial responsibility for the publication of 'The Ringing World' under the care of a full-time secretary and editor. His remuneration would be derived from the saving of several hundreds of pounds spent annually in duplicating most of the information that has already appeared in 'The Ringing World' by dispensing with annual reports. (Note.—You said yourself some time ago that if all association members took in 'The Ringing World' it could be produced for 1d.) These circumstances would then exist, and for an annual subscription of 5s. 'The Ringing World' could be provided weekly for each member. It should be remembered that the reasoning was based on peace-time conditions.

The publication of 'The Ringing World' is going to create one of the most serious problems that the Exercise will have to face, but all the while the paper appears regularly nobody will care. Ringers just look backwards (or 'preserve past traditions,' as Mr. Thompson puts it) and hope for the best. They raise their hands in horror at the thought of a National Association, yet this is the only idea, in my opinion, that can hope to provide an attempt to solve 'The Ringing World' problem when it arises, as it surely will.

There is also the question of 'issues at stake that could not be dealt with by the many associations.' Surely Mr. F. W. Housden raises doubts as to whether ringing will have the free hand that it enjoyed before the war, and that conditions will be imposed. I share with him his doubts, although we have not discussed the matter. If, when the war is over, it is decided that no ringing shall continue for an hour or half an hour without a pause being made (and from the public's point of view long continuous ringing is not necessary), who is to convince the 'powers that be' that three hours or more of continuous ringing is a necessity?

Mr. Pulling expresses his fear of the bishops. What clergy require, after all, are their bells rung for Sunday service, and I should not anticipate that the formation of the National Association would cause ringers to get the 'universal sack.' The College Youths and Cumberland Youths are, after all, National Associations without the episcopal blessing, and just look how they thrive!

I expect some members think I have painted a gloomy picture of the future. It is the fruit of looking forward unsentimentally, not living on history, and I trust this provocative letter will bring supporters and opponents into the open to express their opinion. Perhaps some valuable knowledge will be gained by all of us.

CHARLES H. KIPPIN.

Beddington, Croydon.

P.S.—Members have stated that we have a Central Council already. As Cyril Fletcher would say, 'You be roight—I doubt.'

WHAT GOOD WOULD IT DO?

Dear Sir,—I was at the meeting of the North Staffordshire Association in December when we opposed the formation of a National Association. I cannot see how it would benefit except to save ringers a little expense of becoming members, but I think very few grumble about that. Also we have grants made to us for the restoration of bells which I expect would cease.

We have a young and energetic secretary in Mr. A. Thompson, who is heart and soul in his work for us. Do you think that under a head secretary he or any others would have the same interest? I should say 'No.' We also have the Central Council to look forward to.

The suggestion of yours, Mr. Editor, re the Ringers' Conference, that all letters published in 'The Ringing World' should have the sender's name and not a 'nom-de-plume,' would be well received in general.

C. H. PAGE, Secretary of St. Peter's, Stoke-on-Trent.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

GOOD NEWS FOR MR. E. H. LEWIS.

At the meeting, last Saturday, of the Ancient Society of College Youths, the Master (Mr. E. G. Fenn) presided, supported by the hon. secretary (Mr. A. B. Peck) and the hon. treasurer (Mr. A. A. Hughes); and there were present Messrs. E. A. Young, W. H. Passmore, G. Price, H. Hoskins, H. Miles, R. F. Deal, I. Emery, J. Shepherd, F. Collins, J. Prior, A. B. Wiffen, J. A. Trollope, C. Roberts, C. Kippin, Newman Stannard, C. Potheary and J. Chapman. Gunner W. J. Clough from Hinckley in Leicestershire was a visitor.

Mr. E. A. Young reported that on behalf of the society he, with Messrs. R. F. Deal and H. Langdon, had visited St. Paul's Cathedral and met Mr. Henderson, the librarian, who had shown them where the society's books and property were stored. It was in a vault under the south transept enclosed by massive walls, and was probably as safe a place as any in London. Mr. Young stated that he had taken the last name book home to make an abstract as decided by the members.

Mr. Deal confirmed what Mr. Young had said and produced a blue print of a plan given him by Mr. Henderson, on which the exact location of the property is marked.

The thanks of the society were voted to Mr. Henderson for his courtesy in the matter. The committee of three members was also thanked.

The Master proposed that the record of the recent silent Holt's Original on handbells should be illuminated in the peal book entry. Mr. Passmore and Mr. Charles Roberts, the umpire of the peal, supported the proposal, which was agreed to.

Mr. Peck read a letter from Mr. G. E. Symonds, of Ipswich, who sent greetings and enclosed a letter he had received with reference to the enquiry sent him by the society about the late Rev. W. C. Pearson's books. The letter read:—

Dear Sir,—Rev. W. C. Pearson deceased. We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday's date and have to inform you that under Mr. Pearson's will all his books relating to ringing go to Cambridge.—Yours truly, Gotelee and Goldsmith.

Ringers generally will be glad to learn officially that Mr. Pearson's unique library of ringing books is saved for all time.

Mr. Isaac Emery received a warm welcome from the Master after his recent prolonged illness. He suitably replied.

The meeting was very pleased to hear a letter read by Mr. Peck from Mr. Edwin H. Lewis saying that news had been received through the Vatican Radio of his son John. He apparently had a crash landing in the desert near Tripoli and is a prisoner. Whether he is in Africa or Italy is not yet known, but no doubt in a few weeks there will be a letter from him. Ringers throughout the country will join in congratulating Mr. Lewis on his son's escape from death.

The next meeting will be at the Bell Foundry on March 14th.

THE EXPERTS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I note that my old friend Tom Coles is almost inclined to join in the laugh at the expense of the experts, but only in a very respectable and modest way!

Now I am quite as grateful as Mr. Coles to those experts who have served the Exercise by their work, and I hoped that I had made it abundantly clear that what was under attack was the dogmatic or 'know all' vogue, of which we have seen far too much in the past. I note Mr. Coles carefully avoids giving any opinion on the matter which brought the experts under criticism; but I feel sure that he would support me in my contention that men of Dr. Slack's kidney ought to be encouraged—not discouraged, as seems to be the case in the two-part peal of Stedman Triples which he so cleverly produced. That is all I have to say on this matter, but there is one point in Mr. Coles' letter on which I crave a little space to reply.

He asks me 'what would I do if only the very early compositions of Stedman were available?' and I am reminded of the story of the Queen who, when informed that the people had no bread, said, 'Give them cake.'

Well there is a wide variety of cake to choose from, and I have sampled quite a lot in my time, even though I come from the spiritual home of Stedman. There is one kind of cake, however, to which I am not partial, i.e., the spiced variety. I much prefer what I once described to a famous ringer as 'a cut off the joint and two veg,' to which he replied that Spiced Surprise was not only all that, but had a bit of pudding on top!

Be that as it may. I do not crave the highly spiced assortment served up in a spiced peal to the present-day gourmets. A well-struck peal of Cambridge, London or Bristol is a satisfying ringing meal to me, and suits my digestion admirably. Those whose digestions or appetites are stronger than mine are quite welcome to indulge in their fancy to their heart's content, but I can still get all the pleasure I want out of a peal in a straight method. Every man to his taste!

To Mr. Coles' suggestion that I am a leg puller, I feel inclined to reply, 'You are not so bad yourself!'

FRANK SMALLWOOD

38, Penn Lea Road, Bath.

THE BELLS OF LONDON.

(Continued from page 101.)

EARLY USES.

The early morning, mid-day and evening bells, although the most widely spread secular uses, were not the only ones. In many places a bell was rung to mark the opening and close of a market, and until the seventh year of Queen Victoria's reign, when the law was repealed, it was not lawful to buy or sell anything at a market before the bell had been rung. The object was to prevent 'forestalling' and to give to all the traders an equal chance. Often the church bell was used for the purpose, though in many cases a special bell was provided. At Norwich the bell was the sanctus bell that once hung in the tower of the Dominican priory, now St. Andrew's Hall.

It was similarly to give an equal chance to all that no one was allowed to glean after the reapers in the harvest field until the bell had been rung from the church steeple.

A very common use was that of the fire bell. In the Middle Ages and down to the Great Fire of 1666, London, like other towns and cities was mainly built of wood. The churches were stone with rubble-filled walls and piers, but stone was an expensive commodity, and that used for facings and the best work was for the most part brought from Caen in Normandy. It was an excellent stone, far superior to any to be found in Kent or Sussex, and the badness of roads forbade the use of the products of the quarries of the Midlands and the North. The making of bricks, which had been brought to a high degree of excellence in Roman times, was a lost art until the early sixteenth century. Ordinary houses were therefore necessarily constructed with wooden frames filled in with rubble, and any town or city so built was liable to severe damage and even destruction by fire. To fight so great a calamity every assistance was necessary, and no better means could be found of calling for help than the rapid insistent ringing of one of the church bells. Sometimes one particular bell was used for the purpose, and the use has survived in some places down to the present time.

The inscription on one of the bells at Sherborne Abbey is familiar:—

Lord quench the furious flame,
Arise run help put out the same.

From at least as early as the thirteenth century church bells had become the usual and most important of the means by which those in authority could broadcast summonses and messages to the general public, and consequently the right to own and use them was highly valued and closely guarded. Parish churches and large monastic establishments of course always had the right, but there were other authorities which claimed to share it, or were granted it as a special favour.

In France, the right to own or use a communal bell was the special mark of a burgh. In effect it meant that the town authorities had the right and the opportunity of calling the citizens together; and in a land and at a time when the great nobles kept all power and authority in their own hands as far as they could, that meant a lot. Sometimes unauthorised persons usurped the right for their own purposes, and many riots and insurrections were begun by the sounding of the tocsin from the church

steeple. In the most famous of all town and gown riots at Oxford, which took place on February 10th, 1354, the townsmen were called together by the town common bell at Carfax Church and the gownsmen by the University bell at St. Mary the Virgin.

For a chapel, hospital or similar small religious establishment, the possession of a bell was the sign that it was independent of the parish priest. It was a privilege which often could only be obtained from Rome, and the papal archives contain many instances of it being granted to various persons in England. For instance, on April 10th, 1400, licence was granted to William Tamworth, priest, of the town of Brystowe in the diocese of Worcester, to celebrate Mass at the chapel of St. Mary, and to have a bell rung without requiring licence of the diocesan or the Rector of the parish of St. Nicholas, the latter of whom he fears may hinder the same. And about the same time Henry Haselbech, priest in the diocese of Canterbury, was authorised to ring bells without requiring the licence of the Vicar of Cranbrook.

So much was a bell a necessary adjunct to a church that special reference is made in a letter of Pope Boniface IX. from St. Peter's at Rome in 1390, to the exceptional case of the parish church of Elmeston in the Diocese of Canterbury, 'which by reason of the poverty of the parishioners has no bells.'

Where there were large abbeys which dominated a town or village, the monks often tried to keep the bell-ringing under their own control, to confine it to their own bells, and to hinder the laity from having bells of their own. This led to many disputes, about which I may have something to say later.

On the other hand guilds were often granted the privilege of using bells in their services, and sometimes they possessed their own, which apparently were hung in the church tower.

Bells being thus such important things, we can understand why it was that so much stress was laid on them being rung in honour of the visits of kings and bishops and other great people. It was not just a compliment as it would be to-day. It was a formal admission of the status and dignity of the visitor, and the omission of it was strongly resented and usually punished, sometimes by a fine, sometimes by bishops by the inhibition for a time of all use of the church. In 'The Ringing World' for June 14th, 1940, I gave the text of an order of Archbishop Arundel who complained that though 'the comeliness of our holy Church of Canterbury deserveth and requireth that while we pass through the province of the same our church having our cross carried before us, every parish church in their times ought and are bounden in token of special reverence that they bear to us, to ring their bells, which notwithstanding, yea, on Tuesday last past when we betwixt eight and nine of the clock before dinner passed openly on foot as it were, through the midst of the City of London, with our cross carried before us, divers churches showed towards us, willingly, though they certainly knew of our coming, unreverence, ringing not their bells at all.' Therefore to revenge the injury the Archbishops put all the churches under his indictment till the ministers 'be able hereafter to attain of us the benefit of more plentiful grace.'

There are many references in churchwardens' accounts of parishes being fined for not ringing when royalty was passing, and often there was a rule which put the duty

of providing for doing so on to the parish clerk who had to bear the consequences of any neglect.

The tradition that it was the duty of a parish always to ring when the bishop made a formal visit lasted down to living memory. It was, of course, very generally done until the ban stopped all ringing, but not quite in the old spirit. Formerly it was a duty, now it is a voluntary compliment. Bishops once were much more remote and formidable personages than they have become in these democratic days.

The use of church bells for the personal needs of the ordinary individual layman was, as it still is, confined to marriages and deaths. The latter is almost the oldest and most universal of all the uses of bells, and I have already given a long account of it. How early bells came to be rung at weddings cannot be said. Probably it is a very old custom, but it is surprising how scanty are the references to it in church accounts. The death bell and the funeral bell were a necessity for every man, and the fees charged were an appreciable part of the parish revenue. Only the few had the bells rung when they wedded, and it would seem that they made arrangements directly with the ringers or the parish clerk and paid them. No fees went to the churchwardens and the parish accounts. At Loughborough in 1588 it was 'agreed that every marriage having or requiring to have the bells rung shall pay 6d. to the poorman's box and 6d. towards the repairing of the bells.' And at Ashby-de-la-Zouch it was ordered in 1628 that 'none shall be allowed to ring at weddings above three short peals, viz., one before the marriage and two after.'

Between the ringing for deaths and funerals and the ringing for weddings and other rejoicings there was, until

the beginning of the eighteenth century, no difference whatever. In all cases they were rung as high as was possible with the rather crude and imperfect fittings then in use. The half wheels and the absence of stays and sliders and of sallies on the ropes prevented any ringing at a 'set pull' until comparatively late times. Yet the bells voiced the varying feelings and sentiments of the people. Church bells for long ages had, and to some extent they still have the curious property of touching some chords in men's souls and memories and of expressing the emotions of the passing moment. To the man who rejoiced they sounded merrily. To the man who grieved they sounded mournful. To the man who felt poetical they gave heavenly music. To the irritated man they were an intolerable nuisance. The sullen bell that knolled a departing friend was the same bell and was rung in the same way as the merry bell that announced a wedding. It was in the man who listened that the difference lay.

THE MORNING AND EVENING BELLS.

A curious survival of the ancient custom of ringing a bell at morning, noon and night is mentioned by Mr. Shane Leslie in his book of reminiscences entitled 'The Film of Memory.' It relates to a big country mansion at Berkhamstead half a century ago:—

'Gamble was an old man with a long white beard like Methuselah, whose duty was to ring a bell high up in a lime tree in front of the house every day at six, at twelve and again at six as a signal to gardeners and workmen and the pathetic pensioners who collected the leaves that seemed to fall for their benefit all the autumn months. 'I can see the old man studying his watch not unlike Father Time himself.'

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.

On Saturday, February 14th, at 11, Aylesbury End, Beaconsfield, to celebrate the birthday of Mrs. W. H. Fletcher, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor (1,260 changes) was rung by H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, Miss D. R. Fletcher 3-4, R. Lee 5-6.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

■■■■■

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

We regret to say that the Editor, Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, has had a slight setback and is not quite so well as last week.

We have received the report of a peal rung at Bristol without the date. Will the conductor please forward it.

Visitors to London should take the opportunity of walking down Cannon Street to see such a view of St. Paul's Cathedral as human eyes have never seen till now. Owing to the clearance of buildings the whole length of the great church is visible from end to end without any obstructions, and from an angle where its fine proportions and the glorious dome show to the best advantage. It is a sight which Sir Christopher Wren saw in his mind's eye, but no one else had ever seen.

Henry Johnson was born on February 28th, 1809, and Edwin Horrex was born on the same date in 1838.

On March 1st, 1734, the Painswick men rang 8,064 Grandsire Caters. They followed up by 10,060 exactly a year later and by 12,006 in April, 1737. The Norwich men beat this by 12,600 on March 8th, 1738. The board says 1737, but that would be 'old style.'

W. Doubleday Crofts called 10,260 Grandsire Caters at Nottingham on March 3rd, 1778.

On March 5th, 1888, James W. Washbrook called 12,041 Stedman Caters at Appleton, the then longest length in the method.

The first peal of Stedman Caters on Bow Bells was rung by the Cumberlands on March 8th, 1808.

Fifty years ago to-day not a single peal was rung. It was a Sunday. But the day before there were ten peals—Grandsire Triples 1, Caters 2, Kent Treble Bob Major 4, Royal 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1, Minor 1.

THE LATE REGINALD E. GEARE.

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT ST. GILES'-IN-THE-FIELDS.

Last Saturday morning the parishioners and church workers of St. Giles'-in-the-Fields attended service to pay respect to the memory of Mr. R. E. Geare, who had met so tragic a death in the church steeple. The Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild was represented by Mr. C. T. Coles, Mr. A. W. Coles, Mr. J. A. Trollope, Mr. E. C. S. Turner, Mr. J. Bennett and Mr. T. J. Lock. Mr. George Steere, of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, and Miss Prockson, of Clerkenwell, were present, as well as Mr. A. Howkins and Mr. W. H. Howe, of the local band.

The service was ordinary matins, for the Rector explained that he felt that Mr. Geare, who was so staunch a churchman and loved the liturgy so well, would himself have preferred the familiar forms of the prayer book.

The Rev. J. W. Jones, the curate of the parish, who had been the first to discover Mr. Geare after his accident, preached an impressive and eloquent sermon. Taking for his text the words, 'Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,' he compared the departed to the aged Simeon, who had gone to his rest satisfied and in peace. In peace with himself, with his fellow men, and with God. So had Reginald Geare. He was an old man and had attained the serenity which comes from a life of religion and service. He had served St. Giles' as churchwarden, as chorister and as bellringer. He had gone to his death straight from receiving Holy Communion, and by a strange chance had rung his own death knell. Tragical though his death was, they could not doubt that he had died in peace. One most lovable characteristic of the man was the great interest he took in the children of the parish, whose games in Lincoln's Inn Fields he shared and promoted. At the time of his death he was engaged on work for the common good, and the distinguished and representative gathering at his funeral service showed how much he had gained the affection and respect of his fellow men.

PRISONERS OF WAR.

Mrs. L. East, of North Collingham, has received information through the Red Cross that her son, W./O. H. W. East, R.H.A., who was reported missing in the Middle East on November 21st, 1941, is now a prisoner of war in Italy. Mrs. East has just received his first letter. He has not suffered anything worse than a cold. W./O. East was a ringier of the Collingham band.

We are also pleased to learn from a letter read at the meeting of the College Youths last Saturday that Mr. Edwin H. Lewis has heard through the Vatican Radio that his son John, who had a forced landing in the desert near Tripoli, is safe though a prisoner.

THE LATE C. F. WINNEY'S HANDBELLS

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to the enquiry by Mr. H. M. Page, may I say that what happened to the handbells belonging to the late Mr. Challis F. Winney was, I believe, as follows.

Mr. Winney had lent them for use at an annual service at the Church of St. Ethelreda, Ely Place, and they were put in charge of the late Mr. Charles Horton, who kept them at his office. During one of the early air raids Mr. Horton's office was destroyed and the handbells perished with it.

ALFRED B. PECK.

Reigate, Surrey.

AN EAST ANGLIAN GARLAND. RINGERS, BELLS AND REMINISCENCES.

BY CHARLES J. SEDGLEY.

'The time has come
To talk of many things,
Of shoes—and ships—and sealing wax,
Of cabbages and kings.'

The passing of the Rev. W. C. Pearson brings to mind the days when he took an active and prominent part in ringing in East Anglia, some 25 to 30 years ago, and the happy afternoons spent at his vicarage at Henley, where he delighted to entertain ringing friends. He was a tall, upstanding man of fine presence and had never married. His collection of ringing books was without an equal, and I have often had the privilege of seeing and handling these treasures. There was, too, at the vicarage a fine collection of ancient pestles and mortars, of which he was very proud. Sometimes we would walk and sometimes ride in a one-horse conveyance—it is only four miles from Ipswich—of which the late Jemmy Motts would be coachman. Upon reaching Henley the horse would be unharnessed and put in the vicarage stables—yes, they had stables in those days—and we would cross the road to the church, a typical country house of worship set in a churchyard surrounded by trees, and which in the early spring was sweet with wild violets, and later with cowslips, and primroses, which thrive on our heavy Suffolk land. The parson would join us and a peal would be attempted with varying success.

Invariably after the ringing was finished we would be invited across to the vicarage for tea. This would be partaken of in a room which I always called in my mind 'the ringers' room,' although I never heard anybody else call it so. This apartment was a fine one, with large double doors opening on to the lawn and gardens beyond. It was hung around with many things of interest to ringers, portraits, groups, association certificates, etc.; it housed also a beautiful set of hand-bells, which, when the repast was finished and the table cleared, would be brought out, and a pleasant hour or so spent in ringing and reminiscence. I don't think our host ever ventured on more than a plain course of Grand sire Caters. He was a good ringer of methods up to Superlative and Cambridge Major, and, what is more, an excellent striker, but, like others of us, he had his off days. I have vivid recollections of Jemmy Motts bringing his foot down with a resounding bang on the belfry floor and crying, 'Wake up, sir, wake up,' or words to that effect, when the slips became too frequent. After a while would come the homeward journey, a dry one he it said, for the only pub in Henley, the Cross Keys—Henley, is dedicated to St. Peter—lay a mile beyond the church, and we were not going that way. In the other direction there was no place of call until the four miles to Ipswich had been covered.

HENLEY PARSONAGE

Henley Vicarage was a typical country parsonage, with high-pitched gables and clustered chimneys, set in the midst of trees; there were gardens and lawns, and beyond these an orchard which produced the kindly fruits of the earth in their season. There was a great walnut tree, and oftentimes a basketful would be brought to us, or we would wander underneath and get a handful of fallen ones. There was also a splendid cherry tree, a vision of beauty in the time of its blossoming, with underneath the curious purplish flowers of the fritillary or snake's head lily nodding their heads above the grass. This plant, which is of rare occurrence, is indigenous in parts of Suffolk. From its fruit used to be made a speciality of the Henley tea table, cherries preserved in syrup. All who have been there will remember them—but that was in the days of peace and no coupons. There were apple trees, too, which always seemed to produce bountiful crops.

As is well known, the Rev. W. C. Pearson was one of the few parsons who had rung a hundred peals on his own church bells; there were also rang peals in many other towers in East Anglia. If he wanted to ring a peal at a particular place he would get Jemmy Motts to get a band together and go with him. They went to Worlingworth once for Cambridge Major. David Collins, who rang in the 16.608 of Treble Bob at Debenham, lived here, and he rang the treble. The attempt was not successful, and David, who was a typical broad-spoken native, gave it as his opinion to one of the band that he had never yet met a parson who could ring. The band went again a week or so later, and an excellent peal was rung. When it was finished Mr. Pearson went across to David and said, 'I understand, Mr. Collins, that you said that you had never met a parson who could ring.' But David was not at a loss and replied, 'Oh! no, sir, it couldn't have been me. It must have been my brother.' David died a year or so back at a ripe old age. The last time we saw him was outside Wilby 'Swan,' leaning on his stout ash staff about 8ft. long which accompanied him on all his later walks abroad. He stood waving us good-bye till out of sight. Perhaps he knew then that never again would he meet the tenor man who had stood with him for ten and a half hours in Debenham tower on that sunny Whit Monday in 1892.

Our way home would perhaps be enlivened by some of Charles Catchpole's stories, told in his own inimitable way. He was generally one of the party and was a born raconteur. He was a native of Wetheringsett, which lays just off the Norwich turnpike about 15

miles from Ipswich, to which town he migrated early in life. By his death early last year the St. Mary-le-Tower Society lost an old and valued member. Mendlesham is the next village to Wetheringsett, and I remember on one occasion somebody mentioned that the local chimney sweep had died. Charlie knew all about him, he was quite a noted character, and used to follow his trade around the farm-houses of the countryside by means of a horse and cart. When old enough, his son used to accompany him. It was his habit on his return in the evening to stop, all black from his chimney sweeping as he was, at Brockford 'Griffin,' a noted hostelry on the high road about two miles from his home, hand over the horse and cart to his son and stay there the evening. On one occasion, having had 'one over the eight,' he was taking the short cut home through Mendlesham Churchyard when he toppled into a newly-dug grave beside the path. In his benumbed condition he could not get out, so he settled there for the night. Very early in the morning, hearing the footsteps of an early rising horseman, he popped his head up and asked the time. The startled horseman gave one terrified glance at this apparition of gleaming eyes in a black face issuing out of the grave, and fled for his life.

As far as my records go, I find that the Rev. W. C. Pearson's last peal was in 1923. This, curiously enough, was called by 'Bill' Garrett, the only one he has ever called, for, as he says, he does not profess to be a bob-caller. Still, he has one outstanding record to his credit, one which at present looks like standing for a long time—he is the first and only man to ring a hundred peals of Maximus and a fine list it is, with over fifty peals of Surprise and in seven different methods.

WILLIAM PYE'S 1,500th PEAL.

It was at Henley that the late William Pye conducted his 1,500th peal on August Bank Holiday, 1926. We had been to Coddensham in the morning and rung a peal of London—after a struggle. I don't know whether it was the glorious sunshine outside or the sounds of a fete in a nearby park floating in through the windows which upset the ringing, but we had to have two or three starts. However, we got it eventually, and after lunch went the short distance to Henley, where we rang a most excellent peal of Cambridge. The only trip was a slip dodge in 5-6 by the conductor, and I think every other member of the band told him of it in the same breath!

About four miles north of Henley lies Crowfield Hall, the seat, about 200 years ago, of Squire Theodore Ecclestone, whose ringing history has been told in 'The Ringing World.' Besides giving two bells to Fulham and two to Winchester, he put in peals of eight at Coddensham and ten at Stonham Aspal, both of which places are about a mile from Crowfield. At the latter place, in order to get the ten in, the tower, the lower part of which forms the porch of the church, had to be cut down so that the frame and bells can rest on the walls. To enclose them a wooden top storey was made, with pinnacles at the four corners and large louvered windows. The stone removed from the tower was afterwards used to line the church path, which in later years gave rise to the saying that to get to Stonham Church you had to walk over the steeple. It was here that we once got 'bats in the belfry'—not in the generally accepted sense of this expression—but one got into the ringing chamber during a peal, and fluttering around gradually put out the candles one by one, until the last went, which put an end to the ringing.

There is a grating in the floor of the ringing chamber at Stonham, through which one looks down to the porch 30 to 40 feet below. It is small and there is not much room to dispose of one's clothes before starting a peal. Once one of the ringers laid his on the floor, but during the ringing his rope caught up his collar and tie and flicked them through the grating. When we had finished and gone below we found them in a bucket of water, into which they had fallen, much to the annoyance of the owner and the rather heartless amusement of the others. It was at Stonham, too, as I have been told, that the local band of stoney ringers many years ago rang over three hours of call changes, just long enough to beat a band who had gone over and rung a peal a week or so previously. The locals were not going to be outdone on their own bells!

EAST ANGLIAN ROUND TOWERS.

All who have travelled in East Anglia will remember the round church towers which are a feature of the district. There are more in Norfolk than Suffolk, but there are quite a number in the north of the latter county. Some have rings of bells in them. There are eight at Quiddenham in Norfolk. There have been several theories advanced as to the reason for their erection in this form, but I don't think archaeologists are agreed on the subject. One is that they were built by the old Saxon thanes as watch and refuge towers for themselves and their people. The lower stages are mostly pre-Norman. Another is that owing to the lack of stone in East Anglia they were built round to obviate its use. One theory I heard advanced was that these round towers were originally wells, from which the earth has sunk away, leaving the lining sticking up! Although ingenious, I can hardly give this explanation a great amount of credence.

There has been in recent issues of 'The Ringing World' some mention of style in ringing, and I am inclined to agree with my old friend George Cross that what matters is where the bell is put, not how it is put there; but for all that it is a pleasure to watch a neat and stylish handler. One of the best I ever had the pleasure of watching was the late John Souther, of Diss, and to see him handling

(Continued on next page.)

AN EAST ANGLIAN GARLAND.

(Continued from previous page.)

a big bell was a joy. He was a bit of a martinet in the belfry, and woe betide the unfortunate wight who was marring a touch by indifferent striking. He would soon hear John's broad Norfolk, 'Spearce 'em out there, spearce 'em out.' He once rang the tenor at St. Peter's, Mancroft, to Superlative Major. At that time it was the heaviest bell turned in to Surprise Major. It has since been eclipsed by the exploits of Bob Newton and others at St. Mary-le-Bow, but it was a fine performance. Another good handler is Fred Tillet, of Ipswich, and to see him ring St. Mary-le-Tower tenor was a lesson in economy of effort coupled with good striking; still, as he turned her in to more than fifty peals he should know something about it. He is still with us, hale and hearty, and carrying himself more upright than many a younger man, the reward, as he himself would say, of leading an honest, sober and virtuous life. We have our stylists in the present generation, but I will refrain from mentioning names for fear of bringing the blush of modesty to their faces.

There are numbers of left-handed ringers in East Anglia, more, I think, than I have noticed elsewhere. I don't know why we call them left-handed, excepting that they are different to us others, who think we are right-handed. As an instance of this, I was once at a Guild meeting at Framden, the belfry was full of people, and a call was made for a course of, I believe, Cambridge. After the band had got hold and rung a peal or two, I looked round and found to my surprise that the whole eight were left-handed.

SUFFOLK BELLS.

From time to time one hears discussions on the merits of different peals of bells, this or that being given the preference by their respective admirers. There are a few good peals in Suffolk, to which county I shall confine myself, and Lavenham at once comes to mind. Their fame is known throughout the Exercise, and a grand peal they are with a noble tenor, Miles Graye's masterpiece. It is perhaps not so generally known that they are a left-handed ring. Mention of Lavenham brings to mind the late Arthur Symonds, who for over 40 years looked after these bells with fatherly care and love. He had the extraordinary record of having rung in a hundred consecutive peals on these bells.

In this southern area of the county are four other good peals of 24 cwt. and over—Clare, Hadleigh (a grand peal), Sudbury All Saints' (another good peal) and Boxford. The last named are not now ringable, and sadly need the attentions of a bellhanger. They hang in curious order: 5.1.2.4.3.6.7.8. It is in this church that a tablet records the untimely end of 'Elizabeth Hyam, who by a fall was at last hastened to her end on 4th May, 1748, in her 113th year'. It is rather remarkable that a town of Sudbury's size with less than 7,000 inhabitants should possess three peals of eight, All Saints' (27 cwt.), St. Peter's (23 cwt.), and St. Gregory's (16 cwt.), all in good ringing order. Bury St. Edmunds has a lovely peal of eight at St. Mary's with 27 cwt. tenor. There is a certain peculiar mellowness about them which is most attractive; their near neighbours at the Norman tower, that grand example of Norman work, are rather harsh in comparison. Still, the latter are a very good ten, all of one family, cast by Osborn in 1785. Woodbridge, a few miles north of Ipswich, are a very good peal with 27 cwt. tenor. They, too, are an Osborn peal dated 1792, although one or two have been recast. There is a nice peal at Leiston, with a tenor of just over a ton. It was here that ringing history was made by the brothers Bailey and the rest of the talented company, who gave a start to the remarkable development in new Surprise Major method ringing which we have witnessed in recent years.

DEBENHAM BELLS.

Considering that Stowmarket have no two bells of the same date and only two by the same founder, they are a surprisingly pleasing peal, but then they have the advantage of a 24 cwt. tenor of the best period of Miles Graye. There is another Miles Graye tenor of 21 cwt. at Eye, a good peal hanging in a noble tower of typical East Anglian flush work. However, of all these peals I think the one that gives me the most pleasure to ring under is Debenham. They hang in a short, squat tower, the lower stage of which is Saxon, with the characteristic 'long and short' work at the corners and one small deeply splayed window into the ringing chamber on the ground floor. A nice weight with tenor of just over a ton, the circle and sight is excellent, the sound is exactly right, every blow can be heard, and withal a lovely peal to which to listen. 'As a well-known ringer once said to me, 'It is a sacrilege to strike a bad blow here,' and I agree. They were overhauled a few years back, and a good job was made of it.

I find in reading over these notes that I have 'talked of many things,' and can only hope that they will be as interesting to read as they have been in their recollection. I feel sure that many ringers could give even more interesting experiences if they would only write them down, and to me it seems that these things are the very spice of ringing; they are the things that men talk about in places where they meet, after the more serious business of ringing.

HALE, CHESHIRE.—On February 10th, in 51 minutes, 1,264 Bob Major: D. Vincent (conductor) 1-2, Gordon G. Vincent (aged 14) 3-4, John J. Vincent (aged 12) 5-6, Mrs. Vincent 7-8. The quarter was specially composed by Mr. J. W. Parker to help the band to ring their first quarter-peal.

THE HIGHCLIFFE SOCIETY.

SUCCESS OF A SWINDON ORGANISATION.

In spite of the fact that only one new member had been elected during the year, the standard of ringing by the Highcliffe Society has been well maintained.

This was revealed by the secretary in the report he presented at the second annual dinner held on Thursday, February 19th, the anniversary of their foundation. Headquarters were not available this year, but one of the members provided a room, first for a social evening and afterwards for the dinner and general meeting. The dinner itself was concluded according to traditional style with speeches.

The proposer of the toast 'Church and State' expressed the hope that, although they all wished the society to continue throughout the coming year, they would not be slow in throwing it over, and putting their efforts wholeheartedly into the war effort, when, one by one, they were called up. The State was, day by day, making increasing demands upon them all, and the proposer knew that they would not fail in their duty when the day of testing came.

'Prosperity to the Highcliffe Society' was next proposed by the most junior member, although by no means junior in years. This society, he said, was a new idea in Swindon, and when he first taught a band to ring handbells about a dozen years ago they were mostly older men; but the Highcliffe Society had certainly 'caught them young.' The original members were to be commended, he said, on their very fine performances, and he hoped that the society would not only continue, but continue to expand.

Two more toasts were drunk, first to the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, and then to the success of the fight for democracy.

After the dinner the annual meeting was held. Arising out of the minutes of the previous meeting, the wish was expressed that more lessons on the theory of ringing might be given, and the speaker thought that they should not rest content until each of their members had conducted at least one peal.

The election of Master for the coming year was next proceeded with, and Dennis Smout, one of the original members, was unanimously elected.

In the course of his report the Secretary remarked that seven peals in all had been rung, in which the majority or all of the ringers taking part were members of the society. There were two peals of Bob Minor, four of Bob Major, and one of Bob Royal. Five of the peals were rung for the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, one for the Ancient Society of College Youths, and one for the Oxford Diocesan Guild. The methods rung continue to be of a high order, and at present they had four members able to ring a course of London Surprise Major. Practices on the higher numbers were limited by the number of ringers available at one time, but they had enjoyed occasional courses of Cinques, Maximus and Sextuples. A pleasing feature introduced during the year has been the regular monthly ringing in St. Paul's Church, Swindon, before evensong, which has been very much appreciated by the congregation.—The report was adopted with satisfaction.

The personal future of more than one of the society's members is very obscure, but, given a certain amount of luck, the Highcliffe Society ought to prosper for at least a few more years and perhaps be able to take its part in the reconstruction of the Exercise after the war.

JOHN HARRISON.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I would like to pay high tribute to Mr. Trollope's articles which have now appeared in 'The Ringing World' for a great number of years. One looks on him as an authority on most matters, he seldom fails us, and I appreciate his many great gifts. But in the interest of truth may I point out that though on page 41, January 23rd issue of 'The Ringing World' he states John Harrison received £10,000, on page 53 of 'Old Clockmakers,' by Hudson Moore 1936 edition, it gives the offer as £20,000. On next page it states in 1773 he received the last half of his £20,000. Other horological books give practically the same information.

It is rather strange although John Harrison was recognised the greatest horologist of his day, yet he never was enrolled a member of the Clockmakers' Company.

Snettisham.

C. V. EBBERTSON.

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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 31st.

The chair was taken by Canon C. C. Marshall, M.A., president of the association, supported by the general secretary, Mr. L. W. G. Morris, the hon. treasurer, Mr. S. F. Palmer, and the hon. peal secretary, Mr. W. Barton. Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. J. B. Hutchinson, P. J. Johnson and G. Lewis.

Mr. L. W. G. Morris pointed out that twelve months had elapsed since the previous meeting owing to a decision then taken not to arrange any intermittent meetings during the year. That decision was taken at a time when air attack was at its height, but he thought they should reconsider that decision now, and, if the members agreed, he would only be too pleased to arrange a summer general meeting. Mr. F. G. Sherwood seconded, pointing out that it was most important that the life of the association should be maintained and interest in its affairs stimulated. This was then put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Mr. L. W. G. Morris then proposed that, subject to permission being given, Selby be the venue. This was seconded by Mr. J. F. Harvey and carried unanimously.

The hon. treasurer, Mr. S. F. Palmer, presented the balance sheet. This showed a gain on the year's working of £22 1s. 8d., which, having regard to the times, must be regarded as very satisfactory. The total assets of the association now stand at £334 11s. 3d. Mr. Palmer pointed out that a very appreciable sum had come in very late, and appealed to the members to relieve him of the large amount of extra work and expense by the early payment of their subscriptions.

Mr. F. G. Sherwood, representing the auditors, proposed the adoption of the balance sheet, remarking that it had been a pleasure to audit the accounts, which were in accord with the documents produced. They had, in fact, got through the audit in record time. This was seconded by Mr. A. Gill and carried unanimously.

A hearty vote of thanks to the treasurer for so ably handling this important part of the association's affairs was proposed by Mr. W. Barton, seconded by Mr. J. Hardcastle and carried. Mr. E. Hudson said he had great pleasure in moving that their best thanks be also accorded to the hon. auditors, who gave up the Saturday morning to do this work. Mr. T. B. Kendall seconded and this was carried. The treasurer, Mr. S. F. Palmer, supporting, said it had been a pleasure going through the accounts, and he desired to pay tribute to the able manner in which the audit had been conducted.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

In presenting the annual report, the President pointed out that at any rate it had one distinguishing feature, it was the smallest report that had been issued for many years. Owing to war conditions and the ban on ringing, only three handbell peals had been rung. The committee were unanimous that, however short it may be, as long as circumstances permit, there shall be no break in the issuing of the annual report.

This is the 66th report, and the committee hoped that it would have some effect in keeping the members together and in sustaining their interest in change ringing.

As regards membership, it is good to know that the position is much better than might have been expected, and the best thanks of all were due to the district secretaries for the work they have done and the results they have achieved in obtaining so many of the annual subscriptions due. The membership now stood at 1,777. Fourteen members had passed away during the year, 17 had lapsed and there now were 75 serving with the Forces. Among those who have passed away, special mention must be made of the great loss sustained by the passing of Frederick W. Dixon, of Guiseley. He joined the association in 1888, had been a member of the General Committee for a number of years, and was a most regular attender at all its meetings. He had rung 195 peals and conducted 133 of them. The association had learned to value very highly his sterling character and loyal churchmanship, which stood out as an example to all.

Another old and valued member had passed away in the person of Mr. J. A. Dixon, of St. Marie's, Sheffield. He joined the association in 1879 and was closely connected with ringing in Sheffield since that date. Of out-county members who had passed away special mention must be made of Gabriel Lindoff, of Dublin, a very notable ringer and composer, whose great gift was the production of just those peals which best suited ringers' needs. Of the younger members who had passed on, the committee desired to mention Reginald Payne, of Treeton, who was killed by accident while serving with the R.A.F.

The committee thought it only right that they should mention also the name of Mrs. William Snowden, who died at Cartmel, Lancs, at a very advanced age, and whose name would take their thoughts back to William Snowden, the second president of the association.

The committee desired to mention the retirement of Canon Solloway as Vicar of Selby, and to place on record its appreciation of his many kindnesses to the association, and of the help which he has so often given in many ways.

FALSE COMPOSITIONS.

The peal secretary's report showed that only three handbell peals had been rung during the year. The checking of peal compositions which have appeared in previous reports was proceeding, and more than half the total number had now been proved. Unfortunately, six further false compositions had been found and would be found recorded in the appropriate page in the report.

Finally, the committee desired to call the attention of all members to the 'Notes on the care and preservation of bells and bell-frames during the present period of inaction,' which would be found printed in the report.

Mr. D. Smith moved and Mr. J. Hardcastle seconded the adoption of the report, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. F. G. Sherwood, in moving the re-election of Canon Marshall as president, paid tribute to his sterling qualities and counsel, and the association's sound position was proof in itself of the able manner in which the president had fulfilled his office. Mr. E. Hudson seconded, and it was carried with applause. Canon Marshall, in reply, said he desired to thank the members for their renewed confidence in him and for all their help and assistance given in many ways over the years.

Mr. S. F. Palmer, in moving the re-election of Mr. W. Barton as peal secretary, said that such men were indispensable, and he did not think they had another member so ably fitted to carry out this important office in the highly efficient manner Mr. Barton did the work. Mr. J. Ambler seconded and Mr. Barton was unanimously re-elected. Mr. Barton thanked Mr. Palmer for the nice things he had said. He was sorry he had to reduce the peal totals of some of the members by discovering false peal compositions, and hoped they would be able to make up for them at an early date.

The President said the committee had considered the position of members of H.M. Forces who ring peals for the association during the war, and he would ask Mr. Barton to propose the following resolution:—

'That personnel of H.M. Forces who ring peals under the auspices of the association be made honorary members of the association for the period of the war.'

Mr. Barton explained that already a case had arisen which made it necessary to define policy on the matter. Canon Marshall seconded and the resolution received unanimous approval.

CARE OF BELLS AND BELFRIES.

The President announced that since the committee had decided to print the notes on the care and preservation of bells in the report, he had received a copy of a booklet dealing with this matter, which was available at 2d. per copy. He proposed that the association should send a copy to every church with a ringing peal of bells in the County of York, provided that some central authority had not already undertaken distribution. This was seconded by Mr. J. Hardcastle and carried.

Canon Marshall referred to the unique distinction Mr. Fred Cryer, of Selby, now held by passing more than 70 years as a ringer. He hoped he would be able to spend many more years as one of their members and committeemen and also as a ringer at Selby.

Mr. L. W. G. Morris proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the president for presiding. Mr. E. Hudson seconded and it was carried with applause. Canon Marshall, in reply, thanked the members for their vote of thanks, remarking that although the attendance was not as large as had been hoped for, the business discharged was a good indication of the interest still being maintained in the association. He was sorry that it had not been possible to arrange a tea as was usual, but thought those wishing to stay to the social evening, which had been arranged to take place on the same premises at 6.30 p.m., would find no difficulty in obtaining tea at the many cafes in the city.

Most members and friends returned later, and the programme was well up to standard. A course of Grandsire Cinques was rung by Miss L. K. Bowling 1-2. H. Chant 3-4. P. J. Johnson 5-6. W. Barton 7-8. L. W. G. Morris 9-10. J. Ambler 11-12. Miss N. M. Asham contributed several songs, and Mr. Kershaw Thomas delighted the members with his excellent conjuring performances.

[We regret the delay in the publication of this report, but we did not receive it until last Monday.—Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

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THE PROVING OF PEALS. YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION'S EXPERIENCE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The subject of false peals rung throughout the country has ever been a source of disappointment to the great majority of peal ringers, especially those who keep a record of their personal performances and take a pride in the achievement of same.

Many of us have already been rudely shocked by the research and discoveries of Mr. C. W. Roberts relative to traditional peals which had stood for many years as milestones in the history of the Exercise, and now proved to be false.

It will further disturb the mind of many peal ringers when I respectfully beg to inform you that Mr. William Barton, the indefatigable peal secretary of the Yorkshire Association, has, since the commencement of the war, been overhauling the records of the association and set himself the formidable task of proving all the peals rung under its auspices.

Before the war, I may say that Mr. Barton, since his appointment as peal secretary, considered it his duty to prove the figures of all peals rung and sent to him year by year, and it was found that odd ones here and there were false. Consequently they were eliminated before they could be published in the annual report, and the conductor and composer were advised accordingly.

As the annual number of peals rung previous to September, 1939, was a fairly large one, Mr. Barton had not the time to thoroughly investigate the past records, but as the number rung since the ban has been in operation (and those on handbells) is infinitesimal, he has been able to devote himself more assiduously to the task in hand.

Up to the end of the last financial year ending September, 1941, no less than 25 peals published in the association's reports were found to be false.

I understand that these were from a total of just over a thousand peals proved, and there is nearly another thousand to be gone into before his task is completed.

This is all the more alarming when it is revealed that nearly all these false peals were the work of such well known and eminent composers as the late Arthur Knights, Arthur Craven, Charles Henry Hattersley, Charles Severn, Rev. Law James, William Sottanstill, and Henry Johnson, and the methods include peals of Stedman Caters, Grandsire Caters, Cambridge Royal, Treble Bob Major and Bob Major. Also there are several efforts by our younger composers.

All this has led me to believe that quite a large number of false peals must have been rung in past years and recorded by other associations, especially where (I am not writing in any derogatory sense) peal secretaries or those responsible have not the ability to undertake this most important sphere of labour.

I do not know if there is any universal remedy for this serious blemish and thus prevent such peals being rung, but to my mind it is certainly a subject for sober thought and could be ventilated by our newly formed Ringers' Conference with a view to passing the findings, together with a recommendation (should it be thought necessary) to the Central Council for all new compositions to be proved before being published or passed to a conductor.

It would be interesting to know how many of the

(Continued in next column.)

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

SUCCESSFUL WAR-TIME MEETING AT LEATHERHEAD.

From the district point of view, the annual meeting held at Leatherhead on February 21st was not much to boast of, but from a broader view it was a successful war-time meeting. Thirty-two ringers attended from Bagshot, Banstead, Beddington, Cobham, Croydon, Clandon, Kingston, Isleworth, Leatherhead, London and West Grinstead.

Ringing commenced about 3.30. Grandsire Triples and Cambridge Major being rung on the (silent) tower bells, and Stedman Triples, Grandsire Triples and Caters, Bob Major and Royal on the handbells.

Service was conducted by the Rev. S. E. Hickox (priest-in-charge during the Vicar's absence), but other engagements prevented him from attending the business meeting.

Tea was served at the Duke's Head, and although numbers exceeded notifications by 50 per cent., everyone was well provided for.

Mr. A. Harman took the chair for the business meeting, and he was supported by the Guild treasurer (Mr. J. Corbett), the Guild secretary (Mr. G. L. Grover) and the district secretary (Mr. A. H. Smith).

The balance sheet showed a balance of over £11 in hand, nearly a £2 advance on the previous year.

Owing to the present circumstances, a complete report was not possible, but a few interesting and encouraging points were mentioned. Banstead still managed to ring handbells for Sunday services, the Cobham band got together at times and rang at both their churches at Christmas time, while at Leatherhead tower and handbell practices were held on Tuesday evenings with a further handbell practice on Fridays.

The district officers were re-elected for the ensuing year.

Before the nomination of Guild offices took place Mr. Grover pointed out that the Master, Major J. H. B. Hesse, had moved away from the diocese and wished the Guild to elect someone in his place.

Mr. A. Harman was nominated to fill the vacancy.

All the other officers were renominated, including the Central Council representatives, who were due to retire this year.

No other business being forthcoming, the meeting closed with votes of thanks to the Rev. Hickox for taking the service, and to Mrs. Arnold, the organist.

A few more touches on handbells and a prolonged discussion upon ringing and ringers in general brought the evening to a close.

ELLACOMBE AND CHANGE RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I can quite agree with most of what Mr. Powell says about H. T. Ellacombe's ringing activity in Devon, but what I wrote in my article was quite accurate.

I was referring to the nineteenth century bell archaeologists, and I said that for them change ringing had scant interest, but Ellacombe was to some extent an exception. I have read, I think, everything he published in books, in 'Notes and Queries,' and in 'Church Bells,' and I have been through a mass of letters relating to bells sent to him from all parts of the country. The general impression I got was that he was keenly interested in bells and keenly interested in ringers; but though he clearly considered 'scientific' ringing should be encouraged, he had very few opportunities of practising it himself, and he took no particular interest in the science. He gives in one of his books a fairly long account of the old London societies, but it is merely a transcript from Osborn's unpublished history. When he was asked to report on the Mason MSS. in Downing College library for the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, as they related to peal compositions he handed the job over to Jasper Snowden.

I should not say that 'he had but a lukewarm interest in practical ringing,' but I should say that he was far more concerned about the bells and the men who rang them than about what they rang.

J. A. TROLLOPE.

THE PROVING OF PEALS

(Continued from previous column.)

associations actually have the figures proved before insertion in their reports, even if it is done at all.

I may add that the Yorkshire Association inserts in its report all new compositions rung throughout the year. If this is not done by other associations, I am afraid a research would bring to light an experience similar to ours.

I am sure that most ringers will agree with me that we are deeply indebted to Mr. Barton for his prodigious activities in this direction, and if only a solution can be found, his work will not be in vain.

SIDNEY F. PALMER,

Hon. Treasurer of the Yorkshire Association.
Sheffield.

NOTICES.

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

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY. •

THE CONFERENCE.

We remind readers that to-morrow (Saturday) is the last day for sending in notices for the agenda of the Conference. They should reach us not later than Monday next.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The 54th annual Henry Johnson Commemoration will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 7th. Owing to prevailing conditions this will be a luncheon to commence at 1.30 p.m. prompt, Vice-President, Albert Walker, Esq., in the chair.—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 7th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. All welcome. — R. H. Howson, 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—A meeting will be held at Loughborough on Saturday, March 7th, to elect officers and consider future activities. Handbells in the Foundry campanile from 4 p.m. Please attend if possible.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Belgrave on March 7th. Ringing (8 bells, silent) from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting, Hotel Belgrave, near church, at 5.30 p.m. —H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting (1942) will be held in the Chapter House, Christ Church, Oxford, on Saturday, March 14th, at 3.15 p.m. (p.v.). A good attendance is requested.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Combined meeting with Dudley Guild at St. Thomas', Dudley, Saturday, March 14th (p.v.), 3 p.m. Usual arrangements.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Dudley on Saturday, March 14th. Service 4.15 p.m. Business meeting and election of officers. Cups of tea will be provided. Please bring your own sandwiches.—John Goodman, Hon. Sec., 45, Holcroft Street, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 14th, 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 Penshurst on Saturday, March 14th. Service in Church at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 o'clock in the Green Tea Room, followed by business meeting. All those requiring tea please let Mr. G. Edwards, Elliott's House, Penshurst, know not later than Thursday morning, March 12th. — T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., Peckham Bush, Tonbridge.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Southbroom, Devizes, on Saturday, March 14th. Service in St. James' 4.30. Tea (for which please advise) 5 o'clock.—W. C. West, Branch Hon. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, March 21st. Eight silent tower bells and handbells available at Parish Church from 3 p.m. and again during evening. Service at 4.45. Tea, followed by business meeting, at the Duke's Head at 5.30 p.m. Names for tea must be sent to Mr. G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, as early as possible.—G. W. Massey, Hon. Dis. Sec.

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SO NOW—WHAT?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Malcolm Melville is right. The so-called 'conference' is just an amusement if what is put forward is to carry no weight. It becomes no more than the ordinary correspondence we have read in 'The Ringing World' for years, and the elaborate claim that it is something different is absurd and mere eyewash.

Furthermore, what assurance have readers that any letters supporting views they hold will be published unless they are what a certain gentleman himself considers 'good copy'? A friend of mine has recently sent two letters on a subject which has been asked for, and so far neither have been published, which makes this sound like another Dr. Slack touch—the writer doesn't happen to be in 'the band.'

One always notices the subjects you lean towards by the prominence you give letters supporting your view and the way you cut down or brush aside letters against. Yet you say you do not create favouritism. To my mind, this is not only abuse of the subjects, but is a total abuse by you of your paper. I can quite understand and sympathise with the men of the Watford district. Now I expect you will be busy searching around for some excuse to make in reply to this.

ALAN PEARCE.

c/o 30, Inkerman Terrace, Northampton.
There is no need to search for any reply to this letter; our readers will supply their own.—Editor, 'Ringing World.'

SILENT RINGING.

PRECAUTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I notice from 'The Ringing World' that at various meetings up and down the country silent ringing is becoming very prevalent.

Now during ringing it is quite possible for one of the clappers to get unlashd, and unless the ringer of this particular bell was very keenly alert it would strike openly at least two or three times. This I am afraid would bring the authorities down on them like a thousand of bricks. Moral, lash securely.

J. E. WHEELDON.

Milton, Staffs.

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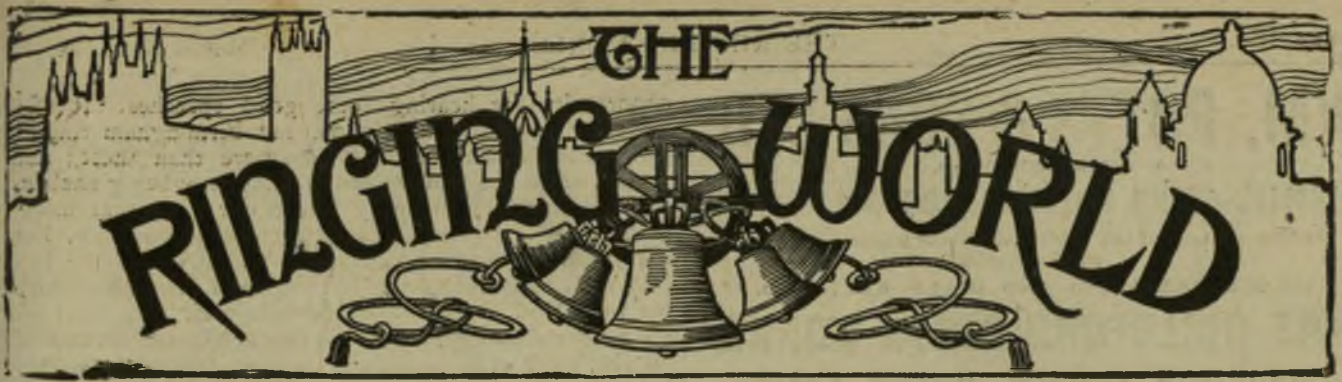
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FRIDAY, MARCH 13th, 1942.

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THE JOHNSON COMMEMORATION.

In his speech on Saturday at the Henry Johnson Commemoration Luncheon at Birmingham, Mr. F. E. Haynes referred to the various influences which are keeping alive the art of ringing and the spirit of the Exercise in these troublous times. The first is silent practice on tower bells; a very useful thing as far as it goes, but one which, by its nature, must be defective and unsatisfactory. It is too much like trying to play football without a ball, or a violin without strings. The second is hand-bell ringing; a very fine art and of absorbing interest to those who take part in it, but one which can hardly ever appeal to more than a minority of ringers.

The third influence is 'The Ringing World.' That is a subject on which a good deal can be said, and on which, perhaps, at the proper time, a good deal will have to be said. The average ringer, who takes his blessings as a matter of course, does not realise how much he is dependent on others for the advantages he enjoys, nor how great has been the struggle to maintain those advantages. When war broke out, the prospects of being able to keep 'The Ringing World' going for long seemed very remote, and the fact that the difficulties have been so far surmounted, not unsuccessfully, ought not to make people lose sight of the fact that the margin of safety is a very narrow one. What the value of 'The Ringing World' has been to ringers generally is not easy to say, but this much is certain: the Exercise, as at present organised, could not exist at all without such a periodical.

The last influence mentioned by Mr. Haynes is the social spirit which is manifested by such gatherings as the Johnson Dinner, and which finds expression in every meeting at which ringers gather for mutual intercourse. To many who take part in them these meetings are one of the few things which make life tolerable in these days of hard work, severe restrictions, and frustrated hopes. They bring the memories of the past and the hopes of the future to sweeten the toils and disappointments of the present. They are actually medicine to the mind and act as the best medicine should act, by not being noticed as medicine.

Every time ringers meet together for social intercourse they are doing good not only to themselves, but in the long run to the community. This applies even to the meeting of two or more friends in a saloon bar to talk over things and to strengthen and renew friendships. It applies in full force to such events as the Johnson Dinner which was held so successfully last Saturday. It was a pleasant and an enjoyable function. It was an

(Continued on page 122.)

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opportunity for hearing some good speeches. It was the commemoration of a name that Birmingham ringers delight to honour. But it was more than these; and to-day, when the foundations of things are being shaken, and the world is changing before our eyes, that more, perhaps, is of immense importance and significance. For the Johnson Commemoration was an avowal of the fact that we Englishmen have interests and principles which we value and cherish, and which in their sum total we are prepared to fight for to the death. It was an avowal all the more real because it was an unconscious one; but when Mr. Paddon Smith said that the St. Martin's Guild had kept the commemoration 'unbroken even through the last war and intended to keep it going through this, he was saying in so many words that, however bleak the outlook, we shall not lose heart, and however hard the struggle we will not give up our rights and possessions to any powers of evil. The war will not be won by talking in saloon bars or eating lunches, but the spirit of friendship and co-operation which prompts men to do these things in their proper times will aid in no small degree the morale which is essential to a final and complete victory.

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Seventy years ago to-day Holt's Original peal of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells by a band of College Youths, which consisted of William Cooter 1-2, Henry W. Haley 3-4, Matthew A. Wood 5-6, and Henry Booth 7-8. The time was two hours and three-quarters and Haley was the conductor.

He was not the first to call the Original in hand, for John Cox had done it with a band of Cumberland Youths as early as June, 1854, and two years later J. Heron, of Liverpool, had repeated the performance. It was, however, a sufficiently remarkable feat to merit the adjective 'extraordinary' given it in the report in 'Church Bells.'

The Original was composed as far back as 1750, and when Holt called it on July 7th, 1751, at Westminster, he did so from manuscript, for, says the 'Clavis,' 'the dividing it into parts and 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.'

The second time it was rung, which was at Stonham Aspal in September, 1751, the conductor, William Walker, a man from Richmond in Surrey, also called it from manuscript, but in the next year it was twice performed at Norwich, the conductor, William Dixon, taking part in the ringing. So did Charles Barn, who called the peal at Saffron Walden in 1754.

James Bartlett was the first London man to ring and call the peal, and he was the first who apparently set himself to call it from every bell, though he did not quite complete the circle. Before the 18th century passed George Gross and Joseph Riley called it, and since then it has been done many hundred times. Mrs. Mayne was the first lady to do so, and Miss Norah Williams the second. The peal is still the ambition of skilful conductors.

On tower bells Holt's Original was rung silent for the first time at St. Giles-in-the-Fields on October 23rd, 1884, and again some 40 years ago at St. John's, Waterloo Road. Four members of the Society of College Youths rang it silent on handbells on March 11th, 1887. The band included Mr. J. C. Mitchell and the late Mr. C. F. Winney. This performance was not equalled until last November, when another band of College Youths rang the peal non-conducted for the second time.

AN EAST ANGLIAN GARLAND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I congratulate and thank Mr. Charles J. Sedgley for his most interesting and excellent article. We could do with more of the sort, only, of course, there are not many men who can write as well as he does; but if there are any I am sure, Mr. Editor, that you would find space for what they have to say.

F. H. SMITH.

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HANDBELL PEALS.**BRISTOL.**

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
(BRISTOL GUILD OF HANDBELL RINGERS).

On Sunday, February 22, 1942, in Two Hours and Two Minutes,
At 5, ADDISON ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's all called differently. Tenor size 14 in D sharp.

THOMAS HARRIS ... 1-2 | ROYSTON G. BRYANT ... 3-4
ALBERT M. TYLER ... 5-6

Conducted by ALBERT M. TYLER.

First peal of Minor by the conductor. First peal of Minor 'in hand' by all the band and by the Guild.

PALMERS GREEN.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, February 25, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Two Minutes,
At 21, STONARD ROAD, N.13.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).

MRS. J. THOMAS ... 1-2 | JOHN THOMAS ... 5-6
FREDERICK G. SYMONDS ... 3-4 | WALTER J. BOWDEN ... 7-8

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

Rung as a birthday compliment to W. J. Bowden.

PALMERS GREEN.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 1, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,
At 21, STONARD ROAD, N.13.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

FREDERICK G. SYMONDS ... 1-2 | ISAAC J. ATTWATER ... 5-6
JOHN THOMAS ... 3-4 | WALTER J. BOWDEN ... 7-8

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by ISAAC J. ATTWATER.

STOCKPORT, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD

On Sunday, March 1, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,
IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE, HEAVILEY,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

ALFRED BARNES ... 1-2 | ALLEN F. BAILEY ... 5-6
*C. KENNETH LEWIS ... 3-4 | PETER LAFLIN ... 7-8

*JOHN WORTH ... 9-10

Composed by ERNEST MORRIS. Conducted by A. F. BAILEY.

* First peal on ten handbells.

CAMBRIDGE.

THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY GUILD.

On Saturday, March 7, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,
At St. JOHN'S COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF SPLICED PLAIN AND CAINSBOROUGH LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 8016 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

*REV. A. C. BLYTH ... 1-2 | †ROGER LEIGH ... 5-6
(Selwyn) ... (St. Cath's)
†REV. B. F. SHEPPARD ... KENNETH S. B. CROFT ... 7-8
(Trinity) ... (St. John's)

Composed and Conducted by KENNETH S. B. CROFT.

* First peal of Spliced Major. † First peal in the methods. * First peal on eight bells. The conductor's first peal of Major in the methods and first peal as conductor. The first peal in the methods for the Guild.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 7, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes.
At NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in D flat.

*PATRICIA A. SCADDAN ... 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6
*WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 3-4 | †MARIE R. CROSS ... 7-8
REV. MALCOLM C. C. MELVILLE ... 9-10

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE

* First peal on ten bells. † First peal of Royal 'in hand.'

IPSWICH.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

(ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY.)

On Sunday, March 8, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-LE-TOWER,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 18 in G.

*GEORGE A. FLEMING ... 1-2 | CHARLES J. SEDGLEY ... 5-6
HOWART E. SMITH ... 3-4 | GEORGE E. SYMONDS ... 7-8
WILLIAM P. GARRETT ... 9-10

Composed by J. REEVES. Conducted by CHARLES J. SEDGLEY.

* First peal of Royal on handbells. Mr. Sedgley's first peal of Royal on handbells as conductor.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 8, 1942, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

At ST. PETER'S HALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings. Tenor size 15 in C.

MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 1-2 | ARTHUR V. DAVIS ... 3-4
*MISS FAITH M. CHILDS ... 5-6

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* First peal 'in hand.'

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

A PARALLEL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was with great satisfaction that we read Mr. C. H. Kippin's exposition of the above proposal, as emanating from a ringer of his standing it is bound to command some attention.

For some time past we have been considering this matter and had at length decided to write to you expressing similar sentiments and using as a parallel 'The Cyclists' Touring Club.'

For the benefit of those ringers who are not familiar with this body, a few facts concerning it may be of interest. These will also serve to illustrate the practical value of Mr. Kippin's suggestions, as it will be seen the constitution and organisation would be very similar. The facts are briefly: It is a *National Cyclists' Union*, not a *local* body. It has smaller bodies working within it, just as there would be various branches of the National Association of Church Bellringers. It consists of members who pay an annual subscription direct to the secretary's office. Voting for executive members is by ballot. There is a permanent secretarial office and staff which issues touring information and edits 'The Gazette,' which is circulated to all members. The handbook is published annually, containing a wealth of information for the tourist. Legal aid is provided to members in court cases following accidents in which they have been involved.

One definite advantage of such a body is that in the event of some of the body's interests being threatened, the secretary is at once able to take action in defence of his members. Obviously, if a man can say that he is the representative of so many thousand people, he is in a position to command a hearing. There are other parallels which readily suggest themselves to those who are familiar with Church life, and then in everyday life we have endless societies and unions to promote this, that and the other. They have one thing in common. They are all of them national associations. If such associations flourish, surely part at least of their success is due to the fact that 'united we stand, divided we fall.'

E. B. HARTLEY.
R. G. SPEARS.

Wembley, Middlesex.

DEATH OF TWO BEDFORDSHIRE RINGERS.

We regret to record the death on January 17th at the age of 69 years of Mr. Arthur Markwell, who had been in failing health for some time. He was born at Wilburton, Isle of Ely, where he began his ringing career in early life. He afterwards resided at Terrington St. Clement's, King's Lynn, Sandringham, and Ingoldsbey, near Grantham (where he was appointed lay reader under the Bishop of Lincoln). He came to Woburn Sands in 1920, where he became a much esteemed and regular member of the band at St. Mary's. His peals included London and Bristol Surprise. He was always willing to help young beginners in the belfry, and he took a deep interest in other branches of church work.

A further loss to the Bedford Association and the Woburn company occurred recently by the death of Mr. Mark Lane, of Aspley Guise, at the age of 75. He was a member for about 50 years, during which he did much valuable work teaching young ringers. He was foreman of the company at Aspley Guise and unfailing in his attendance for service ringing. He was a safe ringer and a good striker and had rung upwards of 50 peals. Ringers of their type can ill be spared and their places will be difficult to fill.

THE BELLS OF LONDON.

EARLY USES.

(Continued from page 113.)

But though church bells entered so much into the ordinary life of the common people and served so many and so important secular purposes, their primary use was for the services of the Church. Originally it was the simple and obvious one of calling the people together and that continued to be and still remains their principal function. But as time went on and the custom grew up of blessing the bells and considering them as the voice of the Church and the trumpets of the heavenly King, it was natural that they should take a more important part in divine service. There was ringing on the vigils of saints' days and especially on All Hallows' eve, when it continued all night long and was done because it was believed that in some way it benefited the souls of departed Christians. There was ritual ringing on Palm Sunday and at Rogationtide, and before High Mass on festivals there were processions accompanied by bell ringing.

During the Eucharist a bell was rung at the recital of the words Sanctus Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth, and in most churches there was a smaller bell specially devoted to this purpose, called the sanctus or saunce bell, or sometimes the saints' bell, all of which are variations of the same word. Other names occur in places, such as 'ferial' bell at St. Michael's, Cornhill; 'Gabriel' bell in the Norwich churches; and 'morrow mass' bell at Lewisham.

In many provincial churches this bell was hung in a cot or turret over the chancel, where it could be conveniently rung by one of the servers; but in London it was usually in the steeple among the other bells. How early these bells came into use cannot be said, but they were common in the two centuries before the Reformation and it is not difficult to see why they were introduced. The ringing of the bells was in the charge of the parish clerk and his assistant. They had other duties to perform in the church and obviously could not attend to them and be in the belfry at the same time; but a light bell could be rung by a rope from the ground floor.

The saunce bell survived the changes at the time of the Reformation and was then mainly used immediately before the service began to notify that the clergyman was about to enter the church. Hence they were often called 'priest's bells.' This was not a new use, but a continuation from earlier times. It has generally survived to present times, though where bells are rung for service and not chimed there are signs that this custom, like so many more, is gradually dying out.

Although the Book of Common Prayer only orders the use of a single bell to be tolled at convenient time before Morning and Evening Prayer, two bells were generally considered to be the indispensable minimum in the 17th and 18th centuries—a large bell which was rung whenever there was a sermon and the small priest's bell. After the Great Fire in London, when lack of funds prevented the restoration of full ringing peals in the majority of the rebuilt churches, two bells were always supplied, and in many cases two remains the number. When the parish of Shalfleet in the Isle of Wight wished to sell some of their bells in the year 1801, the Vicar General of the Bishop of Winchester, in his letter to the churchwardens giving the necessary permission, wrote

that 'two bells seem to be necessary in every parish church that notice may be given when the minister comes in.'

Robert Southey, the poet, in his 'Common Place' book noted another and rather peculiar use of the saunce bell. 'In the old church at Ravenstonedale there was a small bell called the Saints' bell, which was wont to be rung after the Nicene Creed to call the dissenters to the sermon, and to this day the dissenters, besides frequenting the meeting-house, oftentimes attend the sermon in church.'

In medieval times at the time of the elevation in the service of the Mass a small bell was rung inside the church. This custom began in France during the twelfth century and was introduced into Germany in 1203.

The bell used was either hung in a frame on the screen or chancel wall or was a handbell. Sometimes a chime of bells was used. These bells were called 'sacring' bells.

The object of the sanctus bell is said to have been to let people outside the church know that the canon or central part of the service was just beginning; though possibly it may have been a ritual act of worship.

The reason for the sacring bell was more utilitarian. It was to call the attention of the worshippers to the elevation of the consecrated elements, and since the service was in Latin and the canon said inaudibly, this was necessary. In the Roman Church, when the Pope says Mass privately, the bell is not rung.

In some English churches to-day it is the custom to ring one of the tower bells after the words of institution in the prayer of consecration, but not at the sanctus. This is a departure from pre-Reformation use when the tower or turret bell was not generally used as a sacring bell.

It seems, however, that the ringing of the large bell at the conventual Mass was, in the twelfth century, ordered by the statutes of some monastic orders; and the injunctions of Archbishop Peckham issued in 1281 directed that at the elevation of the consecrated elements a bell should be 'struck on one side' so that people wherever they might be, whether in the fields or in houses, should bend the knee.'

The meaning of the words 'on one side' led to a learned discussion in the pages of 'The Times' in September, 1938. Some writers held that it meant that one of the bells in the steeple was to be tolled but not rung; but Father Thurston, the Roman Catholic authority, in an article on the Sanctus Bell in 'The Tablet' of October 15th, 1938, maintained that it meant that a handbell had to be rung through the low side window which exists in many churches and the reason for which is very obscure.

Father Thurston's arguments do not appear to be very convincing, and the Latin word 'campana,' which occurs in the Archbishop's injunction, is, I believe, always used for a large bell, never for a handbell. There is at least something to be said historically for the modern use.

The ringing of sanctus and sacring bells ceased at the time of the Reformation and the chimes and handbells were confiscated among so much more property in the reign of King Edward VI.

It has often been said that among the medieval uses of bells in England was the Angelus, but it is pretty certain that it never was a general custom here, and cer-

cainly not in its modern form. There were, however, directions from bishops that the Ave Maria should be said at the time of the curfew or the early morning bell. The bell was not specially rung for the purpose, but the time of the devotion was fitted to the ringing of the bell.

It was also the custom in many places to toll a bell three times either before or after divine service as a call to the devotion and the bell was called the Ave bell or sometimes the Pardon bell on account of the indulgences that were associated with it. It was probably as a survival of this use that in places down to recent times a bell was rung on Sundays after the morning service. It got the name of the 'pudding' bell and was supposed to be for the purpose of warning housewives that it was time to get the dinner ready. Some authorities, including Mr. H. B. Walters, explain the use as a notice that there would be a service in the afternoon, and consider that it dated from the bad times of non-residence and irregular services; but it seems much more likely that the word 'pudding' is merely a corruption of 'pardon.'

More important than any of these uses for present day ringers was the ritual ringing during processions, for it is almost certain that out of it our Exercise grew. The ringing was in the charge of the parish clerk and his assistant, but they could not personally attend to it, and necessarily had to employ young men from the parish. It was natural enough that these men should look on the ringing as a fine athletic sport rather than as a part of solemn church ritual, and so when the time came that ritual ringing was forbidden as 'superstitious' they continued to ring because they liked doing so and for no other reason.

(To be continued.)

THE DANGER OF LEAVING BELLS UP.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In reference to Mr. Wolstencroft's letter headed 'Danger of leaving bells up,' I would like to quote an instance when I, in company with some other ringers, arrived at a church for practice, the older ringers asked we younger ones to pull up the bells ready for practice. We decided to pull up the front six (although not the most musical way) in peal. I took the rope of the treble, and, coiling up the rope, prepared to start. I had a very unpleasant shock when the bell came 'off set.' The bells had all been left up, and as they were a light peal and the draught of rope very long, the 'give' of the rope and small angle of 'set' were not sufficient to indicate the bell was up.

I fully endorse Mr. Wolstencroft's remarks about raising and lowering bells in peal. To my mind, nothing sounds better at the commencement, and conclusion of well-struck service ringing than bells raised, and lowered in peal.

In conclusion, may I thank you for the very excellent issues of 'The Ringing World' and wish you a speedy recovery. As a member of H.M. Forces, I do not get many opportunities of ringing or meeting ringers, but I do look forward to getting my copy of the paper. I am expecting to go overseas very shortly, and it will be doubly welcome when I am no longer in this country.

E. F. M. SAMSON, Lieut., Leicestershire Regt.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is a well-established fact that any idea, or anything new, which does not comply with the generally accepted principles, has, to put it mildly, a rather rough passage.

The very mention of a National Association makes the 'bees' buzz angrily, but when we reflect that there was quite a spot of bother when the Central Council came into being and the Ladies' Guild was formed, not to mention spliced ringing and compositions of Stedman Triples, it is really gratifying to know that we shall now be able to discuss all the things that matter through the Ringers' Conference.

If any particular idea is bad for the majority naturally it is not proceeded with, but often useful suggestions arise during the discussions which would otherwise be dormant.

I send my good wishes to Mr. Thompson and the North Staffordshire Association hoping that we may meet under more happy circumstances in the near future.

F. W. HOUSDEN.

Wanstead, E.11.

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THE EDITOR.

The condition of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith remains about the same as last week, and we regret there is no present improvement in his health.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

The attention of members of the Oxford Diocesan Association is called to the correction of the notice in our notice column. As sent to us it stated that the annual general meeting will be held at Oxford to-morrow. It should have read 'annual committee meeting.'

Mr. Frederick S. Bayley, of Titchfield, Hampshire, who has for a long period been associated with ringing in the Portsmouth district, celebrated his 70th birthday last Tuesday. Prior to going to Portsmouth Mr. Bayley used to ring at St. Alphage's, Greenwich, where his brother, the Rev. G. A. Bayley, who afterwards became Vicar of Huntingdon, was then curate.

Mr. F. S. Bayley took part in the first peal of Stedman Caters ever rung in Hampshire and by the Winchester Diocesan Guild. It took place at Winchester Cathedral, Mr. Bayley ringing the tenor single-handed the first time this had been done to a peal of Caters. The peal was rung on September 27th, 1899, and of the band only four now survive, viz., Keith Hart, George Williams (the conductor), J. S. Goldsmith and F. S. Bayley. The rest of the band were I. G. Shade, of Greenwich, Henry White, of Basingstoke, Charles Giles and Frank Hopgood, of Reading, W. W. Gifford, of Salisbury, and the Rev. F. E. Robinson, of Drayton.

Last week we published the report of a handbell peal of Spliced Plain and Gainsborough Little Bob Major by the Oxford Diocesan Guild, which was nearly but not quite an Oxford University Guild peal. This week we publish the record of one in the same two methods by the Cambridge University Guild. It is good to hear of this activity in the two great universities, for it is a good sign for the future of the art.

Miss Patricia A. Scaddan, who rang the trebles to a peal of Bob Royal last Saturday, only began to ring last October. She has now three peals to her credit and we look for many more in the future.

Mr. A. A. Hughes informs us that the fire bell at Sherborne Abbey is entirely different in shape from an ordinary church bell, and evidently was designed to give a note that could not be mistaken for one of the service bells in the steeple.

On March 9th, 1832, the Norwich Scholars rang 6,720 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major with the 120 course ends. The peal was composed and conducted by Henry Hubbard.

On March 10th, 1742, 'a compleat peal of Five thousand and fourty of Richmond Triples was rung by the Richmond Society.'

One of the principal stages in the famous long peal contest between the College Youths and the Cumberlands was reached on March 10th, 1784, when the older society rang 7,008 Oxford Treble Bob Maximus at St. Saviour's, Southwark. John Povey conducted and the younger Samuel Muggeridge rang the tenor single-handed.

The St. James' Society rang the first silent peal of Stedman Triples on handbells on March 11th, 1854. The band was John Cox, William Cooter, Henry Haley and Matthew Wood.

The first peal of Treble Bob Maximus was rung at Southwark on March 12th, 1758, by the College Youths. George Meakins was the conductor.

To-day is the 206th anniversary of the first peal by the Eastern Scholars, one of Grandsire Triples at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East. This famous society was one of the main tributary streams from which the Ancient Society of College Youths derives.

The Bedfordshire Association was founded 60 years ago to-day.

Mr. C. F. Borrett called 6,720 Bob Major on handbells at Norwich on March 15th, 1894. It was an attempt for a 13,440 brought round at the half-way owing to the cold weather. A 6,000 had been rung in the city as far back as 1826 with Joshua Hurry as conductor.

Fifty years ago to-day one peal, Grandsire Triples, was rung. Fifty years ago yesterday eight peals were rung. They were Grandsire Triples 3, Oxford Bob Triples 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 3, Royal 1.

MR. FRANCIS E. DAWE. EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY.

The many friends of Mr. Francis E. Dawe, of Allandale, Rosebery Crescent, Woking, will congratulate him on attaining his 80th birthday, which will take place next Monday. Mr. Dawe has been in indifferent health for some time and during the severe weather has been confined to his bed.

Mr. Dawe has had a distinguished ringing career, both as Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths and as a peal ringer. In connection with the latter it is interesting to know that he has rung peals in more cathedrals than any other man. Some of these peals were performed under conditions which nowadays would be considered almost unsurmountable. He conducted many of the peals. In 1883 he took part in the then record length of Stedman Caters, 11,111 changes at All Saints', Fulham.

He is the only man to have served in the office of Master of the College Youths during five years.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

THE AGENDA.

We publish below the agenda for the first Ringers' Conference. It will be observed that quite a number of motions have been submitted for discussion, and they touch upon a variety of important subjects relating to the future of change ringing and the Exercise. We urge upon our readers to send us their remarks on any of the subjects as soon as they can, and their contributions will be published when the various motions come up for debate.

It is necessary for the smooth running of the Conference that there should be no 'hang-up' in the discussions, and readers are asked to send in their contributions on the earlier subjects at once. Where they desire to wait to see what previous 'speakers' have said, in order that they may criticise or approve, they should make every effort to ensure that their contributions reach the Chairman of the Conference not later than the following Monday. Promptitude and crispness will be the essence of success in this matter.

The Conference will open in our issue of March 20th.

We would remind our readers that these discussions are open to all, and the wider the opinions expressed, the greater will be the benefits derived from the Conference.

The rules governing the Conference will be found in our issue of February 13th.

AGENDA.

1. CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

2. MOTIONS.

(a) Proposed by Mr. J. P. Price, seconded by Mr. L. W. Bunce.
That a small committee be formed immediately to consider and report upon the best and quickest means of rehabilitating ringing when the war is over.

(b) Proposed by Mr. C. T. Coles, seconded by Mr. R. Richardson.
That this Conference is of the opinion that the present basis of the organisation of ringing societies has resulted in great advancement in the art of change ringing; has stimulated interest in ringing matters generally; and has caused very considerable additions to the number of ringing peals of bells in the country. It further registers its belief that, with the loyal help of all ringers, the present associations and the Central Council are capable of overcoming post-war difficulties.

(c) Proposed by Mr. William A. Stote.

That any five-bell method the extent of which can be produced by common bobs only (singles being unnecessary) be designated 'irregular.'

(d) Proposed by Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner, seconded by Mr. Edwin A. Barnett.

Each society, guild or association of change ringers should appoint an official peal secretary, who shall satisfy himself of the truth of all peal compositions rung by his society and reports of all peals published by such society, guild or association should be supported by actual compositions or should indicate where the figures may be found.

(e) Proposed by Mr. C. Wallater, seconded by Mr. J. Luck.

That application be made for a broadcast appeal for funds to restore church bells damaged by enemy action.

(f) Proposed by the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards, seconded by the Rev. C. Carew Cox.

That in any plans for reconstruction after the war ringers should exert their influence, both individually and collectively, to prevent the erection of church towers too weak in structure or too restricted in dimensions to carry a ringing peal of bells.

(g) Proposed by Mr. T. Harris, seconded by Mr. D. G. Clift.

That the Exercise, mindful of its debt to 'The Ringing World,' and subject to the proprietor's consent, take steps to secure its perpetuity.

(h) Proposed by Mr. William Keeble, seconded by Mr. A. A. Saunders.

That in the interests of keeping a band of ringers together, the key of the belfry should always be retained by a duly elected towerkeeper in preference to being retained by the incumbent or any other person not connected with the bells.

(Continued in next column.)

THE OLDEST BELL.

DATED BELL AT CLAUGHTON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The oldest dated bell in the country is at Claughton, Lancs. The date (1296) is the only inscription, and is set out as follows:—

+ ANNO . DNI . M . CC . NONOG . AI .

There are, of course, older bells in the country, but they are not dated. One early 13th century bell is preserved at South Kensington and another at Skinners Hall, Dowgate Hill, E.C.

ALBERT A. HUGHES.

Whitechapel Foundry.

THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD.

Dear Sir,—In reply to the question of Mr. A. W. Picknell, the oldest existing bell in the county of Stafford is at St. Chad's Church, Lichfield. Though bearing no date, Charles Lynam in his 'Church Bells in the County of Stafford' gives the date as being 1255.

Another source gives the date 1033. Should the latter date be correct, this bell must be the oldest in the country.

At Farewell, a village near here, is a smaller bell believed to be by the same founder.

GEORGE E. OLIVER.

Lichfield.

CAVERSFIELD'S THIRTEENTH CENTURY BELL.

Dear Sir,—With reference to Mr. Alfred W. Picknell's letter in your issue of February 20th, there is a bell at Caversfield, in Oxfordshire, which was cast in the thirteenth century. As testified by its inscription, it was given to the church by Hugh and Sibilla Gargate, of Caversfield Manor. There is good evidence for the date. Hugh Gargate succeeded his father, Roger, in the Manor of Caversfield, and was in possession of the property during the first years of the thirteenth century. Documentary evidence shows that he was alive in 1216, but in 1219 his wife is mentioned in a deed and described as 'Sybil de Kaversfield, widow of Hugh de Gargat.'

There are numerous blank bells of the same shape as the Caversfield bell scattered all over the country. Most counties possess one or two.

FREDERICK SHARPE.

COLD ASHBY'S BELLS.

Sir,—According to information supplied me, the second bell (not the tenor) at Cold Ashby is the second oldest known dated bell in England. The tenor is by Newcombe 1606. If my memory serves me right, the oldest dated bell in the country is at Claughton, in Lancashire, and goes back to 1296 or thereabouts.

The archaeologists tell us that it was not the custom to put dates on the earliest bells, and I must leave it to those learned in these matters to express their views as to the probable age of undated bells still existing which may be regarded as older than the two mentioned above.

E. S. POWELL.

THE EXPERTS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Smallwood is a fair-minded man and would not willingly do anyone an injustice, but has he not got a bit muddled? Will he tell us plainly who are the 'experts' he is referring to. Let us have one definite example of the 'dogmatic and know all vogue' he says he has seen far too much of in the past. And will he explain (again clearly) in what way the composer of the two-part peal of Stedman Triples has been 'discouraged'? If he thinks I have had anything to do with the peal I hope he will give me an opportunity of explaining anything. I know my name has been 'whispered' about in this connection, but entirely without any reason for it.

J. A. TROLLOPE.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

(Continued from previous column.)

(i) Proposed by Mr. G. R. Newton, seconded by Mr. E. C. Birkett.

That this conference is of the opinion that church bells and bells in other towers hung for ringing should not be rung for victory when achieved unless it is decreed by Government authority.

(j) Proposed by Mr. T. J. Lock, seconded by Mr. A. W. Coles.

The Ringers' Conference desires that, during its deliberations or until such time when the Central Council of Church Bellringers next meet in full session, whichever period is the shorter, all motions, amendments and 'speeches' which appear in any issue of 'The Ringing World' should have faithful and authoritative consideration by the Central Council at any of its future meetings, and at least one copy of all such motions, etc., be readily available at any of such meetings.

3. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES (if any).

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

HENRY JOHNSON COMMEMORATION.

SUCCESSFUL GATHERING AT BIRMINGHAM.

A mid-day luncheon can never quite reproduce the atmosphere and spirit of an evening dinner, but, considering the conditions of the times, the Henry Johnson Commemoration at Birmingham on Saturday was most successful and enjoyable. At the Imperial Hotel 71 members of the St. Martin's Guild and guests sat down to a lunch, which was ably presided over by Mr. Albert Walker.

Mrs. Walker was by his side and supporting him were Councillor A. Paddon Smith, J.P. (Master), Messrs. James George and J. H. Shepherd (vice-presidents), Canon S. Blofeld (Vicar of Edgbaston), the Very Rev. the Provost J. H. Richards, Messrs. F. E. Haynes (Ringing Master), T. H. Reeves (hon. secretary), E. T. Allaway (trustee), F. B. Yates and Mrs. Yates, Messrs. A. A. Hughes (representing the College Youths), J. A. Trollope, W. A. Clark, W. R. Heaton (Solihull), F. C. W. Stevenson, of Gillett and Johnston, and O. Pearson.

Others present included Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Fearn, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss W. C. Dowding, Mr. and Mrs. R. Ingram, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Rishworth, Messrs. Fred Price (auditor), G. F. Swann (librarian), Edgar C. Shepherd (Solihull), J. W. Pemberton, F. W. Perrens, Harry Withers, S. W. Freemantle and Tom Miller, the oldest member of the Guild.

The visitors were Mr., Mrs. and Miss Richardson (Surfleet), Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Smallwood (Bath), Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Pervin (Coventry), Messrs. F. E. Collins (Gillett and Johnston), J. W. Jones and A. C. Cain (Newport), G. R. H. Smith (Charlton Kings), W. Saunders (Coalbrookdale), John Austin (Gloucester), Charles H. Kippin (Croydon), Mr. and Mrs. Farr (Tamworth Arms) and Mrs. B. E. Shepherd (Aston).

The Chairman, in his preliminary remarks, read a greetings telegram from the Ancient Society of College Youths, and especially welcomed two of the oldest members of the Guild, Messrs. James George and Tom Miller.

Apologies for absence had been received from the Bishop of Birmingham, Canon Guy Rogers, Archdeacon McGowan and Messrs. F. Skidmore, G. W. Fletcher, J. S. Goldsmith, J. Jaggar, Ernest Morris and Frank Skidmore. Miss D. E. Griffin, daughter of the late W. Griffin, who died in January, sent best wishes for a successful gathering.

Mr. Fred Price, proposing the toast of 'Church and State,' said that he welcomed the opportunity of doing so at the present time, when both were engaged in a desperate struggle. While he was confident of the State's ultimate victory, it was essential that the Church should share in it. At a time when it appeared that Church and State were becoming more and more opposed, the struggle now in progress had brought them together and now the Church was helping in many ways, particularly in keeping up the morale of the country—an obvious instance had been the fine work done by the clergy in air raids. The Church now had a great opportunity of emphasising its value and now was the time to impress on all the absolute necessity for true religion; especially should this be done in our schools. Then, he continued, perhaps the world might avoid further disasters. After complimenting the Master on his appointment to the magisterial bench, Mr. Price coupled with the toast the name of that loyal friend of the Guild, Canon E. S. Blofeld.

The Canon, in reply, complimented Mr. Price for the way in which he had proposed the toast, saying he had touched upon several points of great importance and suggestions of value upon which he himself did not intend to enlarge on that occasion. He, despite ill-health, had once more come to the Henry Johnson Commemoration, because that was one of the few events of the year he felt he really could not miss. At that gathering, among other good things, one always found goodwill; this was, of course, as it should be, but was there not a tendency throughout the country to rely too much on this feeling of goodwill, a trusting belief that this spirit alone would carry us through to victory? It would be wise to associate all progress, including victory, more closely with religion, and in any new order' after



MR. ALBERT WALKER.

the war religion would have to be made really effective. The newly-appointed Archbishop of Canterbury was determined to work for both Church and State, and could be relied upon to face the problems of their proper relationship at the right time. Goodwill, continued Canon Blofeld, must include sacrifice, and the new spirit must be made to work. After many years as a clergyman he realised with regret that religion had not been what it should have been; to the young was given the chance of making a better future.

He looked forward to the time when our bells, now silent, would ring out again not merely as a skillful exercise of the ringers, not merely in joyful recognition of victory, but as an expression of our desire to attain closer touch with others and with God.

THE MEMORY OF HENRY JOHNSON.

The memory of Henry Johnson was proposed by the chairman. 'As you are all aware,' said Mr. Walker, this is only the second occasion when this toast has not been proposed by someone who actually knew Henry Johnson in the flesh. I myself have attended 40 of these dinners and have heard many famous ringers who actually knew Johnson testify to his sterling character as a man and his abilities as a composer, conductor and ringer.

Henry Johnson was born at Lichfield on February 28th, 1809. At an early age he removed to Aston and became acquainted with Aston Parish Church belfry. It is rather strange, but at that time it appears that only call changes were rung there, but due to Henry Johnson's keenness and ability change ringing was quickly taken up. In 1832 he conducted his first peal, which was rung muffled in memory of Joshua Short, the man who turned in Aston tenor to 15,360 changes of Bob Major, and which Tom Miller commemorates in his famous Bob Major song.

Henry Johnson joined the St. Martin's Society in 1833, and was, therefore, a member for 57 years. During this time he composed and conducted many peals in various methods. These included 10,047 Stedman Caters, rung at Aston, and 9,020 Grandsire Cinques, rung at St. Martin's in 1887 to celebrate the visit of Queen Victoria to Birmingham when she laid the foundation stone of the Law Courts. At the advanced age of 72 he composed and rang the 6th in the record peal of 9,238 Stedman Cinques, which took 6 hours and 48 minutes, and which is recorded on a tablet in St. Martin's belfry.

'As a proof of the esteem in which he was held throughout the ringing fraternity, on attaining his 80th birthday in 1889 the late Sir Arthur Percival Heywood gave a dinner in his honour, which was attended by most of the leading ringers throughout the country, and from then onwards this commemoration has taken place each year to do honour to the memory of this famous ringer and gentleman. He died on January 7th, 1890, and was buried at Aston on the 13th, and as a national memorial a tombstone of polished granite was erected, subscribed for by the ringers of England. The inscription runs as follows: "Henry Johnson, to whose ability and perseverance the art of change ringing is widely indebted. Born 28th February, 1809, died 7th January, 1890. Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might." On February 14th, 1890, a muffled peal was rung to his memory by members of the St. Martin's Guild, and among the famous names of the men who rang in it, only that of Tom Miller remains. He, we are pleased to see, is present with us to-day.'

After the toast was honoured in silence the chairman requested all present who knew Henry Johnson in the flesh to stand, and the number was five.

An excellent course of Stedman Cinques was then rung on handbells by F. E. Pervin 1-2, F. E. Haynes 3-4, F. W. Perrens 5-6, J. F. Smallwood 7-8, G. F. Swann 9-10, M. J. Morris 11-12.

PROSPERITY TO ST. MARTIN'S GUILD.

The Master (Councillor A. Paddon Smith, J.P.) proposed the toast 'Continued Prosperity to the St. Martin's Guild.' For the first time, he said, I am to propose this toast as Master of this Ancient Guild, a position I am very proud to hold. I held the office of secretary for 20 years, and during that time I would not have changed the secretaryship for that of any other society. Now that I am Master I would not 'swop' the Mastership for that of any other society. It was something to be proud of that the Guild had kept going through the last war, and they would maintain activity through this one.

With regard to the silent bells, I would ask you to believe that everything possible has been done from the ringers' point of view in an endeavour to lift the ban, and we must accept the decision that it will not be removed until the war is over.

I am proud to succeed the late Alderman J. S. Pritchett as Master. His silvery voice and the charming manner in which he presided at this annual gathering will be remembered by all in this room.

I have to mention, unfortunately, the death during the year of four of our members. Firstly, Gabriel Lindoff, a most famous ringer and composer of the 11,111 Stedman Cinques which was rung at St. Martin's. Secondly, there was the late J. W. Tilley, of Harborne, who with Mr. W. R. Heaton (who is present this afternoon) created a record, they being the first churchwardens to ring a peal together at their own church. Thirdly, we have lost Mr. C. Webb, of King's Norton, a well-respected member of the Guild. Lastly, Mr. W. Griffin, of Walsall, who was well known by the ringing fraternity some 30 years ago.

I would like to give a personal welcome to our oldest living members, Mr. James George and Mr. Thomas Miller (applause). Mr. George looking very well at 88 years of age, and Tom Miller (the

oldest member of the Guild), who will be 84 years of age on July 6th. I thank the many ringing friends who have written to congratulate me upon my election to the magisterial bench. These are difficult times in which to propose continued prosperity to the Guild, but there is much upon which we can congratulate ourselves.

Mr. Reeves was a fine secretary and treasurer. His period of office had by no means expired. I occupied the position for 20 years. My predecessor, Mr. W. H. Godden, also carried out the duties for 20 years. Not only that, but Mr. Godden's predecessor, Mr. Alf Thomas, was also secretary for 20 years. Mr. Reeves has only done 13 years, so he cannot think of giving up for at least another seven years.

In response, Mr. Reeves congratulated the Master on behalf of the Guild upon his elevation to the magisterial bench. We all look forward to the time when he receives the honour of alderman as did his predecessor, the late Master (applause).

It was very encouraging, said Mr. Reeves, to receive so many kind letters from ringers in different parts of the country. The Guild is in a very healthy position financially, in fact it has never been stronger. We regret to hear of the illness of our respected friend, Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, and would like to make an appeal for additional support for 'The Ringing World.' With regard to the Ringers' Conference, Mr. Reeves thought that it was an excellent means of keeping alive and increasing interest until the time came when we could ring the bells once again. It was splendid to see the spirit of fellowship which brought ringers together from various parts of the country to a gathering such as this.

KINDRED SOCIETIES.

Mr. Albert A. Hughes brought greetings from the Ancient Society of College Youths and from Mr. Edwin H. Lewis, the president of the Central Council.

Mr. F. E. Haynes proposed the toast 'Kindred Ringing Societies.' Many people seem to think that owing to the ban ringing is dead. I am one who does not share that opinion, as we are doing our best to keep the Exercise going. Neither do I regret the absence of peal performances in 'The Ringing World,' as it has made space for more interesting matter. We have heard that the financial position of the paper has never been satisfactory. I think that the ringing societies could do something to help the ringers' paper, which is so indispensable. The Guild is financially strong—other societies possess larger bank balances than we have, and I do not see why the funds could not be used, in part, for this object. To-day we have a good gathering of ringers from London, Bath, Surfleet, Croydon, Newport (Mon.), Gloucester and many other places. It is a pleasure to have the opportunity of meeting Mr. J. A. Trollope, a fount of wisdom in historical matters.

In response, Mr. J. W. Jones (Newport) said how grateful he was for the opportunity of being present. He did not think that there was another town or city in which ringers were accorded a more hearty welcome.

Mr. J. F. Smallwood, who also responded, said that his main reason for attending was to support his old friend, Mr. Walker, in the chair. They had rung 79 peals together, and although Mr. Walker had arranged most of them, he had only conducted 37 of that number, which indicated his unselfish character. We like, he said, to come to Birmingham. We know that we shall be welcome and thank the Guild for inviting us.

After the conclusion of the proceedings further handbell ringing took place, and later on an adjournment was made to the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, when members and visitors staying the night had social intercourse and further handbell ringing.

AFTER FORTY-FIVE YEARS.

ISLE OF WIGHT PEAL WITHDRAWN.

We have received from the conductor a letter withdrawing a peal rung at Ryde, Isle of Wight, in 1897. The particulars of the performance as given in the Winchester Diocesan Guild's Report are as follows:—

Ryde, Isle of Wight. On Tuesday, December 28th, 1897, at the Church of All Saints, a peal of Grandsire Triples, 5,040 changes (Hollis' Five-part, No. 2), in 3 hours 27 minutes: Sam V. Salisbury treble, Percy Long 2, George Henry Coombes 3, James G. Norris 4, Frank L. Edwards 5, Henry Jennings 6, Edward Hatcher 7, Edward G. Brett tenor. Conducted by Henry Jennings.

Mr. Jennings writes: Dear Sir,—A peal of Grandsire Triples recorded on a board at Ryde, Isle of Wight, on December 28th, 1897. I wish to withdraw and apologise to all who took part.—H. Jennings.

We should be glad if the writer in justice to the band will give further particulars.

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES E. HART.

WELL-KNOWN DERBY RINGER.

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. Charles E. Hart, who passed away on Monday, March 2nd, at the ripe age of 80 years. For over 50 years he was the Ringing Master at St. Andrew's Church, Derby.

When the bells were rehung in 1923 and increased to a peal of ten, Mr. and Mrs. Hart gave one of the new bells. During his long connection with the belfry and by his wonderful tact, the ringing standard rose from Bob Triples to Stedman, Double Norwich, Duffield, Superlative, Cambridge, London and Bristol, and later on Duffield and Cambridge Royal. Until the ban London and Bristol Surprise were usually rung for Sunday service.

The lovely helfry ringing chamber with its many embellishments and peal boards, many of them written by himself, stand out as a lasting testimony to Mr. Hart's memory.

He had rung 96 peals for the Midland Counties Association and conducted many of them. Up to the last he was looking forward to ringing for victory.

In addition to his services in the tower, he had held the office of churchwarden for many years and continued as a sidesman up to the time of his death.

Of a quiet and genial disposition, his presence will be sadly missed by his colleagues and all others with whom he came in contact.

DEATH OF A LEICESTER RINGER.

We regret to record the passing of Charles Henry Farmer, of St. Mary's, Knighton, Leicester, whose death came with tragic suddenness following a heart attack at the comparatively early age of 41. Deceased was one of the most conscientious and enthusiastic ringers of this suburb church with its ring of five bells. He was not one of those who 'shone in the limelight,' but of the quiet and reticent class, who, nevertheless, could always be relied upon to be in his place not only in the belfry but in the church too. He had rung two peals, but his worth must be valued in the fulfilment of his duties as a Sunday service ringer.

As a last token of respect, a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on half-muffled handbells during the funeral service, which was conducted by the Ven. Archdeacon C. L. Matthews. The ringers were Frederick E. Wilson 1-2, Harold J. Poole 3-4, Ernest Morris 5-6, Josiah Morris 7-8.

Among the numerous congregation were representatives of the Corporation Electricity Department, in which the deceased worked.

A floral tribute was sent from his fellow ringers, all of whom now remaining were present at the funeral. He was laid to rest in Knighton Churchyard beneath the shadow of the tower he loved and served so well. The deepest sympathy of his friends goes out to his wife and little daughter, thus bereft of their loved one in so sudden and tragic a manner.

E. M.

A BOURNEMOUTH WORTHY.

DEATH OF MR. HARRY CRUMPLES.

On Tuesday, March 3rd, Mr. Harry Crumples passed away at the age of 84 years. He was one of the last if not the last remaining link that Bournemouth people possessed with the town's earliest days, for he was appointed sacristan of St. Peter's by the first Vicar and founder of the church in 1873. He was then 17 years of age and one of the Vicar's advisers suggested he was too young. 'He will get over that,' was the Vicar's reply, and so started Harry's 63 years' service as sacristan to Bournemouth's Mother Church.

Although he was not a member of the Exercise, Mr. Crumples could claim to be a church bellringer. His duties took him up the 60 odd steps to the ringing chamber on an average 22 times a week to chime for the services before which the peal of eight bells were not rung, and he did this for over thirty years.

He could tell many good stories. He served under eight vicars and had lost count of the number of clergy who had been at St. Peter's during his time. He loved the bells and any complaints against the noise had short shrift. 'The bells were there first,' he would say.

In 1913 a window was placed in the north transept over the Children's Chapel to commemorate the completion of 40 years' service by him.

On Saturday, March 7th, the ringers rang 504 Grandsire Triples on half-muffled handbells in the chapel to mark the passing of this saintly old man. He was widely known and doubtless many members of our Exercise knew him and will grieve to hear of his passing.

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ELEMENTARY COMPOSITION.

FOR THE AVERAGE READER.

The Nature of the Rows.

Simple things are very difficult to explain, and especially so when the explanation has to be expressed in words on a printed page. There are, indeed, some things which are so very simple that they cannot be explained and it is hopeless to attempt to do it; all we can do is to state the fact and leave it at that. This is so because when we explain anything, we do so by means of other things which are simpler, but if there are none simpler we are at a loss.

Take the statement that two and two make four. Everybody knows what it means; everybody accepts it as true; and, because all do accept it as true, the whole of arithmetic is possible. But just sit down and try to put into words an explanation of the statement; you will find that you cannot do it.

You will probably say that you do not intend to waste your time on so unnecessary and fruitless a task, and you would be right. But if there were any beings who knew nothing of arithmetic, it would be necessary before you could tell them anything about it, to make them realise what the statement means. We are sometimes rather in that position when we try to explain the science of change ringing. At the base of it there are one or two truths which must be accepted before the rest can be understood, and those truths are so very simple that they can hardly be explained. They are what are termed self-evident truths, but like the statement that two and two make four they are only self-evident if we first accept them by faith. One of these truths is that the total number of rows on any number of bells is divided into two groups, one of which consists of what are called 'in-course' or 'even' rows, and the other of 'out-of-course' or 'odd' rows.

This difference in the 'nature' of the rows (as it is called) was recognised by ringers many years ago, but for very long, though they acknowledged the fact, they could not understand it, and they sought diligently for an explanation, thinking there must be one, though it probably was very abstruse and complicated. Thus C. A. W. Troyte, in his well-known text book, says that 'What this nature is, is out of my power to explain'; he had 'never time to go into the theory of the matter,' which he considered worthy the attention of mathematicians.

Many of the early writers attempted to explain the nature of the rows, but as Jasper Snowdon wrote in 1873, what they said was 'generally very hard to understand and in some cases quite at variance with the truth.' His own essay was far better, but the very thoroughness with which he treated the matter and the amount he wrote rather give the impression of difficulty instead of (as is really the case) of extreme simplicity.

During more recent years the subject has no doubt lost much of its terrors for those ringers who really need to know about it; but we fancy there are still a large number who think it far too abstruse and mysterious for them to bother about. Yet it is extremely simple and once the reader knows what it is, he can accept it as true, and need not bother about why it is any more than he bothers about why two and two make four.

We all know what odd and even numbers are, and what is the difference between them. We accept the fact without asking for any explanation, and we all know what follows. If we add two odd numbers together we get an even number. If we add two even numbers together we get an even number. If we add an odd to an even, or an even to an odd we get an odd number. That is really all we want to know to understand the nature of the rows.

All, except for one thing. In change ringing one row is produced from another row by transposing one or more pairs of bells,

1 2 3 4 5 6
2 1 4 3 6 5
2 4 1 6 3 5

The second row 2 1 4 3 6 5 is produced from the first, by transposing three pairs, 1-2, 3-4, and 5-6. The third row is produced from the second by transposing two pairs, 1-4 and 3-6.

The second row is produced from the first and the third is produced from the second directly.

The third is produced from the first through the second, that is indirectly. Every row can be produced from rounds either directly, or indirectly through one or more other rows.

Rounds is the primary row and is considered to be even. Every other row which is, or can be, produced from rounds either directly or indirectly by transposing an even number of pairs of bells is an even row. Every row which is, or can be, produced from rounds either directly or indirectly, by transposing an odd number of pairs of bells is an odd row.

That is all there is to be said about it, but we can easily see what an important thing it is. When we are ringing or pricking Grandsire Doubles, for instance, at every change we transpose two pairs of bells. We do so throughout the lead and at the lead end whether we have a plain lead or a bob. As we start with rounds we produce only even rows. It is evident therefore that to get that half of the rows which is odd we must have some special device; hence the necessity for singles which originally were what the term states, the transposition of a single pair.

When we ring or prick Grandsire Caters, at every change we transpose four pairs of bells, and consequently the rows are all even until we make a single, and then they will all be odd until we make another single. Obviously neither in Grandsire Doubles nor Grandsire Caters can the extent of the changes be obtained by bobs only.

But in Grandsire Triples at every change we transpose three pairs of bells. We start from rounds (backstroke) and rounds is even. The first row (handstroke) is odd, the next is even and the next to that odd. And so throughout the rows are alternately of opposite nature, all the handstrokes being odd, and all the backstrokes even.

When we make bobs we do not alter this regular succession, and since we produce odd and even rows in equal proportion we naturally ask what is to stop us getting the whole extent of the changes by bobs alone. That was the question the old composers asked. It was long before an answer was given, and as it does not depend on the nature of the rows alone, we will leave it for the present.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6. NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — The annual committee meeting (1942) will be held in the Chapter House, Christ Church, Oxford, on Saturday, March 14th, at 3.15 p.m. (D.V.). A good attendance is requested.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch. — Combined meeting with Dudley Guild at St. Thomas', Dudley, Saturday, March 14th (D.V.), 3 p.m. Usual arrangements.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Dudley on Saturday, March 14th. Service 4.15 p.m. Business meeting and election of officers. Cups of tea will be provided. Please bring your own sandwiches.—John Goodman, Hon. Sec., 45, Holcroft Street, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 14th, 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 Penshurst on Saturday, March 14th. Service in Church at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 o'clock in the Green Tea Room, followed by business meeting.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., Peckham Bush, Tonbridge.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Southbroom, Devizes, on Saturday, March 14th. Service in St. James' 4.30.—W. C. West, Branch Hon. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District. —The annual district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, March 21st. Eight silent tower bells and handbells available at Parish Church from 3 p.m. and again during evening. Service at 4.45. Tea, followed by business meeting, at the Duke's Head at 5.30 p.m. Names for tea must be sent to Mr. G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, as early as possible.—G. W. Massey, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District. — The third meeting will be held at the Red Lion, Sapcote, on Saturday, March 21st. Handbells from 6 p.m. Good bus service from Leicester and Hinckley.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at the Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, March 28th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. All welcome.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting of Western Division, in conjunction with Leeds and District Society's nomination meeting, will be held at Christ Church, Upper Armley, Leeds, on Saturday, March 28th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. in Conservative Club,

near church. Tea, at 4.30 (1s. 6d.), only for those who send in names to H. Lofthouse, 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12, not later than Tuesday, March 24th. Business meeting after tea (approximately 5.30), election of officers, etc. An interesting talk after meeting on 'Proof of Composition,' by Mr. W. Barton, association's peal secretary. Annual reports available. All welcome.—Frank Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley, Leeds.

BIRTH.

PADDON SMITH.—On March 5th, at Watford, to Jean, wife of Captain Donald Paddon Smith, Royal Engineers, a son.

DEATH.

HART.—On Monday, March 2nd, at his residence, Ringwell, Duffield Road, Derby, Charles Edward Hart, aged 80 years. Ringing Master for over 50 years at St. Andrew's, Derby.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT HENLOW.**

The meeting of the Bedfordshire Association at Henlow was attended by ringers from Sandy, Tempsford, Northill, Clifton and the local band, and there were also visitors from Hitchin and Baldock.

A few touches were rung on the silent tower bells, but handbells were mostly in demand.

Mr. Wagstaff, of Northill, brought a peal of eight bicycle bells, which he had collected and fitted with clappers and leather handles. He had had to collect over 100 bells to get an octave, and took ten years to get this peal of eight out of them. They are very amusing to ring and listen to.

After a short stay in the tower the local inns were visited and handbells were kept going until 9 o'clock, when the party broke up, which brought a short but a very pleasant gathering to an end. Methods rung were Bob Minor, Stedman and Grandsire Doubles and Triples. The members of the district are grateful to the Hitchin ringers, whose help with the handbells was very much appreciated.

It is hoped that a meeting of this kind, together with a darts match, will shortly be held at Hitchin, and it is being looked forward to with interest.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

At the February meeting of the Barnsley and District Society held at Wath-on-Dearne the following towers were represented: Eastwood, Felkirk, Handsworth and the local company.

A comfortable room was available for handbell ringing and the business meeting. Tea was served at Warburton's Cafe. The Vicar (the Rev E. J. Evans) occupied the chair at the business meeting, and the usual routine was soon disposed of. Thanks were given to the Vicar for presiding and for the use of the room, and to Mr. A. Gill, of the local company, for making all arrangements.

Three new members were elected, the Vicar as an honorary member, and Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Turley, of Handsworth, as ringing members.

It was decided to try to arrange the next meeting at Wentworth on Saturday, March 28th.

After the business handbells were made good use of in Minor and Major methods. The attendance was rather small, but nevertheless it was a happy little gathering.

'CAMPANALOGIA,' 1668 EDITION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Some time ago you kindly drew attention in 'The Ringing World' to the loss from the library of the Hertford County Association of an original copy of the above book, in the hope that it might be returned.

At a recent general committee meeting grave concern was expressed at the loss, and it was decided to again seek your kindly help through the pages of your paper in a further attempt to secure its return.

Any information that would help in securing the copy would be gratefully welcomed.

G. W. CARTMEL, Hon. Sec.

J. A.
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TRUTH OF COMPOSITIONS.

We printed recently a letter from Mr. Sidney F. Palmer describing the work done by Mr. William Barton for the Yorkshire Association. Mr. Barton is the peals secretary, and it was his habit to prove the composition of every peal before passing its record for inclusion in the association's annual report. The outbreak of war, and still more the imposition of the ban, put a temporary stop to peal ringing, but Mr. Barton did not cease his work. With little to do for the present, he turned his attention to the past, and began to prove the peals which had been rung by the association since its foundation in the year 1875. It was a formidable undertaking, and indeed an impossible one, unless a vast amount of skill and enthusiasm could be brought to bear on it.

Up to the end of last year the association had rung 4,269 peals, and this entailed the checking of nearly 2,000 compositions, rather more than half of which have already been dealt with. About twenty-five have been found to be false, which, considering the number and the length of time covered, cannot be said to be very alarming.

In the matter of peal compositions the Yorkshire Association has always set an excellent example to the Exercise. We believe it is true to say that there is not a single performance in its records of which the composition cannot be readily ascertained. Here we may see the influence of the first President, Jasper W. Snowdon, who in his books strongly stressed the importance of giving the figures in peal books and other records.

It is always rather a pity when the composition of any peal that has been rung turns out to be false, and especially so when it happens after the lapse of years. There are some people who are inclined to think it is better not to pry too closely into these things. 'What good does it do,' they say, 'to discover that some performance of twenty or more years ago was false? The peal was fairly and truly rung and published in good faith. Why not leave it at that?'

It is indeed true that the truth or falseness of the composition does not in any way affect the merits of the band that ring a peal. So far as they are concerned they have done their job. The men who took part in the long lengths at Southwark and Painswick are entitled to just as much praise as if the compositions were true. But that is not everything.

Peal ringing is not the whole of the art of ringing; it is not perhaps the most important part of the art, but it does occupy a unique and vital place in the art. Change

(Continued on page 134).

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ringing would have scant interest for men unless it made strict and exacting demands on their intellect and capacity. It sets before its votaries a task and challenges them to achieve it, and this task finds its best expression in peal ringing. For that a standard is necessary and a high standard; and the Exercise has always taken absolute truth as its standard, truth of composition as well as truth of execution. We may be quite certain that only so long as this ideal is kept alive will the Exercise flourish, and if at any time and for any reason it becomes relaxed, the result will be disastrous. It is natural enough to feel it is kinder to shut our eyes to any defects which may be revealed in any bygone peals, whether we took part in them or others; but it is better and more satisfying in the long run to keep to the truth.

Mr. Barton's work has therefore a distinct value in maintaining the high standards of the Exercise, and it has the further value of obviating the ringing again of these false compositions. His is an example that well might be followed in other associations, and we are pleased to say that a motion has been given in for the coming conference which will enable the question to be debated.

REMINISCENCES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Being a regular reader of 'The Ringing World' for over 20 years, I have read your leading articles and also the views of other readers with keen interest, but one thing stands out alone to me. Not the antagonistic writings of one ringer against another, but such articles as that by Mr. C. J. Sedgley and others in the past.

It is very nice to be able to look back and see what enjoyment you have got out of your ringing. I, for one, shall always remember my first peal for the Yorkshire Association. I happened to be at the annual Pudsey social of the Leeds and District Association when I was asked, 'What about a peal at your place and would you care to be in it?'

I was ever so pleased because I had never rung one. Well it was fixed up and it was a very bad Saturday in February. It had snowed all the morning, but, nevertheless, all the ringers turned up to time in spite of having to come from various towers round Leeds. We started for Kent Treble Bob Major and had rung 1½ hours when something went wrong. Well, we started again, and rang the peal in just over three hours, and a good one too.

Of course, we had to have the usual ringers' tea and handbells at the 'local' afterwards. I have gone all over the place to meetings and socials, and always met the same spirit—make yourself at home.

I do hope when the war is over and ringing becomes a reality again that all will gather round the church and tower and try and make things as before and keep the flag flying as a reminder of all who worked in the past for the benefit of the art of change ringing.

Wishing 'The Ringing World' every success in these very trying times.

W. E. DRANSFIELD.

Almondbury, Huddersfield.

THE REV. W. C. PEARSON'S LAST PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. C. J. Sedgley, in his interesting notes on Suffolk bells and ringers, mentions that the Rev. W. C. Pearson rang his last peal in 1923. The only peal which I rang with the Vicar was Cambridge Major on October 2nd, 1924, conducted by W. C. Rumsey. G. H. Cross also took part, the Vicar ringing the treble. We had two starts and finished the peal at 10.20 p.m. If he rang any more after this I have no record.

L. G. BRETT.

Framdsen.

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HANDBELL PEALS.

LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 7, 1942, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT CHURCH HOUSE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

DANIEL SMITH ... 1-2 | HAROLD CHANT ... 5-6
LESLIE W. G. MORRIS ... 3-4 | FRED HODGSON ... 7-8

Composed by H. J. TUCKER. Conducted by LESLIE W. G. MORRIS.

Rung to commemorate the centenary of Leeds Parish Church and its possession of a ring of 13 bells for the same period.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Monday, March 9, 1942, in One Hour and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT SOMERVILLE COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings. Tenor size 15 in D flat.

*JEAN M. BUCKLEY (Lady | JOHN E. SPICE (New
Margaret Hall) ... 1-2 | College) ... 3-4
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE (St. John's) 5-6

Conducted by WILLIAM L. B. LEESE.

* First peal.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Wednesday, March 11, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in D flat.

ELEANOR J. MACNAIR | JOHN E. SPICE
(Somerville) ... 1-2 | (New College) ... 5-6
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE | *REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG
(St. John's) ... 3-4 | (Kemble) ... 7-8

Composed by J. E. BURTON. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal 'in hand.' The conductor's 25th handbell peal.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Friday, March 13, 1942, in One Hour and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent each of Single Court, Single Oxford, Reverse and Double Bob, and three of Plain Bob. Tenor size 18 in A flat.

ELEANOR J. MACNAIR | JOHN E. SPICE
(Somerville) ... 1-2 | (New College) ... 3-4
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE (St. John's) 5-6

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

First peal in five methods by the ringers of 1-2 and 5-6, and for the society. First peal in five methods as conductor.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

LEICESTER DISTRICT.

A meeting of the Leicester District of the Midland Counties Association was held on Saturday, March 7th, at Belgrave. The eight bells of the Parish Church were available for 'silent' ringing, but only a small number of members were able to attend. Touches of Kent Treble Bob and Stedman Triples were rung and nearly a course of Cambridge Surprise Minor till 'Old Joe' suddenly set up at back-stroke and could not get back—the rope had cast wheel.

A very nice salmon tea was served at the Hotel Belgrave, and it was noticed that owing to the few members present some sat between two plates and did not have to give up 'points' either. Subsequently the local chairman, Mr. T. H. G. Walker, presided over a brief meeting, Mr. R. Barrow acting as secretary pro tem. owing to P.C. Perkins being on duty and unable to attend. Mrs. Perkins kindly brought books, etc., and Mrs. A. Beamish, secretary of the Warwickshire Guild, and Mr. Bird, of the Hinckley District, were present. Reference was made to the recent sudden death of Mr. H. Farmer, of Knighton, and a letter of condolence was sent to his widow.

Syston was chosen as next place of meeting, to be held on May 16th, and the annual meeting of the full association will be in Leicester on Saturday, April 11th. Both meetings will be advertised as soon as arrangements can be made.

ST. PETER'S, LEEDS.

CENTENARY OF CHURCH AND BELLS.

By LESLIE W. G. MORRIS.

The recent centenary of Leeds Parish Church recalls the interesting fact that it has possessed a 'ringing' peal of 13 bells for a century also. The present church is believed to be the fifth of a series which have stood on the site in the last 1,300 years.

It would appear from the history of the Parish Church by John Rusby and J. G. Simpson that in the early part of the eighteenth century the church had six bells. These were increased to eight in 1746, and to ten in 1798. A peal board of historical interest, still preserved in the belfry of the present church, records the last peal rung on the ten bells, and reads as follows:—

'On February 5th, 1838, the 40th and final anniversary of the opening of the old peal of 10 bells formerly occupying the tower of the old Parish Church; St. Peter's Company of Change Ringers rang on that occasion a complete Peal of Grandsire Caters, 5,040 Changes, which was accomplished in 3 hours & 9 minutes by: 1 John Clarkson, 2 John Hudson, 3 John Groves, 4 Christopher Isles, 5 Isaac Greenwood, 6 John Mortimer, 7 Samuel Smallpage, 8 William Gawkröger, 9 William Groves, 10 William Pulleine. Composed and conducted by Samuel Smallpage.'

It is evident, of course, that this tablet was not erected until the present edifice was built. It does not record and I have no documentary evidence of the weight of the tenor of this ring of 10, but I am informed that its weight was approximately 25 cwt.

THE NEW BELLS.

The taking down of the tower and bells, together with the church, was commenced in March, 1838, and the present church was opened on September 2nd, 1841. A new ring of 13 bells was cast to the design of 'one William Gawkröger, of Leeds (apparently the same William Gawkröger whose name appears in the peal records), being, according to the inscription on the old sharp 2nd bell, the first peal of 13 bells ever cast in the United Kingdom.' The peal was built to a tenor bell of 36 cwt. in C, and cast by Mears. Another tablet, still preserved in the belfry, records that these bells were first rung on February 26th, 1842, and gives also the details of the first peal rung on them as follows:—

'On 1st May, 1842, St. Peter's Company of Change Ringers ascended this tower and rang a complete peal of Grandsire Cinques in the tittums position. 5,148 changes were accomplished in correct style in 3 hours 43 minutes and 9 seconds by the following: 1 Samuel Smallpage, 2 John Robinson, 3 John Groves, 4 John Hudson, 5 James Gill, 6 Christopher Isles, 7 Jonas Baldwin, 8 John Mortimer, 9 Benjamin Ely, 10 William Gawkröger, 11 William Groves, 12 William Pulleine. Composed and conducted by Samuel Smallpage. The first peal on the bells, and the first peal of Cinques in the County of York.'

A GREAT RESTORATION.

It is worthy of note that these bells remained untouched so far as any repairs or improvements were concerned for upon 90 years. Before the end of that time it had become an act of real physical labour to ring them, and every credit is due to the ringers who in later years had kept the bells going. They were finally dismantled, recast into a nobler and heavier ring built to a tenor of 42½ cwt. in C, and installed in a new iron frame with entirely new fittings and rung for the first time on December 31st, 1932. The first peal on them was rung on February 18th, 1933, details of which are as follows:—

'St. Peter's, Leeds. On Saturday, February 18th, 1933, in three hours and fifty-seven minutes, the first peal on the bells after recasting and rehanging was rung, consisting of 5,007 Stedman Cinques by the following: 1 John Holman, 2 James A. Teale, 3 Charles E. Lawson, 4 Edward Jenkins, 5 Herbert Langdon, 6 Albert J. Hughes, 7 William Woodhead, 8 Leslie W. G. Morris, 9 John W. Moorhouse, 10 Francis Barker, 11 William E. H. Ash, 12 Alfred B. Peck. Composed by C. H. Hattersley. Conducted by H. Langdon.'

It is most unfortunate that the war has prevented this auspicious occasion being commemorated by a peal of Cinques being attempted on the 100th anniversary of the first one rung on the old bells, details of which I have given above, i.e., May 1st, 1842, but the continued ban on the ringing of church bells will, I fear, render this impossible.

ROYAL VISITS TO SAFFRON WALDREN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Recently looking through the history of Saffron Walden, I came across a report of a royal visit by Margaret of Anjou (Queen of Henry V.) in 1452, when the bellringers were fined 2s. for the ungallant conduct of neglecting to ring a peal when she visited the Abbey.

I thought this might be interesting to your readers. Charles II. established his Court at Audley End when the ringers were paid 2s. when the King came in 1670.

Saffron Walden has been visited on several occasions by royalty, James I. 1610-1614, Charles I. and his Queen Henrietta Maria 1631, Queen Elizabeth 1571-1578, William III. 1689, not forgetting Oliver Cromwell's meetings with the Parliamentary Commissioners at Saffron Walden Church.

Saffron Walden.

F. DENCH.

THE BELLS OF LONDON. THEIR USE IN CHURCH SERVICES.

(Continued from page 125.)

Long before the Reformation bell ringing had become a popular and recognised feature of the common English life and it would not have been surprising if ringing before the service had taken the place of the ringing during processions. But two things at least prevented it. One was that the association of ringing with certain services and certain beliefs led to its being denounced as superstitious by the more advanced reformers. The other was the growth of Sabbatarianism, which made many people look on Sunday bell ringing as Sabbath breaking. In 1595 Nicholas Bound published a book called 'The Doctrine of the Sabbath plainly layde forth,' which appears to have had an enormous effect. It was revised, enlarged and re-issued in 1606. It was quite temperately written. In it he says: 'The ringing of more bells than one on that day is not to be justified. . . . Therefore, though I do not see how the common jangling of bells that is used in too many places and the disordered ringing at other times of the Sabbath and for other ends should be a work of the Sabbath, and how it can then be justified, yet the ringing of one bell according to the custom of the place at one time, and the same, or some other, at another time so that all might be present at the service of God from the beginning to ending, this end maketh the labour acceptable unto God.'

In this quotation there is a rather obscure reference to a practice which began to be rather common. The extreme Puritans introduced lecturers into the churches to preach outside ordinary service times and against the wishes of the incumbents. Those who resented the action frequently disturbed the lecturer by ringing the bells.

Thomas Fuller, in his pleasant manner, tells how the Sabbatarian spirit grew. 'The Lord's Day began to be precisely kept, people becoming a law to themselves, forbearing such sports as were yet by statute permitted, yea, many rejoicing at their own restraint herein. On that day the stoutest fencer laid aside his buckler, the most skilful archer unbent his bow, counting all shooting beside the mark, May games and Morris dances grew out of request, and good reason that bells should be silenced from jingling about men's legs if their very ringing in the steeples was judged unlawful.'

Strype tells us how far the more intolerant people were prepared to go. 'It was preached in Suffolk (and my author saith that he could name the man) that to ring more bells than one on the Lord's day to call the people to church was as great a sin as to do an act of murder.'

In 1643 an Act of Parliament forbade under heavy penalties ringing of bells for pleasure on Sundays.

All these things effectually prevented the use of bell ringing (as distinct from tolling and chiming) in the service of the Church. In the North, which was very remote from the rest of the country, there was some ringing before service; but over the rest of England Sunday service ringing was unknown until quite recent times.

It was not the fault of the ringers. The clergy discouraged it and even forbade it. 'However delightful and poetical may be the thoughts connected with a cheerful peal on a Sunday morning,' wrote Henry Thomas

Ellacombe in 1859, 'every year convinces me more and more that in most cases it is productive of evil.' Another reforming parson wrote, 'Neither should any excuse whatever obtain permission for ringing on a Sunday. . . . Let me implore every clergyman to exercise his authority and put an extinguisher on all Sunday ringing.'

Opinions like these will seem strange and even unintelligible to present day ringers, but we must remember that one hundred years ago and much later Sabbatarian ideas were still very strong. Bell ringing had been looked on for ages as very largely a sport, and Sunday ringing as something done for the pleasure of the ringers. 'I for my part,' wrote the parson I quoted just now, 'would quite as soon sanction football or cricket in the churchyard on Sunday, as ringing properly so called. Ringing is an intellectual and scientific enjoyment, as much so as chess or violin playing, and in the opinion of some, more so when done as it should be; and we know what view we should take of Sunday chess players or Sunday concerts.'

In support of these men's opposition to Sunday ringing there was the fact that chiming was the traditional use, and it was only the ringers, and they but seldom, who wanted the bells rung for services.

The custom of tolling and chiming various bells in different ways grew up in the Middle Ages so as to let people know exactly when a service was being held and what it was, and strict regulations were made for the purpose. Among the clerk's duties at St. Stephen's, Coleman Street, he was to 'rynge iij pelys w' the lest Bells to the morowe masse and be fore the last pel warne the morrow masse pste and ask hym if shal ryng alle in. And so to do to the Curate or his Debite on son-days and holidays after the gode custom of london.'

At Westminster Abbey there was a very elaborate use, which included one or two extra bells not hung in the bell tower but in other parts of the church.

Until the end of the eighteenth century the custom at Shrewsbury was as follows. The sexton began at nine in the morning and having chimed a full hour, two small bells were rung for half an hour. Then the great, or sermon bell as it was called, was rung for another half-hour till service began. For daily prayers and holy days the chiming and ringing of two bells took up an hour. On fast days the chiming was omitted and the great bell was tolled for full two hours.

It seems an excessive amount of bell ringing, and even in the last century the sexton began to chime at ten. He kept that up for half an hour, then two bells were rung for ten minutes, and from twenty minutes to eleven until the hour the great or sermon bell was rung.

At Norwich, fifty years ago, a shorter use was customary at all the churches. Half an hour before the service one of the bells was rung up. At a quarter to the hour all the bells, or as many as possible, were chimed, and at five minutes to the hour the tenor was 'tolled in.' The chiming was all swing-chiming, which was made easy by 'staking the bells down.' The tail end of the rope was tied to a ring in the floor, and one man, or one boy, could easily chime two bells. At Mancroft the back six were used, and as they were far too heavy to swing-chime they were clocked. Ellacombe apparatuses were unknown in the city.

There are thirty-six old parish churches in the City of Norwich, many of them quite close together. It might

be thought that so much ringing, most of it of single and unrelated bells, would create a horrible discord and be an unmitigated nuisance. That, however, was not so. The effect was distinctly pleasing and was an important feature in that Sunday atmosphere which is now only a childhood memory of older people.

There was no Sunday service ringing, though sometimes we used to ring at some of the churches for special services like Harvest Thanksgiving, both before and after. Mancroft bells were rung on the Sundays in Advent, but at five o'clock in the afternoon.

In London City most of the churches had but two bells, and even where there were full peals they do not seem to have been much used on Sundays. In country villages the ringers were the men who chimed for service, but in London the ringers had no connection with any particular church and did not visit the belfries except for practice or paid ringing.

When the grand ring of twelve at St. Paul's Cathedral were put up, a regular band of ringers was formed and the bells were rung twice every Sunday until the beginning of the present war.

A SPLICED PEAL.

PLAIN BOB AND GAINSBOROUGH.

The following are the figures of the peal of Spliced Plain Bob and Gainsborough Little Bob rung at New College, Oxford, on Feb. 28th, conducted by the composer, J. E. Spice:—

23456 W M R

26435	—	—	5	(— S — — S)
32465	—	6	(— S — — S —)	
34625	—	5	(— S — — S)	
23645	—	6	(— S — — S —)	

Twice repeated.

Each course was rung P.P.G.P.P.

'TAPPED' HANDBELL RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The other day I came across the following extract and thought it might interest your readers, many of whom are taking an interest in handbells for the first time.

It is from 'Silver Ley,' by Adrian Bell, who writes of life on a Suffolk Farm. G. E. BARKER.

Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

On Boxing Day the village bellringers stood in a half-circle about the front door, plying their handbells. They were invited in.

When they had had a drink of beer and some cake and brushed the crumbs from their moustaches, coughed and blown their noses, they laid their caps in the centre of the table and on them their bells. They stood round in a circle. Their leader murmured some technical instructions, in which the word 'bob' recurred. Then they rang us a chime and another. The enclosed air of the room tingled with their echoes as of miniature church bells.

The method of the ringing was this. As soon as one man had rung his two bells he put them down on the caps. They were at once taken up by another man, maybe on the opposite side of the table, while the first man's hands stretched to pick up two others somewhere else. So this complicated and swift exchange went on, and the harmony was not of the bells alone, but of the movements of all their arms as they lifted and laid them down, till the chime was ended with a clang of unison. They said nothing all the while, but their eyes were sidelong and intently observant of one another as they poised their bells shoulder high, judging the exact moment to jerk each down with a flick of the wrist and add its note to the chain of sound. Only the leader gave occasional cries of 'Bob' when it was time for some change in the order of their ringing. The air above was a swirl of the echoes of all the notes they had just played, dying into one another in a kind of tonal rainbow.

Then I was asked if I would care to have a try. This had become a yearly custom; after the first two chimes the invitation was always made, and I took up the two deep-toned bells. While the others were throughout the ringing handing their bells to and fro among them, mine was the simple duty of adding the two final notes to every round without change. Even so, I found it hard to judge the right moment; either my notes came too close on the heels of my neighbour's, or they rang out after a little gap of silence in absent-minded haste. Nor had I improved with time, though they said I had.

Then finally they rang us a very quick, joyful chime, all the notes tumbling over one another as though for gladness, which made me think of spring and the scattering of the multitude of flowers upon the earth again in a little time from now.

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MUFFLES,
Etc.

THE EDITOR.

We are pleased to say that the condition of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith is rather better than last week.

THE PAPER SHORTAGE.

In common with all other newspapers and periodicals we have received notice that the supply of paper will be cut by ten per cent. This will mean that approximately once each month 'The Ringing World' will have to appear as an eight page paper.

We regret the necessity, but all our readers will recognise that we have no option in the matter.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Seventy years ago there was a very good band of ringers at the Norfolk village of Kenninghall. They rang Oxford Treble Bob Major and little else, for method ringing was not the fashion in those days, but they were fine strikers. On March 14th, 1871, they rang Harrison's peal with 10,176 changes. Jeremiah Mordey was the conductor, a typical countryman, but a good man at a rope's end.

On March 14th, 1751, the London Scholars rang six thousand Grand-sire Cinques at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, the first peal on the twelve. Next day the College Youths rang 6,314 changes in the same method. The first performance is recorded in a fine frame now hung in the crypt of the church.

The first peal of Duffield Maximus was rung at Birmingham on March 17th, 1891. It was composed and conducted by Sir Arthur Heywood.

Challis F. Winney was born at Nayland, in Suffolk, on March 17th, 1858.

Henry W. Haley composed a 7,025 of Stedman Caters with 60 full titum courses between singles. He called it with a band of Cumberlands at All Saints', Poplar, on March 17th, 1846.

On March 18th, 1895, a band of the Yorkshire Association rang a peal of Grandsire Triples on handbells. Harry Williams, the conductor, who rang 5-6, was blindfolded throughout.

The final event in the long peal contest between College Youths and Cumberlands was at Southwark on March 22nd, 1802, when the latter society rang 7,104 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus and so secured the double record for ten and twelve bells.

The first peal of Bristol Surprise Major was called by Mr. George Williams at St. Peter's, Brighton, on March 22nd, 1901.

Fifty years ago to-day one peal, Grandsire Caters, was rung. Fifty years ago yesterday seven peals were rung. They were Bob Triples 1, Major 2, Canterbury Pleasure Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1, and Violet Major 1.

One of Bob Major was an 11,200 at Speldhurst by the Kent County Association.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

When the Master, Mr. E. G. Fenn, took the chair at the meeting last Saturday of the Ancient Society of College Youths there was little besides formal business to be attended to. The hon. secretary, Mr. A. B. Peck, read a letter from Mr. Albert Walker thanking the members for the congratulations sent to the band who rang the peal of Stedman Cinques at Birmingham, and conveying greetings and good wishes. Mr. Wilfrid Williams also wrote thanking the society for the decision to illuminate the record in the peal book of the Holt's Original rung non-conducted on the day of the annual luncheon.

Mr. E. A. Young proposed that a letter should be sent to Mr. F. E. Dawe congratulating him on his eightieth birthday. Mr. Dawe was one of the oldest members of the society. He was not the oldest living past Master, for that distinction belonged to Mr. Martin Routh, but he was the only one in the history of the society who had occupied the chair five times. The Master seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

A worthy addition to the library was made by the gift by Mr. Edwin Jennings of Francis Bumpus' two volume book on London churches. Mr. Jennings, who was present in person, was thanked on the motion of Mr. Edwin Barnett, seconded by Mr. George M. Kilby.

Sympathy was expressed with Mr. J. S. Goldsmith in his illness and the debt owed to him by all ringers was freely expressed. A number of other topics were freely discussed and a pleasant afternoon concluded with handbell ringing.

Mr. J. E. Spice, of New College, Oxford, was a welcome visitor, and with him came Miss Peggy Kinipple, also of the O.U.S.C.R. Among the others present were Messrs. E. A. Young, G. Price, R. W. Stannard, J. Shepherd, H. Hoskins, J. Prior, J. A. Trollope, C. Potheary, C. C. Mayne, E. Hartley and R. Spiers, and Corpl. K. Arthur, Corpl. E. G. Coward and Pte. Len Fox.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

It was our hope and intention to open the Ringers' Conference in this week's issue of 'The Ringing World.' The Editor, as Chairman, would have given the preliminary address and the agenda would at once have been proceeded with. Unfortunately, Mr. Goldsmith's illness has prevented him from preparing his address, and it seems a pity to begin without it. We have, therefore, decided to postpone the start for, we hope, not later than a week, and feel that we can confidently rely on the approval of our readers in the circumstances.

We have received an encouraging number of 'speeches' so far, and hope for more. We may say also that any further motions, duly proposed and seconded, can be placed on the agenda.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In all reorganisations one finds that sentiment plays a great part; survivors of old organisations cling dearly to the customs, rules and regulations which they have helped to establish and which have no doubt been of inestimable value in paving the way to success of the larger associations in which they have gradually become merged. But the difficulties of reorganisation will ever be present unless we alter the mode and structure of our system, and, to my mind, the only satisfactory solution would be to form a National Association of Church Bellringers. Not only diocesan areas but geographical circumstances greatly affect the well-being of any organisation as anyone who is conversant with county associations cannot help but realise.

It is no uncommon feature to find an important centre of ringing situated on the very fringe of a county or diocesan area, and, owing to the distance or inconvenience caused by traversing that area, many of the meetings would be absolute failures were it not for the assistance derived from neighbouring towers and villages which lie in adjoining counties. Consequently such meetings, and there are many of them throughout the year, actually have to rely upon the help at a county meeting of ringers who do not belong to the said county. Many will say no harm is done in such circumstances; perhaps not, but is it not anomalous that those who back up such meetings as out-county members have little or no right in the management of that county association?

Many county and diocesan associations have not fulfilled the wishes of members of some particular area, with the result that a district society springs up and carries on the work which should rightly belong to the parent society. The thought arises: Have the county and diocesan organisations 'held their hand' for fear of hurting the feelings of county members who are also interested in the junior bodies, or has it been a case of letting the willing horse do all the pulling?

By force of such conditions as just mentioned, many ringers whom I know personally are under the obligation of subscribing to five different bodies, two of them as county associations (ringing peals for each) and three of them district societies. Surely this should not be so.

To obviate the disadvantage already illustrated, I think that a National Association of Church Bellringers would be just the thing, for not only would our prestige so far as the Church itself is concerned be raised, but in the case of other national matters our weight of opinion and unanimity of expression would have far more effect in general than is the case at the present time. My idea is to have an authoritative Executive Council at established headquarters with branch organisations in all centres of ringing throughout the British Isles. Ringing would then come to be regarded as a whole, while local customs would be the care of the branches.

What of financing such a proposal? It is obvious that much of the money now spent could be economised; e.g., more than one county publishes the same peal for the simple reason that all the performers may be members (either county or life) of their associations, and there are instances where two counties hold their meetings within a few miles of each other, neither of them being a success because members naturally desire to support their own organisations; whereas if a district was governed by its branch, intercommunication would be more feasible, and by regarding each district as one of a whole, the question of rights and setting up of precedents would not arise.

It has been stated several times that there are at least 40,000 ringers in this country, so on the basis of only 1s. per member per annum the total income would be £2,000, plus whatever could be obtained from honorary members. This figure would, after deducting all the usual charges associated with running organisations, leave an ample surplus for other purposes.

COLIN HARRISON.

Bell Foundry House, Loughborough.

THE PROVING OF PEALS.

A UNIVERSAL NECESSITY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Palmer's excellent contribution regarding peal compositions is deserving of the wide attention of the Exercise. It may not be of much concern to those who would discontinue the publication of peal reports, it may not interest very much those who prefer that visiting bands should not ring peals at their towers (uncharitable persons might consider that these two classes of people are closely identified), but to the majority of keen ringers, or at any rate to the majority of readers of 'The Ringing World,' any attempt to ensure the truth of changes rung in peals will, I think, be extremely welcome.

So far as one can ascertain, those associations which insist on the publication of all compositions are in a minority, and in an organised attempt to prove all peals rung under their auspices the Yorkshire Association must be almost unique.

In some instances the duty of collecting and editing compositions seems to fall to the lot of already overworked general secretaries (we are sometimes inclined to forget that these often abused and very hard working officials usually give their time quite unsparingly and for precisely nothing by way of remuneration). Some associations already have a peal secretary or a peal committee, and at least one thriving association has a rule about compositions and a peal committee, but has published no figures at all in recent years. It would not be difficult for such associations to include in the duties of their peal secretaries or committees the responsibility of proving compositions or having them proved by some independent composer. Where no organisation exists it could easily be instituted.

As an instance of the willingness of composers to help strangers I can state that although it was never my privilege to meet either the late Mr. Arthur Knights or the late Mr. A. G. Driver, I have in the writing of these gentlemen pages and pages of matter concerning new methods and compositions. Of Mr. Driver I would add that in one letter he wrote, 'Never call any compositions you are not sure of as it will be a great pleasure to prove them for you at any time.' I could very well make mention of similar assistance from at least two of our younger composers, but I know their modesty would be affronted if I did.

Would there be any chance of success of a resolution before the Central Council insisting as a condition of affiliation to the Council that associations should have an organisation for proving all peals rung under their name?

P. A. CORBY.

Retford, Notts.

P.S.—Incidentally, when Robinson's peal of Treble Bob was proved false, not all the conductors concerned came forward as readily as Mr. Kippin to withdraw performances of it. At least one association still has in its records many peals which are known to have been false.

THE DANGER OF LEAVING BELLS UP.

A LOCKING DEVICE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The correspondence on the danger of leaving bells up brings to my mind an idea I formed many years ago, but never put into practice.

I tried to think out a scheme by which a lever could be pulled across the stay of the bell so as to lock it up against the slider and thus prevent it being accidentally pushed off by any person who had reason to go among the bells. It would enable the bells to be left up in safety between, say, the morning and evening services on a Sunday.

The apparatus would have to be capable of being operated from the ringing chamber or, at any rate, from outside the bell frame. In theory there should be no difficulty in making such an apparatus, but I felt that unless it was absolutely safe and foolproof it might do far more harm than good, for it might lead to people thinking they could go carelessly among the raised bells, and if the apparatus was not properly 'on,' there might be a serious accident.

I wonder if any such idea has ever occurred to any other of your readers, and, if so, whether they would like to give their opinions.

MAURICE WHITE.

DEATH OF YOUNG BRISTOL RINGER.

We regret to report the death of Raymond Adams, a promising young Bristol ringer and member of St. Ambrose's band. He was on active service in this country and had the misfortune to break his leg in the course of his duties. He was taken to hospital, where he contracted pneumonia, and passed away on Sunday, March 1st. His body was brought home and the funeral took place at St. Ambrose's Church on Saturday last, interment following at Greenbank Cemetery. Ten of his fellow ringers at St. Ambrose's attended the service to pay their last respects to their colleague, who met his end under such tragic circumstances at the early age of 21 years.

He will be greatly missed, as he was 'one of the best,' a keen change ringer showing good prospects, and a regular Sunday service ringer. The floral tributes included one from 'his fellow ringers at St. Ambrose's.'

HENRY HOBART. A NOTED SUFFOLK RINGER.

BY THEODORE E. SLATER.

In the year 1800 there existed at Bildestone, Suffolk, an academy or high school where the sons of gentlemen were taught fine arts; the master's name was Hobart.

On April 22nd, 1800, Mrs. Hobart gave birth to a son, who at his baptism received the name of Henry. The master of the school was a ringer and leader of the ringers at Bildestone Parish Church, where there are six bells. As the child grew up he showed that he had a great love for bells. His father was very pleased to see this, and as the boy was not tall enough to reach the tuft of the rope, he made a stage for him to stand on to enable him to do so. When he weighed four stones he rang the second bell, weighing 7 cwt., through 720's.

As he grew to manhood he frequently visited Stowmarket, Hadleigh and Lavenham to practise change ringing, and on January 14th, 1819, he rang the seventh to his first peal, 6,160 Bob Major, at Stowmarket. His next peal was also rung at Stowmarket, being Bob Major, 6,224 changes, in which he again rang the seventh bell.

He now became a proficient ringer, and taught a band at Bildestone, and on January 30th, 1841, his labours were crowned with success. He rang the tenor and conducted a peal in seven methods, Plain Bob, Oxford and Kent Treble Court Bob, New London Pleasure, Morning Exercise and Cambridge Surprise. On November 11th, 1826, he was one of a 'select band' who visited Bungay and rang Reeves' 5,600 Oxford Treble Bob, conducted by Samuel Thurston, of Norwich, who erected a board to commemorate 'this display of science.'

PEALS AT HADLEIGH.

In 1843 Hobart visited Hadleigh and assisted in ringing W. Garrod's peal of Bob Major, 5,008 changes; he again rang the seventh bell. On December 11th, 1847, he again visited Hadleigh and rang the tenor, 28 cwt., to Marven's 6,000 Bob Major to celebrate the 50th birthday of John Pettit, mine host of the Eight Bells Inn, Hadleigh. Pettit told the band that if they attempted the peal he would give them one guinea and a good dinner, and if successful two guineas and a good dinner. This promise he fulfilled to the utmost.

On Monday, April 22nd, 1850, his 50th birthday, Mr. Hobart visited Stowmarket and rang the third and conducted a peal of Oxford Treble Bob, 5,120 changes, called 4B 2W 2H, four times repeated. According to the local paper, this peal was thought a lot of and was the first of Treble Bob ever rung in the steeple.

Hobart's next peal was his last. He visited Lavenham and rang the tenor and conducted Reeves' 5,600 Oxford Treble Bob. This peal is recorded on a handsome tablet, Mr. Hobart's handiwork, in the tower.

After this the band ceased to ring peals, but regularly visited Preston, Monks Eleigh and Bildestone Churches and rang many Minor methods, including London, Cambridge and other Surprise methods as given in the 'Clavis.' Mr. Hobart's last long touch was rung on June 15th, 1867, when he visited Hitcham and rang the 4th and conducted four 720's. The last time he rang was at the Lavenham anniversary in 1870, when he rang the tenor to a short touch of Treble Bob Major, conducted by John Cox, of London.

A SINGER OF METHODS.

Mr. Hobart died at Bildestone on Wednesday evening, June 14th, 1871, after the only three days' illness of his life, and muffled peals were rung for him at Hitcham, Stowmarket and Lavenham. Mr. Hobart used to frequently visit London and was well known to Cox, Haley, W. H. Burwash and other London ringers. He bought in 1840 a Shipway 'Art of Ringing' from Burwash, which he afterwards sold to Samuel Slater in 1870. Samuel Slater lived and worked at Bildestone for two years, and, of course, saw and rang with Hobart many times. On his 70th birthday Hobart told Samuel Slater that he had never known what it was to feel ill except when he made himself ill, that he had worn spectacles for 40 years, and that he had had three wives and they were all dead.

Mr. Hobart was very gifted and could sing or champ with his mouth various Minor methods and three bob leads of Treble Bob Major, giving to each bell its proper note. On one occasion he sang a 720 of New London Pleasure for a wager of one shilling; and at the time he rang the tenor at Bildestone and conducted the peal in seven Minor methods he made a bet of £5 that he could and would before competent judges sing or champ the whole 5,040. He used to sing parts of it when sober.

(Continued in next column.)

STEDMAN ON EVEN NUMBERS. AN EIGHT BELL VARIATION.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I append what I think is a new Stedman Major method. I play about with figures at times and your articles on 'Standard Methods' prove to be of very great interest to me. Let me say at once that I am not at all proficient in Major methods, and my method as appended may have some terribly wrong things about it. Anyway here it is.

In general principle every bell does exactly the same, though 5.1.2.4 do slow work before with quick work behind, and 6.8.7.3 do slow work behind with quick work in front.

The trouble I have is with the bob, which means a change in course of two bells. I have succeeded in doing this only by interfering with the sixes at 'back.'

F. C. S.

12345678

21436587

12463857

14236875

41263785

42136758

24163578

42615387

46251378

64215738

62451783

26415873

24651837

42568173

Bob

26415873

24651837

42561873

24516783

25461738

8 is changed

to a quick

bell behind

—1 becomes

a quick bell

in front.

All the bells do exactly the same work, but 5.1.2.4 work exactly opposite to 6.8.7.3.

HENRY HOBART

(Continued from previous column.)

As already stated, his father was master of an academy or high school, and as Henry grew to manhood his father taught him his own profession. While the father lived the school prospered and brought in a good income, but when the father died and Henry became its master he soon gave way to drunken and neglectful habits, and as it was found useless to send children there the school was soon closed.

After this Mr. Hobart turned his attention to writing and obtained employment at Hadleigh in a mason's yard lettering gravestones and tablets, at which he was very good. About the year 1836 a new parochial school was built at Monks Eleigh, and Mr. Hobart was offered and accepted the mastership, but he soon returned to his drunken and neglectful habits and was dismissed with ignominy. After then he became walking postman around Bildestone.

A FINE TENORMAN.

When it became known that John Ringer had rung the tenor at Redenhall, Norfolk, and conducted 8,000 changes of Oxford Treble Bob, afterwards found to be false, Mr. Hobart and others got together a band to try and beat this peal, and the attempt was made on Hadleigh bells, where the tenor is 28 cwt. The attempt was not successful, as one of the band was too fatigued to ring any longer and set his bell after ringing about 7,000 changes in five hours. Afterwards the band that made the attempt and those that came to listen dined together, and to finish off the day 1,120 of Oxford Treble Bob was rung by a mixed band, conducted by Thomas Lamb, of Colchester.

In 1850 Mr. Hobart visited Clare and rang the tenor to 1,008 changes, which he conducted. He was then considered to be equal to any man as a tenor ringer, and his feats at tenor ringing are wonderful when it is remembered that Mr. Hobart never weighed any more than 9 stone.

When John Carr, of Waltham Abbey, the diarist, visited the South Suffolk area he visited Lavenham and saw Mr. Hobart. While they were together Mr. Hobart showed his great gifts by ringing four handbells to a course of Bob Major and singing three bob leads of Treble Bob Major, and Carr describes him as a clever man. At the time of his death obituary notices appeared in 'Bells Life' and 'Church Bells.' Mr. Hobart had a brother named Thomas, also a ringer. About the year 1836 he migrated to London and then we lose sight of him.

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LIVES OF GREAT MEN.

MR. J. W. WASHBROOK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was much interested in the correspondence about the lives of great men, and especially in the leader on the subject in your issue of January 23rd.

What constitutes greatness may differ in various minds, and I shall not attempt to compare the exploits of Mr. Washbrook with any other giant of the past, of which there are many, varying in different spheres.

The few remarks I have to make will be rather to re-state some astonishing achievements which were performed by Mr. Washbrook.

From the beginning of my ringing career, extending over half a century, the name of Washbrook was the one outstanding name that won my keenest admiration. It was a dream of mine that some day I might have the joy of meeting and ringing with such a great ringer.

I knew Mr. Washbrook, like the greater part of the Exercise, by seeing his exploits recorded from time to time in the ringing Press, and no man was set up as a greater ideal than he was in his day. The manner in which he could handle two ropes and conduct the peals was a feat that would baffle even the majority of our greatest ringers to-day.

AN OUTSTANDING PEAL.

An outstanding peal was the one rung at Arklow, Ireland, on May 16th, 1905 (in which his eldest son, J. W. Washbrook, then only a boy of 12, rang the treble), when his father rang a couple of bells to the peal, which the late Rev. F. E. Robinson described as a wonderful feat of ringing two bells through a peal with 'the greatest ease and precision.'

Besides this and many such like peals, he was no less able to tap courses of Superlative, Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques on the piano. Furthermore, he has chimed on tower bells courses and touches in the same methods and on all numbers, with no less a person than his young son, J. W. W., calling the bobs.

His double-handed handbell ringing was a treat both to listen to and to watch, but onlookers got their greatest surprise when they saw him tackle and ring courses with four in hand.

Given the opportunity, no single method or spliced methods would have presented any difficulty to so gifted a man. A great ringer he was, but more than that he was a *genius*.

Mr. Washbrook also excelled in composing methods both Plain, Surprise and principles. In composition of peals he was ever at home. Record lengths of London, Superlative, Double Norwich and Cambridge were his in his day, and, again repeating, given the opportunity, nothing seemed beyond the possibility of accomplishment.

Mr. Washbrook and his family left Arklow, Ireland, in 1911, and came to reside for a short while in Tunstall, Staffs, and it was at Silverdale in October of the same year that several courses of Grand-sire Triples were rung by five persons, father and son taking 3-4 and 5-6, both trebles being rung double-handed by J. E. Groves.

GREATNESS AND HUMILITY.

Mr. Washbrook's greatness did not end with his manifold and varied achievements. Coming to reside in Manchester in 1912, I had the dream of my ringing life fulfilled in that I found not only a great ringer, but one who was great in humility, always ready to help and advise and to assist any seeking such.

I have rung many peals with him, and one rung at Mottram on Whit Saturday, June 14th, 1919, the first in the method on the bells (Stedman); brought from him the remark at the conclusion that he counted it second to none of his best ever rung.

I now take leave, with the remembrance of having been in close touch and associated for a little while with the life of a great ringer.

Mr. Washbrook was born in 1864 and died on Christmas Day, 1923. Mrs. Washbrook survived him for a short period, passing away in April, 1924.

Mr. Washbrook is survived by five daughters and his eldest son, J. W. Washbrook.

J. W. Washbrook, jun., rang his first peal at Arklow in June, 1903, and Walter Washbrook rang his first peal in December, 1905, at the age of 10 years 8 months and 10 years 4 months respectively, and J. W. Washbrook, jun., conducted a peal when 12 years 3 months.

W. W. WOLSTENCROFT.

Ashton-under-Lyne.

ANONYMITY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your issue of February 27th there appeared a letter from my friend Tom Coles advocating the use of the waste paper basket for all anonymous letters. Now this really won't do. You must draw the line somewhere. I will, however, go so far as to say all anonymous letters should go there when anyone is attacked or on any controversial subject.

Surely Tom would not ban the recent letter by Yokel and the one which mentioned Kate, and don't forget that what is one man's meat is another's man's poison. As I have pointed out before, there must be one ruling authority, and if not the Editor, who is it to be?

W. KEEBLE.

Colchester.

EDWARD READ'S LAST PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to Messrs. John Taylor and Co.'s letter in your issue of February 27th, I apologise for the error in recording the date of Blewbury seventh bell, which, as stated later, should be 1752. The last known bell by Edward Read, therefore, is the fourth at Farnborough, Berkshire, dated 1753. A facsimile drawing of its inscription is given in Fig. 71 of 'Berkshire Bells.'

Blewbury seventh was 'christened' in characteristic 18th century style. Although cast in 1752, she did not return from the Aldbourne foundry until the following year, and it is recorded that 'It was set upside down in a hole in the ground in front of the school and filled with beer, and many of the company thereat assembled were exceedingly intoxicated therewith.'

Details of the Hants and Wilts bells were taken from Mr. H. B. Walters' 'Church Bells of Wiltshire.'

Launton, Bicester.

FREDERICK SHARPE.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Kippin's suggested scheme for the future organisation of ringers is designed, as I see it, for the benefit of a small number of ringers only, those who like to take, as he says, a trip over the border to ring peals, and those who take 'The Ringing World.'

It is going to cost them less and someone else is going to foot the bill. Five shillings a year and 'The Ringing World' looks all right on paper, but try it on the majority of ringers and I am pretty certain there will be a big drop in membership.

Peal ringing over the border and 'The Ringing World' are some of the things in life I enjoy, but I don't want them cheapened by raising the membership fee of the associations to 5s. a year.

Mr. Kippin suggests that all present territorial associations should be abolished. The College Youths and Cumberland Youths are national associations. Are these to be abolished also? If not, why not? With the new association we should have three national associations.

Cambridge.

E. G. HIBBINS.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT PENSURST.

A meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association was held at Penshurst on Saturday and was attended by members from Leigh, Sundridge, Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge, East Peckham, Hartfield and Penshurst.

Mr. T. E. Sone wrote to say he was sorry he could not attend owing to illness. The Rector of Penshurst, the Rev. Turnbull, was unable to take the service in church, so the Rev. F. L. Allen, of Fordcombe, officiated, and gave a very interesting talk on some of the heaviest and oldest bells in the world, dating back as far as a thousand years ago.

Tea was served in the Green Tea Room, after which the business meeting followed. The Rev. F. L. Allen was unable to stay to the meeting, and Mr. A. Batten proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to him for his very interesting talk and for taking the service. Mr. B. Pankhurst seconded. The Vicar responded and said it was a pleasure to him. Mr. E. J. Ladd was elected to the chair. Leigh was suggested for the next meeting in June. Votes of thanks were accorded to Mr. G. Edwards for arranging the tea and to the organist.

Touches were rung on handbells during the afternoon and after the meeting, which everybody enjoyed up to the end.

WEDDING OF NORTHFLEET'S CAPTAIN.

The wedding of Mr. George Butcher, the captain of the band at Northfleet, Kent, to Miss Annie Ellen Johncock, took place at Northfleet Parish Church on January 16th.

The Rev. F. A. Page officiated, and Mr. E. Horridge was at the organ. The hymns sung were 'Lead us, Heavenly Father, lead us' and 'Love Divine.'

Given away by her father, the bride wore a dress of white figured crepe-de-chine, a headdress of orange blossom, and a veil and carried red carnations.

She was attended by her sister, Miss M. Johncock, the bridegroom's sister, Miss J. Butcher, and Miss A. Davies (bride's niece).

The bridegroom's brother, Mr. A. Butcher, was best man, and the reception was attended by 40 guests.

Handbells were rung in the church, and the bride, who is also a bellringer, was presented with three horseshoes.

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ELEMENTARY COMPOSITION.

FOR THE AVERAGE READER.

Turn back for a minute to Bob Major, the method we are using as our example and illustration. With the tenors together there are 120 natural courses, and the course ends are the 120 rows which exist on eight bells with the treble and 7, 8 in their home positions. Half these course ends are even and the other half odd, and so as long as we compose with bobs only we are restricted to 60 courses. The problems of composition naturally fall into two classes, one in which we allow ourselves only the use of bobs; the other in which we avail ourselves of the help of singles.

We use singles primarily in order to obtain the odd natural courses, but as we shall see, we use them for other purposes as well.

We can now resume our examination of Q Sets which we began a fortnight ago. We saw that in Bob Major when bobs are used a Q Set consists of a hunting course on three bells, and when set down in terms of the back-stroke rows, has three members, which have the same relationship to each other as 4235678, 3425678 and 2345678. We now come to those Q Sets which include singles.

One of the first things we learnt when we began to ring was that three bobs at the course ends would join together three full courses, and almost as soon, we learnt that if we made singles instead of bobs we should join together two courses. When we pricked down the changes we found that in the first case there were three bells that did something different from the plain work of the method, but in the second there were only two—those in 3-4. Let us write down the hand and back rows and see what we get.

We have again a complete hunting course, this time on two bells, and these changes form a Q set.

But that is not all. When we rang our bobbed three courses we could, instead of coming home at the third course end, have made a single, and then rung three more courses with a bob at the end of the first two and a single at the end of the last. We write out the hand and back rows and we find that we have got two complete hunting courses on the same three bells, one of them being the reverse of the other. In a sense we have two bobbed Q Sets joined by one singled Q Set, but it is convenient to consider the whole as one compound Q Set.

Once again. Suppose at the first course end we make a bob, at the second a single, at the third a bob, and at the fourth a single. We shall get a complete touch which consists of four full courses, and when we prick down the hand and back rows, we find that, though we have not got complete hunting courses, we still have cyclical movement; for after going through part of the hunting course, we went backwards the same way we had come, just as we do for one step, when we make a dodge. This, too, is a Q Set, and for purposes of composition, a very valuable one.

We have thus in Bob Major four different sorts of Q Sets.

The first, which consists of three bobs, joins together three full natural courses, all of them even.

The second, which consists of two singles, joins together two full natural courses, one of them even and the other odd.

The third, which consists of two bobs, a single, two bobs, and another single, joins together six full natural courses, three of them even and three of them odd.

The fourth, which consists of a bob, a single, a bob, and a single, joins together four full natural courses, two of them even and two odd.

There is always a full natural course between the succeeding calls in any Q Set.

These four kinds of Q Sets are actually the four different combinations of bobs and singles that can be made at any one of the calling positions in Bob Major. If you restrict yourself to calls at Home, or Wrong, or Middle, you can get these four touches and no other, though, of course, in the last two you can vary the courses in which the singles come, provided the due order in which bobs and singles follow each other is kept.

All this applies equally well to every plain Major method in which second's place is made at the lead end. It applies, with a little adaptation, to all plain Major methods in which eighth place is made at the lead end. It does not apply to Treble Bob and Surprise Methods because singles are not used in them, and it does not apply to Grandsire.

In the latter method there are only two sorts of Q Sets with ordinary bobs and singles, one consisting of five bobs with the same bell called before. The other, which consists of two singles, can only be used in very restricted conditions.

Q SETS AND COMPOSITION.

To the Editor.

23456 W M H
42635 — — 3
62534 — — 3
52436 — — 3
45623 — — 3
24653 — — 3
62345 — — 3
46325 — — 3
24365 — — 3
32546 — — 3
52643 — — 3
65324 — — 3
26354 — — 3
52364 — — 3
35426 — — 3
23456 — — 3

4th, 5th & 6th in course, extent in 6th's place, 2nd never there.

Dear Sir,—The writer of 'Elementary Composition for the average reader,' in his article in your issue of February 27th, tells us about W. H. Thompson and Q sets.

I enclose a 5,040 Bob Major all Q sets throughout, and I send you the figures for what they are worth. There is not one in the Central Council's Collection like this peal.

Mr. Charles W. Roberts once showed me a peal of Double Norwich on this plan, but I cannot remember if he had any bobs at 5 in his composition.

I must say your paper is very broadminded and interesting, and is, I believe, read through from cover to cover much more than when space was taken up by outings, meetings and such things, which were more or less of local interest.

By the enclosed account of the peal of Treble Bob Royal you will see that we continue to meet every Sunday morning. We all at Ipswich trust you are making satisfactory progress towards recovery. Kindest regards. G. E. SYMONDS.

Ipswich.

HOW TO IMPROVE RINGING.—Bell ringers are doubtless a most obstinate set of men: but if they were paid the same for working machinery which produced twice as much effect with less than half the labour, they would soon give in to a better system. That ungrateful and barbarous rope and wheel, whose action is so uncertain, would probably disappear and give way to something like a handle, a piston, or even a key board and a set of wheels and pulleys. There is no reason why with better mechanism one man might not ring half-a-dozen bells instead of as at present half-a-dozen men being set to ring one bell.—The Rev. H. R. Haweis.

NOTICES.

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

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District. —The annual district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, March 21st. Eight silent tower bells and handbells available at Parish Church from 3 p.m. and again during evening. Service at 4.45. Tea, followed by business meeting, at the Duke's Head at 5.30 p.m.—G. W. Massey, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District. —The third meeting will be held at the Red Lion, Sapcote, on Saturday, March 21st. Handbells from 6 p.m. Good bus service from Leicester and Hinckley.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. —The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 28th, 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 Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, March 28th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. All welcome.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting of Western Division, in conjunction with Leeds and District Society's nomination meeting, will be held at Christ Church, Upper Armley, Leeds, on Saturday, March 28th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. in Conservative Club, near church. Tea, at 4.30 (1s. 6d.), only for those who send in names to H. Lofthouse, 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12, not later than Tuesday, March 24th. Business meeting after tea (approximately 5.30), election of officers, etc. An interesting talk after meeting on 'Proof of Composition,' by Mr. W. Barton, association's peal secretary. Annual reports available. All welcome.—Frank Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley, Leeds.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Wentworth, near Rotherham, on Saturday, March 28th. Handbells available 3 p.m. Business meeting at 4.30 p.m. in the Parish Room. Teas cannot be provided, but if you bring a sandwich or two with you a cup of tea will be provided. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Central Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Great Horwood on Saturday, March 28th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. All are welcome.—F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., 30, Horn Street, Winslow, Bucks.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Worcester on Easter Monday, April 6th. General business

meeting in College Hall at 3 p.m. prompt. Chairman: The Very Rev. Arthur Davies, Dean of Worcester. As parties cannot be catered for, will members please make their own arrangements for tea.—J. D. Johnson, Hon. Gen. Sec., Sedgebarrow, Evesham.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at Cambridge on Easter Monday. Ringing on the Seage apparatus at the Church of St. Mary the Great from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Please make own arrangements for tea.—K. Willers, Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch. —A meeting will be held on Saturday, April 4th, at the Bird in Hand (bottom of Church Brow), Newhay. Time 6.30 p.m. Please make an effort to pay subscriptions on this date and oblige. Reports, also handbells, will be available.—Ivan Kay, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — The annual general meeting for the election of officers will be held at Norwich on Saturday, April 11th. St. Giles' bells and handbells in St. Peter Mancroft belfry from 2.30 p.m. Service, St. Peter Mancroft, 4.30; preacher, Rev. A. St. J. Heard. Tea in the County Restaurant, Davey Place, 5.15. Business meeting 5.45. In view of present difficulties, tea (at 1s. 9d.) will be served ONLY to those who send me their names by April 1st.—Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS AND THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. —North and West District.—A combined meeting will be held at St. John's, Waterloo Road, S.E.1, Saturday, April 11th, at 3 p.m. Service at 4 and tea at 4.45 p.m. Handbells available before service and after tea. Tea will only be supplied to those who notify Mrs. E. E. Davis, 118, Sarsfield Road, Balham, S.W.12, not later than April 8th. Please bring your own sugar.—T. J. Lock and G. W. Steere, Hon. Secs.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. Joseph H. Ridyard's address is now 4, Fir Road, Folly Lane, Swinton, near Manchester.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 27th, 1942.

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MISTAKES.

In his report on the false peals he had found in the records of the Yorkshire Association, Mr. William Barton called attention to the fact that they were not merely the work of obscure and inexperienced men, but included productions of such people as William Harrison, William Sottanstall, J. F. Penning, Henry Johnson, Charles H. Hattersley, Tom Lockwood, Arthur Craven, John Thorp, Arthur Knights and Henry Law James, men whose names stand deservedly in the front rank of composers, and to whom the Exercise owes no small part of its store of compositions. We might go further and say that it is difficult to call to mind any one active and leading composer of the past who was not at one time or another responsible for a false peal.

What are the morals to be drawn from these facts? The first and obvious one is that associations should take steps to prove the peals rung under their auspices, and how this can best be done will no doubt be revealed in the debates of the coming conference. The second is that conductors should take the little trouble necessary to be able to prove the peals in at least the simpler methods, and so obviate the disappointment that comes to them and their bands when they find after ringing a good five-thousand that the composition is false. The third is that we must recognise the fact that no man, however eminent, however clever, and however skilful, is immune from mistakes. Even with the most capable and the most careful there comes at times some little snag that is overlooked, some little fault that is not perceived, or some little trap that catches unawares. Sometimes it is due to the carelessness that besets even the most careful; and sometimes to the ignorance that belongs to even the most learned. For no man is infallible, not even the youngest.

What shall we say then? Shall we quote these faults and failings to show that these men, who have passed as such great and outstanding authorities, were, after all, no better than the rest of us? We should be fools if we did. They made mistakes. Of course they made mistakes. But the man who never made a mistake never made anything else. We all make mistakes; and we only show wisdom when we turn our mistakes to advantage. We must judge men as a whole with their good qualities and their successes as well as their failings, and it is because their successes so much outweighed their failures that we rank these men among the great composers and benefactors of the Exercise.

(Continued on page 146.)

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HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 15, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT 45, WALSHINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 6040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16½.

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2 | *JOHN E. SPICE 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4 | MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 7-8
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 9-10

Composed by J. REEVES. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal of Treble Bob Royal on handbells.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, March 18, 1942, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

*EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2 | †HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT 3-4 | ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 7-8
Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by HAROLD G. CASHMORE.

* First peal of Oxford Treble Bob on handbells. † First peal of Oxford Treble Bob.

CLAYGATE, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 21, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-One Minutes,

AT 173, COVERTS ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

GEORGE W. MASSEY 1-2 | EDGAR R. RAPLEY 3-4
CECIL R. LONGHURST 5-6

Conducted by EDGAR R. RAPLEY.

Witness—Mrs. Massey.

IPSWICH, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

(ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY.)

On Sunday, March 22, 1942, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-LE-TOWER,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

GEORGE A. FLEMING 1-2 | CHARLES J. SEDGLEY 5-6
HOBART E. SMITH 3-4 | WILLIAM J. G. BROWN ... 7-8

Composed by DANIEL PRENTICE. Conducted by CHARLES J. SEDGLEY

Witness—William P. Garrett.

RADLEY, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(OXFORD CITY AND DISTRICT BRANCH.)

On Sunday, March 22, 1942, in One Hour and Fifty-One Minutes,

AT THE SCHOOL HOUSE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings.

Tenor size 14 in D.

*WILLIAM C. PORTER... .. 1-2 | WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 3-4
MISS MARIE R. CROSS... .. 5-6

Conducted by MISS MARIE R. CROSS.

* First peal of Minor 'in hand.'

THE BELLS OF LONDON.

(Continued from page 137.)

EARLY RINGS AND THEIR TUNING.

We have practically no information as to the number of bells in the parish churches earlier than the fifteenth century, nor how soon it became the custom to cast bells to be rung in peal. Dr. J. J. Raven was of the opinion that 'before the year 1000 there must have been a considerable number of peals of bells in England,' and he bases his opinion on the oft-quoted story of the ring of seven which Abbot Egebric hung in the tower of Croyland Abbey; but it is probable that such rings as there were then were in monastic and collegiate churches. In France the diocesan statutes of Saint Charles Borromeo ordain that a cathedral should have from five to seven bells; a collegiate church, three; and a parish church two or three. Roughly, the same rule obtained in England, and in London, in the early fifteenth century, when we first get any detailed information from churchwardens' accounts, it seems that it was usual for the parish churches to have a ring of three in addition to a small sanctus bell.

For some centuries before this England had been largely influenced by the Continent and especially by Northern France; but the failure of the long Hundred Years War with France made her once more an insular country and she began to develop her life independently of outside influences. It was then that the Perpendicular style of Gothic architecture was invented, a style which is English to the core and has no counterpart elsewhere. It was then, too, that the laity seem to have taken the control of the fabrics of the churches into their own hands and especially they seem to have concerned themselves about the bells.

In earlier times the uses of bells and ringing followed the same style as in other parts of Christendom, but somewhere about the year 1400 distinct influences began to work which in time gained for England the title of the 'Ringing Isle' and ultimately produced change ringing and our modern Exercise.

These influences arose among the laity and, though not wholly secular, had at least a good deal that was secular in them. Bell ringing in England became something quite distinct from that on the Continent, where, except in Belgium and Holland, it has never developed from what it was six centuries ago. Here is the real reason why, when, during the reign of Edward VI., the parish churches were stripped of all their goods and ornaments, the bells in the steeples were left.

During the fifteenth century the love of bells which probably had long been growing among Englishmen, became almost a passion, and throughout the country, parishes, not only in London and the large towns, but also in villages wherever people could afford it, were increasing the number of their bells to five. At the time of the Reformation there was hardly a parish church of importance that had not a ring of five bells.

The reason why five was the chosen number is perhaps not difficult to see. The people had gained a love for the music of the bells, and that meant not only that the bells must be tuned to an harmonic scale, but also that they must be rung properly. It was in those things that English bell ringing diverged from the Continental use. But since the bells were so hung that they could not be swung much higher than frame level, the

rate at which they were struck was necessarily rather rapid, and in those conditions five bell ringing would be most effective. The ear would not call for more, and except in the case of heavy rings, even six bells would sound too many.

Rings of six were, in fact, very rare and full octaves hardly thought of. In one of his books, now in the British Museum, Dr. Raven made some marginal notes of the number of bells in the county of Norfolk at the time of the Reformation, and he compared it with that of his own time. The earlier number was 2,153, the later 2,004; which shows that, though the number of sixes and eights has considerably increased, the number of fives has been very much diminished.

The inventories which were made in the year 1552 give us a very good idea of the number of bells in London at that time. These inventories are preserved in the Public Record Office. They are not complete and in a few cases they are mutilated. They show that in the City steeples there were two rings of six, thirty-five of five, twenty-six of four, and twenty of three. It is probable that if we had the missing inventories they would show five or six more rings of five.

The two rings of six were at St. Sepulchre's and St. Michael's, Cornhill, and possibly there was another at St. Bride's. The number of bells in the inventory relating to that church has been partly erased, but there remains what looks like the letter 'x,' and that I took as belonging to the word 'syx' or 'six.' But Mr. C. T. Flower, the Deputy Keeper of the Rolls, who is, of course, a far greater authority on the matter than I am, examined it for me and told me it is impossible to say what it stands for.

These bells naturally differed a great deal in weight. Some of the steeples were small and not much more than turrets and could hold no more than a light ring of three. On the other hand, the tenors at Bow, St. Sepulchre's, St. Michael's, Cornhill, and probably St. Bride's were all over 30 cwt. Heavy and light, all the bells were hung for ringing and all were rung. In early days ringing had not yet become a skilled art and the preserve of a select few. Like cricket and football to-day, it was a sport that any average young man could engage in.

There is ample evidence that these bells were very carefully tuned and that the public ear was very sensitive in the matter. The parish authorities did not just leave the tuning to the founders and accept what they did. The custom was to appoint some expert person to go to the foundry and supervise the matter. Thus in 1510 the churchwardens of St. Mary-at-Hill 'paid for Reeves labur & his Breakfast for comyng from ludgate to Aldgate to here the iijth bell in Teune vjd'; and not satisfied with that, they 'paid for wyne & peres at skrasis howse at Aldgate for Mr. Jentyll, Mr. Russell, John Althorpe, John Condall, & the clerkes for Synt Antonys to go and see whether Smythes bell wer Teunabill or nat.'

In 1588 the vestry of St. Michael's, Cornhill, 'paide to ye waytes of the Cittie that took paynes to take the note of or belles & to goe to Mr. Motes to take the note of the newe bell then cast xvijjd.'; and later 'spent upon a company of other musiciens to take a further noute of the same bell, xijjd.'

(Continued on next page.)

THE BELLS OF LONDON.

(Continued from previous page.)

Tuning forks had not been invented in those days and the tuning was done by ear, but that does not mean that it was less accurate or efficient. When a single bell had to be cast to match bells already in the steeple pitch pipes were used. According to modern standards many of the old bells would be out of tune, even the strike notes, for the system was different. A modern founder tunes the different parts of a bell and gets each to a certain definite pitch. The older founders tuned, not one of the various notes given by the bell, not even the most prominent, but the combination of all of them. Their ears, in fact, heard only one note and they tuned that. It is only of recent years that men's ears have been trained to hear and distinguish the lesser notes and overtones of a bell. Ears were not less keen in olden times, but when the overtones were wild, the result would be heard as poor quality in the tone of the bell. No doubt it still is so with the majority of men who have keen musical ears.

Later evidence of the care bestowed in former times on the tuning of bells is shown by the fact that the parish of Fulham employed John Harrison, a noted authority on musical tones, to supervise the tuning of Rudhall's bells; and by the case of St. Peter Mancroft bells. That famous ring was cast at Whitechapel and the parish sent their organist, a Mr. Garland, to superintend the tuning. The bells are in the key of C, but Garland did not have them tuned true to the ordinary major scale, but gave them the temperament of E flat. The peculiar charm and appeal of those bells has often been ascribed to this, though what it means has been a puzzle to many people. The explanation is that in a true scale the intervals between the notes are slightly irregular and therefore if a keyed instrument like a piano or an organ is tuned true to one key, say C, it would not be true to any other key. So in actual practice there is a compromise. Rings of bells are usually tuned true (or supposed to be tuned true) to whatever key the tenor happens to be, but Garland gave Mancroft bells the intervals which would be true for the key of E flat, although the tenor actually is C.

The difference is too small to be noticed by an average listener, and whether it has the effect stated I am not musician enough to judge, but the fact that it was made shows that careful and accurate tuning was done long before Canon Simpson published his book.

Although any definite information on the matter is necessarily lacking, it seems likely that many, perhaps the majority of pre-Reformation rings of five were tuned to the minor scale. The reason for thinking so is not only the large number of old rings of five tuned in this way which still survive, but the minor scale is the natural scale of the old folk melodies. Actually there exist at present only two pre-Reformation rings of five—St. Bartholomew's at Smithfield, and St. Lawrence's

at Ipswich. The latter is in the major scale and I believe the other as well; but the five at Norwich Cathedral and the five at St. George's Tombland, Norwich, both of which are (except for one recast bell) pre-Reformation, are in the minor.

For five bells the minor scale is musically exceedingly effective, but it is not suitable for a larger number, and probably many minor fives were turned into major sixes by the addition of a tenor. That evidently happened at St. Michael's, Cornhill, when, in 1430, William Rus gave the famous tenor which bore his name; and also at St. Andrew's, Norwich, where the parishioners bought the large bell from the neighbouring Dominican Priory and added it to the ring of five in their own steeple.

SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE ROYAL.

THE FIRST PEAL.

On Monday, March 27th, 1826, the company of All Saints' Ringers, Wakefield, ascended the tower of the Parish Church and had the honour of Ringing in a masterly style a true and complete Peal of Superlative Surprise Royal, consisting of 5,400 Changes, in Three Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes, by Ten Men only (Tenor weighing 31 cwt.). The great superiority of this Peal over any other is it being the only true Peal ever rung in the Kingdom in so intricate a method, and will be a standing laurel for the Society for ages to come. The Peal was Composed by Mr. Joseph Tebbs, of Leeds, and was by him presented to the Society and rung by them at the first attempt. The peal was nobly conducted by Mr. William Woodhead, and Rung by the following Persons—The Band as stationed. Mr. William Fawcett, Treble. Mr. Joseph Sugden, 2nd. Mr. Mark Blackburn, 3rd. Mr. George Pickering, 4th. Mr. John Hall, 5th. Mr. James Gill, 6th. Mr. Joseph Gill, 7th. Mr. Thomas Netherwood, 8th. Mr. William Woodhead, 9th. Mr. Robert Collett, Tenor.

The Peal.

45236	
62534	
56234	First part end
34562	Second part end
62345	Third part end
45623	Fourth part end
23456	Fifth part end

This performance replaced a false peal rung by the same band standing in the same order on January 16th, 1825. The method, which was by Shipway, is a poor one and dropped out of use, but Henry Law James revived it and called a peal for the Lincoln Diocesan Guild at Ewerby on June 5th, 1926.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of Dudley and District Guild was held at Dudley and was fairly well attended. A short service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. C. P. Shepherd, Archdeacon of Dudley, and president of the Guild, who also gave a very interesting and inspiring address. Afterwards an adjournment was made to the school, where light refreshments were served. Ringers were present from Brierley Hill, Coseley, Sedgley, Stourbridge, Wollaston, etc.

At the business meeting which followed, the president, who occupied the chair, said how pleased he was to see such a good number present despite the difficult times.

The treasurer presented the balance sheet, which showed a balance in hand.

On the proposition of Mr. J. Lloyd, the officers were unanimously elected, en bloc.

It was decided to hold the next meeting jointly with the Worcester-shire Association at Hagley some time in June.

A very hearty vote of thanks was given to the chairman for his address in church and for presiding at the meeting, also for the use of the school hall. The secretary was thanked for the refreshments and the ladies for serving them.—The chairman closed the meeting with prayer.

Good use was made of the handbells in the school hall till black-out time, and a happy meeting was brought to an end.

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AN EAST ANGLIAN GARLAND.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—It was with much pleasure that I read in your issue of March 6th the reminiscences of Mr. Charles J. Sedgley. It is some years since I first had the good fortune of meeting Mr. Sedgley and his talented colleagues of St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, on the occasion of a business trip to that town. Although I had travelled in many parts of the country previously and rung in a number of towers, I was never a really keen ringer, although I had rung a small number of peals, limited to odd bell methods only. On entering the belfry of this famous twelve-bell tower, where courses of several Surprise Maximus methods were rung, I received a welcome that I had thought only was given to more well-known ringers of the Exercise, but I afterwards learned that all visitors are treated in this way in East Anglia. It was then I decided to become a keener ringer, and with the help of C. J. S. and the enthusiastic members of St. Mary-le-Tower I had in three months rung 'inside' to Cambridge Maximus and a number of Major methods, scoring several peals in that period. So as with other ringers who have visited East Anglia, I too have happy reminiscences of that district.

ARTHUR V. PEARSON.

Penn, Wolverhampton.

LAPPED HANDBELL RINGING*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—With reference to the article in this week's 'Ringing World' by G. E. Barker, I think this would refer to the Halesworth (Suffolk) company of ringers, who, when I was first acquainted with them in 1885 and 1886, were very proficient at what was known as table ringing, the bells being passed backwards and forwards, and Bob Maximus, Treble Bob Maximus and Graudsire Cinques were quite the usual methods rung at the time.

In Colchester, from 1892 onwards till 1937, we also had a band that rang the same methods and were in great requests at concerts, and in 1934, 1935 and 1936 we rang the bells at the carol services at Christ Church, Colchester, at Christmas time, although we were attached to the St. Peter's company. We were very much appreciated wherever we went, but owing to one of the company removing to Newcastle and myself to Barking I understand the Colchester men were unable to carry on.

Probably Mr. F. Lambert, of Halesworth, one of the original conductors there in 1886, could enlighten us further on the subject.

R. W. STANNARD.

Barking

THE EXPERTS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—When I first wrote to you on this matter it was not my intention to commence a long correspondence. My main idea was to indulge in a little good humoured banter at the expense of a type of ringer we all know.

Wild horses would not drag from me the names of any individuals, however, and my last desire is to become acrimonious. I have had my say, and I hope no harm has been done to anybody—but rather that we have all learned the lesson that there is much concerning our art which has still to be discovered. I hope Dr. Slack will continue his research work and look forward to seeing more of his efforts. Perhaps next time he will be more fortunate in producing something which will be considered 'good copy.'

I have no desire to pursue the matter further, though I quite expect the bloodhounds will be on my track regarding the views I put forward on Spliced Surprise! Well, 'good hunting.'

38, Penn Lea Road, Bath.

J. FRANK SMALLWOOD.

THE FIRE BELL AT SHERBORNE.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I was very interested by the remarks made by my old friend Mr. A. A. Hughes in your issue of March 13th re the Fire Bell at Sherborne Abbey.

The shape is much like the dome on the old G.W.R. locomotives, and the note (if one can call it a note) is just a very short discord. When I was at Sherborne School in 1887 there was a fire in the town and the Fire Bell was rung and the noise was just horrid! I have heard this bell and the old 7th were cast in Sherborne. Am I correct? If so, would Mr. Hughes let us know the founder's name?

JOHN H. B. HESSE.

ANONYMITY.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—If my good friend William Keeble will kindly read my previous letter on this subject again, and this time a little more carefully, he will see that I did not suggest that all anonymous letters should be consigned to the waste paper basket. After referring to letters containing personalities, forms of abuse, etc., I asked that such letters should not be published, and ended by suggesting that in all cases where there is the slightest infringement of decency the letters should be excluded. This, I think, is in complete agreement with what Mr. Keeble himself 'goes so far as to say.'

C. T. COLES.

Higbams Park, E.4.

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THE EDITOR.

The Editor. Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, continues to make progress, but is still confined to bed.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

On March 23rd, 1837, Elijah Roberts tapped 19,440 changes of Treble Bob Maximus at his home in Liverpool. The feat was not witnessed by any ringers, but as he had already tapped peals with competent umpires, there is no reason to doubt its performance.

On the same date in 1898 the St. Martin's Society of Birmingham rang 8,888 Stedman Caters on handbells, conducted by Bernard Witchell.

The first peal of Albion Major, one of 6,048 changes, was rung at Liversedge on May 24th, 1837.

The 'junior' Society of College Youths rang the first true peal of Real Double Bob Maximus at St. Bride's on March 24th, 1784, and two days later at Southwark the ancient Society of College Youths beat it with a 6,048.

The Cumberlands' famous long peal of Treble Ten, 12,000 changes, was rung at Shoreditch on March 27th, 1784.

On March 28th, 1750, the Cumberland Youths rang a peal of New Bob Triples at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch. It was the first in the method, which is given in most of the standard text books, but does not appear to have been practised elsewhere. It is a good method and not an easy one.

Fifty years ago to-day one peal was rung. It was Double Norwich Major on the back eight at Quex Park by the Cumberlands and conducted by George Newson. Fifty years ago yesterday 13 peals were rung—Grandsire Triples 4, Caters 1, Stedman Triples 2, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Royal 1, and Minor 4.

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.

MRS. GEORGE WILLIAMS. THE FIRST LADY PEAL RINGER.

Last Tuesday was, in a way, a notable anniversary in the history of the Exercise, for 50 years earlier on that date a lady took part in a peal for the first time.

Lady tower bell ringers were then quite unknown, or if that is putting it a little too strongly it would be quite true to say that the one or two women who had got so far as to handle a bell were looked upon by men ringers with good natured condescension as something of the nature of freaks. The idea that ladies would ever seriously think of taking a place in the belfry was so remote that it did not excite even opposition.

Lady handbell ringers were almost as rare, for double-handed ringing was practically confined to a comparatively small number, and they mostly whose feelings and traditions led them to think of bell-ringing as a purely male pursuit. There were indeed a few leaders of the Exercise who might have said in a general sort of way that handbell ringing could be a very lady-like accomplishment, men like Sir Arthur Heywood, who encouraged his own daughters to ring changes on handbells, but who would have regarded with horror the idea of women in a belfry, especially if they mixed there with men.

Perhaps there were other enthusiastic ringers like Mr. George Williams who did their best to induce their wives to take a pair of bells when their ringing friends visited them. If so nothing much came of it except in his case. He was successful in making his wife a good handbell ringer, and when Thomas Blackburne, the bell-hanger, happened to be in Brighton for a time doing some job there, the opportunity was taken to start for a peal. There were two unsuccessful attempts, but it was rung on March 24th, 1892, by Mrs. George Williams 1-2, Thomas Blackburne 3-4, George Williams (conductor) 5-6, and Alfred P. Goddard 7-8. It was Mr. Williams' first handbell peal.

Five years later, in 1897, Mrs. Williams rang two more handbell peals, but she never attempted tower bell ringing. She was, however, the harbinger of the female host which, coming at first as spies, has of late years beaten down male opposition and made good its position in the belfries of the land.

ENDOWMENT FOR RINGING.

At the annual meeting of the Parish Council at the Surrey village of Witley last week mention was made of the Bellingers' Charity, the revenue from which consists of £1 7s., annually paid by Sir John Leigh, M.P., in respect of a piece of land left to the parish by Anthony Smith. It was stated that payment had not yet been made for last year.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

DISCUSSIONS OPEN.

Rehabilitation After the War.

The Ringers' Conference opens in our columns to-day, and we hope that all who can do so will join in making the scheme a success.

The proceedings begin to-day with the chairman's address and the opening of the discussion on the first motion on the agenda.

THE CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

The CHAIRMAN: Ladies and Gentlemen, The opening of the Ringers' Conference in 'The Ringing World' to-day calls for a few remarks from me as Chairman. My position is perhaps somewhat unique inasmuch as I am self-appointed, but I do feel that in this I have the backing of the large majority of those who are interested in this project. The fact is it is necessary to have someone to deal with the debates who is on the spot and in touch with what is happening, otherwise delays will be inevitable and the collapse of the scheme probable. That explains why I occupy this position and I think I need not say any more on the point except that I shall do my utmost to exercise the powers of the office fairly and justly.

Having made that initial explanation, I should like to pass on to the subject of the Conference itself. Most of you know how it came to be established. The Conference has been set up to help maintain interest in ringing affairs over as wide a field as possible among as many people as possible. The circumstances of these times make it inadvisable, if not out of the question, for the Central Council to meet. It is three years now since the Council last assembled, and I think that even the critics of that body will agree that we as an Exercise have lost something from the absence of these annual gatherings and their accompanying discussions. This Ringers' Conference cannot replace the Central Council in regard to the powers that it exercises because it has no delegated authority from the associations, but it will, I hope, do something to keep alive interest in ringing affairs at a time when, largely owing to the ban and the gradual thinning out of our ranks by the claims of the national effort, interest is likely to evaporate until almost all life has disappeared from the Exercise.

I hope this Conference will do something to keep that interest alive. It is a completely new experiment and its success depends upon the amount of active support that ringers themselves give to it. We not only hope that ringers, both ladies and gentlemen, will read the reports of the proceedings with interest, but that they will enter into the spirit of the discussions and share in them. The response made by ringers to provide an agenda has been most gratifying, and I look forward to a series of interesting discussions. The motions already submitted cover quite a number of subjects, and many ringers should have something of value to contribute to the common stock, particularly on matters which vitally concern the future of the Exercise. We want to utilise the collective wisdom of as many people as possible.

I do not intend to anticipate the discussions in any way, but will leave them to their natural development, hoping that the contributions to the debates will be made as promptly as possible in order that a steady flow of 'speeches' may be maintained. I hope that the Conference will prove the success which those who have organised it are endeavouring to make it.

I will ask Mr. Price, to whom we owe the original suggestion for the project, to propose the first motion on the agenda.

REHABILITATING RINGING.

Mr. J. P. PRICE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to propose the following motion:—

'That a small committee be formed immediately to consider and report upon the best and quickest means of rehabilitating ringing when the war is over.'

I think everyone in this Conference will agree that there is no more important subject to which ringers can direct their attention than that of restoring ringing when the war is over. It is a great pleasure to me, therefore, to be able to bring this subject before the Exercise, because I feel rather proud of the fact that my suggestion for the holding of a Conference was taken up by ringers with such enthusiasm. At the same time, I would like to thank the Editor of 'The Ringing World' for so warmly backing up the proposal and giving facilities for carrying it out. I hope the same enthusiasm with which the scheme has been taken up will characterise the ringers' interest in this particular subject, because there has never been a greater menace to the art through all its history than confronts it at the present moment.

In bringing the matter to the notice of the Conference, I do so in the sincere hope that some practical plans may be formed. Pious resolutions on matters of this kind would get us nowhere, and it is for that reason I suggest that the first step should be the formation of a small committee.

The position of ringing, I think everyone will agree, is a really serious one, despite all the efforts that may be being made to endeavour to keep life in our organisations. With ringers cut off from

the church towers by the official ban, there is a slow canker eating into the vitals of our art. It is true that there is a small proportion of enthusiasts trying to keep the organisation and the practice of ringing within a limited sphere in operation, but the enterprise and interest of thousands of ringers have disappeared, partly, of course, because they are removed from their local surroundings, and partly because lack of interest has broken their old attachment.

This is apparent at a time when the ban has been in operation for less than two years. No one knows how much longer it is likely to last, and it is futile to attempt to put a period to it, but the longer it goes on the worse will be the plight of the art and the Exercise unless some tangible scheme is ready to be put into operation as soon as circumstances permit.

A VARIETY OF VIEWS.

A good many ringers probably have their own ideas as to how the problem of the future is to be met, and I feel it will be of immense advantage if these views can be ventilated in this Conference. The ideas can then be collated and some kind of practicable scheme formulated in the hope that either the associations or the Central Council, or whatever other body may be left at the time, will put it into operation.

Most of us, of course, would like to see young hands encouraged to learn to pull the bells even though they are limited to doing so on a silent apparatus or on bells without clappers. In the meantime we want to ensure that all our bells despite their silence are kept in proper order.

Then, too, there is need, it seems to me, for a much wider development of change ringing on handbells. Everyone knows that this phase of ringing is not as simple as some people imagine, but properly organised I feel a great deal might be done to keep the art going in many more towers than those in which it at present finds a place.

There are numerous other ways in which plans could be laid so that when the war finishes quick action can be taken, particularly in the direction of helpful organisation by the associations, and I hope that ringers of all shades of opinion and from all types of district, each of which will have its special problems, will contribute to the information which may be brought in this Conference as the result of this motion. For that reason I will leave any further suggestions for the time being to those who intend to take part in this debate.

With regard to the appointment of a committee, I would like to see it made representative of all the varying interests connected with the Exercise. I would also like to see the committee go into the question immediately and not leave my motion as a sort of pious resolution lying on the table to be dealt with, say, 12 months or two years hence. I want the Conference to do something here and now so that before it eventually dissolves a report of this committee may be given due consideration by everyone who is interested, and in any action that may possibly be taken I hope the Conference will appoint a really representative, if small, body to get down to the problem.

• ADVICE WANTED.

Mr. L. W. BUNCE: When Mr. Price asked me to second his resolution I readily agreed, but I think I should have hesitated if I had known that our motion was going to be put at the top of the agenda, and we should have, in a manner of speaking, to open the Conference. That I rather feel, ought to have been done by someone of greater experience and standing, for I am not a person who knows much about change ringing or the way the associations are carried on. I might have known more if the war had not broken out; but that's another matter. Nevertheless, I am keen to see facilities in readiness when ringing is again allowed.

It would have been rather presumptuous if we had taken on ourselves to advise the Exercise what ought to be done when peace comes. We are not doing that. What we are doing is to suggest that it would be a good thing if some of those people who have knowledge and experience should think things out. The question is not what will have to be done, but whether it would be a good thing to have some people to give us advice.

A friend of mine told me he thought the whole idea is unnecessary. 'Nobody knows,' he said, 'what will happen when the war is over. The best thing is to wait and face our troubles when they come. Meanwhile we have quite enough to keep us occupied with the things of to-day. Look what happened after the last war. A lot of ringers never came back from France, and of those that did a lot never re-entered the belfries. But there were enough ringers to get things going again, and in a few years' time the Exercise was as strong as ever it had been. So it will be again with ordinary luck.'

He may be right. I cannot speak about what happened in the last war. I was not old enough. But I do know that many changes did take place in ordinary life, and I am quite sure that many will result from this war. These changes are bound to affect ringers and ringing. They can't help it. And I feel we ought to do everything we can to be ready.

Of course, no scheme can be devised which is certain to meet every case, and opinions are sure to differ about what ought to be done. Some people may think we ought to overhaul our organisation, and there are those who think we ought to have a National Association. Perhaps it is worth thinking about. But I suppose I am out of order in referring to what really belongs to another item on the agenda.

(Continued on next page.)

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

(Continued from previous page.)

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bunce is not out of order in referring to a National Association. He would be out of order if he went into details.

Mr. BUNCE: Then there are such questions as the training of beginners and how far the ringing of difficult methods should be encouraged, and others. I think it would be a good thing if we had some lead on these matters, and so I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution.

SUGGESTED COMMITTEE.

The CHAIRMAN: I think a committee should be nominated in connection with the motion so that the personnel of it may be considered with the motion itself. I have given some careful thought to what its constitution might be, and I particularly would like to see youth among the representatives upon it, for youth, after all, will have to carry the responsibilities of the future. I am going to suggest to Mr. Price that he should include in his motion that the following, subject to their consent, shall constitute the committee, with power to add to their number:—

Representing the established associations: Mr. C. T. Coles, Hon. Secretary of the Middlesex County Association and the London Diocesan Guild; the Rev. C. E. Wigg, Deputy Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild.

Representing youth: Mr. E. A. Barnett (Crayford) and Mr. A. G. Tyler (Hon. Secretary of the Bristol City Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association).

Representing 'blitzed' districts: Mr. G. R. Newton, Liverpool; Mr. S. F. Palmer, Sheffield; Mr. R. F. Deal, London.

These, I think, if they will be kind enough to serve, will form at any rate the basis of a representative committee from all over the country, but I suggest that nothing should be done to prevent the committee, if they so desire, from bringing in to their assistance any other ringer they may think fit. Assuming that this committee is acceptable to the Conference, I suggest that in order that they may be able to get to work at once, Mr. Coles should act as chairman, that each member should compile his own suggestions and recommendations and forward it to the chairman within three weeks of the passing of the resolution, that the chairman should then draw up a comprehensive report, which he should submit to the members for their approval or criticism, and that this report should be submitted to this Conference before the proceedings are finally closed. Such a procedure would, I feel, go a long way not only to meeting the desires expressed in the resolution, but to getting something actually done which could be placed on record and acted upon immediately opportunity occurs.

Mr. PRICE: I shall be only too happy to fall in with the Chairman's suggestion and include the constitution of the committee with the motion.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER SUGGESTED.

Mr. C. CULLEN: I suggest that if sufficient ringers are got into the towers this problem will solve itself. The lack of people sufficiently interested in change ringing has been a problem for years and is likely to be accentuated after the war. In my opinion an effort should be made to interest the public and explain to them exactly what is change ringing. The vast majority think it consists in 'playing tunes' by 'machinery.'

I suggest that each association has a 'public relations officer' whose job it would be to see that the Press is correctly informed on ringing matters and so avoid the ridiculous tosh so often published. When a meeting is contemplated an article could be sent beforehand to the local paper, a stock one emanating from the Central Council forming the basis and local interesting points or illustrations being added. The incumbent of the church to be visited could also announce the impending meeting and invite members of the congregation to attend, the public relations officer acting as a guide. A pamphlet could also be prepared with a title such as 'What happens when the bells ring,' explaining the historical and the technical side of the Exercise simply and readably. These could be distributed to towers at cost price, part being left blank for overprinting a local name or a half-tone block. The pamphlets could be priced and left in the church porch and the revenue used for the upkeep of the bells. Further, the ringers themselves might like to have them to give to people they meet and to whom they might talk of ringing matters. In any case, interest in change ringing would be fostered, and interest is the first step in procuring exponents and so rehabilitating the Exercise.

Apocryphal the ignorance of the public generally, Mr. Chairman, here is an example. At a meeting in this district of Kent the officiating clergyman, although his address was about ringing, admitted afterwards that he had never seen a belfry or a bell frame, and on this occasion he made no attempt to fill this gap in his education. True it wasn't his church, but he was an elderly man and must have come into contact with many peals of bells at various places. Incidentally, why not make a point of holding a meeting at a place where ringing is at a low ebb, and not as so often happens where it already flourishes. Just one other comment, on the lack of ringers. Of the towers within one hour's cycle ride of Chelmsfield, where I reside, there is no ringing at seven, and in eight others only occasionally are the

(Continued in next column.)

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

CONTINUED PROGRESS.

The past term has been one of the most successful the O.U.S.C.R. has ever had from the point of view of general progress, and easily the best ever from that of peal ringing. There have, of course, been losses in membership, but there has always been a stable nucleus of about a dozen enthusiasts. Besides these, no less than eleven beginners have joined at various times, although there has been no deliberate recruiting campaign. Without doubt there is the knack of kindling enthusiasm in recruits. For instance, four young ladies from Somerville came along for the first time, a fortnight from the end of term; after a couple of practices they borrowed a set of handbells, and spent a whole Sunday afternoon puzzling things out for themselves.

All practices are divided into two parties, one for the benefit of beginners and the other for the beginners of last term. All of the latter could ring Bob Major fairly well at the beginning of term, so it was resolved to pass on to better things and avoid the danger of stagnation. With this object the methods practised have included Grandsire and Plain Bob on all numbers, Stedman Triples (nine members can now take an inside pair through a plain course), Double, Little Gainsborough, Shipway's Court, New London Court and Richmond Bob Major, and also touches of Spliced Major. Stress is always laid on the importance of faultless striking and a good beat. Next term it is hoped to ring Kent Treble Bob and Double Norwich. It must be emphasised that in ringing these Major methods there is no question of learning the work of a pair in the plain course. The principle of ringing by the places is strictly followed, and, for instance, a course of Richmond Bob was rung without the band being told anything except what places occur in a lead.

Needless to say, with so many members, it has never been possible to arrange intensive practices for just one band, with a view to peal ringing. Nevertheless, six peals have been rung (without any special practice), being three of Bob Minor, one of Minor in five methods, and two of Bob Major. The standard of methods would doubtless have been higher had it not been for the guiding principle of letting nothing interfere with the ordinary practices. Although Plain Bob has been the predominant method in these performances, every peal marked something fresh for somebody. Three members, all of whom started ringing last October, have rung their first peals, so that seven resident junior members have now rung peals. Far from these six peals having been rung by the same band, no less than eight members have taken part, two of them being old members. Apart from society peals, the O.U.S.C.R. has contributed the greater part of the band in peals of Bob Major (with the Cambridge University Guild), Spliced Plain and Gainsborough and Bob Royal. An attempt for a society peal of Royal would have had a good chance of success, but could not be made, as one of the band contracted mumps.

The members are very proud of the fact that they can now manage entirely without outside help. It is probably unique for a society composed entirely of junior members of a university to have reached peal ringing standard by its own efforts. Although the O.U.S.C.R. is now a self-contained whole, it is always very pleased to see outside ringers at practices; for instance, the three peals referred to above were rung during visits to Oxford of ringers from other towns. It is, in fact, one of the aims not only to build up a strong and vigorous society which will be able to ring peals in a variety of methods, and maintain a high standard of ringing generally, but to make Oxford a centre of handbell ringing, where ringers will always be sure of receiving a hearty welcome and of having some good handbell ringing.

J. E. S.

LEATHERHEAD, SURREY.—On Tuesday, March 17th, in the belfry of the Parish Church, on handbells, 1942 Bob Major: W. J. Whiting 1-2, A. H. Smith 3-4, A. H. Winch 5-6, G. Marriner 7-8. Conducted by A. H. Winch. Longest touch on handbells by all. Rung to mark the conductor's 40 years' connection with the Leatherhead company.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

(Continued from previous column.)

bells heard, and this in a part of a country considered very enthusiastic. I believe in each case this is solely due to lack of man power. I feel that every effort should be made to interest the public in ringing matters and that a member of each association should regard it as his particular job to see that all possible ways of achieving this end in his district should be examined. Every encouragement should, of course, at the same time be given to newcomers to the Exercise.

Readers are invited to send their contributions to the discussion on this subject without delay. Owing to Good Friday necessitating the earlier publication of 'The Ringing World' next week, the contributions should reach this office not later than Monday morning.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

NORTH-WESTERN DISTRICT MEETING.

Important Discussions.

The annual meeting of the North-Western District of the Surrey Association was for the second successive year held at Leatherhead on Saturday, and was attended by about 45 members and friends representing most of the district towers and, among others, Feltham, Leytonstone, Isleworth, Reigate, Chertsey and West Grinstead.

The eight clapperless bells in the tower were in use during the afternoon to methods ranging from Grandsire Triples to Cambridge Major, while the handbell enthusiasts withdrew to the vestry to display their skill.

In the absence of the Vicar through illness, the service was conducted by the Rev. A. E. Chapman, the assistant priest, who apologised for his inability to stay to the tea and meeting owing to other engagements.

Tea was served at the Duke's Head, and it is interesting to note that the majority of those present had sent notifications for tea, a record for the district.

The chair at the annual business meeting was taken by Mr. D. Cooper, District Master.

Miss W. M. Adams, of Banstead, was elected as a ringing member, and the election prior to a peal that morning of Mr. Cecil R. Longhurst, of West Grinstead, as a compounding member was ratified.

The committee's report for 1941 was read and adopted. The majority of district activities had been at a standstill, although a few bands maintained contact with one another for handbell or silent tower bell practice. Some bands had broken up entirely, whilst others appeared to be in a somewhat moribund state. Noticeable exceptions were those at the Croydon churches and at Leatherhead. The calling-up of keen members of local hands and deaths of several prominent ringers in the past few years had accelerated this decadency. Communication with members was now mainly by post, a more laborious and expensive and far less efficient process. Postage costs had increased considerably on the previous year and would no doubt continue to rise. As air raids had lessened and almost ceased during the year there had been no report of serious damage to any of the churches in the district.

VALUED MEMBERS LOST.

During the year four members were lost by death: Mr. Arthur H. Bundle, of Carshalton, Mr. Charles H. Reading, of Mitcham, Mr. Frederick G. Woodiss, of Banstead, and Mr. Arthur Dean, of Leatherhead. Mr. Reading was for a long time assistant secretary of the association and also treasurer of this district. He did much good work for the association and for the Mitcham Christ Church band. Mr. Fred Woodiss had been for many years successively treasurer and then secretary of this district, relinquishing the latter office only two years ago. He remained a member of the committee until his death. He founded the present Banstead band and took a keen interest in ringing throughout the district. He rang 78 peals for the association. Mr. Arthur Dean, one of the vice-presidents, was for very many years an important member of his local hand, and its captain since 1923. He maintained at Leatherhead a competent band, making it a centre of ringing activity in the district. He rang about 200 peals for the association. It was deeply regretted by all that for several years past he had been incapacitated and was unable to reach the tower and ring.

No peals were reported rung during the year. This was a decrease of four from the previous year.

The district participated in four meetings during the year—at Leatherhead (twice), Reigate and Ewell. Two business meetings were held. All the gatherings were a great success and the attendances averaged 36. A ramble from Merstham to Reigate in June was a tremendous success, mainly owing to very favourable weather, although a few complained of the heat. The elements were less kind in August when a similar ramble from Box Hill to Leatherhead was not held.

The membership at the beginning of 1941 was 183. Six new members had been elected, including one honorary member. Four deaths had been reported, five members had been transferred to the compounding list, and five had allowed their subscriptions to lapse, leaving a membership as at December 31st of 175, a net decrease of only eight from previous figures. There were now seven honorary members, 144 members representing 17 towers, and 24 unattached members.

MEMBERS IN THE FORCES.

The number of ringers known to be serving in the Forces had risen slightly, and at least 20 members could claim exemption from payment of subscriptions on these grounds. Of these ten had paid their subscriptions for 1941.

The year, though it could show no material progress, had shown a minimum of back-sliding. Though no doubt more active members would be lost to the Forces, if the remaining members continued to support the association both financially by paying the small sum asked for by way of subscriptions, and also by attending meetings arranged for them, they would greatly assist the resumption of peace-time activities when that became possible.

The treasurer's statement of accounts for 1941, showing a balance of £14 6s. 5d. (an increase of 11s. 6d.) was also adopted.

The arrangement of meetings during the year was left to the judgment of the committee, but it was agreed that the next meeting should be held if possible on Whit Monday, May 25th. The annual general meeting was to be held on April 25th.

The following officers of the district were declared elected in the absence of other nominations: Master, Mr. D. Cooper; treasurer, Mr. H. W. Simmons; secretary, Mr. G. W. Massey; auditor, Mr. H. N. Pitaw.

The three representatives on the committee were elected by ballot as follows: Mrs. C. H. Kippin, Mr. Charles Potheary and Mr. H. V. Young.

It was unanimously agreed that Mr. D. Cooper should deputise for the secretary during the latter's prospective absence on war service with the R.A.F.

The general officers of the association were renominated as follows: Master, Mr. D. K. C. Birt; secretary, Mr. E. G. Talbot; assistant secretary, Mr. C. Parks; auditor, Mr. G. W. Steere. Nominations were also received for two Central Council representatives, and Messrs. C. H. Kippin, D. Cooper and W. Claydon were proposed.

TREASURER TO RETIRE.

The general treasurer, Mr. C. H. Kippin, stated that he had no wish to be re-elected for the current year. After some discussion Mr. F. E. Collins gave notice of a proposed alteration to the rules of the association to permit the offices of treasurer and secretary to be combined for the duration of the war owing to the comparatively small amount of work attaching to the former post at the present.

Discussion on the proposed National Association, the Ringers' Conference and the future of 'The Ringing World' took place.

Mr. F. W. Housden spoke in support of a National Ringers' Association run on the same businesslike principles as those national associations in other walks of life, with paid secretary, central headquarters and a general executive (which could run 'The Ringing World' in perpetuity).

Mr. Kippin drew attention to the concern felt of the possible extinction of 'The Ringing World' in time to come. It was important to consider this problem because should circulation cease even for one week it would be impossible to recommence publication until after the war owing to the present paper restrictions.

Mr. T. Price congratulated Mr. Housden and Mr. Kippin on their recent letters published in 'The Ringing World,' and urged them to continue pressing in every way possible for the achievement of their ideals.

Mr. Norman Bagworth, Mr. H. V. Young, Mr. Arthur H. Smith and others also spoke. It was agreed that insufficient thought was given to the subjects under discussion by the people who mattered—the average ringers of the country. Until deep thought and active support of the go-ahead members was given by the average ringer, little could be done.

Mention was made of several motions on the agenda for the Ringers' Conference. Motion 2 (b) received particularly severe criticism. It was too wide in scope and too conservative in nature. It was suggested that ringers should be urged to vote against the motion in its present form.

Finally, and as a result of this varied discussion, Mr. H. V. Young proposed, and Mr. C. H. Kippin seconded, the following resolution, which was carried unanimously: 'That the General Committee be instructed to bring forward at the annual general meeting that due consideration be given immediately by the Central Council members regarding the ownership of "The Ringing World" in time to come.'

It was hoped that opportunities would arise for the discussion of this question between individual members of the Central Council as the Council would not meet as a body.

The meeting terminated with votes of thanks to the Rev. Chapman for conducting the service, to Mrs. Arnold, the organist, and to Mr. George Marriner for making the necessary arrangements for tea and meeting.

Further handbell ringing then continued for about an hour, although many members preferred to discuss the many provocative suggestions brought forward at the meeting.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

DEVIZES BRANCH OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

The annual meeting of Devizes Branch was held at Southbroom, Devizes, on Saturday week. The Guild service was held at St. James' Church, conducted by the Rev. E. B. Brooks (priest in charge of St. Mary's) in the unavoidable absence of the Vicar (the Rev. A. W. Douglas). Col. F. W. Hek, T.D., A.R.C.O., was at the organ.

Tea, arranged by Mrs. T. Weeks, an hon. member of the Guild, with two helpers, was partaken of in the Parish Room, but a smaller attendance than usual was present, owing to so many having been called to the Forces.

In the absence of the branch chairman (Mr. E. F. White), the business meeting was presided over by Mr. A. T. Weeks, vice-chairman of the branch, and all the officers were re-elected for the coming year.

The secretary was asked to send the sympathy of the branch to Mr. S. Hillier, and wishing him a speedy recovery.

Thanks were given to all who had made the meeting very enjoyable and successful.

ELEMENTARY COMPOSITION.

FOR THE AVERAGE READER.

We have now got together some material to use in composing peals, and we have found out some means of composing. To revert to the simile we employed, we have got a good stock of sound bricks and a heap of excellent mortar, and so we can proceed to the building of a wall. They are plain standard bricks and our wall will only be a simple one without ornaments but it will give us the opportunity of doing some good, solid building.

Our bricks are the Natural Courses of the method. There are, in all, 120 of them, each consisting of 112 changes (for, as you will remember, we are dealing with Bob Major), each is represented by its course end, and between any two of them there can never be any repetition of rows.

But half of these 120 Natural Courses are even, and the other half are odd, and first of all we will see what we can do with the sixty even ones. We will put the sixty odd ones aside for the present.

Our mortar is the Q Sets which we have described in full in previous articles. They, as we saw, are of various kinds, but only one kind can be used with Natural Courses of like nature. So that our apparatus for joining up Natural Courses consists of sets of three bobs made on the same three bells and separated from each other by a full course. Any one of these operations joins together three full courses.

Any course or any combination of courses which starts and ends on the same row is called a block, and in Bob Major every such block is a 'round' block, which means that we can choose any row in it we please to begin and end with.

The first of our round blocks produced by a Q Set of bobs is the three courses with a bob at the end of each, and that is thoroughly typical of all the round blocks.

Now, suppose, instead of beginning with rounds, we begin with the lead end, 13527486, and from that prick three full courses with a bob at the end of each; we should have a block exactly similar to the first, except that the rows in the two added Natural Courses would be different. Instead of joining together the three Natural Courses 42356, 34256 and 23456 by three bobs at Home, we should join together the three 52436, 35426 and 23456 by three bobs at the Wrong.

Or suppose we started from the row 14263857 and pricked three full courses with a bob at the end of each; we should have a block similar to the other two, but again the two added Natural Courses would be different. Our block would consist of 43652, 63254 and 23456 joined together by three bobs at the Middle.

The plain course (23456) appears in all three of these, for each of the operations is joining two full Natural Courses to the plain course, and the Wrong, Middle and Home are the only lead ends where that can be done.

We can, if we please, join to the plain course two full Natural Courses at the Wrong, two at the Middle, and two at the Home. We have no choice as to what Natural Courses we take in at any one of these positions; that is settled for us, and the number is fixed too; we can add two, we cannot add one, or four, or five or any other number—at least not by the Q Set we are using. All we can decide for ourselves is which and how many of the three possible Q Sets we shall use.

Suppose we use all three. That will give us the block—

28456	W.	M.	R.
52436	—		
35426	—		
43652	—	—	
63254		—	
42356		—	—
34256			—
23456			—

This is a nice, straightforward, easy example of building up a touch by joining together Natural Courses by means of Q Sets.

And here we are going to make a digression. We have been talking of making bobs at Home, meaning at the lead end at the end of the course; but when we wrote out the touch above we put for the bob positions the letters W, M and R, the R standing for 'Right.' Which is correct? Well, the really proper way is to call the bob at the end of the course the Right; for that is the way recommended by the Central Council. But the other is the older usage, it is still very commonly employed by ringers, and it comes naturally off the tongue when we are speaking of these things. Besides, it is convenient to have two words which mean the same thing so long as we make sure it does not cause confusion.

To resume. In our touch above we made bobs at each of the possible three positions in the plain course and in each case we completed the Q Set. In all the other courses we made a bob in one position only. Suppose we select one of the vacant positions in any one of the courses, make a bob there, and complete the Q Set. Let it be the Home of the third course 43652. Such a Q Set will join together the three Natural Courses 43652, 64352 and 36452; and since 43652 is already joined to six other Natural Courses our touch will become as follows:—

23456	W.	M.	R.
52436	—		
35426	—		
64352	—	—	—
36452		—	—
43652			—
63254		—	
42356		—	—
34256			—
23456			—

What we have done is to join up into one round block nine separate independent Natural Courses, and in doing so we used four Q Sets. In the same way we can bob any of the vacant positions in one of these courses and by completing the Q Set add two more Natural Courses.

We know our touch is true because each time we bobbed a Q Set we took a couple of bricks from our original heap of sixty.

But we shall soon find out that we cannot bob every Q Set where there is a vacant position in one of the courses. For instance, suppose we make a bob at the Middle in the course 64352. To complete the Q Set we want the Natural Courses 34256 and 24653. The last is on our heap of material, but we have already used the other, and it is not available for the second time.

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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ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 28th, 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 Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, March 28th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. All welcome.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

WORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting of Western Division, in conjunction with Leeds and District Society's nomination meeting, will be held at Christ Church, Upper Armley, Leeds, on Saturday, March 28th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. in Conservative Club, near church. Business meeting after tea (approximately 5.30), election of officers, etc. An interesting talk after meeting on 'Proof of Composition,' by Mr. W. Barton, association's peal secretary. Annual reports available. All welcome.—Frank Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley, Leeds.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, April 4th, at the Bird in Hand (bottom of Church Brow), Newhay. Time 6.30 p.m. Please make an effort to pay subscriptions on this date and oblige. Reports, also handbells, will be available.—Ivan Kay, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the committee will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, April 4th, at 4 p.m.—L. J. Clark, Gen. Sec., 36, Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Worcester on Easter Monday, April 6th. General business meeting in College Hall at 3 p.m. prompt. Chairman: The Very Rev. Arthur Davies, Dean of Worcester. As parties cannot be catered for, will members please make their own arrangements for tea.—J. D. Johnson, Hon. Gen. Sec., Sedgbarrow, Evesham.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at Cambridge on Easter Monday. Ringing on the Sage apparatus at the Church of St. Mary the Great from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Please make own arrangements for tea.—K. Willers, Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Newport on Easter Monday, April 6th. Meeting at 3 o'clock in St. Woolos' Church Hall.—J. W. Jones, Hon. Sec., 94, Altery View, Newport, Mon.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting for the election of officers will be held at Norwich on Saturday, April 11th. St. Giles' bells and handbells in St. Peter Mancroft belfry from 2.30 p.m. Service, St. Peter Mancroft, 4.30; preacher,

Rev. A. St. J. Heard. Tea in the County Restaurant, Davey Place, 5.15. Business meeting 5.45. In view of present difficulties, tea (at 1s. 9d.) will be served **ONLY** to those who send me their names by April 1st.—Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS AND THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

—North and West District.—A combined meeting will be held at St. John's, Waterloo Road, S.E.1, Saturday, April 11th, at 3 p.m. Service at 4 and tea at 4.45 p.m. Handbells available before service and after tea. Tea will only be supplied to those who notify Mrs. E. E. Davis, 118, Sarsfield Road, Balham, S.W.12, not later than April 8th. Please bring your own sugar.—T. J. Lock and G. W. Steere, Hon. Secs.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The **ANNUAL MEETING** will be held at ST. ALBANS on Saturday, April 11th. Service in the Cathedral 4 p.m., with address. Tea at Waterend Barn 5.15 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify me by Thursday, April 9th. St. Peter's tower open at 2.30 p.m. for silent ringing and handbells.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, St. Albans.

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.—Exeter Branch.—A meeting will be held at Exeter on Saturday, April 11th. Service at St. Edmund's Church 4 o'clock. Arrangements for tea will be announced at the service. Handbells available. Bands and visitors attending kindly notify me by April 4th.—W. H. Howe, Hon. Sec., 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—The general annual meeting will be at Leicester, Saturday, April 11th. Bells (silent) at Cathedral (12) and St. Margaret's (8) during afternoon. Committee meet 4 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m., at Church House, by Cathedral. General meeting follows tea. In the evening a social is being arranged, particulars later. Names for tea must be sent to Mr. Perkins, 52, Landseer Road, Leicester, not later than April 8th, and note—**no names—no tea**, and this notice will be enforced.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held at Aston Parish Church, on Saturday, April 11th. Service in church at 4 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. in the Schoolroom, followed by business meeting and handbell ringing. To assist in catering, please notify intention to be present not later than Wednesday, April 8th.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

REV. W. C. PEARSON'S LAST PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It may be of interest to some of your readers to know that I have a record of the late Vicar's peals as late as September 10th, 1930, a peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 5,088 changes, composed by C. W. Roberts and conducted by W. C. Rumsey. I have rung several peals with the Vicar, and I feel almost certain this was his last. He rang the treble.

G. A. FLEMING.

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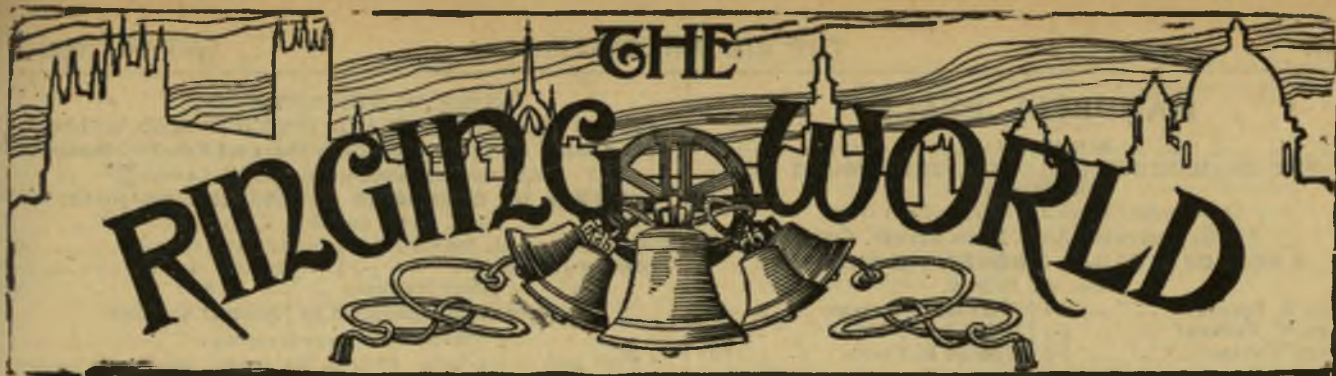
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THE CONFERENCE.

The Ringers' Conference is now on and the indications are that it is going to be a success. But whether it is or not depends on the average ringer. Some of our leaders have come forward readily and have willingly lent a helping hand. They are the men without whom little can be done in, or for, the Exercise, and they never fail.

But we hope the average readers will do their part too. We want to get an expression of opinion on all the topics to be brought forward from as wide a circle as possible. In that way a great deal of good will be done to the Exercise, not only in the immediate present by keeping up our spirits and our interest, but also in the future by preparing ourselves to meet the difficulties that will face us.

We are quite aware that though most men hold opinions and sometimes hold them strongly, they are not always prepared to put them into words. At the meetings of the Central Council, though perhaps sixty or eighty members are present, only a few actually speak. That does not mean that the rest are indifferent to the questions raised, or even that they do not influence the debates. When any matter of importance is debated the general feeling of the meeting, even when it is not vocal, can, and does in a subtle manner, affect the conclusion arrived at even before any vote is taken. It is here that our present Conference must fall short of the actual meeting together of men within a hall. Except that when the debate is closed, he can and we trust will send in his vote, a ringer has no means of making his influence felt except by sending in a written 'speech.' That he should do. He may not want to say much. Perhaps there is only a single point which can be expressed in almost a single sentence. But it may be a good point, and the sentence is worth writing.

If we may judge by appearances one or two items on the agenda should bring forth varied opinions and keen debates. There is the question of a National Association which has found so much favour in some quarters. We do not intend to prejudge the matter or to prophesy what the result will be, but obviously there is a great mass of opinion in the Exercise of men who would rather stay as we are. We hope they will not be content to sit still and trust to the dead weight of custom to prevent any radical changes. If they really believe the present organisation is the best, they should be prepared to defend it actively. And on the other hand, those who advocate a new order should not be content with generalities and vague hopes and promises, but should give us definite facts and figures to work on, facts and figures that can be tested and used.

HANDBELL PEALS.**BIRMINGHAM.**

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, March 21, 1942, in Three Hours,

At the TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOR STREET, CITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor size 18 in A.

FRANK E. PERVIN 1-2	WILFRED WILLIAMS 7-8
FRANK W. PERRENS 3-4	GEORGE F. SWANN 9-10
ALBERT WALKER' 5-6	GEORGE E. FEARN 11-12

Composed by JOHN CARTER.

Non-conducted.

BURGESS HILL, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, March 22, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,

At RESTORBEL, JAMES LANE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5182 CHANGES;

MISS OLIVE D. HAIRS... .. 1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT 5-6
FRANK I. HAIRS 3-4	MRS. FRANK I. HAIRS 7-8

Conducted by FRANK I. HAIRS.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 22, 1942, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

At St. PETER'S HALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 6040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor size 16 in C.

MISS FAITH M. CHILDS ... 1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS 3-4
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY ... 5-6	

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, March 22, 1942, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

At 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

WALTER H. DOBBIE 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE 5-6
BETTY SPICE... .. 3-4	DENNIS H. PARHAM 7-8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

First attempt for a peal by the ringer of 7-8, who was elected a member of the association before starting.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, March 23, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,

At 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

*MRS. J. THOMAS... .. 1-2	*JOHN THOMAS 5-6
GEORGE W. FLETCHER ... 3-4	MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 7-8

Composed by J. HUNT. Conducted by MRS. G. W. FLETCHER.

* First peal in the method on handbells. First peal in method as conductor on handbells.

ECKINGTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, March 27, 1942, in Three Hours and Twenty-One Minutes,

At 48, HIGH STREET,

A PEAL OF BOB MAXIMUS, 5016 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C sharp.

*G. EDMUND DRABBLE ... 1-2	*NORMAN W. FOX 7-8
†G. GORDON GRAHAM 3-4	*GORDON C. BRIGGS 9-10
*A. ROY FOX... .. 5-6	†PERCY J. JERVIS 11-12

Composed by E. MORRIS. Conducted by G. G. GRAHAM.

Witness—J. E. Bradshaw.

* First peal. † First peal 'in hand' and on 12 bells. First peal on twelve bells 'in hand' for the association. First handbell peal, first peal on more than six bells, and, as far as is known, the first peal ever by an entirely local band.

EVESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, March 24, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At the RESIDENCE of Mr. A. W. LLOYD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5039 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

MISS KATHLEEN M. JOHNSON 1-2	JOSEPH D. JOHNSON 5-6
GEOFFREY J. HEMMING ... 3-4	*AUBREY W. LLOYD 7-8
JAMES HEMMING 9-10	

Composed and Conducted by JOSEPH D. JOHNSON.

Witness—George Simpson.

* First peal on ten bells. Rung as the annual peal for the association.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD

On Tuesday, March 24, 1942, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

At 11, EXTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor size 16 in C.

MISS FAITH M. CHILDS ... 1-2	MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4
FRANCIS S. WILSON 5-6	

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

This was F. S. Wilson's 54th peal, 13 of which have been rung on handbells

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, March 26, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,

At 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 6040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor size 16 in B.

JAMES S. WEBB 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE 5-6
BETTY SPICE... .. 3-4	HAROLD HOWSON... .. 7-8

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

The ringer of 7-8 was elected a member of the association before starting.

A FALSE REPORT.

Recently we referred to a story about George Gross being caught up by his bell rope and badly damaged when peal ringing. Here is the account as given in 'The Annual Register' of April 28th, 1800:—
'A short time since eight members of the Society of Cumberland Youths made an attempt to ring 15,136 changes of Oxford triple bob on Edmonton church bells. It required upwards of ten hours' time to perform this task at 25 changes a minute. They had entered the ninth hour when an unlucky accident befell Mr. Gross the composer of the peal making an attempt to slacken his knee buckle his leg became entangled in the coil of the rope by which he was elevated to a considerable height, and thence falling upon his head, he broke his collarbone. Had it not been for this accident no doubt the feat would have been accomplished and the performers crowned with perpetual honours, as nothing to be compared with such an achievement of strength and skill can be found in the records of the campanalogical art.'

This account cannot be correct as it stands, and how much truth there is in it it is impossible to say. George Gross never composed a peal of Treble Bob Major so long as 15,136 changes, or if he did Shipway never heard of it, which is not likely. A broken collarbone does not take long to heal, but in February, 1800, Gross rang a peal, and on April 28th he called the 10,112 changes of Treble Bob at Enfield. Osborn did not believe the story and he probably made inquiries among some who were living when the attempt was supposed to have been made.

It is interesting to compare this tale with the other false report about Malachi Channon, who was a member of Gross' band.

DEATH OF AN OXFORD GUILD VETERAN.

The Oxford Diocesan Guild lost an old and valued member on March 17th in the person of Mr. John Bower, of Goring, Oxon, at the advanced age of 80 years. He was a fine ringer and a good striker and for many years was captain of the band, who for some years (before the new ring of eight bells were installed) were a very proficient Minor method company.

John Bower's great happiness as a ringer was when he took part in the first peal of Triples in the tower. A very fine teacher, he made many good ringers, and as 'a fine old English gentleman' will be much missed in the neighbourhood.

LIVES OF GREAT MEN.**MR. J. W. WASHBROOK.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The letter by Mr. Wolstencroft was most interesting, and Mr. Washbrook was certainly a genius besides being a great all-rounder. I remember him for his tours in Devon in the 90's, but at Arklow, Ireland, I had many chances to know him very well and saw him perform the feats so ably described by Mr. Wolstencroft. I called many touches for him to chime before services, and on several occasions he brought his violin to the belfry and played music composed by himself, which blended to the touch we were ringing.

I well remember the outstanding peal of May 26th, 1905, called by the late Rev. F. E. Robinson from the 7th. The conductor insisted that Washbrook should ring two bells, but Washbrook secured his own back two days later when he took the 7th, put Mr. Robinson on the 6th and called a peal of Stedman never previously rung containing all the 6-7's at backstroke.

Mr. Wolstencroft will forgive me if I correct an error. He says that Washbrook's second son Walter rang his first peal in December, 1905, at the age of 10 years 4 months, but I find that Walter rang his first peal of Stedman on October 23rd, 1905, and his age is given as 11. Washbrook had another son named Harry, who rang his first peal on September 11th, 1909, at the age of 12. In this peal Harry rang the 2nd, his father conducted on 3-4, his brother Walter rang the 5th and his eldest brother the 7th.

Not many weeks ago someone compared William Pye and James W. Washbrook, but I do not wish to make comparisons between two of our finest men. Rather let it be said that one was all the better for having known them both over many years. **W. SHEPHERD.**

LLANGYNDEYRNE CHURCH BELLS.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—There are three bells in this Carmarthenshire church, as follows:—

'Thos. Lloyd of Alltycadno Esq 1679. Sole Deo Gloria. W.C.T.C.'
'Risse Griffiths and Henry Vmphrey Churchwardens 1679. William and Thomas Coney Bellfounders : F.O.

'Peace and Good Neighbourhood. E.E. 1721.'

The last bell is from the Chepstow Foundry, and is one of the eight which Evan Evans cast in 1721. I cannot, however, find out who the Coneys are?

'Risse' should be 'Rhys,' which makes me think that they are English founders, and not used to Welsh spelling. H. B. Walters does not include the Coneys in his list of bellfounders. Does any reader know of any more bells by the Coneys? **EDWARD J. THOMAS.**
Carmarthen.

A LETTER FROM VANCOUVER.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I thought that during these strenuous times you might like to have a word from far away Vancouver to let you all know we are still carrying on in the belfry of the Holy Rosary Cathedral.

Yesterday, the 15th, was the 78th birthday of our oldest ringer, Mr. T. Silvester, and last Tuesday the 76th of J. Watts, and to do honour to them the band rang several touches. Not on the handbells, for out here, thank goodness, we can still ring and let the whole city enjoy being rung to church.

As usual, broadcasting was done on New Year's night. It lasted nearly 30 minutes and brought dozens of letters from Vancouver Island, other parts of Canada and the United States. They all came addressed directly to the bellringers, telling how they were enjoyed and hoping we would be spared to ring again another year.

After a long absence from the tower we have with us again Mr. George W. Foster, conductor of the first peal in Canada, on July 1st, 1911, who makes the journey from Port Haney, 30 miles away, every Sunday he can conveniently get away; and Mr. Mathew Bennett, who also took part in that somewhat historical performance.

Messrs. A. B. Lomas, Arthur King, George Roberts and William Sampson, of our band, are now and have been these past few years in Victoria, Vancouver, doing mostly Government work, and are temporarily forming part of the band at Christ Church Cathedral.

They visit us here occasionally, but we miss them very much and are looking to the day when they return to the old tower. And here's to the day when all the bells of England can ring out once more in their joyous peals for victory. **A. C. LIMPUS.**

208, Union Street, Vancouver, Canada.

FIRE BELL AT SHERBORNE ABBEY.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The description of this bell by Major Hesse is quite correct. The bell was cast in 1653 by Robert Austen, of Sherborne, and the diameter is 2ft. 8½in. He also cast the old 7th in the same year and the old 3rd in 1652. The inscription on the fire or 'panne' bell is:—

**LORD QVNCH THE FVRIQUS FLAME. ARIS, RUN, HELP
PUT OUT THE SAME. I W I G 1653. R A.**

A. A. HUGHES.

Whitechapel Bell Foundry.

John Taylor & Co.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

We are pleased to say that the Editor (Mr. J. S. Goldsmith) continues to make progress—although only slow—towards recovery.

Owing to the further restrictions on newsprint, which periodically will require a reduction in the number of pages in 'The Ringing World,' it may on such occasions also be necessary to curtail the wording of notices of meetings.

The handbell peal of Bob Maximus rung at Eckington, Derbyshire, last Friday indicates what can be done by beginners with perseverance. For four of the band it was their first peal, while the other two, including the conductor, rang their first peal on twelve bells and 'in hand.' Incidentally it was also the first twelve-bell peal on handbells rung for the Yorkshire Association.

The peal of Stedman Cinques rung on March 21st at Birmingham was originally arranged to be conducted by the Ringing Master, Mr. F. E. Haynes, but at the last moment he was unable to turn up. The band, therefore, decided to ring the peal non-conducted and a good performance resulted.

Major F. A. Yorke, who returned to the Royal Artillery on the outbreak of war and has since been serving on fortress duty, has just been released from the Army, being well over age as judged by the new Army Order.

On March 29th, 1762, the College Youths rang 10,000 Grandsire Caters at Fulham, the first in the method over ten thousand with only ten men.

The first ten thousand in any method on any number was rung by the Norwich Scholars at St. Michael's, Coslany, on April 1st, 1727.

Fifty years ago to-day one peal, Court Bob Triples, was rung. Fifty years ago yesterday six peals were rung. They were Stedman Triples 1, College Single Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 2, Grandsire Caters 1.

William Pye called 15,072 Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Erith on April 3rd, 1899. It was the longest peal in the method at the time.

On April 4th, 1904, William Willson called 11,008 changes in the same method, as a preliminary trial for the 17,104 he called at the same place on December 27th.

Ten years ago yesterday an 'All England Ringers' Rally' was held at the Croydon Foundry, when the great carillon for New York, with its 17-ton bourdon bell, was on view. More than three thousand people, including 2,700 ringers, were entertained by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston to tea, and speeches were made by distinguished persons, including the Bishops of Norwich and Croydon, the Mayor of Croydon and Mr. E. H. Lewis.

MORE FALSE PEALS.

YORKSHIRE INVESTIGATIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Here are the particulars of a further four peals from the Yorkshire Association records which I have found to be false. I would like you to publish them in 'The Ringing World' so that a note can be made by those who own, or have access to, copies of our annual reports which record these performances.

To the five of our older members who will have their peal totals reduced in consequence I extend my sincere regrets.

No. 1,329. 5,120 Kent Treble Bob Major, composed by William Sottanstill and rung at Lightcliffe on February 6th, 1904. This is a peal with the tenors parted. Repetitions occur in the 6th lead of the 8th course (treble 7-8 up), and the 9th lead of the 9th course (treble 7-8 down).

No. 1,292. 5,216 Kent Treble Bob Major, composed by George H. Hardy and rung at Earlsheaton on October 24th, 1903. Repetitions occur at the Middle positions in the 5th and 10th courses.

No. 164. 5,376 Kent Treble Bob Major, composed by Henry Johnson and rung at Staveley, Derbyshire, on October 31st, 1881. This is recorded as the first peal rung by members outside the county of York. Internal falseness—the 3rd and 5th leads of the 2nd, 3rd and 10th courses are respectively false with the 5th and 3rd leads of the 17th, 9th and 16th courses, with the treble in 5-6.

No. 148. 5,056 Kent Treble Bob Major, composed by James Lockwood and rung at Bingley on April 23rd, 1881. This peal is riddled with internal falseness. The 7th leads of the 5th and 6th courses are respectively false with the 7th leads of the 16th and 15th courses, treble in 1-2. The 7th and 6th leads of the 5th and 6th courses are respectively false with the 6th and 7th leads of the 16th and 15th courses, treble in 3-4. The 6th and 8th leads of the 5th and 15th courses are respectively false with the 6th and 4th leads of the 17th and 7th courses, treble in 5-6; and the 5th and 7th leads of the 5th and 15th courses are respectively false with the 5th and 3rd leads of the 20th and 10th courses, treble in 5-6.

WILLIAM, BARTON, Hon. Peal Secretary, Y.A.C.R.

MARCH HARES' CELEBRATE.

On Tuesday, March 17th, in the belfry of the Parish Church, Beaconsfield, 1,260 Bob Major on handbells in 38 minutes: Harry Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, Vera Look 3-4, Walter Lee 5-6, Dorothy Fletcher 7-8. Rung as a birthday compliment to Miss V. Look, to the conductor, and to Mr. W. H. Fletcher.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE. DISCUSSION CONTINUED ON AFTER-WAR REHABILITATION.

(Debate on Mr. Price's motion continued from page 152.)

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to inform the Conference that all the gentlemen nominated last week have willingly agreed to serve on the committee. That, of course, does not preclude any other nominations, although it will be as well, I think, not to make the committee too cumbersome.

Mr. T. HARRIS (Shirehampton), continuing the discussion on Mr. Price's motion: If, as we are led to believe, we have a live Central Council, a committee as proposed by Mr. Price is not necessary. Such a committee could only recommend this or that. It will be willing workers that will be wanted, men who will derive as much pleasure from teaching a new recruit, and helping him through his first touch of Grandsire Doubles, as he would from ringing a peal of Sledman Cinques.

Rev. M. MELVILLE (Swindon): I wish, wholeheartedly, to support Mr. Price's motion with regard to the rehabilitation of ringing after the war. Your idea, Mr. Chairman, that each member of the proposed committee should compile his own suggestions and then forward them to the chairman of the committee could be augmented somewhat in a way which, I think, would prove valuable.

Even in these days of the ban a fair number of meetings continue to be held up and down the country, and with actual ringing impossible more time is found to discuss ringing matters at these meetings. I think it would be valuable if each meeting included on its agenda such a motion as we are now discussing, and then forward a synopsis of its findings to the chairman of the proposed committee. In this way we should get much more representative opinions of the whole ringing Exercise than we could hope to get from seven members of a committee. The committee could then consider these suggestions and incorporate them into their own report when they prepare it.

AN ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL.

Mr. J. E. BAILEY (Dartford): Judging by the motion on the Conference agenda, the future of ringing in one sphere or another is the foremost thought in the minds of most ringers. The Conference gives all an opportunity of expressing their opinion on the best and quickest way to get going after the war. To appoint a committee at this stage, therefore, is, in my opinion, hardly fair to either the Conference or the men who are being asked to make suggestions. Several other motions are concerned with the future of the Exercise, so it would appear that we are to discuss this vitally important subject in conference, while a 'Brains Trust' is asked to do exactly the same thing at the same time in committee.

From the Conference discussions there are certain to come some fundamental ideas upon which it may be possible to plan a future course of action. It is only after hearing all shades of opinion that the general feeling of the Exercise can be judged.

I suggest, therefore, that the Conference be allowed to run its course and then a small committee make a grand summing up of the ideas and suggestions from which it should be possible to evolve a plan to get ringing going quickly and efficiently after the war.

Mr. A. DAVIS (Bournemouth): I am entirely in favour of such a move, as suggested in Mr. Price's motion, being made, but I do not envy the committee their task. The problem seems to me to revolve mainly around the ringer who is sufficiently skilled to be a good regular service ringer without having the keenness of an enthusiastic peal or a method ringer—those of our brothers who have been most adversely affected by the ban and will be most difficult to rally. I suggest to the committee that some of the very important people in this matter are the incumbents or other clergy who have charge of our bells and who can help vastly in the re-forming of the parochial bands of ringers.

Mr. W. SHEPHERD (Addlestone): It is best that a committee be formed, but why not have a better basis of representation? Three from the London district out of seven is out of proportion when it is found that Surrey, Hants, Dorset and neighbouring counties are without a member. Regarding the choice of Middlesex and Oxford, both small counties, here again a change would prove useful by giving a seat to areas not represented. In the blitzed districts I should like to see consideration for Southampton, Plymouth or Hull, all of which suffered very badly.

I know how difficult such committees are to form, especially in these times, but is it not possible to have a representative of North, South, East and West of England with the addition of one from London as the basis on which to work? These could have the power to add youth and blitzed representatives or any other form of co-operation when needed.

Mr. Cullen says that if sufficient ringers are got into the towers the problem will solve itself. The real problem is how to retain those ringers when once you get them in the tower. Some advance according to plan, others lag behind, some lose interest when spring comes and will not be tied to a town or village when there is a chance of other attractions. Is it worth while trying two secretaries for each association or guild—one to deal with correspondence and finance,

the other for organisation and relations matters? It may help to keep in better touch with Church and public.

Miss Brenda RICHARDSON (Sundridge, Kent): The proposition that a committee be formed to consider the best means of rehabilitating ringing when the war is over is certainly an excellent one, but I hope that, while such a committee considers this question and prepares a report, other ringers may be allowed to make their suggestions to the conference. We do not want to limit the field of enquiry to half a dozen men, however enthusiastic, experienced and representative they may be. Let the question be well discussed by the Conference, and then, when we pass to other matters, the committee will have some useful suggestions to follow up.

A PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER.

Mr. Cullen's suggestion about a public relations officer is good, and expresses an opinion, held, I think, by many ringers, that we must rouse a wider interest in our art. Accounts of meetings could be sent to the local press, and a press representative might be invited to such a gathering as the College Youths' annual dinner. A public relations officer would soon learn by experience how best to interest the public in ringing.

At least one district of one association is working out a scheme for co-operation between towers in the post-war days. In such a scheme four or more towers might arrange together that their total personnel should meet, both for practices and Sunday ringing, at each of the towers in turn. By this means each of four parishes would get good ringing one Sunday in four, instead of a half-hearted attempt at ringing every Sunday. The ringers also would be less likely to lose interest if they were sure of getting a good ring at each tower.

Whatever plans may be made we must remember that the successful execution of them depends on the ringers in every tower in the country. The old and experienced ones must be willing to teach, and the beginners must not be too proud to learn. The greatest hope for the future of ringing lies not in committees, though these must play their part, but in the small bands up and down the country where beginners are being taught how to handle a bell, and ring at least the standard methods 'in hand.' These are the bands who will carry the Exercise from the edge of the abyss of extinction to the summit of the mountain of strength and achievement.

The CHAIRMAN: May I interrupt here to make it plain that there is no intention to stifle discussion by the appointment of a committee? It will be of the greatest value to the committee to have before them all the views that can be obtained through this Conference. Indeed, it is only when the discussion on this subject is ended—and I hope we shall get many more opinions before that happens—that the motion for the appointment of the committee will be submitted to the Conference.

Mr. G. LEE (Wick, Littlehampton): I should like first of all to wish this Conference every success. While I am only a ringer in a small way, I trust a small suggestion I would like to make will not be found unwelcome. To get a stronger interest taken in change ringing, I have always thought there should be a different plan for beginners: something little better than local practice, which is very precarious as a rule, and the divisional monthly meetings. The local practice does not seem to possess the right spirit to produce a band of ringers. Nine times out of ten it is impossible to get a practice on the same night in two consecutive weeks, and with a number of young ringers there seems to be lacking the lift over the stile, as I would like to call it. The result is that you can only get these beginners so far. With regard to the monthly association meetings, most of the older ringers do not attend with any idea of making them the kind of meetings I have in mind. While it cannot be said that they are indifferent to beginners, there is not the time to give to them. Perhaps when war is over some arrangement could be made in the matter, thus producing more ringers in bands in a shorter space of time. I trust that this suggestion has some value for discussion.

The CHAIRMAN: I have received notice of an amendment to the motion by the addition of the following words: 'Special consideration to be given to the idea of forming a National Association with this object in view.' It is to be moved by Mr. C. H. Kippin and seconded by Mr. F. W. Housden.

Readers are reminded that all contributions to the discussion are welcomed, but those relating to the present motion should reach 'The Ringing World' Office not later than Monday morning next.

ANCIENT BELLS.

In Denmark the law requires every bell founder to send to a Minister of Antiquities a rubbing of the inscription and some other particulars of every ancient bell which is sent to him to be recast. The State then has the right of purchasing the bell for the value of its metal, and many old bells have been bought and placed in museums. We do not suppose there has been any bell founding since the Germans occupied the country, and any bells taken down from church steeples are not very likely to go to Museums.

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.

TRIBUTES TO THE LATE MR. LINDOFF.

Ladies Help Win Competition for Striking.

The annual meeting of the Irish Association was held in St. Andrew's Hotel, Dublin, after luncheon on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, and was attended by 68 members from Arklow, Bray, Kilkenny, Waterford and three Dublin towers, viz., St. Patrick's Cathedral, Christ Church Cathedral and St. George's. The president, the Very Rev. Leslie C. Stevenson, M.A., Dean of Waterford, was in the chair.

Among the guests were the Dean of St. Patrick's, the Dean of Christ Church, the Rev. Canon Campbell, Mrs. Leslie Stevenson, Messrs. W. B. Elliott and George Dukes, also the Rev. Chancellor G. D. Scott and Mr. W. Channery, two original ringing members of the association, who attended the first meeting of the association in October, 1898.

Apologies for absence were received from the Rev. J. R. Crooks, Mr. William Pratt, hon. secretary of the Northern Branch, the St. Canice's Society, Kilkenny, Mount St. Alphonsus' and St. Mary's Societies, Limerick, and SS. Augustine and John's Society, Dublin.

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING ADDRESS.

The Chairman, in his opening address, referred to the death last November of Mr. Gabriel Lindoff, who was the only hon. secretary the association ever had. His 43 years of service in that office were an outstanding record. The Chairman referred to the first meeting of the association and said that when they came to choose a president they chose a Waterford man in the person of Richard R. Cherry, afterwards Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, and when they came to elect a secretary, they found no better man than Gabriel Lindoff; this fact was borne out by his devotion to the work in laying the foundation and in the building up of the association to its present standard. The Chairman concluded by putting the following resolution to the meeting:—

'The members of the Irish Association of Change Ringers, assembled in annual meeting, place on record their profound sense of the loss sustained by the death last November of their hon. secretary, Mr. Gabriel Lindoff, who was the first and only secretary the association has had. For 43 years he held this position and it would be impossible to estimate what the association owes to him. They deeply appreciate the services he gave, and acknowledge with gratitude his life-long interest in the science of change ringing, of which he was a notable exponent. Alike as a composer and a practical ringer, Mr. Lindoff was pre-eminent. His death removes from the ringing world one whom all recognised as a master, a painstaking teacher and a true friend. To his son, the Irish Association of Change Ringers wish to convey this sincerest sympathy.'

The resolution was passed by the meeting standing in silence, on the proposition of Mr. R. S. F. Murphy, P.C., who said that when he was learning change ringing he could well remember going home with Mr. Lindoff, and the first thing 'Gay' would do on entering the house would be to take out his pipe and light it—he was very fond of his pipe—and then he would take out his pencil and write row after row of figures.

Mr. W. E. Lynch, who seconded the resolution, said that he agreed with all that was said, and referred to the wonderful tributes paid to Mr. Lindoff in 'The Ringing World' last November.

The annual report dealt mainly with the death of Gabriel Lindoff. Other points mentioned were: No peals were rung during 1941: most companies had lost members, some joined defence forces while others had to leave their homes in search of work, but, nevertheless, some recruits came along to fill up gaps and the bells still ring out the call of the righteous to worship and sinners to repentance. Two other members passed away during the year, viz., Capt. A. Tyrrell, Arklow, and William Bibby, Frodsham. The number of members now on the books is 234.

The balance sheet showed that the balance in the general fund had slightly decreased from £6 14s. 1d. to £6 8s. 4d. The amount received from subscriptions was £7 13s. 9d. In the Bell Repair Fund there is £64 13s. 11d.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

A resolution from Bray Society was passed by the meeting, which altered the rule for the time of ringing for the Shield Competition.

Christ Church Cathedral Society sent forward a resolution, which was passed by the meeting, that a committee meeting be held on the annual meeting day to enable country members to attend who live too far away to be present at ordinary committee meetings.

Bray was selected as the place for the next annual meeting, provided transport arrangements permitted. If travelling difficulties could be overcome, the committee are to decide if Waterford could be visited, following a representation from the latter society.

The elections of officers resulted as follows: President, Very Rev. F. Lewis-Crosby, B.D., Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin; hon. treasurer, Mr. David Gibson (Bray); Ringing Master, Mr. R. S. F. Murphy (St. Patrick's, Dublin).

As hon. secretary, Mr. Fred E. Dukes, 23. Skreen Road, Dublin (St. George's, Dublin), was elected to succeed the late Mr. Lindoff. (Continued in next column.)

DEATH OF BURBAGE SEXTON.

It is with regret that we record the death on March 19th of Mr. G. Dudley, of Burbage, Leicestershire, after a short illness, at the age of 69 years.

Deceased had been a ringer at the village church for 50 years and had been sexton for the last 20 years. He had rung nine peals, but his chief pleasure was when ringing for service, and he could always be relied upon to give his best. When the ban on ringing came he placed his handbells at the disposal of Mr. Ballard, and it was largely through Mr. Dudley's kindness that it has been possible to hold ringing together in the village.

Mr. Dudley was laid to rest on Monday, March 23rd, beneath the church he served and loved so well. A floral tribute was sent from his fellow ringers and also from the Hinckley District of the Midland Counties Association.

The deepest sympathy of his friends goes out to the widow and to the only son (Mr. P. Dudley, of Derby), who is well known amongst ringers. The deceased will be very hard to replace.

MOSCOW IN THE YEAR 1698.

In a book entitled 'Front Page News Once,' Mr. G. Bilainkin quotes 'A Short Article on Moscow' from 'The Post Boy' of January 20th-22nd, 1698.—

'The churches and houses of the persons of quality are built with stone and brick, and some of the chief churches are covered with gilt or copper or tin, having globes of the same metal on them, which renders the prospect very glorious. There is a bell raised on a tower in Moscow which weighs 176 tons (tuns), there being 200 tons of metal (mettal) allowed to the founder that cast it. The same is 24 ft. in height, the clapper is 21 ft. in length and weighs about seven tons.'

CAMPANOLOGY.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Enclosed peal report from 'Hinckley Times and Gazette' might interest your readers. It is certainly the *record* handbell peal and longest of Grandire Triples ever rung, 24 hours 44 minutes!

CAMPANOLOGY.—At Stedman, Sketchley Road, on Tuesday, members of the Midland Counties Association of Change Ringers rang a peal of Grandire Triples, 5,040 changes, in 24 hours 44 minutes, on handbells. The ringers were: 1 and 2, A. Jordon (Hinckley); 3 and 4, A. Ballard (Burbage); 5 and 6, F. K. Measures (Burbage); 7 and 8, Pte. W. J. Clough, R.A. (Burbage). The peal was composed by Mr. J. J. Parker and conducted by F. K. Measures. This is the first peal of Triples ever rung entirely by Hinckley district members of the association, and was arranged for Pte. Clough, who was home on leave. F. M.

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

Mr. Dukes thanked the members for the honour conferred on him, and said that he was taking office at the same age as Mr. Lindoff when the latter was elected in 1898. He would do his best to carry on the good work, but Mr. Lindoff had to build up the association and it is now for them to maintain the standard which had been set.

Nineteen new ringing members were elected.

The Ringers' Conference in 'The Ringing World' was commended to the interest of the members by the chairman and the hon. secretary. Both gentlemen spoke on its merits, and although some of the motions did not so far affect the Irish Association, a few, however, did. They said that anybody can take part in the discussions and they should stimulate a new interest in ringing circles.

The hon. secretary recommended members to purchase 'The Ringing World,' which was instructive as well as interesting. Articles appeared regularly and hints were often given by leading ringers.

Extracts from a letter from Mr. Sid Roper (Croydon) were read to the meeting. Reference was made to Mr. Lindoff, and good wishes extended to the members.

The Attendance Shield was won by Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, with 99.88 per cent. attendance for 1941. The shield was presented to Mr. W. E. Lynch for his society.

The Striking Competition was held at Christ Church Cathedral prior to the meeting, when five teams, viz., Arklow, Waterford (holders), St. Patrick's, Dublin, Christ Church, Dublin, and St. George's, Dublin, competed for the Murphy Cup. The judges, Messrs. J. B. Tough (Bray) and J. S. Gibb (Kilkenny), awarded the cup to St. George's, Dublin, which team included four lady ringers. St. Patrick's, Dublin, came second and Christ Church, Dublin, third. Mrs. F. E. Dukes received the cup on behalf of St. George's Society.

Votes of thanks were passed at the meeting to the judges of the Striking Competition, to the country teams for travelling long distances against great odds, and to the outgoing president for his conduct as chairman of the meeting.

The Chairman replied to the vote, and said he was very proud to be able to take part in the meeting and also to have been president of the association.

NOTICES.

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

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the committee will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, April 4th, at 4 p.m.—L. J. Clark, Gen. Sec., 36, Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Worcester on Easter Monday, April 6th. General business meeting in College Hall at 3 p.m. prompt.—J. D. Johnson, Hon. Gen. Sec., Sedgebarrow, Evesham.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at Cambridge on Easter Monday. Ringing on the Seage apparatus at the Church of St. Mary the Great from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30.—K. Willers, Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Newport on Easter Monday, April 6th. Meeting at 3 o'clock in St. Woolos' Church Hall.—J. W. Jones, Hon. Sec., 94, Altery View, Newport, Mon.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 11th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting for the election of officers will be held at Norwich on Saturday, April 11th. St. Giles' bells and handbells in St. Peter Mancroft belfry from 2.30 p.m. Service, St. Peter Mancroft, 4.30. Tea in the County Restaurant, Davey Place, 5.15. Business meeting 5.45.—Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS AND THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and West District.—A combined meeting will be held at St. John's, Waterloo Road, S.E.1, Saturday, April 11th, at 3 p.m. Service at 4 and tea at 4.45 p.m. Handbells available before service and after tea. Tea will only be supplied to those who notify Mrs. E. E. Davis, 118, Sarsfield Road, Balham, S.W.12, not later than April 8th. Please bring your own sugar.—T. J. Lock and G. W. Steere, Hon. Secs.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The ANNUAL MEETING will be held at ST. ALBANS on Saturday, April 11th. Service in the Cathedral 4 p.m., with address. Preacher: Canon Thorpe, Vicar of Watford. Tea at Waterend Barn 5.15 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify me by Thursday, April 9th. St. Peter's tower open at 2.30 p.m. for silent ringing and handbells.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, St. Albans.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—The general annual meeting will be at Leicester, Saturday, April 11th. Bells (silent) at Cathedral (12) and St. Margaret's (8) during afternoon. Committee meet 4 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m., at Church House, by Cathedral. General meeting follows tea. In the evening a social is being arranged, particulars later. Names for tea must be sent to Mr. Perkins, 52, Landseer Road, Leicester, not later than April 8th, and note—**no names—no tea**, and this notice will be enforced.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held at Aston Parish Church, on Saturday, April 11th. Service in church at 4 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. in the Schoolroom, followed by business meeting and handbell ringing. To assist in catering, please notify intention to be present not later than Wednesday, April 8th.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road,

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Burton Latimer on Saturday, April 11th. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting afterwards. Tea provided only for those notifying previously.—H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Draycott on Saturday, April 11th, at 3 p.m. Refreshments will be provided for all who notify Mr. A. Hough, Ard-Na-Chree, Draycott, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, before April 8th. Handbells available and all ringers welcome.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—The district annual meeting will be held at Southgate on Saturday, April 18th, at 3.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m., followed by tea at Walker Hall, The Green, for those who notify me by Wednesday previous. Please bring your own sugar. Handbells available for ringing.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Herts.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—A meeting of this division will be held at Earl's Colne on Saturday, April 18th. Handbells from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea will be provided only for those sending in their names by Wednesday, April 15th, to Mr. F. Ridgwell, Queen's Road, Earl's Colne, Essex. An opportunity to meet old friends; please come and make this a real success.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meetings at Guildford on Saturday, April 18th. Executive Committee meet at S. Nicolas' Vestry at 3 p.m. Service at S. Nicolas' 4 p.m. Tea at Ayers' Cafe (next S. Nicolas' Church) 5 p.m., followed by the annual general meetings of both the Guildford District and the Guild. Please send me numbers for tea by April 14th.—G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clandon, near Guildford.

WANTED.

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UNIVERSITY RINGING SOCIETIES.

When peace comes again and we return once more to our belfries, the task of reconstruction naturally will fall on the shoulders of the men who were the leaders of the Exercise before the war began; the leaders in the narrower spheres of the individual belfries as well as the leaders of associations and the Central Council. We do not doubt they will prove equal to the task, or that they will receive adequate support from the rank and file. But they will have many difficulties to face and not the least will be to find recruits to fill vacancies and replace the wastage of the war years.

The problem of recruits is in normal times a serious one. The number of young people who are attracted to the belfries, and having been attracted, are suitable for making good ringers, is a small one, and usually barely suffices to replace loss by death, or removal, or failure of interest. Perhaps the only thing that really keeps the ropes manned is the fact that a good ringer's career is usually a long one; once he is sealed of the tribe he remains faithful as long as health and strength permit.

These things being so in normal times, they are sure to be much accentuated by present conditions, and anything which can help us to meet them is bound to be welcomed by everyone who values the future of our art. Many of our readers, as well as ourselves, have, we know, watched with interest and sympathetic appreciation the work which has been going on for some time in youthful circles, and not least in the ringing societies of the two great Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. We look to them—and we look with confidence—to play an important part in the life and work of the Exercise of the future.

The actual number of ringers who have come to us from Oxford and Cambridge has not been large, but they have exercised an influence altogether out of proportion to their number, and they have helped in no small degree to make the Exercise what it is. It would indeed be possible to argue that change ringing is a child of the Universities, that it was invented there, and without them it would not have existed at all. Certainly during the early days all the leading ringers were University men or were directly influenced by University men. Cambridge gave us the first methods we know of. Oxford gave us the first printed book on the art.

For long change ringing died out at the two Universities, but it is significant that the time when, after a period of stagnation and decay, the art began to revive,

(Continued on page 166.)

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borough, Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's,
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was the time when the Oxford and Cambridge Societies were founded. How much we owe to those bodies can be realised somewhat when we remember the names of the men they have given to the Exercise. C. D. P. Davies, A. B. Carpenter, J. S. Pritchett, Canon Cole-ridge, F. E. Robinson and others from Oxford. A. H. F. Boughey, H. L. James, E. B. James, W. C. Pearson, C. W. O. Jenkyn, B. H. T. Drake, H. T. S. Richardson, E. H. Lewis, W. H. J. Hooton, and many more from Cambridge—these have all left their mark on the Exercise, and it would not have been what it is without them.

In the nature of things a University society must be subject to variations of fortune. The members are continually leaving, but as they leave, they go into the country and spread a good influence. There are not many of them, but a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. That is why the present activity at Oxford and Cambridge is such a hopeful sign and holds such good promise for the future.

HANDBELL PEALS.

GREAT BADDOW, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, March 29, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

AT 3, BELL STREET,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

HIRZELL EDWARDS ... 1-2 | ARTHUR H. EVERETT ... 5-6
ARNOLD BRUNTON ... 3-4 | GEORGE GREEN ... 7-8

Conducted by GEORGE GREEN.

RADLEY, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
(OXFORD CITY AND DISTRICT BRANCH.)

On Wednesday, April 1, 1942, in One Hour and Forty-Three Minutes,

AT THE SCHOOL HOUSE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings. Tenor size 14 in D.

MISS ROSALIND M. WRONG 1-2 | MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 3-4

WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 5-6

Conducted by MISS MARIE R. CROSS.

Witness—Mrs. A. Cross.

Rung with the bells half-muffled in memory of Francis E. Taylor, of St. Ebbe's, Oxford, who was buried in Oxford during the afternoon. The first three 720's were rung 'silent.'

HOLT'S ORIGINAL NON-CONDUCTED.

On Saturday, March 11th, 1887, Holt's Original was rung non-conducted on handbells for the first time by four members of the Ancient Society of College Youths. To celebrate the 55th anniversary of this performance, Mr. J. C. Mitchell, who was one of the band, invited a small party of ringers to his residence on Saturday, March 14th. Those present were Mr. W. H. L. Buckingham, who also took part in the 1887 peal, Messrs. E. C. S. Turner, W. Williams, J. Thomas and D. G. Clift, who again rang this composition non-conducted in November last, and Mr. C. W. Roberts, who acted as umpire on this occasion. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, who was prevented from attending by illness, and sent his best wishes for a successful gathering, Mr. A. A. Hughes, and Mr. C. H. Kippin, who had to attend an important meeting.

After the guests had been received by Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, a fine peal of handbells, kindly brought by Mr. J. Thomas, were brought into use. After a short touch of Grandsire Triples, rung non-conducted, by Messrs. Turner, Williams, Thomas and Clift, various touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples were rung, in which Mr. Mitchell took part, and, despite the fact that he now gets very little practice, he acquitted himself well.

Supper was then served and a splendid repast was greatly enjoyed by all. During the meal Mr. Mitchell gave some interesting reminiscences of his early ringing days at St. Albans, and described how he and his friends used to get up at an early hour in the morning to practise handbell ringing.

After supper, more handbell ringing was indulged in. Touches of Grandsire and Stedman Caters and a plain course each of Bob Royal and Cambridge Surprise Major were brought round.

Home-going time came far too soon, and, after thanking Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell for a splendid evening, the guests left for their various destinations.

A JOINT MEETING IN YORKSHIRE. WESTERN DIVISION AND LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

Nominations and Elections.

The Western Division of the Yorkshire Association held a very successful joint meeting with the Leeds and District Society at Upper Armley on Saturday, March 28th, when members attended from 15 towers. Owing to the continued ban on the ringing of tower bells, activities were confined mainly to handbells, and these were early in evidence, but in addition there was an interesting talk on the proof of compositions, given by Mr. W. Barton, the Yorkshire Association's peals secretary.

Upwards of 24 members sat down to tea, served by the local company, and this was followed by the two business meetings—the Leeds and District nomination meeting and the annual district meeting of the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association.

At the Leeds and District meeting the nomination of officers for the coming year resulted as follows: President, Mr. F. J. Harvey; vice-presidents, Messrs. W. H. Schior, S. Barron and T. W. Strange-way; Ringing Master, Mr. L. Drake; secretary and treasurer, Mr. H. Lofthouse. The president's remark that if the secretary and treasurer kept office, no one need worry about the others, was amply justified. The names will go forward for election at the April meeting, which will be held at the Leeds Parish Church, if the usual permission is granted.

MR. P. J. JOHNSON RE-ELECTED VICE-PRESIDENT.

For the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association it was also election time. This year the vice-president and three committee members were due to retire. Mr. P. J. Johnson occupied the chair, and was unanimously elected for a further term of three years. In view of the very difficult conditions which had been in force for the past twelve months, it was decided that the three retiring members be elected on bloc as follows: H. Armitage, Kirkburton (who also has a seat on the General Committee), Miss L. K. Bowling, of Headingley, and Mr. L. Drake, of Burley.

When considering the venue for the summer meeting it was stated that an invitation had been received to hold this at Queensbury, where, although they could not guarantee not to provide the usual show, they would do their best to arrange a good ramble.

A vote of thanks to the local company for the arrangements made was proposed by Mr. William Ambler and supported by Mr. W. Barton. In putting this to the meeting, Mr. Johnson mentioned several of the names usually associated with Armley, and said he was pleased to see that Mr. Joseph Thackray was still taking such an interest. The name of Thackray was always associated with Armley, and whenever the association visited there they always received a welcome.

A circular from the representatives of the Central Council was read and the contents fully approved.

After the meeting the members were fortunate in having an address by Mr. Barton on the subject of 'Proof of Composition.' This was most interesting, and the way in which Mr. Barton reeled off hundreds of course ends, etc., without even the slightest reference to notes, amazed his hearers.

Afterwards members enjoyed further touches on handbells or attempted the perils of snooker.

During the day the following towers were represented: Almond-bury, Armley, Batley, Bradford Cathedral, Bramley, Drighlington, Halifax, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's), Kirkburton, Huddersfield, Idle, Liversedge, Osssett, Pudsey and Queensbury.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PROOF.

In the course of his talk, Mr. Barton dealt with the importance of truth in peal ringing and the need for proving compositions before the peals were rung.

The subject, he said, was not an easy one to tackle even before an audience of ringers. It was not a subject that lent itself to entertainment, and it would tax the ingenuity of even a fluent speaker to weave an entertaining story round a mass of figures. He admired the optimism of their secretary when he read his statement in the notice of the meeting that he (Mr. Barton) would give 'an interesting talk' on proof of compositions. He would do his best to uphold this optimism and confidence and make the talk as interesting as he could.

'There is no doubt that proof is a very important thing in change ringing,' continued Mr. Barton. 'Without it we should not know whether the peals we ring are true or not. There may be something in the old saying about ignorance being bliss, but I think we all prefer to know that the peals we ring are true; we have a satisfaction in certainty that we should not have in doubt.'

'To my mind, there is no reason why all ringers should not have some knowledge of proof: it is not essential, but I think that it is desirable. I know that there are many ringers who are not interested in this branch of our art, they are content to leave it to other people. Well, for them it is a matter of choice; but with a conductor there should be no choice. I maintain, and I wish to stress it most strongly, that all conductors should be able to prove the peals they call or, alternatively, should have some means whereby the truth of a composition can be verified before it is used. After all, why ring a peal

(Continued in next column.)

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

THE OTHER 37,500.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—When I read the last paragraph in Mr. Harrison's letter on 'A National Association' I wondered whether he would have written it if he had been at Whitechapel the week before when the debt we owe to Mr. Goldsmith was discussed.

We were told that the circulation of 'The Ringing World' was approximately 2,500 per week. I have no doubt that this number would as loyally support a National Association, and pay their shilling per year subscription if it ever came into existence, but I wonder if the remaining 37,500 of those he mentions would be any more willing to pay their shilling per year than they are to support the life blood of the Exercise, 'The Ringing World.'

E. BARNETT.

Crayford.

NEED FOR INDIVIDUALITY.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Colin Harrison has put up a very strong argument for the formation of a National Association, but there are one or two thoughts of mine against this project I should like to put forward.

If we can read correctly the 'writing on the wall' in these days of much talk concerning post-war reorganisation of this and that, is it not possible we shall be heartily sick of 'collectivity' and 'nationalisation' in our essential services without voluntarily surrendering our Arts and Exercises to such a system. I personally fear the suppression of individuality in anything, especially in such a thing as our Exercise.

Shall we be well advised to disband our diocesan guilds? Unless the National Association is very careful to emphasise that the church bellringer is primarily a church worker I fear it may be exploited in favour of the sport side of the Exercise.

I hope this letter will not lead readers to suppose I am a 'stick in the mud' or a 'diehard.' On the contrary, I am always ready to try something new if it means progress.

ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

116, Alma Road, Bournemouth.

MR. W. KEEBLE'S BIRTHDAY.

Specially arranged to celebrate the 64th birthday of Mr. William Keeble, 1,264 Bob Major, composed and conducted by him, was rung on handbells on Sunday, March 29th, at Severalls Hospital, Colchester, in 42 mins.: G. M. Rashbrook 1-2, W. Keeble 3-4, W. Chalk 5-6, A. R. Andrews (first quarter-peal 'in hand') 7-8. It was also a birthday compliment to F. L. Bumpstead, V. Kerridge and G. M. Rashbrook, members of St. Peter's company, Colchester.

In this quarter-peal there were no bobs made at Wrong and only 4-5-6 in 5-6 throughout, and no prizes given for solving the puzzle. Believed to be the first quarter-peal rung in a hospital.

MR. W. BARTON'S ADDRESS.

(Continued from previous column.)

first and prove it afterwards when it can just as easily be proved before it is rung?

'The conductor owes it to those who take part in a peal with him that the composition is checked before he calls it, unless he knows that it is true; the rest of the band have to trust him, but that is no reason why the conductor should always trust the composer. Please remember that no matter how famous or skilful a composer may be, it is not a sufficient guarantee that a composition is true simply because it bears his name. As the Editor stated in the leader in this week's "Ringing World," "the cleverest man is not immune from mistakes," we all make mistakes and composers are only human like the rest of us. To support this view I ask you to glance at the table of false peals which is now a permanent feature of our annual reports. You will find there the names of many of the most able composers, yet they have all stumbled. We must not, however, misjudge them because of that; we must remember with gratitude the many good and true peals they have given to us.'

'Only a few days ago I came across a peal of Treble Bob Major by James Lockwood, who was a leading authority on Treble Bob. This peal is hopelessly false and, strange to say, it was conducted by no less a person than Jasper Snowden himself. It could be claimed that any peal bearing the names of these two great men should be true, but, unfortunately, we never know when the unexpected is going to happen. It is partly because of this possibility that I am here to-night to show you the rudiments of proof, and I hope that my talk will be of interest and benefit to all of you.'

Mr. Barton was provided with a blackboard and, after explaining the theory of in and out-of-course rows and their analogy to even and odd numbers, went on to show the proof of Bob Major, first explaining how a lead and then a course were bound to be true in themselves. From that he passed on to the effect of bobs and explained why a peal should be split up into natural courses and how it is done. Then followed an explanation of the peculiarity of bobs 'Before' and their liability to produce falseness; after that a couple of short touches were proved as an illustration. He then analysed part of a peal of Bob Major which he knew was false, and closed by explaining how the same system of proof could be adapted to Double Norwich or any other plain method.

LONDON BELL TOWERS.

(Continued from page 148.)

TWO CALAMITIES AND THE RESULTS.

In the years 1665 and 1666 London suffered two of the most notable calamities that any great city has ever undergone. In the closing days of 1664 two men, said to be Frenchmen, died of the plague in Drury Lane. An attempt was made to keep the matter secret and for several weeks there was no great alarm among the people. But the number of burials at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields and St. Andrew's, Holborn, began to mount up steadily, then St. Bride's parish was infected and St. James', Clerkenwell, and by the end of May the pest had reached the City.

The summer weather was curiously hot and dry, and all through it the pestilence raged with increasing violence, till business was at a standstill, the markets and haunts of men were deserted, and grass grew in the streets. All day long death bells were tolling from London's hundred steeples, and besides there were 'the poor that cannot be taken notice of through the greatness of the number,' and 'the Quakers and others that will not have any bells rung for them.'

The effect on the ringing Exercise must have been great. De Foe has drawn a wonderful and graphic picture of a city altogether given over to horror and despair, but he wrote fifty years after the event and his account, based on the memories of living men, is yet largely the product of his own creative mind. Samuel Pepys is a safer, though far more prosaic, guide, and we can see from his diary that though the trouble weighed on the minds of men, yet for the most part they had other things to think of as well, and as far as they could, they attended to their work and enjoyed their pleasures.

So we may assume that the ringing societies met for a time in the belfries. But the west end of the town, in Holborn and St. Bride's parish, where the more important companies had their headquarters, was just the district where the pest was at first most virulent. We can trace its effect in the list of the members of the Society of College Youths, for though they did not omit to elect a Master for each of these troublous years, there are no separate lists of new members who joined then.

We may perhaps attribute to the plague the lapse of the important Society of Esquire Youths, which had started with such brilliant prospects a few years before, and it is pretty certain that other and lesser companies suffered dissolution.

As the pestilence grew, many who could do so, left the infected city, and it is a fair supposition that this was the time and the cause of Fabian Stedman leaving London and returning to Cambridge.

Before London had once more settled to its normal life, while the traces of the infection still lingered here and there among the houses, and the memory of its horror was still fresh in the minds of the citizens, the great fire broke out which swept away for ever the old city with its churches and buildings.

Early on Sunday morning, September 2nd, 1666, it broke out in a house in Pudding Lane, Thames Street, near the foot of London Bridge. The district was a crowded one, the streets and lanes narrow, the houses built of wooden frames with warehouses filled with oil, pitch, tar, wine, brandy and such inflammable things.

In a very short time a large area was on fire, and a stiff wind was blowing and carrying it into the heart of the City. Such a sight as was not seen again until that other Sunday at the end of the year 1940. For four or five days the fire raged fiercely and then was stayed by the blowing up of houses. 'From the Tower by Thames side to the Temple Church, and from the north-east gate of the city wall to Holborn bridge' the ruin was complete. An area of 436 acres lay in ashes. Besides the great cathedral, eighty-nine parish churches, four City gates, the Royal Exchange, Sion College, Whittington's alms houses, hospitals, schools, prisons, and over thirteen thousand dwelling houses were destroyed. To-day we may walk through London and see a not dissimilar sight, but then the destruction was in one continuous area, now it is more widely scattered. The three important churches, All Hallows, Barking, St. Giles', Cripplegate, and the Temple Church, which marked the extreme limits of the earlier fire and just escaped, are all to-day in ruins.

So great a disaster must have brought ruin to thousands, yet there was no loss of life, and beyond the confusion and bewilderment inseparable from such an event, no panic. As in our own days, London showed at its best; and before the embers had cooled, the work of rebuilding, if only temporarily, had begun.

There were schemes for rebuilding on new plans, but the number of private owners was large and the task of reconciling their claims would have been immense; and while the schemes were being considered the citizens went back to their burnt houses and built anew on the old foundations. To-day there is talk of new planning and we wonder what will come of it.

The problem of rebuilding the churches at such a time was an immense one, but it was tackled and solved in an admirable manner. However they may have been preoccupied by their own private affairs, the churchwardens and parish officials did not neglect their public duties. As the fire spread, the plate and books of each church were removed to places of safety and none seems to have been lost. Only at St. Paul's the diocesan archives were thought to be safe within the strong walls of the crypt of St. Faith's, but the vaulting of the church collapsed and crashed through the floor of the building and all within was destroyed. To-day much valuable material is stored in the crypt, and among it the property of the Society of College Youths, but the conditions are not the same.

As the church steeples were burnt out the bells fell to the ground and nearly all were broken or melted, but a few escaped and one at least, at St. Stephen's, Walbrook, has gone through the later ordeal as well, and still hangs in the steeple.

As soon as possible workmen were set to search among the ruins for lead and bell metal, which was collected and either handed over to a responsible person to hold in trust for the parish or was sold. As happened after the recent disasters, there was some looting of broken metal. The parish of St. Christopher Stocks 'paid the Porters for carrying ye Thieves to Bridewell, 2-6.'; and to 'Gules for discovery some stollne lead, 2-0.' The bells that were left were entrusted to the care of a Mr. Aylesworth, and for carrying them to him and for a padlock and staple to secure them, ten shillings and sixpence was paid.

Thirty-five churches were not rebuilt, the parishes being united to neighbouring ones, although it was very characteristic of the Englishman's insistence on individual rights that each parish retained its administrative identity and name and appointed its own churchwardens.

When St. Leonard's, Eastcheap, was united with St. Benet's, Gracechurch Street, the parishioners of the latter liked the company of the former so little that they decided that not only should they be charged a double fee when the great bell was used for a funeral, but the money must be paid in advance.

Here and there in the City a tiny railed in space still marks the graveyard of one of thirty-five destroyed churches, for though the sites of the churches were built on, the burial grounds were left vacant. A small garden within the precincts of the Bank of England until recently marked the site of the church of St. Christopher Stocks.

It is usual to speak of the burnt churches as having been destroyed, but in many instances, perhaps in the majority, total destruction did not take place. The buildings were gutted and all the woodwork burnt. The lead was melted, and the bells, organs, and fittings ruined. But the walls and stone work still stood, though sadly scarred by the fire, and restoration in the modern sense would have been possible. But in the seventeenth century it was not thought necessary or worth while to attempt to reproduce the buildings as they had been before the disaster. As in the Perpendicular period, the new churches were designed in the latest and current style; and it is well that it was so. The spirit which had produced Gothic architecture had long passed, and even

if it had been possible to reproduce the details of the old churches (which it was not, for there were no drawings and, of course, no photographs) the results would have been but lifeless copies.

Nevertheless, the old foundations, and to some extent the old walls, especially of the towers, were preserved, but adapted to an entirely new architectural design.

The problem which faced the people was essentially different from that of the present time. Now, if the destroyed churches are restored, it will be largely because of their value as architectural and artistic buildings. Then it was because they were needed for the every day purposes of divine service, and in many cases the parishes took it as an opportunity of having hand-somer and more convenient churches.

LAPPED HANDBELL RINGING.

AUTHOR OF 'SILVER LEY' SETTLES A DOUBT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In answer to my old friend Mr. R. W. Stannard's query re Halesworth (Suffolk) company of ringers, it's quite true that we have done a great amount of table, cushion or lapped handbell ringing at Christmas time when out on our rounds during the past 55 years, and still use this method frequently for Sunday services in church, as we keep the handbells going for this purpose, as well as at concerts, socials, etc., in addition to what we are able to do 'retained in hand,' although our company is much depleted at the present time owing to the war.

We could quite easily have filled the description of the Christmas bellringers in 'Silver Ley,' but here are the facts of the case. The author of 'Silver Ley,' Adrian Bell, is at present residing within seven miles of Halesworth, so I sent him copies of 'The Ringing World' for March 20th and 27th, in which the lapped ringing was mentioned, and he was much interested. He kindly informed me that Stradishall, near Clare, in Suffolk, was the company of ringers he had in mind. There are five bells at this church. He has also promised to visit us in the near future, so we may possibly get him to ring the two tenors behind to a course of Lapped Bob Royal, etc. F. C. LAMBERT.
Thorofare, Halesworth, Suffolk.

John Taylor & Co.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Henry Dains died on April 6th, 1916, at the age of 78, and on April 7th, 1896, his close friend and colleague, George Newson, died.

The full extent of Bob Major, 40,320 changes, was rung at Leeds in Kent on April 7th and 8th, 1761. There were, of course, relays of ringers, and the performance was not generally accepted by other bands.

The then record length of Bristol Surprise Major, 12,160 changes, was rung at Knebworth in Hertfordshire on April 8th, 1912. Mr. George Price was the conductor.

The first peal in Australia, Grandsire Triples, was rung at Sydney on April 9th, 1890.

Sixty years ago to-day the first peal of Stedman Cinques in Yorkshire was rung at Sheffield.

James W. Washbrook called 13,265 Grandsire Caters at Appleton on April 11th, 1888, and Sunday next is the 33rd anniversary of the famous long peal of Stedman Caters, 18,027 changes, at Loughborough.

BARNSELEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

WENTWORTH REVISITED AFTER 13 YEARS.

The March meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Wentworth on Saturday week, when members attended from Eastwood, Felkirk, Handsworth, Rotherham Parish Church and Wath. The ringers assembled in the Parish Room at about 3 p.m., where they found the Vicar, the Rev. H. J. Barnard, waiting to welcome them and to offer them the use of the room and comfort of a nice fire, which was very welcome, as the weather was rather cold. Handbells were brought into use until 4.30 p.m., when the business meeting was held, with the Vicar presiding.

The business was of the usual routine character, and one pleasing feature was the election of the Rev. H. J. Barnard as an hon. member. The Vicar said he felt that as he had one of the best rings of bells in the district, he would like to become an honorary member of the society, and he was elected unanimously.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar for the use of the room and for presiding, and for all he had done to help to make the meeting a success.

The Chairman, in reply said how pleased he was to meet the ringers. That was the first time he had had the opportunity, but he hoped it would not be long before they came again.

He then invited the party to the Vicarage dining room to have a homely cup of tea and a chat, which added comfort to the hospitality he had already shown.

The Parish Room was then once more visited. This time the ringers were accompanied by the Vicar and his young twin daughters, both of whom are very promising pianists, and they showed great interest in the handbells and handbell ringing.

The Wentworth handbells have laid idle for a long time. There are 17 in all and were found to be a good set. A light octave was selected and these the young ladies proudly carried home to the Vicarage to practise on. It is hoped they will do as well with the handbells as they have on the piano.

Further practice was put in until about 7 p.m. in Minor, Triples and Major methods, and a course of Bob Royal was also rung.

This was the first time the society had visited Wentworth for nearly 13 years and it was a very happy gathering.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Barnsley on Saturday, April 18th.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

At the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths on March 28th there were present, in addition to the Master (Mr. E. G. Fenn), the hon. secretary (Mr. A. B. Peck) and the hon. treasurer (Mr. A. A. Hughes), the following members: Messrs. E. A. Young, H. Miles, R. F. Deal, C. Roberts, C. Kippin, J. Shepherd, J. A. Trollope, H. Hoskins, F. Newman, C. Potheary, R. Stannard and J. Prior. Mr. C. T. Coles was a welcome visitor.

Mr. Peck read a letter from Dr. Bertram Simpson in reply to the congratulations sent him by the society on his appointment to the See of Southwark. The Bishop wrote:—

My dear Mr. Peck,—Thank you for your letter of March 10th and for kindly conveying the good wishes of the Ancient Society of College Youths on my appointment to Southwark. It seems a long time since those days at Stepney when you used to come and ring peals and paid me back so generously by those magnificent suppers at the London Tavern. I hope the day is not far distant when you will again be able to function at the bell ropes, but I am afraid I shall have no call on your kind hospitality then. All my good wishes for the society and yourself. Yours sincerely, Bertram Southwark.

Mr. F. F. Dawe returned thanks to the society for the good wishes sent to him on the occasion of his 80th birthday; and a letter was read from Mr. Worboys from the Middle East sending greetings and telling of some of his experiences.

The Master mentioned that he had received from Mr. Duffield news of Mr. G. R. Pye, whose health is not very satisfactory. The hon. secretary was requested to write to Mr. Pye and convey the best wishes of the society.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

DISCUSSION ON AFTER WAR RECONSTRUCTION.

The discussion on Mr. Price's motion to appoint a committee is continued.

Mr. P. A. CORBY (Retford): I am strongly in sympathy with Messrs. Price and Bunce in their desire for the rapid and successful rehabilitation of ringing after the war, but I oppose their motion for the formation of a committee because I think that many people, and ringers in particular, have an unwonted passion for committees which even an unbroken series of failures seems unable to quench.

We seem to find it necessary to consider in committee all kinds of matters, from the question of flies landing on their feet on ceilings to the desirability of standing on one's head in Oxford Street for the improvement of one's figure, and to my mind there is no reason at all why many of these matters should not be discussed by the world at large, bringing to bear on the common problems the widest possible field of intelligence and experience available, except, of course, that one feels hardhearted in denying committee members a day out at someone else's expense.

And what of the Standing Committee of the Central Council? How can any committee appointed by the Ringers' Conference be other than a duplication of that august body, which, be it said, is an elected group and can claim more justly to represent the whole company of ringers than any panel appointed by the limited audience of the Ringers' Conference.

In any case, surely, ringers are notoriously reluctant to accept dictation in any form. I have no doubt that the committee would receive a hearty vote of thanks for its endeavours, and everyone would promptly go away and do as they pleased.

WHY NOT ALL TAKE PART?

You, Mr. Chairman, do not state definitely whether you require your committee to meet in the flesh or whether they are merely to submit their proposals to their chairman by post, although I infer that the latter is intended. That being the case, why may not all of us write to the chairman of the proposed committee airing our views? He could equally well compose a report from the opinions of George Giles, of Paddington Green, as from those of the Brass Hats.

Perhaps Mr. Price can tell us what else the committee can do but arrive at pious resolutions. Of course, their deliberations might result in an instruction from the Archbishop of Canterbury that all clergy are to give permission for peals and meetings ad lib, but I am afraid an unprecedented crop of chronic invalids and troublesome shopkeepers might be the consequence.

In short, Mr. Chairman, why not allow every Tom, Dick and Harriet (we must not forget the ladies) to put forward in the Ringers' Conference their own views on the future so that we can all see all the ideas and adopt those which appeal to us without having to rely upon the judgment, however sound, of a select group. What matters can a rehabilitation committee hope to discuss which could not be thrashed out freely and openly in the columns of 'The Ringing World,' be it the care and protection of bells and towers from decay or air raid damage, or the relations of ringers and clergy, or ringers and the public, or the replacing of bells damaged in the blitz.

No, when this war is over we shall still rely on the friendly relations of local ringers with local clergy, of neighbouring tower with neighbouring tower, of the local district with the parent association, of learner with instructor, of young ringers with old. There will still be petty squabbles, Joe Brown still won't come to the tower when Tom Smith is there, the experts (so-called) will still refuse to ring Grandsire Triples with the not-so-good. There can be no stock national remedy for local troubles, but the fact will still remain that where real enthusiasm exists difficulties will be met and overcome, chronic invalids will recover mysteriously, the co-operation of the clergy will be enlisted, recruits will be forthcoming. No national committee can provide a substitute for this enthusiasm, and without it ringing will die.

THE ONE AND ONLY WAY.

In my opinion, we are being shown week by week the one and only way in which post-war rehabilitation will take place: every copy of 'The Ringing World' brings fresh evidence of it. The service Mr. J. E. Spice and his colleagues are rendering to the Exercise is incalculable, and to them I offer my heartiest congratulations for showing us the only effective policy for the future. That Mr. Spice comes from a family well known and respected in Kentish ringing circles is a good omen, for I know, even from my short experience, that one may find in the hop county more enthusiasm than even a world war can exclude.

Mr. C. A. LEVETT (Hastings): Some good may come from the discussion on Mr. Price's motion and the forming of a committee, but there is no magic formula waiting to be discovered that will set ringing going again after the war. Too many, who have the opportunity, are sitting back with their spirit broken by the ban. The only way to guard against the future is to see that things don't die now. Get the boys into the towers ringing 'dummy.' Get out the handbells. I am one who thinks that single-handed ringing should be encouraged to-day. See that things don't die, then the resurrection will not be wanted.

Mr. C. M. MEYER (London, S.W.): In my opinion, the whole future of ringing depends on the advancement of the 'technical' education of ringers of all grades, learners, average ringers, conductors, in-

structors and composers. Could not the 'brains' of the Exercise be banded together into an educational examining body somewhat on the lines of the professional institutions and preferably under the auspices of the Central Council. There could be grades of membership to suit all classes, both practical and theoretical, with the award of certificates. A central 'tower' in each area could be made the practical school and properly graded instruction given. Theoretical instruction could be either by correspondence or by lectures perhaps in the parish hall of the 'central' tower. With these opportunities the advancement of a recruit or average ringer would depend only upon his or her capabilities and not upon the skill or otherwise of the local band. I should like the committee to consider the practicability of this.

Mr. K. ARTHURS (Ruiship): I must admit that I find myself in agreement with Mr. Harris. To appoint such a committee as proposed by Mr. Price would, as I see it, usurp the functions of the Central Council. Furthermore, if prevailing conditions prevent the Standing Committee of the Council from deliberating even by post, how much better could the committee in question confer?

The Council, as an established and representative body, is the best means of pooling and formulating schemes for the rehabilitation of ringing in the post-war era. As the Rev. M. Melville suggests, ringers could table their views at association meetings, and, via the Central Council representatives, these could be forwarded to the Council, who would collate them, edit them and then publish them. It would help bring about a new lease of life for the Council!

The idea of a public relations officer is, I think, the best yet put forward. In pre-war days I acted in such a capacity, but in rather a small way, for my own ringers' guild. Each month I used to requisition either a column or a paragraph of the parish magazine, wherein I published reports of guild meetings, performances—with explanations of technical terms—and, in fact, all doings of the local ringers. In this way I was able to make the parishioners appreciate the work of the Guild. By a prior announcement of some special ringing day I could often appease would-be resentful persons, who came to realise the purpose of these occasions. In short, I endeavoured to educate the parish into the ringer's point of view. I think there are great possibilities for the development of this idea in the future, and if undertaken by the Council and the associations alike, I think we can be assured of some success.

PUBLIC IGNORANCE.

Miss HILDA SNOWDEN (Halstead, Essex): I entirely agree with Mr. Cullen on the complete ignorance of the public on ringing in general, and the same can be also said of the majority of clergy. I would like to suggest that the archdeacons be approached and the seriousness of this matter brought before them. The archdeacons could then bring it before the clergy when they deliver their charges. Mr. Cullen's idea of a pamphlet is good, but I would go farther and suggest that it should include a short explanation on 'how to listen.' Quite a number of people think that change ringing is a 'jumble' and prefer to listen to tune ringing on chiming apparatus. The general public could also be enlightened if demonstrations could be arranged. On the whole, as Mr. Cullen says, if an effort is made to interest the general public, I think the problem of rehabilitating ringing after the war will not be so serious, but I will stress that the first and foremost question is making the clergy realise and getting their full and active support. I say active because so many support only in words and not actions.

Mr. E. J. THOMAS (Carmarthen): I also think that Mr. Cullen's suggestion for a public relations officer is good, but at the same time we ourselves should take on the role of missionaries and get converts to our art and craft. Recently I have been lecturing before the Toc H local branch and the Rotary Club, and I have been amazed at the interest shown in the subject. The general comment was that they did not know that there was so much in bells. Perhaps members of the Conference will say that we cannot lecture. Well, I thought that once, but once you start you will 'get there.' Arising out of the Rotary lecture I received a request from two members that they would like to see some church bells and methods of ringing.

AN AMENDMENT.

Mr. C. H. KIPPIN (Beddington): I wholeheartedly support the original motion, but I do not think it goes quite far enough, hence the amendment to which the chairman referred. If this committee is set up, and I hope it will be, the possibilities of a National Association should be thoroughly explored by the committee. I submit that although members might not at present favour such an association, they should not rule out the consideration by the committee of the National Association in all its aspects. I therefore beg to move the amendment on the reference to the committee, namely, to add to the motion the words, 'Special consideration to be given to the idea of forming a National Association with this object in view.'

Mr. F. W. HOUSDEN: I beg to second the amendment.

Mr. C. T. COLES (Walthamstow): With reference to this amendment, I feel that something is going wrong. If passed it will throw upon the unfortunate committee the whole problem of considering the formation of a National Association, without knowing if members of the Exercise are in favour of such a project. Surely the first and most important thing to do is to ascertain if ringers are in favour, and the best way to find this out would be, I suggest, by resolution (Continued on next page.)

BOLSOVER RINGERS' LOSS.**DEATH AFTER AN ACCIDENT.**

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Charles Mason, of Bolsover, Derbyshire, who died in Chesterfield Hospital on Saturday, March 28th, after an accident the same day in the local colliery.

Mr. Mason had been connected with Bolsover belfry for over 30 years and has been steeplekeeper for the whole of that time. In addition, he had been a chorister for 35 years and had served the church he loved so well in many other ways. He will be a great loss to the Bolsover band.

He had rung about 95 peals, made up of Bob Major 4, Double Norwich Major 22, Kent Treble Bob 11, Superlative Surprise 20, Norfolk Surprise 12, Rutland Surprise 2, Pudsey Surprise 4, Belgrave Surprise 1, Yorkshire Surprise 12, Cambridge Surprise 4, New Cambridge Surprise 3.

The deceased served in the last war for four years in France as a farter and rose to be staff-sergeant.

He was laid to rest on April 1st and was borne to his resting place by members of the Ambulance Brigade, in which he had served for 35 years.

ISLE OF WIGHT RINGER'S DEATH.

The death occurred on Saturday, March 21st, at Northwood Hospital, Middlesex, of Mr. Henry Jennings, of Ryde, Isle of Wight.

The deceased, who was 74 years of age, had been a bellringer on the island for about 50 years and as a boy had been a chorister at All Saints', Ryde, where later he learned to handle a bell.

He took an active part in the promotion of change ringing on the island and had served the Winchester Guild as a district secretary.

Only a few weeks ago Mr. Jennings wrote to 'The Ringing World' withdrawing a peal of Grandsire Triples which he conducted at Ryde 45 years ago.

The funeral service at All Saints' Church was conducted by the Rev. F. H. Rolph. The mourners were Mrs. W. Herbert (daughter), Mr. W. Jennings (brother), Messrs. W. Herbert and R. Gale (sons-in-law), Mr. L. Jennings (nephew) and Mrs. Hardy (niece). The I.W. District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild was represented by Messrs. W. Scott (Newport), H. Phillips (Godshill), and A. and P. Long and B. J. Snow. Dr. Williamson (chairman of the district) and Mr. W. Upton were unable to attend.

FELKIRK RINGER MISSING.**FOUGHT WITH H.M.S. 'EXETER.'**

Petty Officer Thomas Cook, a member of the Yorkshire Association and Barnsley District Society, who was serving on H.M.S. 'Exeter,' has been officially reported missing since the naval engagement in the Far East. He was a member of the Felkirk company. Although he had not rung any peals, he was formerly regular in attendance for Sunday service ringing.

A HERTFORDSHIRE COINCIDENCE.**FIFTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF A FIRST PEAL.**

Mr. Alfred Barnes, of Stockport, calls attention to the coincidence that the annual meeting of the Hertfordshire Association, which is to be held at St. Albans to-morrow (April 11th), takes place on the 55th anniversary of the first peal of Bob Triples by the association, which was rung on Easter Monday, 1887, at St. Albans Cathedral by the Cathedral Society. It was the first peal of Bob Triples by all the band and was rung in 3 hours 12 minutes.

It was recorded (as was usual in those earlier days) under the auspices of three societies, namely, the Ancient Society of College Youths and the Herts and Essex Associations.

Although rung 55 years ago, half the band are still in the land of the living, namely, Messrs. J. C. Mitchell, G. W. Cartmel, W. H. L. Buckingham and A. Barnes, and they will, we imagine, receive the congratulations of the association to-morrow. Mr. Cartmel is now the doyen of association secretaries. Messrs. Mitchell and Buckingham are the two survivors of the band of College Youths who a few weeks before had rung Holt's Original 'silent' for the first time on handbells.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

(Continued from previous page.)

and not by amendment to another motion which is obviously intended for something else. It is rather surprising, seeing that many ringers have written to 'The Ringing World' about a National Association, that a resolution on the subject has not been tabled. Indeed, it says little for their enthusiasm that they have not taken advantage of the Conference to do so. And yet at a district meeting of the Surrey Association, according to your report, motion (b) was severely criticised, and it was suggested that ringers should be urged to vote against the motion in its present form. Would it not be much fairer if ringers were left to make up their minds whether or not to support this or any other motion after the discussion on the motion has taken place. Otherwise the discussion will be farcical and the whole object of the Conference nullified.

DEATH OF MR. T. R. HENSHER.**MEMBER OF A RECORD PEAL BAND.**

We regret to record the death of Mr. Thomas Robert Hensher, of Finedon, Northants, who died at the age of 68 years on March 11th. By his death Finedon and district loses a distinct personality, and his passing has aroused much regret in the district. He had been ill for some time, but his end was rather sudden. A son and two daughters are left in bereavement.

He was for many years licensee of the Prince of Wales in Finedon and was at one time secretary of the Wellingborough and District Licensed Victuallers' Association.

He retired from business a few months ago. He was a very fine ringer and had rendered valuable service to the Peterborough Diocesan Guild as well as in other Midland ringing circles. He had for many years been one of the members of the Finedon Parish Church company and had rung about 193 peals, the most notable of which was the record length of 17,104 Double Norwich Court Bob Major at South Wigston on December 27th, 1904. This peal was composed and conducted by the late Mr. W. Willson and was rung in 10 hours 35 mins.

In length this peal displaced the record of the 17,024 Double Norwich, rung at Kidlington in 11 hours 12 minutes in 1899.

Mr. Hensher also took part in an 11,008 of Double Norwich Court Bob Major in 1904.

In 1890 he joined the Raunds, Wellingborough and District Society, the forerunner of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, and was also a member of 13 other associations.

The first part of the funeral service was held at Finedon Parish Church, where, as at the later interment in the cemetery, the Rev. H. B. Adams (curate) officiated. At the former service ringers from the Peterborough Diocesan Guild rang a course of Grandsire Triples, the ringers being Messrs. A. Bigley, W. Perkins, J. Mawby (Irthlingborough) and B. J. Saddington (Burton Latimer). As the body was taken into the church the organist, Mr. Hirst Cuttall, played 'I know that my Redeemer liveth, and at the close 'O rest in the Lord.'

In addition to the family mourners numerous organisations with which deceased had been connected were represented. There were many beautiful wreaths.

DEATH OF MR. FRANCIS E. TAYLOR.**LOSS TO OXFORD RINGING.**

The sudden death of Mr. Francis E. Taylor came as a great shock to the ringers of Oxford. Although very quiet and unassuming, he was a personality to be counted on in ringing circles in and around the University City. Those who had to organise ringing always relied upon him to be there when needed and had no fear that he would let them down at the last minute. His death will mean a big gap when ringing has to be reorganised after the war.

'Frankie' Taylor was a very fine ringer and striker. Besides being a regular service ringer at St. Ebbe's, he was one of the most regular of the Christ Church Cathedral band. He had been Master of the Oxford Society and was a member of the Oxford Guild.

A fine conductor, he had many peals to his credit, ranging from Grandsire to Surprise methods. He took part in two silent peals, one of Stedman and the other of Cambridge. Among his compositions was a record length of Double Norwich.

The funeral took place at St. Sepulchre's, Walton Street, Oxford, on April 1st. Among those present were Mr. V. Bennett (representing the Oxford Society), Mr. H. Miles and Mr. W. L. B. Leese (Oxford University Society), Miss Cross (Oxford Diocesan Guild) and members of St. Ebbe's tower.

A half-muffled memorial handbell peal of Minor was rung by members of the City and District Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild.

HANDBELL RINGING AT BOURNEMOUTH.

Bournemouth handbell ringers enjoyed an unusually successful evening when they met for the usual weekly practice on Tuesday, March 17th. A 720 of Plain Bob Minor was brought round in 19 minutes by Herbert Mitchell 1-2, Mrs. F. J. Marshall 3-4, Arthur V. Davis (conductor) 5-6. This is the first 720 of Minor scored by the party on handbells. Next a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung in 44 minutes by Miss I. Chick (first quarter of Triples) 1-2, Mrs. F. J. Marshall 3-4, Arthur V. Davis (conductor) 5-6, Miss F. Childs 7-8. This was a quarter-peal from Parker's Twelve-part (7th observation). Miss Childs subsequently had the satisfaction of ringing the longest 'touch' of Doubles she has attempted on two working bells when she rang 1-2 to 720 of Grandsire Doubles called by Mrs. Marshall.

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ELEMENTARY COMPOSITION.**FOR THE AVERAGE READER.**

We have now seen how, by beginning with the plain course and using Q Sets, we can build up a composition. Each time we make a bob it entails the making of two others on the same three bells, and each time we add two full Natural Courses.

We gave an example in which we first joined together seven courses and then added two more. We set the example down showing the course-ends and the bobs in the way which is familiar to ringers.

23456	W.	M.	R.	23456	W.	M.	R.
52436	—			52436	—		
35426	—			35426	—		
43652	—	—		64352	—	—	—
63254	—			36452			—
42356	—	—		43652			—
34256		—		63254		—	
23456		—		42356		—	—
				34256			—
				23456			—

The first of these is made up of seven complete Natural Courses, the other of nine.

But now there is a point which must be made quite clear. The figures given are the course-ends of the touch, and if 1, 7 and 8 are added in their home positions, we shall have the actual rows which occur at each 112th change when the three fixed bells (the treble and the two tenors) have all completed the full work of the plain course and are ready to begin it over again. The 112 changes between these rows we look upon and call a course.

But we said that every Natural Course has its own particular course-end, which we use as its signature and which shows the rows which occur within the Natural Course. If, however, we were to prick the changes of one of the above touches we should find that not one of the course-ends as written down represents the 112 rows which precede it. For instance, in the 112 rows which precede the row 16435278 there is not a single row which belongs to the Natural Course 64352. Why should this be?

Well, we must remember that change ringing is not a thing that once upon a time was invented by some clever man with all its rules and terms set down with logical precision. It grew up here a little and there a little, and as it developed, ringers found words and ways of expressing things, without thinking much about them. So we often get words with slightly different meanings according to the circumstances in which they are used. Most people who talk about sunrise and sunset would object if you told them that their use of the words implies that the sun goes round the earth.

We can quite easily understand why ringers call certain changes course-ends. When we are ringing it

would seem almost absurd to call any other changes by the name, or these changes by any other name. But when we study composition we can just as easily see that the row in which the treble and the two tenors are in their home positions is really the beginning of the course. The changes that depend on it are those that follow, not necessarily those that went before.

Again, when we were joining up Natural Courses we found that, though some of the joins were made at the course-ends, others were made at the Wrong leads, and others at the Middle leads. Some of the Natural Courses in the composition did not begin and end with the course-end, but began at the Wrong and ended at the Wrong; others began at the Middle and ended at the Middle. And in some cases after a Natural Course was begun other Natural Courses were added before the end of the first was reached.

Natural Courses must therefore be considered as essentially different things from the courses usually shown in the figures of a composition. Yet they are so very important things that another way of setting down a composition has been devised, and this is by far the best way when we want to study the composition as a composition, or to prove it.

We are confining ourselves for the minute to Bob Major and to the use of bobs at the Wrong, Middle and Home. Now these three positions divide the Natural Course into three positions. The first is from the Home to the Wrong and consists of one lead; the second is from the Wrong to the Middle and consists of five leads; the third is from the Middle to the Home and consists of one lead.

When we set our composition down, instead of doing so by the course-ends, as we did just now, we write out the natural course-ends of each of the three portions of the course. Thus the first of the two above examples would appear as follows:—

Home.	Wrong.	Middle.	W.	M.	R.
23456	52436	52436	—		
52436	35426	35426	—		
35426	23456	43652	—	—	
43652	43652	63254			—
63254	63254	23456			—
42356	42356	42356			—
34256	34256	34256			—

From this table it is quite easy to see what Natural Courses are used, where they begin and end, and if they are split into pieces where the pieces come.

We have put the Home column first which is really its correct position, but it is usual to put it last in imitation of the positions of the dashes indicating the bobs in the traditional way of giving peals and compositions.

Which way we use does not much matter, provided we recognise that the bob at Home belongs to the course that follows, not to the one that went before.

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BIG BEN.

HOW IT WAS CRACKED.

Mr. A. Relfe, of Lamberhurst, has sent us the following extracts which he has copied from 'The Illustrated London News' of 1859. They will be read with interest.

October 8th.—The great bell of Westminster has met with the fate of its predecessor. Just as the difficulties of the task of getting into working order the great clock, with its ponderous adjuncts—Big Ben, alias Great Stephen, and the four quarter-bells—had been overcome, and before the novelty of the sound of the great bell 'swinging slow with sullen roar' has died away, we are called on to record its ruin.

On Saturday afternoon it was discovered that the bell was cracked, and a third attempt to provide a bell worthy of the Palace of Westminster will have to be made.

October 15th.—The presence of the crack (says 'The Times') was ascertained curiously enough, and from the very mode of its discovery, the extent of the mischief was played beyond a doubt. Last Friday, as our readers may remember, was a wild and stormy day. The wind was rough in any place, but round the summit of the lofty clock tower it rushed and whistled, driving the clouds of sleet through the gilded apertures of the bell chamber till the rain trickled down in little streams from Ben and his four assistants. In the afternoon Mr. Hart, one of the gentlemen connected with the works of the clock tower, was in the belfry when the hour struck. Looking at the moment towards Big Ben, he was at once surprised to perceive a minute row of bubbles spring from the wet bell's side with each stroke of the hammer. An instant's investigation was sufficient to show that these bubbles arose from the vibration of the air in the minute cracks we have already mentioned, and which the air and water had partly filled. Both cracks are within about 2ft. of each other, and both are on the opposite side of the bell to that where the ponderous hammer falls. One is about 15in. long, the second nearly 2ft. Both extend from the bow to the lip. Neither have gone through the substance of the bell, and are only just visible to the scrutiny on the outside. Yet from the observations which have been made, and the reason there is to believe that the cracks have rather increased than diminished, it may be taken as certain that both fissures will soon make their way through the metal; so that, as we have said, the hours of Big Ben the Second are few indeed. The instant that this most unpleasant discovery was made Mr. Denison communicated with Mr. Fitzroy, informing that gentleman of the fact, and requesting that the Board of Trade would at once investigate the matter. As a preliminary step thereto the striking has been at once discontinued and the present state of the bell examined. Mr. Denison writes an indignant letter to 'The Times' defending himself, and alleging that flaws had been discovered in the casting, though they had been so ingeniously stuffed and varnished as to escape detection. Messrs. Mears deny this statement and threaten Mr. Denison with an action at law.

A correspondent makes the following suggestion: Drill a hole at the extreme end of the crack, and run a whip-saw from the rim of the bell along the course of the fracture, and Big Ben will be himself again. I have tried this plan with perfect success. The reason a cracked bell sounds like no other earthly music is owing to the surface grating and hitting against each other with every vibration passing through them, and thus breaking and destroying the continuity of the wave. The key or pitch will not suffer, and the bell itself be rendered less likely to break or crack again, as the tension of its particles will be to this extent at least liberated. I am convinced the timbre or quality of tone will not be lessened, and, as the expense will be a mere trifle, it will be worth trying, if only as an experiment not likely again to offer on so large a scale.

December 17th.—The cause of Mears v. Denison was entered for trial for the sittings after Michaelmas Term in London, and would have been tried by Lord Chief Justice Cockburn and a special jury. The cause was withdrawn yesterday week, Mr. Denison having abandoned his defence. The plaintiff will therefore take a judgment by default.

Mr. Denison, who designed the clock and bells, was afterwards known as Sir Edmund Beckett and still later as Lord Grimthorpe.

BOB MAXIMUS ON HANDBELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In congratulating the band at Eekington on their peal of Bob Maximus recorded last week, I am no doubt expressing the sentiments of scores of ringers.

With that part of the footnote (which they very wisely qualified), 'The first ever by an entirely local band,' may I say that on March 7th, 1937, at Crayford, C. A. Hopper, E. A. Barnett, T. Groombridge, jun., D. M. Sharp, G. V. Murphy and A. Hopper rang John Reeves' peal of Bob Maximus in hand, and these were all members of the local band.

The previous day, with the addition of Miss Redpath and myself, we also rang a local peal of Cambridge in the tower.

E. BARNETT.

Crayford.

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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ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. —

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 11th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.

—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — The annual general meeting for the election of officers will be held at Norwich on Saturday, April 11th. St. Giles' bells and handbells in St. Peter Mancroft belfry from 2.30 p.m. Service, St. Peter Mancroft, 4.30. Tea in the County Restaurant, Davey Place, 5.15. Business meeting 5.45.—Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS AND THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

—North and West District.—A combined meeting will be held at St. John's, Waterloo Road, S.E.1, Saturday, April 11th, at 3 p.m. Service at 4 and tea at 4.45 p.m. Handbells available before service and after tea.—T. J. Lock and G. W. Steere, Hon. Secs.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — The ANNUAL MEETING will be held at ST. ALBANS on Saturday, April 11th. Service in the Cathedral 4 p.m., with address. Preacher: Canon Thorpe, Vicar of Watford. Tea at Waterend Barn 5.15 p.m. St. Peter's tower open at 2.30 p.m. for silent ringing and handbells.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, St. Albans.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — The general annual meeting will be at Leicester, Saturday, April 11th. Bells (silent) at Cathedral (12) and St. Margaret's (8) during afternoon. Committee meet 4 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m., at Church House, by Cathedral. General meeting follows tea. In the evening a social will be held at the Victoria Hotel, near Midland Station, 7 p.m. till 10.30 p.m.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755). — Quarterly meeting will be held at Aston Parish Church, on Saturday, April 11th. Service in church at 4 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. in the Schoolroom, followed by business meeting and handbell ringing.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Birmingham.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—The district annual meeting will be held at Southgate on Saturday, April 18th, at 3.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m., followed by tea at Walker Hall, The Green, for those who notify me by Wednesday previous. Please bring your own sugar. Handbells available for ringing. — T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Herts.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — Northern Division. — A meeting of this division will be held at Earl's Colne on Saturday, April 18th. Handbells from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea will be provided only for those sending in their names by Wednesday, April 15th, to Mr. F. Ridgwell, Queen's Road, Earl's Colne, Essex. An opportunity to meet old friends; please come and make this a real success.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meetings at Guildford on Saturday, April 18th. Executive Committee meet at S. Nicolas' Vestry at 3 p.m. Service at S. Nicolas' 4 p.m. Tea at Ayers' Cafe (next S. Nicolas' Church) 5 p.m., followed by the annual general meetings of both the Guildford District and the Guild. Please send me numbers for tea by April 14th.—G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clandon, near Guildford.

BOURNEMOUTH.—A meeting will be held in St. Peter's Hall, Hinton Road, Bournemouth, on April 18th. Handbells available from 2.30 p.m. Tea at 4.15 p.m., followed by a short social programme and handbells. All ringers in the district especially welcomed.—Arthur V. Davis, 116, Alma Road, Bournemouth.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Yatton on Saturday, April 18th. Bells available (with silent apparatus) 3 o'clock. Divine service 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 o'clock, with business meeting to follow. — Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Sec., Long Ashton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — East Lanes District.—A rally and meeting of ringers will be held at St. James' Church, Accrington, on Saturday, April 18th, from 3 p.m. Tower bell ringing on the six silent bells, Grandsire Doubles to London Surprise; handbells, Minor to Royal. Come and have a lesson in double-handed ringing. Help your brother ringers, help yourself and help 'The Ringing World' by coming to the rally.—C. Sharples, Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—A meeting will be held at Walsall on Saturday, April 18th. St. Matthew's belfry will be open from 3 p.m. for handbell ringing. Service in church at 4.45, with an address by the Vicar. Cups of tea will be provided in the Institute at 5.30. Please bring your own eatables.—H. Knight, Hon. Sec., 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD. — The annual meeting will be held at the Griff Colliery Institute, Heath End Road, Nuneaton (adjoining Cricket Ground) on Saturday, April 18th. Tea will be provided at a moderate charge at 5 o'clock. Business meeting to follow. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Burton and Derby Districts.—A joint meeting of the above districts will be held at Ticknall on Saturday, April 18th. Handbells available at 3 p.m. Tea and business meeting in Welfare Hall at 4.45. Cups of tea will only be provided. Members must take their own sugar and eatables. Silent tower bell ringing afterwards. Will members please give the meeting every support.—Wm. Lancaster and J. W. Cotton, Hon. Secs.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, on Saturday, April 18th, at 3 p.m.—H. G. Herbert, Hon. Sec., 61, Acton Lane, Sudbury.

SURREY ASSOCIATION. — The annual general meeting will be held at Croydon on April 25th. Bells of St. John's available for dumb ringing from 3 p.m., also handbells. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at Parish Hall, Silverdale Road, followed by meeting. Please notify Mr. D. Cooper, 5, Harrison's Rise, Croydon, for tea by Tuesday, 21st inst. All nominations and notices of motion should reach me by April 11th.—E. G. Talbot, Hon. Sec., 53, Birchwood Avenue, Wallington, Surrey.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD. — The annual meeting will be held in the Rectory, Hartfield, on Saturday, April 25th. Handbells and six silent tower bells from 2.30 p.m. Please notify Mr. A. Ryman, Perry Hill Cottages, Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells, by Wednesday, April 22nd, for tea. Please try and support this meeting with your personal appearance. Failing that, don't forget to send along that subscription.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Cookham on Saturday, April 25th. Tower bells (silent) and handbells at 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. at the King's Head (1s. 6d.). Names MUST be sent. — A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch. — Meeting, Kidderminster (p.v.), Saturday, April 25th, 3 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. Ten bells (silent). Usual evening arrangements. — B. C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District. —The annual district meeting will be held at Cranford (Church of St. John) on Saturday, April 25th. The Memorial Hall will be available for handbell ringing and social intercourse from 3 to 7 p.m. Committee meeting 3.45 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea (1s.) and meeting. Names must be sent to Mr. W. H. Coles, 61, Hayes End Drive, Hayes End, Middlesex, not later than April 22nd. Church about 15 minutes walk from Berkeley Hotel, Bath Road, Hounslow. Hall three minutes' walk. Bus services, 81, 91, 98 and 222. Stations Hounslow East and Central. An urgent appeal is made for subscriptions, many of which are badly in arrear.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 1, Listoke, Edgehill Road, Ealing, W.13. Phone Perivale 5320.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Lincoln on Saturday, April 25th. Further particulars next week.—S. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec.

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THE BEST AGE FOR RECRUITS.

What is the best age at which young people should be attracted to the belfry? This is a question which has often been asked, and in the coming times of reconstruction when some bands will have to be built up anew almost from the foundation, the answer to it will be of more than merely academic interest. There are people who say that if we can get recruits at all, it does not matter what age they are, provided they are of the right quality. None is too young though he be but a child, and none is too old though he hath reached middle age. And to do those people justice who talk like this, they are usually just as ready and willing to teach the one as the other. Certainly the problem which has always faced many leaders of bands is to get recruits at all, and they are almost compelled to take anything they can get and to try to make the best of it.

There is one kind of recruit which every band hopes for, but which is as rare as it is valuable. By some mysterious biological law every now and then a child is born into this country of England who seems destined from his cradle to be a ringer. He may have come of a family of ringers and so have the love of the art in his very blood, or he may come from some entirely outside source. But when the proper time comes he appears in the belfry and from then onwards his course is fixed. He needs little teaching, for he learns more by himself than his instructors can give him. Of him and his like are the leaders of the Exercise made.

But such men necessarily are rare. In the ordinary way when a man is attracted to a belfry the chances are not very great that he will make a good, sound ringer. Of the many that are called few are fit to be chosen. Where there is already a well established band the problem of the recruits is not often a pressing one. There is room for but few, and only those who can show the necessary qualities can be entertained. But it is otherwise when a band has to be built up from the foundations, or when for some reason or another it has become depleted and has to be reconstructed. Then there is not much chance of choosing between recruits that offer themselves, and all must be given some chance. And not only so, but the leaders must go outside and seek for recruits.

This will happen inevitably in many towers when peace comes; and here the question arises—What sort of recruits is it best to look for? There are among us some, perhaps in increasing numbers, who think that the earlier we get hold of young people the better. The young boy or the young girl is often more ready to adventure on

(Continued on page 178.)

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something new, and is more teachable than when he or she becomes older.

There is a good deal to be said for this, but we think, on the whole, that when the time of reconstruction comes, the responsible people would do well to fix a definite age limit, below which they will not accept recruits except under very exceptional circumstances, and we should be inclined to fix the age limit at sixteen.

The reason is this. Though young boys and girls are teachable and often can learn the rudiments of change ringing very quickly, yet they are at that stage when life is beginning to open before them and when they naturally and necessarily are seeking new things and are not yet ready to adopt a lifelong interest, as ringing must be if they are to do any real good in it. It is no doubt true that the child is father to the man, yet the man does not usually retain the thoughts and interests of the child. 'When I was a child,' said St. Paul, 'I spake as a child; I thought as a child, I understood as a child; but when I became a man I put away childish things.' Even so the boy who is taught ringing as a child is likely when he becomes a man to put it away among childish things, and for all his early promise, his instructor's labour is wasted. By the time he reaches sixteen a youth begins to know his own mind and if he is of the right stuff he may permanently make a ringer.

BOB MAXIMUS ON HANDBELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the peal at Eckington and the footnote thereto, and also to Mr. Barnett's subsequent letter last week, I do not gather whether 'an entirely local band' refers to the particular band at Eckington or any local band in the country, but I would like to call attention to the following, which was published in 'The Ringing World' at the time of the performance: At 20, Bedford Street, Woburn, Beds, on March 30th, 1903, a peal of Bob Maximus (in hand), 5,016 changes, in 3 hours 20 minutes, by M. J. Matthews 1-2, H. D. Harris 3-4, W. E. Herbert 5-6, Cyril Herbert (conductor) 7-8, S. A. Avis 9-10, Charles Herbert 11-12. Composed by H. Tucker. Umpire, the Rev. W. W. C. Baker. This is the first (and only) peal of Maximus for the Bedfordshire Association, in the county and by all the band, which was an entirely local one. The peal previous to the above was rung (also on handbells) by the first four named and was, and still is as far as I can ascertain, a minor 'record' in its way, namely, Holt's six-part peal of Plain Bob Triples, non-conducted, and now Bob Triples is no longer recognised as a legitimate method the 'record' looks like remaining.

H. DOUGLAS HARRIS.

37, Leighton Street, Woburn.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

The annual meeting of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association was held at the Church Hall, St. Woolos', Newport, Mon., on Easter Monday.

The chair was taken by the Dean of Monmouth (the Very Rev. J. L. Phillips), who was supported by the Master (Mr. F. Hannington) and the hon. secretary (Mr. J. W. Jones). A fair number of members from different parts of the diocese put in an attendance. No doubt a large number would have attended had the bells been available, but the pleasure of a ring on the twelve bells is for a future day when hostilities are over.

The passing of Mr. Evan Coles, of Whitchurch, Mr. J. Wethersby, of Aberavon, and of Mr. H. Russell, of St. Woolos', one of the original members of the association, was reported by the hon. secretary, and as the last tribute of respect all stood for a few moments in silence.

The balance sheet for the past year was distributed and various items discussed.

The serious illness of Mr. Goldsmith, the Editor of 'The Ringing World,' was reported, and the greatest sympathy was expressed coupled with good wishes for a speedy recovery.

The whole of the officers and representatives were re-elected, and it was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Cardiff.

One new member was elected.

HANDBELL PEALS.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 4, 1942, in One Hour and Fifty-Three Minutes,

At 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings.

Tenor size 15 in C.

*MABEL E. GREGORY ... 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE ... 3-4

†DENNIS H. PARHAM ... 5-6

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First attempt for a peal. † First attempt for a peal of Minor. The ringer of 1-2 was elected a member of the association before starting.

SUNDRIDGE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, April 10, 1942, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

At BRECHCROFT,

A PEAL OF SPLICED PLAIN AND GAINSBOROUGH LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5016 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

*MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6

WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 3-4 | *DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON... 7-8

Composed and Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal in more than one method. The first spliced peal on handbells for the association. A birthday compliment to Mrs. Richardson and to Miss Brenda M. Richardson.

BARNEHURST, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, April 10, 1942, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

At 9, BEVERLEY ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAXIMUS, 5016 CHANGES;

HARRY HOVERD ... 1-2 | *WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 7-8

*JOHN E. SPICE ... 3-4 | HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ... 9-10

GEORGE H. CROSS ... 5-6 | †EDWIN BARNETT ... 11-12

Composed and Conducted by GEORGE H. CROSS.

* First peal on twelve bells. † First peal on twelve 'in hand.' Rung as a birthday compliment to Geoffrey V. Murphy, now serving in the R.A. in the Near East.

LONDON.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 11, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

At 24, ROLLS COURT AVENUE, HERNE HILL,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

*MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6

WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 3-4 | PATRICIA A. SCADDAN... 7-8

*DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON 9-10

Composed by H. J. TUCKER. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal on ten bells. First peal on ten bells as conductor. The average age of this band is 19 years and one month. The ringer of 7-8 was elected a member of the association before starting.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 11, 1942, in Two Hours and Nine Minutes.

At 18, WESTBERRY ROAD, HAMPSTEAD,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 8 in C.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 1-2 | *JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6

E. MAURICE ATKINS ... 3-4 | *WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 7-8

Composed by B. ANNABLE. Conducted by E. C. S. TURNER.

* First peal in the method.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

QUARTERLY MEETING AT ASTON.

It has been the custom of the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham to hold the first quarterly meeting of the year at Aston Parish Church ever since the bells have been restored, and, through the good offices and enterprise of the local ringers, their wives and lady friends, to be entertained to a most sumptuous tea. Although there were some doubts and misgivings as to whether this could be kept up, the sight of the tables put them all at rest, for in addition to floral decorations there were all kinds of sandwiches and home-made cakes.

As there could be no ringing on the tower bells, the first business was to attend church, where those present sat in the choir. The Guild service was conducted by the Vicar, the Ven. H. McGowan, who gave a very helpful address, taking for his subject the kind of England that is wanted after the war. Some customs of the past would have to be changed, whilst others it would be well to retain.

Welcoming the members, the speaker remarked that it was all to the good that in spite of the ban on ringing ringers should continue to meet together and keep their organisations and activities alive. When the ban is removed and they can again perform their office in the belfries, the sound of the bells will be one of the things everyone will look forward to, whether they attended church or not. In his opinion, the observance of Sunday as a day of rest and recreation, irrespective of whether people attended a place of worship, was another institution we should retain. It was good for the nation and the individual. After the war every man should have a fairer chance in life without the fear of unemployment, and more of the spirit of 'Do unto others as you would they should do unto you.' These principles would be the cement which would bind the nation and empire together and make for that better order of things which we all hoped would emerge after the war. After the service the Vicar described some of the interesting features of the church, some of which had been protected, whilst others were left open to view.

After tea the Vicar presided at the meeting, and before the ordinary business a very hearty vote of thanks was proposed by the Master, Councillor A. Paddon Smith, J.P., to the ringers of Aston and their ladies for the excellent tea. It was wonderful what could be done by co-operative action, and he congratulated the ladies on the wonderful success of their efforts.

Mrs. W. Davies responded and said everything had been done straight and above board, and she would not be afraid if the Minister of Food had been present. She had a loyal band of helpers and they were very happy to be able to do it.

Apologies were received from the Ringing Master, Mr. F. E. Haynes, Messrs. James George, G. F. Swann, S. Grove, W. Short and John Jagger, the last named being prevented from attending through illness.

The Chairman welcomed the visitors, and amongst the old members present referred to Mr. Tom Miller, the oldest member of the Guild, who they were pleased to see looking so well.

Mr. Miller responded, and amongst his reminiscences remarked that he rang a peal at Aston 63 years ago.

An invitation to hold the next quarterly meeting jointly with the Worcestershire Association at Clent or Hagley was accepted, and, owing to possible transport difficulties, it was decided to hold it on Saturday, June 27th, a week earlier than usual.

Mr. Albert Walker proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman for his excellent address in church and for presiding at the meeting. As he had often pointed out, Aston was the Guild's other home and they were always happy to visit it. The Vicar, responding, stressed the importance of keeping their organisations alive and ready for when better times arrive.

Handbells were then brought out and several good touches were rung, in which Tom Miller took part, and, in spite of his age and lack of practice, rang his pair in excellent style. With the assistance of Messrs. Webb and Stone from Coventry, he also rang four bells in tunes accompanied by Mr. Albert Walker at the organ, all of which was thoroughly enjoyed, and so another happy meeting at Aston terminated.

BUSHEY.—On Thursday, April 9th, at 50, Rudolph Road, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: E. Jennings 1-2, Ernest C. S. Turner 3-4, H. G. Cashmore (conductor) 5-6, F. W. Brinklow 7-8. First quarter-peal in the method on handbells by all except the conductor.

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LONDON BELL TOWERS.

THE WREN CHURCHES.

(Continued from page 169.)

It was fortunate that when the time came to rebuild, there was at hand an architect of genius, and fortunate that he was entrusted with the task of designing every one of the new buildings. The result was that in its church steeples London possessed an architectural feature of the utmost value and one that could not be paralleled elsewhere.

Of St. Paul's Cathedral, Sir Christopher Wren's most important work, it is not necessary to say anything now, nor of the bodies of his churches. If he had built nothing more than the steeples, they alone would have given him a place among the very greatest of English architects. Though there is an artistic unity about the group, they are all different, and almost every one is original in design. But (and this is a mark of the really great architect) appearance is always subordinated to utility. The towers were intended to be bell-towers, and they were built to carry bells. Only when that condition was satisfied was outward appearance considered. Wren himself laid down the rule that in a city there should be a few towers large enough and strong enough to carry the heaviest bells and the rest should be suitable for carrying fewer and comparatively light bells.

Most church architects, perhaps all, in more recent years, have reversed the process. They look upon the tower and spire as the principal exterior ornament of the building, and only after they have settled its general design and appearance, do they consider its use as the habitation of bells. And often enough not at all. There are cases where architects refused to put louvres to bell chamber windows, preferring to let the weather damage the bells, and the bells annoy the populace, rather than spoil what they considered the good effect of the open spaces.

The medieval towers built of rubble and faced with stone or flint were intended primarily to carry bells. They are well buttressed and stand on strong piers at the four corners. In many built during the Perpendicular period there are wide and lofty openings towards the church and large west windows, but such strength as is lost by these is always made up in the corner piers where the real strength of the structure lies. Modern towers of brick, sometimes faced with stone, are, as a rule, better built; but too often they are unsuitable for carrying a ringing peal of bells, because, in order to get the maximum amount of appearance from the minimum amount of expense, the architect has made his walls too thin, his buttresses too slight, and perhaps his spire too tall.

Brick towers are far stronger than rubble towers, but they are far more elastic; and that, in excess, is a very bad quality in a bell tower. And when a modern tower is placed at the east end of the church we usually find that its strength as a bell tower is sacrificed to the necessity of having a wide arch and slender piers in the interior of the building. St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, is an example of this defect.

Wren's towers reproduce all the good qualities of the Gothic towers except one. He never used extended buttresses. His style demands straight and severe per-

pendicular lines to his towers. But he found compensation in the extra thickness of his walls and in the absence of any large openings, either as arches towards the church or as windows. The walls of the tower of St. Mary-le-Bow are seven feet thick up to the bell chamber. At St. Andrew's, Holborn, Wren left the Gothic tower standing with its tower arch, but removed the corner buttresses and refaced the exterior with stone; and here the reconstructed tower is not sufficiently rigid to carry comfortably the heavy ring of eight bells.

All Wren's towers spring straight from the ground. The tower itself is quite simple and plain in design, depending for its effect on its proportions. All the ornament is put into the spire, or cupola, or lantern, or when there is none of these, into the pinnacles and battlements.

Wren uses the portico in none of his churches. That possibly was due to the fact that his sites were restricted and that he was building on old foundations. He showed at St. Paul's that he knew how to design a portico, but we feel certain that, even if he had not been fettered by other considerations, he would never have employed the combination of portico and tower and spire which was introduced by James Gibbs and adopted by architects throughout the eighteenth century. St. Martin's-in-the-Fields is such a fine church, and so familiar a feature of Trafalgar Square, that we fail to realise the weakness and indeed the incongruity of the combination. Perhaps the church is successful only because there is really no combination at all. The portico is a fine portico, and the tower and spire are a fine tower and spire; and the eye accepts them as it does two separate and adjacent buildings. The church would have been complete and probably would have looked better without the tower and spire. This may seem a hard saying; but reverse the process and try to imagine a tower and spire above the portico of the British Museum.

It is not thus with a Gothic church. To pull down the spire of Salisbury Cathedral would be like beheading a beautiful woman. As we stand on the green lawn and take in the view of that building, every line seems to direct the eye towards the spire, and the spire itself to carry the mind and the thoughts above the earth, upwards, heavenwards. It is a superb sursum corda writ in stone.

And not only Salisbury and great spires like Norwich and Coventry can do this. It is true of simple village spires too. But you do not get that effect out of Wren's spires. Bow Church is a magnificent design which gave distinction to a street of commonplace architecture, and even to-day remains a thing of beauty among the ruined houses. St. Bride's spire and Christ Church, Newgate, and St. Vedast, Foster Lane, are very striking and still stand above the burnt out churches. But they have not that quality of uplift. Something no doubt is due to the setting among the houses of a busy city, but much more to the principles underlying the designs. The Gothic spire is based on two straight converging lines without detail or ornament to arrest the eye in its upward movement. Wren's spires are a combination of vertical and horizontal lines, producing a number of stories of diminishing diameter with rich details, the whole forming an ornament upon which the eye can linger.

(To be continued.)

DEATH OF MR. SIDNEY HILLIER,

LOSS TO SALISBURY GUILD.

The Salisbury Diocesan Guild has just suffered a severe loss by the death of Mr. Sidney Hillier, of Devizes. Mr. Hillier, who was 68 years of age, had been under the doctor for about a month, and on March 19th he went to the Bristol General Hospital for special treatment. He, however, became rapidly worse and passed away on March 31st. The news came as a great shock to his many friends, several of whom had seen him so recently.

Mr. Hillier came from Bishop's Cannings to work in Devizes in 1890, and shortly after joined the ringing band at St. John's, where he was later made conductor, a position he held until the ban on ringing was enforced. During that period he had done as much for the advancement of the art as any Wiltshireman, being always ready and willing to help beginners, and it may truly be said of him that for 50 years he gave of his very best to anything connected with bell-ringing.

He rang his first peal in 1899 and his 100th peal in 1931, both at Melksham.

Mr. Hillier was a tower of strength to the Salisbury Guild, being one of the representatives on the Central Council. He was also a Ringing Master and advisory expert for the Devizes Branch and at one time chairman of the branch. He was a member of the College Youths, the Bath and Wells and the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Associations.

The funeral service was held at St. John's Church on April 4th. In spite of transport difficulties, about 30 ringers gathered from different parts of the county and also from neighbouring dioceses to pay their last tribute to a real friend. The Salisbury Guild was represented by Mr. C. D. Heginbotham, vice-president, and Mr. F. Green, assistant general secretary; the Devizes Branch by Mr. E. F. White, chairman, and Mr. W. C. West, hon. secretary; the Salisbury Branch by Mr. F. Romaine, C.O. and branch secretary, and ringers from all parts of the Devizes Branch area. Also present were Mr. T. F. King and Mr. W. Prescott, of Bath, Mr. C. Gardiner, of Swindon, etc.

The service was conducted by the acting rector (the Rev. W. Woods), and the organist, Mr. H. H. Baker, accompanied the singing of the 23rd Psalm, the hymns, 'Abide with me' and 'The day Thou gavest,' and as the cortege was leaving the church the Nunc Dimittis. It was a very impressive and beautiful service. The floral tributes were very numerous, and the grave was lined with evergreens, a final tribute to a great ringer.

DEATH OF MR. FREDK. W. WATLING.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Frederick W. Watling, for many years the captain of the band at Saxmundham, Suffolk, which took place suddenly in his 74th year. He began to ring at the age of 14 and had taken part in many peals, ranging from Doubles to Maximus. He was a bricklayer by trade and had worked for the Great Eastern Railway for nearly fifty years. He was a member of the Parochial Church Council and had been associated with seven rectors of the parish. He was an extremely genial man and will be missed.

Mr. Watling's outstanding performances were a peal of Oxford Maximus at Great Yarmouth, and Kent Maximus at St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich. He rang 87 peals for the Norwich Diocesan Association and three for the Suffolk Guild, 87 in all.

The funeral was at Saxmundham on April 2nd. On the following Sunday 360 Bob Minor was rung on handbells as a mark of respect by W. Smith, O. Newson, H. Puttick, J. Avis, A. E. Smith and A. King.

AN APPRECIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—While in Ipswich last week I heard of the death of Mr. Fred Watling, of Saxmundham, Suffolk, at the age of 74 years.

We both started ringing about the same time in 1885, and as a member of the old Kelsale company he was a very keen ringer and good striker.

He succeeded his father as Master of the Saxmundham company in the early nineties and remained in office until his death. One of his sons still carries on the family ringing tradition, being a member of the Harwich (Essex) company.

R. W. STANNARD.

ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY.

The quarterly meeting of St. Mary-le-Tower Society, Ipswich, was held in the belfry on Sunday, April 12th. Before the business the Master (Mr. C. J. Sedgley) asked the members present to stand for one minute to the memories of the late Rev. W. C. Pearson, Mr. Charles Mee and Mr. Frederick Watling.

The Master mentioned the wonderful and lavish gift of 58 handbells to the Suffolk Guild from the executors of the late Rev. W. C. Pearson, the disposal of which will be discussed at the annual meeting on the 18th inst.

Mr. R. W. Stannard conveyed a message of friendship and congratulations from the College Youths with a request which the members hoped would soon be fulfilled.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

There is some young and enthusiastic material in the Kent County Association, which augurs well for the future. Some of it is to be found at Sundridge, where the Misses Richardson, daughters of the late Rev. H. S. T. Richardson (whose great services to ringing were not solely confined to the belfry), are the mainspring of a promising band.

Then there are the young folk at Sittingbourne, with an able leader in John Spice, who is a Kent product, although most of his time is now spent at Oxford University. His enthusiasm is being manifested in the number of handbell peals he is conducting and in which someone, almost invariably, succeeds in doing something new.

Now he has called a peal of Bob Minor for two young Isle of Sheppey ringers. It was Miss Mabel Gregory's first attempt for a peal and Dennis Parham's first for a peal of Minor. Both these ringers had done a little tower bell ringing before the war, but since church bells have been stopped they have turned to handbells.

Living ten miles from the nearest handbell ringers, they set about forming their own company, by interesting one or two others, and have kept weekly practices going. Progress has necessarily been slow, but these two members have now reached peal ringing standard.

Unfortunately, D. H. Parham is shortly leaving the country so that the future of the practices is uncertain. He has now two peals to his credit, but we hope he will ring many more after the war.

The engagement is announced between Mr. Reg. Darvill and Miss Kathleen West. Mr. Darvill went to St. Albans about 18 months ago and joined the St. Peter's band. Miss West was one of a band of ladies who on the outbreak of hostilities volunteered to keep the bells of St. Peter's ringing. They are the mainstay of the present band, and everyone who knows their enthusiasm for the Exercise will rejoice in their combination.

William T. Cockerill, for more than forty years hon. secretary of the Ancient Society of College Youths, was born on April 15th, 1859. He died on March 30th, 1938.

On April 14th, 1928, an attempt for 22,096 Double Norwich Major at Heptonstall was lost after ringing 18,360 changes in 10½ hours.

The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths rang 13,440 changes of Bob Major at Romford on April 18th, 1894. They had previously lost the peal at Brentwood through a rope breaking, after ringing 13,072 changes.

On the same date in 1927 the Lancashire Association rang 17,824 Kent Treble Bob Major at Hepstonstall.

Sunday next is the tenth anniversary of the first peal in seven Spliced Surprise Major methods. It was rung at Willesden and conducted by William Pye. The methods were London, Cambridge, Rutland, Norfolk, New Gloucester, Bristol and Yorkshire.

Samuel Wood, of Ashton-under-Lyne, who was for many years one of the most prominent ringers in the North of England and the conductor of many long peals, died on April 16th, 1932. Among his performances were the 16,608 Kent Treble Bob Major in 1883, 12,240 Kent Treble Bob Maximus in 1911, and 14,000 Kent Treble Bob Royal in 1914.

Next Sunday is the fiftieth anniversary of the second meeting of the Central Council, which was held at the Colonnade Hotel, Birmingham, on April 19th, 1892. The president, Mr. A. P. Heywood, was in the chair and 45 members were present out of a total of 84. Among those who fortunately are still with us were Messrs. Joseph Griffin, George Williams and C. Tyler and Canon Coleridge.

Fifty years ago three peals were rung. They were Bob Triples 1, Grandsire Triples 1, and Minor 1.

Fifty years ago to-morrow (which was Easter Monday) 22 peals were rung. They were: Grandsire Triples 7, Caters 2, Stedman Triples 1, Bob Triples 1, Major 3, Kent Treble Bob Major 3, Maximus 1, Oxford Treble Bob Major 2, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1, Minor 1. The Bob Triples was rung at Caversham 'after an attempt at 13,440 Double Norwich, which came to grief after 2 hours' excellent ringing owing to a shift on the lead by R. T. Hibbert and the Rev. G. F. Coleridge.'

ACTIVITIES IN GLASGOW.

During the past months, St. Mary's Cathedral Society, Glasgow, have, owing to the black-out, held their practices twice monthly, on Saturday afternoons, and found the arrangement quite suitable. They have been glad to welcome several ringers serving with H.M. Forces, including Mr. E. W. Pye, who was a regular attendant. With the coming of the longer hours of daylight practice will now be held weekly on Thursday at 7.30 p.m.

On Easter Day a touch of Stedman Caters was rung before evening-song by E. Bounphrey 1-2, H. Sargent 3-4, W. H. Pickett (conductor) 5-6, R. J. Townsend 7-8, E. A. Stafford 9-10. It was intended to ring from the west end of the Cathedral, but the Provost insisted on the ringing taking place in the side chapel. This proved very effective and was much appreciated by the congregation.

All communications in connection with the Scottish Association should for the present be addressed to the Acting Hon. Secretary, Mr. E. A. Stafford, 16, Tabard Road, Glasgow, W.3.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION PROPOSAL.

In continuation of the discussion on Mr. Price's motion, the CHAIRMAN said: I do not want to burke any discussion on any matter that comes within the provisions laid down in the rules of this Conference, but in view of the protest of Mr. Coles, the chairman of the committee, and of the importance of the question whether or not a National Association should be formed, and also of the widespread interest it is now creating, I suggest to Mr. Kippin and Mr. Housden that they should open up the whole subject by submitting a concrete motion instead of by amendment to another motion. They may not have contemplated this amendment as one which introduces the question by a side wind, but I think that many members of the Conference feel that that is what it would amount to. I feel also that to throw the burden of recommending the formation of a National Association, or otherwise, upon this committee before the Conference has had the opportunity of discussing the pros and cons of the subject is not the best way to approach it, and it is one which the committee might reasonably object to undertake. I hope, therefore, Mr. Kippin will accept the suggestion, withdraw his amendment to the motion now before us, and submit for discussion a direct proposal, which will enable everyone who desires to do so to express an opinion on the general principles. It is obvious that the only practical way of discussing these opposing plans, which are necessarily closely interlocked in argument, is by debating them together and later submitting them to vote as alternative propositions. If a National Association finds favour, then, perhaps, a committee could be appointed to consider and make recommendations as to the best way to carry it into effect.

RINGERS SHOULD BE GOOD CHURCHMEN.

Mr. V. A. JARRETT (Halifax, late of Chatham): With regard to the rehabilitation of ringing after the war, I do not think we should have to appeal to the public for their interest and support. Whilst it is quite evident we shall find many of our belfries unmanned when we are able to ring again, I consider it a falsehood to suggest that the war, coupled with the ban on ringing, is the cause for our dilemma. The difficulty of getting new blood into our art was already facing us acutely long before the war started—let alone the ban on ringing. Mr. Cullen comments on the lack of ringers in a number of towers in the district of Cheshire. That was evidently a pre-war circumstance. I feel pretty certain that if we look into the matter closely we shall find the root of the trouble rests with ourselves—that is ringers as a body.

As ringers we are automatically church officials, and it is our duty to be good churchmen and as such to take an active interest in church work generally. Besides our own little effort in the belfry we should attend as often as possible the services for which we ring. I venture to suggest that if we all adopted this attitude we should find our clergy and congregations far more sympathetic towards us in our anticipated difficulties, and we should then find recruits less difficult to obtain. If we need a new churchwarden or a sidesman to officiate in the services of our church we don't advertise the fact in the public Press, but choose him (or her) from the members of the congregation, and that is where our ringers should come from. So long as we keep ourselves aloof from the rest of the congregation we can't expect them to have any interest in us.

In the past I have had the opportunity of being a visitor in many belfries—particularly on Sundays—and I have most frequently found myself to be the only ringer attending the service for which we have just rung.

I think the following three true stories show quite clearly the accepted idea of a ringer as a churchman. At a church on the South Coast, after ringing was over on a Sunday evening, I was chatting with one of the ringers whilst a friend of mine (a non-ringer) was chatting to another. The one said to my friend, 'Are you chaps coming along to the club with us? They'll be open by the time we get there.' My friend replied, 'I don't suppose so, as Vic always likes to attend a service for which he has rung,' to which the resident ringer replied, 'What! Go to church! I've been a ringer here for 30 years and ain't been to a service yet.' The second story relates to a town in the centre of England. I was enquiring of the people with whom I was staying if they knew if there were any bells at the church and if they were rung. They satisfied me on this point and I further enquired as to the usual length of the service in order to decide whether I should have to leave before or after the sermon in order to attend an evening professional engagement, whereupon one of the daughters of the house informed me that if I rang the bells I should not be able to go to the service, 'because the ringers always came out when the people went in.' Then at a church in the North I met the ringers outside the church and introduced myself. They immediately invited me to have a pull with them. Ringing finished, the conductor came to me with outstretched hand and this remark, 'Well, Mr. Jarrett. We'll have to say good-bye now, as we are going in to the service.' With regard to this last episode, it must be quite clear that ringers as a whole are not real churchmen or my friends would surely have taken it for granted that I, too, would be going into the service.

There are plenty of eligible people in our choirs and congregations to fill the gaps in our belfries, and if they saw all the ringers attend-

ing church services frequently they would get to know us and probably feel that they would like to join us, whereas now they look upon the ringers as something apart from the other organisations, and I, for one, don't wonder at it. Let us make the following resolve: Firstly, to be good churchmen; secondly, to be good ringers; thirdly, to be change ringers; lastly, to be peal ringers.

One last remark. I have heard it said by some ringers that they shouldn't be expected to stay to services, as they have already been at church an hour before anyone else arrives. My answer to that is this. If a person can stay inside the church for a period of three to four hours for a peal on Saturday afternoon or evening for his or her own pleasure and satisfaction, that same person should find no difficulty in staying there for two hours in the service of Him to Whom we owe so much thanks, for if it were not for the churches there would be no bells, and our art and the social benefits which accrue from it and which we so much appreciate would not exist at all.

Sapper V. S. TAYLOR, R.E.: I regret the amendment moved by Messrs. Kippin and Housden. Why do they seek to set a sapling where already we have a matured tree, for the two cannot remain whole?

A National Association will bear no seasoned fruit, but only that flush of blossom born of a new enthusiasm, which, too, too soon, will satiate and wither away in ignominy. Ringing never could, aye, and never will, be perpetuated by opinions emotional stimuli which are but vain phases of mental activity. Rather must it be carried forward by something lasting in constancy, by a true love of the art. If this exist, then will there be no wearying, no forgetting.

DRASTIC REMEDIES.

Mr. J. C. MELLOR (Potter's Bar): In supporting Mr. Price's motion, I feel that Miss Richardson has done that almost impossible feat for a woman, hit the nail smack on the head. Let all ringers put their own house in order and ringing will rehabilitate itself. It is possible for any ringer with a sense of humour and a young outlook in a parish of 10,000 souls to train a band of eight youths capable of ringing for service in eight months. I've done it. But there must be less belittling of effort, making the learner look and feel an idiot in front of others, and the selfish habit of making him stand out for the sake of having a good ring.

Ringing is like the tobacco habit, once acquired it takes some shaking off. Ask any ringer's wife. Associations as conducted at present are in my opinion a discouragement and a disappointment to a beginner unless he is a genius or has a skin as thick as an elephant. After the war I would, for at least two years, refuse recognition of any peal that hadn't a band made up of at least 25 per cent. new talent. Abolish the 'clique' habit, clear out all ringing masters who allow monopolists to run the meeting for them, talented ringers at meetings should refrain from standing in with a crack band for the first touch after tea and then discover they've just time to catch a train (handbells in the 'pub'), and leave the rabbits to lower the bells. Let us have less futile arguments about 'rows v. changes' and more action. In short, if we *deserve* the survival of ringing we shall get it.

The CHAIRMAN: If anyone else has any remarks to make on Motion (a) now before us, their contributions must be received by Monday next; if not, I shall ask Mr. Price to reply to the discussion.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

NOTABLE VISITORS.

Although little business was transacted at the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths held on Saturday last, the attendance was quite up to the average. The members who supported the Master (Mr. E. G. Fenn) were the Treasurer (Mr. A. A. Hughes) and secretary (Mr. A. B. Peck), Canon G. F. Coleridge (Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild), Mr. E. H. Lewis (president of the Central Council), the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards (hon. secretary, Salisbury Diocesan Guild), Mr. F. E. Haynes (Master of St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham) and Messrs. E. Barnett, G. Boomsma, J. Chapman, F. Collins, R. Deal, H. Hoskins, C. Kippin, H. G. Miles, G. N. Price, J. G. A. Prior, C. W. Roberts and R. Spears. In addition all three branches of H.M. Forces were represented, the Army by Ptes. Fox and Munday, the Navy by W/Tel. A. Purdon, R.N., and the Air Force by Corpl. K. Arthur. The visitors were Mr. and Mrs. J. Botham from Willesden, Mr. E. A. Young, who is recovering from an attack of laryngitis was unable to be present, his doctor having advised him to stay at home. Pte. Len Fox brought news of Messrs. C. W. Cecil and H. Thompson and Sergt. J. Boomsma from the Middle East.

Mr. C. W. Roberts proposed that congratulations be sent to the band who rang a non-conducted peal of Stedman Cinques at Birmingham. Mr. F. E. Haynes thanked the members and said he brought greetings from the secretary of St. Martin's Guild.

Mr. E. Barnett asked for news of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, and the treasurer stated that the Editor was a little better.

The Master thanked the members, especially those from the provinces, for their company.

The next meeting will be held at 3 p.m. on April 25th at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel.

ELEMENTARY COMPOSITION.

FOR THE AVERAGE READER.

In the olden times one of the matters most debated among those ringers who were supposed to know things was the question: Is it possible to produce a peal of Grandsire Triples by means of common bobs only? They knew by experience that the full extent of Grandsire Doubles cannot be had without at least two singles, and they could see pretty clearly the reason why. But Triples was different, and it seemed that there those reasons did not apply. On five bells all the changes are doubles, and will only produce the even rows (or, as they called them, the in-course rows). But on seven bells the changes are continuous triples, and all the handstrokes are odd and all the backstrokes are even. There is no one row that cannot be produced in a touch either at handstroke or at backstroke. Then why cannot all the rows be produced in a peal?

John Holt as far back as 1750 got the full extent into one block except for three leads, but there he stuck and no one else was able to go any further. So that men came to the conclusion that the extent could not be had, but they could not see why; and some still clung to the hope that someone, sometime, somewhere, would solve the riddle. Dr. Arthur B. Carpenter worked out the number of combinations of bobbed and plained leads possible in a block of 5,040 changes. It was a figure such as we only come across in astronomical calculations or in war finance, and he said, Surely among such a stupendous number one, or perhaps several, will give us the peal we seek.

Mr. William H. Thompson gave the answer. He proved mathematically that a peal of Grandsire Triples with common bobs only cannot be had. The Exercise accepted his proof and that settled the matter. But though the fact is not disputed, the reason why is still for most ringers something of a mystery.

A man turns to Thompson's pamphlet or to the paraphrase of it given in C. D. P. Davies' 'Grandsire,' and he finds a very abstruse and complicated proof. Not unnaturally he usually thinks it is too deep for him, and he troubles no more about it. But while the proof is a difficult one to follow, the reason why is simplicity itself.

It must be so, because when a man is setting out to prove that something cannot be done, he has to provide against every possible contingency, and that Thompson did. But the real reason why a peal of Grandsire Triples cannot be had by common bobs only is simply this—if we begin with any one thing and keep on adding to it an even number of things, we shall always have an odd number of things, never an even number.

Let us see how all this works out in the case of Bob Major. There the conditions are as simple as they can be, and when we understand them we shall much more easily understand the more complicated case of Grandsire Triples.

In Bob Major, as we have seen, we have sixty Natural Courses as the material from which to produce peals, and if we want the full in-course extent with the tenors together we must join all the sixty into one round block. Our only means of doing so are bobs at the Wrong, or the Middle, or Home. And these bobs must be in Q Sets.

We begin with the plain course, and the first Q Set we bob will add to it two other Natural Courses.

So will the second Q Set, and the third, and any other we may bob. Just as we saw in the examples given last week. Every operation we make adds two Natural Courses to our round block, but as we began with one (the plain course) our touch can never consist of anything but an odd number. The full extent is sixty Natural Courses, but sixty is an even number and clearly cannot be had.

We have a stock of sixty bricks to build a wall with. We put one down to mark the beginning and we add the others to it, two at a time. It must happen that in the end we are left with one over.

Here we have in its simplest form a great all-pervading law of composition, the law which we call the Law of the Q Sets. In some respects it is the most important law there is in composition. It applies to every possible method, and it can never be shirked, but in its operation it is very varied and sometimes very complicated.

But an intelligent student may answer us something like this. I fully agree with all you say and I can quite see why we cannot build up an in-course extent of Bob Major by joining together Natural Courses by means of Q Sets. Is that, however, the only thing we can do? Must we start with the Sixty Natural Courses? You have told us that each course can be cut up into three pieces and the pieces can come in different places of the composition. Why cannot we arrange the full extent of the material in some other way which will enable us to join it all together?

Well, we can arrange the material in different ways. Instead of our sixty Natural Courses we could start with twelve five-course blocks, each course called W, M, or W, M, R; or with thirty two-course blocks, each course called W, R, or M, R; or we could arrange the material in blocks which are not all called alike. We can do these things, and that makes it very difficult to give a really sound mathematical, watertight proof. That is why Thompson's proof seems so complicated. But when all is said and done, we cannot get away from the fact that in the complete peal the bobs and omits must be in Q Sets; and however we may try to dodge it, we are always faced in one form or another with the general law we have spoken of.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

The annual general meeting was held at the Church of St. Mary the Great, Cambridge, on Easter Monday. There was a small attendance, and welcome visitors were Miss H. Snowden, Mr. Chapman and Mr. F. E. Haynes. Mr. Chapman, who is blind, very kindly presided at the organ for service and his music was greatly appreciated. The Vicar gave an inspiring address. He spoke of joy being a deep well, whereas happiness depended on the happenings of the day.

Before the business meeting started members remembered a greatly respected and highly valued brother ringer, Mr. T. R. Dennis, in his sorrow at the death of his sister, Miss Dennis.

The Rev. E. C. Essex took the chair. The officers and committee were re-elected. The hope was expressed that members will pay their subscriptions although the ban on ringing and extra work make meetings impossible for a time.

* Miss Snowden and Mr. Haynes made helpful contributions to the discussion on the proposed National Association.

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STEDMAN TRIPLES.

A FINE NEW COMPOSITION.

There is nothing in the history of change ringing more instructive and interesting than the story of the development of the composition of peals of Stedman Triples. It begins more than two hundred years ago when three men, Thomas Melchior and Edward Crane in Norwich and Benjamin Annable in London, tried to produce a true extent. They did not succeed. They thought they had, and they did not get so far as to know why they failed, or even that they had failed. The story then skips over half a century to the time of John Reeves and the publication of the 'Clavis.' Reeves was a far cleverer composer than the others, but he, too, did not succeed, for he was engaged on the formidable task of reducing to order the whole of composition as then understood, and had not much time to spare for what was, comparatively speaking, only a secondary problem. But he did reach two conclusions, which served as the basis on which later men worked. The first was that the style of composition used in most methods with P Blocks and single bobs will not produce a true peal of Stedman Triples. The second was that success could probably be had by using B Blocks, but that the excessive number of bobs would be objectionable and make very disagreeable music.

John Noonan composed what we generally consider to be the first true peal in the method. It was a triumph of long and patient work, of much experiment and many failures; it brought fame to its composer, and the title among ringers of 'celebrated,' but it had little or no permanent influence on the development of composition.

EARLY COMPOSITIONS.

Thomas Edwards, of Stourbridge, was the first man to compose a really good peal, and from it all the rest ultimately descended. 'Good' is a relative adjective. This peal was good when it appeared, and good in what it foreshadowed, but it would be anything but good for modern practical purposes. It was in ten equal and regular parts and, apart from the special singles at half-way and end, there were only two ways in which any course was called. But it had 722 calls, which means an intolerable amount of continuous dodging in 6-7.

The aim of composers then was to reduce the number of calls. We need not now follow the improvements successively made, but two peals stand out as landmarks. The first by Joseph Tebbis, of Leeds, was rung in 1828 by the Junior Society of College Youths at Newington. It followed the same general plan as Edwards' peal, but the number of calls was reduced to 622, of which 22 were in-course singles. The peal is in ten equal and regular parts, and, except for the singles, every course is called alike.

Thomas Hudson composed the other outstanding peal. We know little about him and his intellectual capacity. We know he was a prominent ringer and a leading man in a skilful band, but there is nothing to make us suppose he had any claims to be ranked among the great composers along with Holt, and Reeves, and Henry Johnson. Stedman Triples composition was interesting to the men of his day, and probably he wondered why the plan which had been so successful in other methods and had produced peals like Annable's Bob Major and Triples should not work in Stedman. At any rate, it was worth trying, and it so happened that he did hit upon the one form of that plan which would not only join together 60 courses, but would dodge the difficulties men like Reeves had recognised, but had not been able to surmount. What he had done was to discover the twelve 5-course blocks (each course called 3, 4, 5, 6), which are the ultimate material from which all twin-bob peals are formed. He evidently did not know a great deal about what he had done, for his next peal was false.

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Hudson's peal was put together by in-course singles and so is now obsolete; but later men, and notably John Lates and Thomas Thurstans, gradually improved it by altering the positions of some of the bobs, and by getting rid of the irregular singles by means of extras and omits, a device which Shipway had introduced some years before. The culmination of this work was reached when Thurstans produced his famous Four-Part, and Henry Johnson called it in 1846.

The Exercise has always given Thurstans the credit for composing the peal and rightly so; yet he did no more than put the finishing touches to the work many men had done during many years. It was otherwise with John Holt. His Ten-Part peal of Grandsire was his own work, built on his own foundations, and, so far as we can judge, he owed nothing to anyone else. Perhaps that is the reason why his secrets died with him and Grandsire Triples composition remained a sealed book even to the best of composers until modern times.

When Thurstans' Four-Part had appeared the Exercise possessed the best peal that is possible in the method, taking everything into consideration. After that, interest died down, but was revived some 50 years ago by Sir Arthur Heywood, who, with the help of Henry Earle Bulwer, made a thorough investigation into the principles of the twin-bob peals and laid bare their secrets.

The result was that a large number of good compositions were published, not only by these two men, but by Joseph J. Parker, James W. Washbrook and others. None was quite as good as Thurstans', though Heywood's transposition of it is the best composition possible for a conductor's purposes, and Washbrook's modified four-part (his No. 1) deserves more attention than for some reason or other it has received.

The twin-bob plan having been thoroughly explored, men began to turn their attention to other plans. Mr. John O. Lancashire produced

an original composition, and Henry Law James and Mr. J. W. Parker peals in seven parts. All these have many singles and are of no great practical value.

CARTER'S ODD-BOB PEAL

When John Carter published his odd-bob peal some 30 years ago it was welcomed as an original composition on an entirely new plan, and so, to a large extent, it was. But we shall not, we believe, be wrong in thinking that it descends from Edwards' and Tebbis' peals much in the same way that Thurstans' does from Hudson's. Mr. J. W. Parker and Mr. A. J. Pitman have produced compositions that show the odd-bob plan is capable of great development, and Mr. B. H. Swinson in our issue of January 31st, 1941, showed that twin-bob and odd-bob peals are not as independent of each other as probably most people thought. We have now received from Mr. Swinson a peal which seems to show that the odd-bob plan can rival the twin-bob plan as a means of producing compositions suitable in every way for ordinary use. Here is what Mr. Swinson says:—

Dear Sir,—In your issue of January 31st, 1941, I called attention to the basic relationship between Thurstans' Four-Part and Carter's Odd-Bob peals of Stedman Triples. I fully expected that some correspondence would result from the statement, but instead I have received several appreciative letters from readers.

Upon examining the breakdown of Carter's Odd-Bob into four separate quarters, I find that it is possible to link up the four quarters by the use of one Q set and two singles, the latter being 30 courses apart. The resulting peal is shown below, and I feel sure that all readers will recognise the relationship with Thurstans' 'masterpiece.'

Seeing that only 60 six-sevens come up at back stroke (the same as in Carter's Odd-Bob), the Odd-Bob variation cannot be considered as good as the 'Four-Part,' but as compensation there is only one four call set and, as shown, this occurs in the first course. There are nine other possible positions for the first single, but most ringers will agree that it is preferable to get the awkward nine call course over as soon as possible.

Although claiming no originality for the peal, I feel that it may serve as a stepping stone to young conductors in bridging the gap between twin-bob peals and odd-bob peals as hitherto understood.

Bella Vista Club, Macacaibo, Venezuela.

B. H. SWINSON.

MR. SWINSON'S PEAL.

Mr. Swinson does not claim any originality for the peal, and his modesty does him credit; but we can say that he is as much entitled to put his name to it as Thomas Thurstans was to put his to the Four-Part: and, taking everything into consideration, it is the most useful peal in the method that has been given to the Exercise since Thurstans' time.

As Mr. Swinson says, it is an attempt to apply the construction of Thurstans' peal to the odd-bob plan, and the later composition should be studied in the light of the earlier. When that is done it will be found to be very simple and quite easy to call.

Like Thurstans' peal, Mr. Swinson's is in four equal parts, and each part consists of five equal 3-course blocks. The four quarter-peals are joined together by extras and omits and two singles. It differs from Thurstans' in one important point. In the older composition the standard calling of all four quarters is alike, but in the later composition the standard calling of the last two quarters differs from that of the first two.

In the first half of the peal the Standard Calling (A) of the 3-course blocks is as follows: In all three courses there are bobs at 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 11; and in the first two courses there are additional bobs at 12 and 13. The observation bell (the 7th) is bobbed once in 6-7 up and once in 6-7 down. There is a bob as it goes into the Slow, and at every six it is in the Slow except at First Whole Turn. Out Slow is plain, but at the next Six the observation bell makes the bob. The two extra bobs in the first two courses of the block are In and Out Quick.

In the second half of the peal the Standard Calling (B) of the 3-course blocks is as follows. In all three courses there are bobs at 2, 6, 10, 12 and 14; and in the second course there are extra bobs at 8 and 9. The observation bell is bobbed in 6-7 down and makes the bob after Quick. There are bobs at Last Half Turn and Out Slow, and the observation bell is bobbed in 6-7 up. The two extra bobs in the second course of the block are at First Whole Turn and First Half Turn.

The two singles are in the first course of each half-peal, and that necessarily has the effect of making the first 3-course block in each part appear somewhat irregular. Something very similar appears in Thurstans' composition, and in both cases the irregularity is more apparent than real.

Mr. Swinson's peal starts with the Standard Calling B. The seventh is bobbed in 6-7 down and makes the bob after Quick. There is a bob at First Whole Turn and a single at First Half Turn. The calling now switches into Standard Calling A. Bobs are made at Last Half Turn and Last Whole Turn. The bob after Slow is made and In and Out Quick. This course contains sixteen sixes with the observation twice a Quick Bell.

The two remaining courses of the 3-course block are called 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 11. This is Standard Calling A, except that in the second course of the block there are no bobs at 12 and 13. We have here the two omits which are necessary (as in Thurstans' composition) to join together the two quarter-peals which make up the first half of the

(Continued on next page.)

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

(Continued from previous page.)

composition. The other omits occur in the second course of the sixth 3-course block.

In the first 3-course block of the second half-peal, the calling begins with Standard A. The 7th is bobbed in 6-7 up, 6-7 down and In Slow. At First Half Turn a single is made and the calling switches into Standard B. Bobs are made at Last Half Turn, Out Slow, and in 6-7 up. In this course, which consists of twelve sizes, the observation bell does not go Quick.

The other two courses of the 3-course block follow the Standard Calling B, viz., 2, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14; and 2, 6, 10, 12, 14.

The extras in the second half-peal are called in the first course of the sixth 3-course block, at First Whole Turn and First Half Turn. The complementary pair of extras is in the first course of the peal.

THE PEAL.

213456		362145	
581243	W	213546	Y
364521	A	152436	B
162354	A	541326	B
465132	A	435216	B
263415	A	324156	B
564312	X	342516	Z
261534	A	453126	B
463251	A	514236	B
165423	A	125346	B
362145	A	231456	B

B. H. SWINSON.

A = First Standard Calling.

B = Second Standard Calling.

X = A with 12, 13 omitted in 2nd Course.

Z = B with extra 8-9 in First Course.

W

231456

452361 Bobs at 2, 6, 8, Single 9, Bobs at 10, 11, 13, 14, 15.
643152 Bobs at 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11.
561243 Bobs at 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11.

Y

362145

614325 Bobs at 1, 3, 5, Single 7, Bobs 8, 10, 12.
543162 Bobs at 2, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14.
213546 Bobs at 2, 6, 10, 12, 14.

Carter's Odd-Bob peal is generally reckoned a difficult one to call, and it certainly is not an easy one. But a lot of the difficulty is due to the way in which peals of Stedman Triples are written out. If we tell a man to call a course of Superlative or London, Middle, Wrong, and Home, the statement conveys to his mind a definite picture of definite work done by definite bells, with definite results in the coursing order and course end.

THE NOTATION OF STEDMAN PEALS.

But when we tell a man to call bobs in Stedman Triples at 2, 6, 10, 12 and 14, no definite picture is at once created. The man has to prick down the six ends either on paper or mentally before he realises anything definite; and when he does prick down the six ends on paper he has to go through a further transposition before he can see what happens at the bobs. For he does not prick the actual bob changes, but the rows five changes further on. We strongly advise those who are studying a peal like this of Mr. Swinson's to prick both hand and back rows. It may take a little more time, but as it gives the actual bob making changes it is worth the trouble. The notation introduced by Sir Arthur Heywood 50 years ago gets over the trouble we mentioned just now so far as twin-bob peals are concerned. Something of the sort is badly wanted for odd-bob composition, but the difficulties in the way of finding a scheme and standardising it are many. Those who have experience of Stedman Triples composition and calling should give this matter their consideration.

We hope that conductors will study this peal of Mr. Swinson's, for we feel sure that here is a composition which is worthy of taking a place alongside the Four-Part as a stock peal for ringing purposes. It is not the equal of the Four-Part, that probably will never appear, but it is the best alternative we think we have ever seen.

JAMES W. WASHBROOK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The letters about the late J. W. Washbrook are very interesting. May I be permitted to make a correction and to give some more details which may be of interest to readers regarding his tenure at Arklow.

The number of peals rung by the Washbrook family is as follows: J. W. Washbrook, sen., 42, of which he conducted 33 and 12 were rung double-handed. J. W. Washbrook, jun., 22. First peal June 17th, 1903. Conducted one at the age of 12 years. W. Washbrook, 9. First peal January 21st, 1906, at the age of 10½ years. H. Washbrook, one peal on September 11th, 1909. The ages and dates given are taken from the Irish Association's peal book. F. E. DUKES.

Dublin

NOTICES.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—The district annual meeting will be held at Southgate on Saturday, April 18th, at 3.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Handbells available for ringing.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Herts.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—A meeting of this division will be held at Earl's Colne on Saturday, April 18th. Handbells from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. An opportunity to meet old friends come and make this a real success.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meetings at Guildford on Saturday, April 18th. Executive Committee meet at S. Nicolas' Vestry at 3 p.m. Service at S. Nicolas' 4 p.m. Tea at Ayers' Cafe (next S. Nicolas' Church) 5 p.m., followed by the annual general meetings of both the Guildford District and the Guild.—G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clandon, near Guildford.

In view of the rising costs of production we regret that, as from and including our issue of May 1st, it will be necessary to make an increase in the charge for NOTICES.

A notice of six lines or less will be 2s. per insertion, with an addition of 4d. per line after (a line averages eight words).

Notices other than of meetings will be charged at 6d. per line (minimum 2s. 8d.).

Correspondents are reminded that Notices should be received at 'The Ringing World' Office by Monday.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Yatton on Saturday, April 18th. Bells available (with silent apparatus) 3 o'clock. Divine service 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 o'clock, with business meeting to follow.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Sec., Long Ashton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—East Lancs District.—A rally and meeting of ringers will be held at St. James' Church, Accrington, on Saturday, April 18th, from 3 p.m. Tower bell ringing on the six silent bells, Grandsire Doubles to London Surprise; handbells, Minor to Royal. Come and have a lesson in double-handed ringing. Help your brother ringers, help yourself and help 'The Ringing World' by coming to the rally.—C. Blakey, R. Leigh, J. Woods, R. Blakey, C. Sharples.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—A meeting will be held at Walsall on Saturday, April 18th. St. Matthew's belfry will be open from 3 p.m. for handbell ringing. Service in church at 4.45, with an address by the Vicar. Cups of tea will be provided in the Institute at 5.30. Please bring your own eatables.—H. Knight, Hon. Sec., 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—A special general meeting will be held at Barnsley Royal Hotel on Saturday, April 18th. Handbells ready 2.30 p.m. Tea will be provided at 5 p.m. for all who arrive not later than 4.30 p.m. All are welcome.—D. Smith, 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley Yorks.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD. — The annual meeting will be held at the Griff Colliery Institute, Heath End Road, Nuneaton (adjoining Cricket Ground) on Saturday, April 18th. Tea will be provided at a moderate charge at 5 o'clock. Business meeting to follow. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Burton and Derby Districts.—A joint meeting of the above districts will be held at Ticknall on Saturday, April 18th. Handbells available at 3 p.m. Tea and business meeting in Welfare Hall at 4.45. Cups of tea will only be provided. Members must take their own sugar and eatables. Silent tower bell ringing afterwards. Will members please give the meeting every support.—Wm. Lancaster and J. W. Cotton, Hon. Secs.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, on Saturday, April 18th, at 3 p.m.—H. G. Herbert, Hon. Sec., 61, Acton Lane, Sudbury.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 25th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SURREY ASSOCIATION. — The annual general meeting will be held at Croydon on April 25th. Bells of St. John's available for dumb ringing from 3 p.m., also handbells. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at Parish Hall, Silverdale Road, followed by meeting. Please notify Mr. D. Cooper, 5, Harrison's Rise, Croydon, for tea by Tuesday, 21st inst.—E. C. Talbot, Hon. Sec., 53, Birchwood Avenue, Wallington, Surrey.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD. — The annual meeting will be held in the Rectory, Hartfield, on Saturday, April 25th. Handbells and six silent tower bells from 2.30 p.m. Please notify Mr. A. Ryman, Perry Hill Cottages, Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells, by Wednesday, April 22nd, for tea. Please try and support this meeting with your personal appearance. Failing that, don't forget to send along that subscription.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Lincoln on Saturday, April 25th. 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.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Cranford (Church of St. John) on Saturday, April 25th. The Memorial Hall will be available for handbell ringing and social intercourse from 3 to 7 p.m. Committee meeting 3.45 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea (1s.) and meeting. Names must be sent to Mr. W. H. Coles, 61, Hayes End Drive, Hayes End, Middlesex, not later than April 22nd. Church about 15 minutes walk from Berkley Hotel, Bath Road, Hounslow. Hall three minutes' walk. Bus services, 81, 91, 98 and 222. Stations Hounslow East and Central. An urgent appeal is made for subscriptions, many of which are badly in arrear.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 1, Listoke, Edgehill Road, Ealing, W.13. Phone Perivale 5320.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch. — Meeting, Kidderminster (D.v.), Saturday, April 25th, 3 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. Ten bells (silent). Usual evening arrangements. — B. C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Cookham on Saturday, April 25th. Tower bells (silent) and handbells at 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. at the King's Head (1s. 6d.). Names MUST be sent. — A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—A district meeting will be held at Great Tey on Saturday, April 25th. Handbells and 6 silent tower bells available at 2.30 p.m. Service in church 4 p.m., tea and business meeting in Village Hall at 5 p.m. As this village is somewhat isolated I appeal to everyone who can to come along and try and make this a great success. We only need 23 to beat 1939 attendance. This can easily be done if you all play your part.—L. Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District. — A meeting will be held at Great Baddow on Saturday, April 25th. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Handbells available before and after. Will all those who require tea please notify Mr. G. Green, 3, Bell Street, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, by Wednesday, April 22nd, so that arrangements can be made accordingly. It is hoped that all members will endeavour to support this meeting. There is a good bus service to and from Great Baddow.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, April 25th. Handbells 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. All welcome.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — The annual general meeting will be held at Leeds Parish Church on Saturday, April 25th. Handbells in the belfry from 3 p.m. Business meeting 4.30 p.m. A good attendance is requested.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

KINGSBURY, MIDDLESEX.—The usual fortnightly practice cancelled on Thursday, April 30th, and resumed on May 14th.—Russell Spears.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Sonning Deanery Branch.—Annual meeting Wokingham, Saturday, May 2nd. Service, St. Paul's Church, 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Parish Room. Handbell ringing in tower 4 p.m. All welcome. Notice for tea not later than April 28th to Mr. B. C. Castle, The Briars, Westfields Road, Winnersh, Wokingham.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. — Owing to the pending 'call-up' of Mr. Chas. Raine, all communications should be addressed to the acting hon. secretary, E. A. Stafford, 16, Tabard Road, Glasgow, W.3.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL (GLASGOW) SOCIETY.—Usual weekly practice will now be held on Thursdays at 7.30 p.m.—E. A. Stafford, Hon. Sec.

WANTED.

Copy of an edition of L'Estrange's 'Church Bells of Norfolk.'—Write, stating price, to Box B, 'The Ringing World' Office, Lower Pyrford Road, Woking, Surrey.

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No. 1,622. Vol. XXXVII.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24th, 1942.

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RINGING AND THE PUBLIC.

In these sombre days when we as ringers have so little of the present to think about, our thoughts turn naturally partly to the past in contemplation of the things we and others have done, and partly to the future in anticipation of the better days we know are coming. There is little we can do except to hope and to keep our interest alive, but we can prepare ourselves to meet the problems which will arise when the time of reconstruction comes, and that a good many of us are doing. Whatever we may think of the desirability of forming a National Association, we cannot have anything but praise for the spirit that leads men to consider such a thing and similar things.

Now there is one matter which deserves more than a passing thought and that is the attitude of the outside public towards ringing. We do not mean the general feeling of the people of England towards the bells of our churches. About that we feel we need have no fears. The present silence of the bells has created a sense of loss which, though vague and intangible, is yet very widely felt; and when peace comes there will be a general call for the bells to be heard again.

At the same time we must face the fact that in the exercise of our art we can very easily encounter local and individual opposition, and it will be well to consider how far such opposition may be justified and how best to avoid it.

Let us be fair. It would be foolish to deny that some bells, placed as they are and rung as they sometimes are, can be an almost intolerable nuisance to people who do not naturally like bells. Some of these people are unreasonable, but not all, and they have a right to be considered. It is a peculiarity of ringing that though ringers betake themselves away from their fellow men and often lock themselves in an almost inaccessible belfry where they seem to be far remote from the world, yet what they do is broadcast throughout the whole parish. It is not surprising that they seldom stop to think what the outside effect may be. If they did there would not be nearly so much bad striking and clashing.

This is particularly noticeable at times of general meetings. There we generally get a very mixed lot of ringers, most of them are anxious to attempt something a little beyond what they can do really well, and few people like to discourage someone who is trying to improve himself in method ringing.

Yet it is worth while considering whether it would not be better to tighten up the discipline at meetings; to insist that a certain proportion of the ringing should be

(Continued on page 190.)

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done only by selected and competent bands, that the amount of bad or indifferent ringing which is inevitable with beginners should be reduced to a minimum, and that those who cannot strike the more advanced methods should be asked to confine themselves mainly to those they can strike.

The official in charge of the belfry who is entrusted with the carrying out of such rules would need an infinite amount of tact and firmness, and his job would not be an enviable one. But if it became a regular custom there can hardly be a doubt it would largely remove a reasonable grievance of outsiders, and in the long run do the ringers themselves much good.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. Barnett, my recent letter was a copy of one by myself which appeared in your issue of February 17th, 1928, excepting that the first and two last paragraphs of that letter were omitted by you, presumably on account of their irrelevancy at the present time. I was prompted to ask you to republish my earlier letter as I was of the opinion that it would serve as a reply to those correspondents who wished to know what some of the advantages of a National Association would be—it was intended to be complementary to that by Mr. Kippin and the letter under the joint signatures of Messrs. Hartley and Spears.

No doubt the proper course to adopt in order that consideration be given to this subject would be to table a suitable motion for the next Central Council meeting, when each speaker would obtain a fair hearing. If the motion was favourably received, the delegates could then refer the matter to their associations or guilds, and, assuming that a majority of them were in favour of a National Association being formed, the number of likely subscribers to the new body would be a large percentage of the membership of the present ringing organisations.

And in reply to Mr. Arthur V. Davis, I do not think that with a National Association there would be any fear of suppressing individuality—rather should we be better able to maintain it, for 'United we stand, divided we fall.' Would it not have strengthened Mr. Fletcher's case if, in his talks with the Home Office officials, he could have stated that he was the secretary of a National Association and had behind him their full backing? It may not have resulted in the revoking of the Order banning the ringing of church bells, but it would have at least put us on the map so far as those officials are concerned.

The point raised by Mr. Colles is quite right—this subject was worthy of a special and separate resolution, but surely Mr. Kippin's amendment will meet the circumstances. When all is said and done the successful merging or transforming of the existing ringing organisations into a National Association will require the blessing of our present Central Council, and when normal times return once more perhaps this question will receive the consideration it deserves.

COLIN HARRISON.

Bell Foundry House, Loughborough.

THE LATE MR. SIDNEY HILLIER.

To the Editor.

Sir,—As one who can claim the friendship of the late Sidney Hillier for 44 years, I should like, through 'The Ringing World,' to pay a tribute to his memory. He was a man of the highest principles which he lived up to throughout his life. He was an excellent ringer and instructor, whose passing is a very severe blow to his church and to the Salisbury Diocesan Guild. He leaves behind him hundreds of ringers to mourn the loss of a friend and who have benefited by his able instruction. His life's work and devotion to our art is finished here, but the result of that work will live on for many years.

His great heart of love and human sympathy, his charming personality and his never failing courtesy were some of the beautiful characteristics which endeared him to all those with whom he came in contact. Little wonder was it said that to know him was to love him.

F. S. WILSON.

Lilliput, Dorset.

R. A.
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'COLLEGE YOUTHS'

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HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Sunday, April 12, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,*

AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5093 CHANGES;

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	*JOHN E. SPICE 7-8

†WILLIAM L. B. LEASE ... 9-10

Composed by J. D. JOHNSON. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First peal of Grandsire Caters and first of Caters 'in hand.'

† First attempt for Caters.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, April 15, 1942, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF SPLICED OXFORD AND KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 8024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT 3-4	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 7-8

Arranged to a composition of C. Severn.

Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

This peal contained 2,560 changes of Oxford and 2,464 of Kent with 50 changes of method.

BIRMINGHAM.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF
BIRMINGHAM.*On Thursday, April 16, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes,*

AT THE TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOR STREET, CITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5057 CHANGES;

Tenor size 19 in A.

ALBERT WALKER 1-2	FRANK E. PERVIN 5-6
GEORGE F. SWANN 3-4	*SIDNEY O'C. HOLLOWAY ... 7-8

GEORGE E. FEARN 9-10

Composed by J. E. GROVES. Conducted by GEORGE F. SWANN.

* First peal on handbells and first attempt.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, April 17, 1942, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT 2, CEMMANS TERRACE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Size 11.

WILLIAM J. RANDALL 1-2	WALTER AYRE 3-4
*AUGUSTIN V. GOOD 5-6	

Conducted by WALTER AYRE.

* First peal 'in hand' and first attempt. The peal was specially arranged, and rung to celebrate the wedding anniversaries of the ringers of 1-2 (April 12th), 3-4 (April 18th), 5-6 (April 19th); also as a birthday compliment to W. J. Randall (April 16th). The peal was finished in almost total darkness.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, April 19, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

AT ST. PETER'S HALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 15 in C.

*MISS FAITH M. CHILD 1-2	*ARTHUR V. DAVIS 5-6
*MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4	FRANCIS S. WILSON 7-8

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* First peal of Triples 'in hand.' Believed to be the first peal of Triples 'in hand' rung in Bournemouth. The peal was rung as a compliment to Mr. Frederick W. Townsend, of Poole, Ringing Master of Wimborne Branch of the Salisbury Guild.

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DAVID MAXON, ROPE WORKS, GRANTHAM**A SUCCESSFUL LONDON MEETING.**COMBINED GATHERING OF CUMBERLANDS AND MIDDLESEX
ASSOCIATION.

A most successful and enjoyable meeting between the Royal Cumberland Youths and the Middlesex County Association, was held at St. John's Church, Waterloo Road, London, on Saturday, April 11th. The meeting itself was the outcome of a project formed nearly two years ago. At that time everything had been arranged to hold the gathering in the summer of 1940, but the ban on ringing caused its postponement, and it was not until now that it was possible to carry out the scheme.

It was gratifying to find so many people arrive at the advertised time—unlike many pre-war meetings, when it was often difficult to get a band to man the bells properly much before service time.

Among those present were Mrs. E. K. Fletcher, Mrs. F. Housden, Mr. and Mrs. C. Matthews, Mrs. and Miss Kippin, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Davis, Mrs. Sanders and Miss Oakshett, Messrs. G. Cross (Master of the Cumberlands), C. T. Coles (hon. secretary of the Middlesex Association), J. A. Trollope, F. Symonds, Smith, T. Bevan, J. Bennett, W. H. Hewett, H. Hovord, H. E. Audsley, W. Madgwick, R. Heazel, T. J. Lock, G. W. Steere and many others.

Handbells were quickly brought into use by some of the party, while others occupied the seats in the churchyard, enjoying the glorious sunshine and a gossip with old friends.

The church itself has been badly hit, only the bare walls remain, but the tower appears to be intact. The service was held in a chamber in the crypt, a long narrow apartment about the size of an underground railway coach. This, with its freshly whitewashed walls, had been tastefully decorated with flowers, and had a very pleasing appearance. Father Hutchinson conducted the service and gave a most excellent address, using as his theme such contrasts as are experienced by us in war time, among his examples being the contrast between black-out and light, silence and noise, etc., and while he emphasised the beauty of silence he stressed how much the clangour of the bells will be appreciated when once again they can raise their joyous tongues to celebrate peace and victory.

Tea was partaken of in the schoolroom, and here Mrs. Davis had collected around her a goodly band of lady helpers to serve the very generous fare she had provided, a real work of art in these days of points and coupons.

Other clergy of St. John's present were Father Carey and the Rev. J. Trainer.

The latter, an enthusiastic ringer, is a member of the Midland Counties Association and formerly belonged to the Kelham band. He is teaching a band of girls to ring double-handed. It might be stated here that he would welcome anyone who could assist him in these practices, which are held regularly in the school at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. The school is in Exton Street, which runs at the side of St. John's Churchyard.

The meeting being a purely social affair, no attempt was made to provide a business agenda, and beyond a few words of very warm welcome by the Vicar, who was introduced by Mr. T. J. Lock, and a vote of thanks proposed by Mr. G. W. Steere, handbells and more gossip formed the main items of entertainment.

Ringling continued until nearly 9 p.m., many taking part in various methods before the party broke up.

No doubt the weather contributed largely to the success of the meeting, but it is very encouraging to organisers of these gatherings to find that with only handbells available, in the ringing of which only a percentage of visitors can necessarily join, there should be such a good attendance and so much interest shown.

BOB MAXIMUS ON HANDBELLS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—With regard to our peal of Maximus 'in hand' on March 27th, whilst thanking Mr. Barnett and others who have congratulated us I would like to correct a misapprehension concerning the footnote.

It was ambiguous, but unless the last sentence referred to our local band at Eckington it read as though no local band had rung a peal above Minor.

I was trying to infer that no Eckington band had rung a handbell peal, and that no peal had been rung by the local band on the eight tower bells. With regard to Minor or Doubles on the old six (i.e., previous to 1899), we have no record, and I take this opportunity of saying that I should be grateful for any records of peals rung in this tower previous to that date.

G. G. GRAHAM.

5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the footnote to the peal of Bob Maximus rung on handbells at Eckington, in Derbyshire, may I say that the Bailey brothers rang a peal of Bob Maximus in hand at Leiston, Suffolk, on March 27th, 1920. I have no doubt that other peals have been rung on 12 handbells by local bands.

A. F. BAILEY.

Stockport.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. KEEPING ORGANISATION TOGETHER WITH SILENT BELLS.

Mr. A. E. Harman the New Master.

With silent towers throughout the country big difficulties confront ringers in keeping their organisation together. So deep-rooted are ringing friendships that the annual meeting of the Guildford Diocesan Guild at Ayers' Hall, Guildford, on Saturday, brought together a large muster from all parts of the diocese. As in former years, the Guild service was held in S. Nicolas' Church, the Vicar of Horsell (the Rev. F. A. Woodard) conducting the service. Mr. Walter Harrison presided at the meeting, supported by Mr. J. Corbett (hon. treasurer) and Mr. G. L. Grover (hon. secretary). Mr. A. E. Harman, of Leatherhead, was elected Master in succession to Major J. H. B. Hesse.

GUILDFORD DISTRICT MEETING.

Previous to the Guild meeting the annual meeting of the Guildford District was held. The balance sheet showed that the year started with a balance in hand of £27 7s. 7d. and concluded with one of £32 14s. 4d.

The hon. secretary, (Mr. C. A. Hazelden), in his annual report, said: 'It is, I think, important that ringers should not lose touch with their parish church. The bells must be kept in order and the ringing room cleaned. It is also now more than usually important that ringers should be on their parochial church council. I know very well that attendance at council meetings is often not very thrilling, but matters concerning bells and ringers do arise, and a wrong decision can be taken if one with special knowledge is not present.'

'There are other and deeper reasons why ringers of all people should keep in touch with their parish churches—reasons which possibly can only be hinted. Great Britain in the next few years will have to take decisions which may affect our civilisation for centuries to come. That means you and me. We shall need

both wisdom and courage. We know that Englishmen have plenty of courage, but courage must be directed by wisdom and wisdom must be sought at its true source.

'As regards the district, its activity is almost at a standstill, and the effect of war conditions on our finances is shown by the amount given as members' subscriptions. A few members, often with difficulty, but with some success, maintained a weekly handbell practice in Guildford, and visits have been paid to some outlying parts of the district. We have on occasions rung handbells in church before the principal service of the day on some of the great feasts. This is found quite acceptable to the people if carefully done. I commend this to ringers generally as a means of keeping the traditional connection of bells with the great feasts of the Church.'

The report and accounts were adopted. The officers were re-elected en bloc and the district decided to nominate Mr. Albert E. Harman, of Leatherhead, as Ringing Master of the Guild in succession to Major J. H. B. Hesse.

NEW MASTER ELECTED.

Warm congratulations were given at the Guild annual meeting to Mr. Harman on his election as Ringing Master. All other officers were re-elected, and Mr. J. Corbett (hon. treasurer) and Mr. G. L. Grover (hon. secretary) were thanked for past services.

Presenting the accounts, Mr. J. Corbett said the year started with a balance in hand of £44 18s. 1d. and ended with a balance of £49 9s. 4d. District contributions were: Chertsey £1 5s. 3d., Farnham £3 9s. 9d., Guildford £5 6s. 9d., and Leatherhead £3 1s. 3d. There was a balance on the Benevolent Fund of £71 5s. 4d. and on the Cathedral Bells Fund of £39 12s. The accounts were adopted on the proposition of Mr. R. Hasted, seconded by Mr. A. E. Harman.

Mr. G. L. Grover read to the meeting a letter from Major Hesse wishing ringers a happy meeting and extending a welcome to the new Master. 'I hope it will not be long before I meet my old friends again,' concluded the letter. An apology was also received

from Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, who had had a bit of a relapse, and other apologies were from Mr. Denyer and Mr. Arthur Smith (Leatherhead).

GUILD'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The committee, in their report, said: There has again been a considerable falling off in the number of annual subscribing members, both honorary and ringing, but in the circumstances which exist it would have been very optimistic not to have expected this. Indeed, the committee is of opinion that we ought to congratulate ourselves on the fact that there still remains in the diocese such a large number of faithful members and the nucleus at any rate of the majority of our pre-war hands. The membership is now 79 honorary and 203 ringing. This does not include members whose subscriptions are excused by reason of service with H.M. Forces. The information received from towers has, however, been so incomplete that it has been impossible to attempt to include any particulars of these members.

The fact that as many as 30 tower affiliation fees have been paid indicates that the Church authorities in the diocese are, as a whole, looking forward to the day when it will again be possible for the bells to announce our Sunday services.

In view of the remarks they made on the subject in their last report, the committee are pleased to record that Chertsey renewed their affiliation fee for 1941, and in the issues of the Chertsey Parish Magazine for April and May, 1941, the Vicar made reference to the silence of his bells and to the committee's comment on the seeming apathy of his church towards the Guild, and announced that a local effort had been made to obtain funds for restoration work at Chertsey. Although apparently the response of the parishioners to the appeal had not been so generous as the Vicar had expected, there is evidence that the committee's efforts are not so overlooked at Chertsey as had perhaps been thought.

Even though the committee take into account all the difficulties, they are still very disappointed at the neglect shown to the Benevolent and Cathedral Bells Funds. They appeal to all ringing members to make some contribution, however small, to these funds during the year 1942, and suggest that instead of waiting for their tower secretary to collect amounts each individual member should post his donation direct to the treasurer.

DEATHS ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

The committee deeply regret to record the deaths of the following members: Mr. S. Alden, of Godalming (life member); Sergt. V. G. Elliott, of the Cathedral Church band, who was killed on active service with the R.A.F.; Mr. S. Elton, of S. Nicolas', Guildford, and Mr. Gordon Allen, of Womersley, both of whom are reported lost at sea while serving with the Royal Navy; and Mr. F. G. Woodiss, of Banstead. As well as acting as tower secretary at Banstead, Mr. Woodiss was the first secretary of our Leatherhead District, was for some time a member of the Executive Committee, and had done a great deal of work for the Guild, especially in its Northern area, where he will be greatly missed.

Four handbell peals were rung at Aldershot in the early part of 1941, all conducted by Sgt. J. Freeman. Apart from these peals there has been a certain amount of activity throughout the diocese—handbell practices have been held, meetings convened, handbells have been rung for services at various places, and the Leatherhead band, at least, meet weekly for practice on silent tower bells.

Last year our respected Master, Major J. H. B. Hesse, intimated to the committee that as he had left and was not likely to return to Surrey, he did not wish to retain the office of Master and that it was imperative that the Guild should find a successor. This bad news came too late for the committee to deal with the matter in its last report or to find a successor in time for election at the last annual meeting. The excuse upon which the committee postponed accepting Major Hesse's resignation cannot, however, be advanced at this meeting, and reluctantly the Guild is compelled to face the fact that they must elect a new Master.

MAJOR HESSE'S SERVICES TO THE GUILD.

Major Hesse has held the office of Master since the formation of the Guild on December 31st, 1927, and the committee are certain that all members will find it hard to visualise our continuing under any other leadership, as from his first election we have all felt that Major Hesse was an indispensable part of the Guild, and during his period of office, in addition to the way in which, by his ability as a ringer, he has helped to write pages in the history of the Guild, he has successfully maintained his position as respected Master, not, as he might well have done, from the pinnacle of exalted remoteness, but from the plane of friendliness and comradeship with us all.

We place on record our sincere thanks to Major Hesse for his work on behalf of the Guild, and trust that in the future we shall all have the pleasure of meeting and ringing with him on many occasions.

Sympathetic reference was made to the illness of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, one of the vice-presidents, and the report went on to say: The committee are well aware, of course, that at many towers steps have been taken to preserve bell fittings and ropes during the ban, but perhaps there are towers where a word to those responsible is not out of place. If therefore, the words 'out of sight out of mind' have anywhere been adopted as a maxim, may we venture a warning that iron frames and bearings rust and ropes perish more quickly out of than in use, and a little paint and grease now may save considerable expense later on. Ropes, too, which are not required (and possible invaders

(Continued on next page.)



MR. A. E. HARMAN,
the new Master.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**GENERAL SECRETARY APPOINTED TO ADVISORY BOARD.**

The annual general meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held in Norwich on Saturday, April 11th. It was very well attended, considering the present difficulties, and 40 sat down to tea. The afternoon started with ringing (silent) at St. Giles', methods up to Stedman Triples and Double Norwich Major being rung. Handbells were rung in the ringing chamber at St. Peter Mancroft.

The service was held at Mancroft at 4.30, conducted by the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Precentor of Norwich Cathedral (general secretary). An interesting sermon was preached by the Rev. A. St. J. Heard, late Rector of Bergh Apton. Tea followed in the County Restaurant.

The business meeting was attended by ringers from Aylsham, Bergh Apton, Buxton, Attleborough, Cambridge, Diss, Fornsett, Haddiscoe, Long Stratton, Lowestoft, Mulbarton, Norwich (St. Peter Mancroft and St. Giles'), Shelfanger Warsop (Notes), Winfarthing, Wymondham and Great Yarmouth. A letter was read from the late general secretary, Mr. Nolan Golden, who occasionally works from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. the next day.

The Rev. A. St. J. Heard was unanimously elected president of the association in place of the late Canon Aubrey Aitken. The Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow was re-elected general secretary, and the surviving vice-presidents and Standing Committee were re-elected en bloc, with the addition of Mr. E. Whiting on the Standing Committee to replace the Rev. A. St. J. Heard.

The report for 1941 was accepted as printed, and absent members who want one are requested to write to the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held at East Dereham on June 20th if possible.

Four new members were elected from Diss. If more, towers follow the example of Diss, ringing will not disappear.

Votes of thanks were passed to the president, the general secretary, the Vicar of St. Giles', the organist of Mancroft, etc., for their contribution to the success of the meeting.

The general secretary read a circular he had received, signed by some of the most prominent ringers in England, speaking of the debt ringers owe to Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, Editor of 'The Ringing World.' It was proposed that the Norwich Diocesan and other Associations should lay aside periodically a sum of money to guarantee the continuance of 'The Ringing World,' and that this should start while the paper is still in being and before it is too late. Other associations, it was hoped, would consider taking similar steps.

The general secretary said that the Bishop of Norwich had made him a member of the Diocesan Advisory Board (which has to be
(Continued in next column.)

THE LATE MR. FRANCIS TAYLOR.
HIS SERVICES TO OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—It was with great regret that I read of the death of Francis E. Taylor in your issue of April 10th. By a strange coincidence your leader in the same number expressed the debt of the Ringing Exercise to the University Societies.

As a member and former Master of the Oxford University Society of Change Ringers, I should like to put on record my appreciation of what the Oxford city ringers, Frank Taylor among them, did for us.

We were very dependent on them for our tower-bell practice, and the case of Frank Taylor was typical. It didn't matter whether it was our own private practices at New College, practices with the stout-hearted members of the St. Ebbe's, All Saints' and St. Giles' bands, or Sunday service ringing in the many Oxford churches, he, like the others, was always there to give a helping hand. And many must have been the occasions when breakdowns even in the simplest touches inwardly infuriated a man of his skill and brain. Yet he always remained the same patient, quiet, unassuming, ever-ready helper.

In my opinion, the Exercise has lost one of its unknown geniuses.
ANTHONY E. F. TROTMAN.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.*(Continued from previous page.)*

will not expect to be greeted with a full course of Stedman) will keep much better if stored in a dry place than they will hanging in a damp belfry.

The report was adopted on the proposition of Mr. F. Nye, seconded by Mr. A. H. Pulling.

Mr. J. Corbett thanked Mr. Heath for arranging the service, the Rev. F. A. Woodard for conducting the Guild service, and the choir and organist for their assistance. Mr. Corbett also spoke of the debt of gratitude of the Guild to Mr. Grover for the amount of work he did as Guild secretary. Mr. W. Harrison was thanked for presiding. A collection taken for the Benevolent Fund realized £4.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION*(Continued from previous column.)*

consulted before any material alterations can be made to church fabrics or furnishings; this means that any projected work among bells in the diocese will come before his notice, and that any acts of vandalism which ignorant authorities may contemplate perpetrating to their bells can be nipped in the bud.

This concluded the business of the meeting, and further handbell ringing brought a most successful day to a close.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Congratulations to Mr. E. Denison Taylor, who reaches his 78th birthday on Sunday next.

Messrs J. E. Spice and W. L. B. Leese wish to thank all the ringers who so kindly gave them hospitality and rang with them during their recent week-end in London.

The handbell peal at Bournemouth was the reward of much perseverance, for though only three attempts were actually made for the peal, many touches and quarter-peals were lost in practising for it.

The National Guild of Police Ringers has not held a meeting since 1939 owing to the very difficult conditions of duty and transport, but a special effort is being made and the date has been arranged for a meeting at Leicester on Saturday, June 13th next. Full details will appear in a notice later.

Fifty years ago to-day one peal, Bob Major, was rung. Fifty years ago yesterday five peals were rung. They were Grandsire Triples 2, Bob Major 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1, and Kent Treble Bob Royal 1.

The first peal of Primrose Surprise Major was rung ten years ago yesterday at Edenbridge by the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, conducted by J. W. Lake. Primrose is Cambridge with eighth's place at the lead end, and is hardly so good a variation.

On April 26th, 1894, a young band at Norwich rang the then longest peal on handbells, 11,200 Bob Major. Mr. Charles E. Borrett conducted.

The long peal by the Cumberlands at Romford in 1894 was Double Norwich, not Bob Major as stated in this column last week.

James R. Haworth, for many years a well-known London ringer, was born on April 21st, 1821.

Last Wednesday was the twentieth anniversary of the record peal of Stedman Caters at Appleton. 21,363 changes, in 12 hours and 25 minutes. It was also the forty-third anniversary of the 15,227 Grandsire Caters at Cheltenham.

James Pettit, for many years the conductor at St. Paul's Cathedral, was born on April 25th, 1834. He died in 1912.

NEW MIDDLESEX MEETING PLACE.

Owing to the non-availability of nearly all the church halls in the district, great difficulty has been experienced in fixing up the usual annual meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex Association, but the difficulty has been overcome through the kindness of Mr. W. H. Coles and of the Vicar of Cranford, with the result that the meeting is to be held to-morrow at a church where, as far as is known, no change ringing and no ringing meeting has ever taken place previously.

The church, an ancient and historic building, is beautifully situated in Cranford Park, just off the main Bath Road, near Hounslow, and previously possessed an ancient ring of three bells, which have now been increased to five by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, and it is hoped that they will be on view, though they have not yet been hung. The Vicar took up the idea of a meeting with enthusiasm, and is very anxious to meet the ringers and eventually to have a change ringing band of his own. It is hoped, therefore, that the meeting may prove a success, and that a good attendance may encourage those responsible. In happier times to come Cranford should be an ideal place for summer gatherings.

AN EAST LANCASHIRE MEETING.

INFORMAL RALLY AT ACCRINGTON.

A most interesting and enjoyable gathering was held at St. James' Church, Accrington, on Saturday last. By 3 p.m. ringers had arrived from various parts of the county, one (Mr. Rapley) from Liverpool, forty miles away; L.-Corpl. Gower, of Aldershot and Basingstoke, now stationed at Clitheroe; three members of the Preston Branch, and during the afternoon and evening members from Padilham, Bacup, Helmshore, Rishton, Church, Oswaldtwistle, also three of the local band.

The six tower bells were made good use of, touches and courses rung in the standard methods including London and Cambridge Surprise, Court Bob, Double Oxford Bob, Stedman Doubles and Grandsire.

A course of Grandsire Caters, three leads of Kent Royal, a course of Duffield Major, Bob Major and a few touches of Bob Minor by the local ringers made a good show for many who are novices at double-handed ringing.

Owing to war conditions it was found impossible to provide food, but Mrs. Leigh and Mrs. Blakey kindly provided cups of tea to all present in the schoolroom.

There was no business meeting, as the rally was the outcome of a suggestion by some of the local men at a handbell practice held a few weeks ago. Everybody was highly pleased with the good attendance, and thanks were expressed to the two ladies for providing tea, and fervent wishes for a complete restoration to health of the Editor of 'The Ringing World.'

Maybe a little regret was felt by the handbell ringers that no one came forward with an inquiring mind to ask how this branch of the art is mastered. Perhaps at the next rally (if there happens to be one) a few more recruits will be made.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE. GUILD SECRETARY'S CRITICISMS.

Some Important Points.

The discussion on Motion (a) by Mr. J. P. Price has been continued. Mr. J. A. TROLLOPE (Ealing): I completely, sincerely and wholeheartedly disagree with everything the last speaker (Mr. J. C. Mellor) said. I will not follow him into details except this. He told us we must 'abolish the clique habit.' I maintain that cliques have done more good for the art of change ringing than almost anything else. It has been my great privilege during 50 years to be connected with several cliques, and I would much sooner be a member of a good clique than of any properly organised band with regular officers and rules, a due place in the parish organisation, the vicar's patronage, and all the rest of it. Of course, there are cliques and cliques, just as there are bands and bands. Some are not so good as others, and some are intolerable. But the cliquy spirit, properly exercised, is a great blessing.

A clique is, of course, a 'clique' when you are outside it, and probably want to get inside. When you are inside a clique is a circle of personal friends who have regard for each other's interest and rate them higher than those of outsiders.

Mr. T. J. LOCK (North Mimms): The speech by Mr. Jarrett is surely an admirable one and in my opinion to be highly commended. His resolve for ringers is ideal. There is no doubt in my mind that the rehabilitation of ringing after the war will follow its natural course and will not, at any rate, be subject to or influenced by any amount of hard work the proposed committee may put in. The incumbent has sole charge of the bells and we ringers have to receive consent before we can exercise our art in ringing them, so it follows that the sympathy and interest of the person to whom we are subject should be aimed at. The passive interest of the reverend gentleman when we hold a meeting is not enough, it is the active and permanent interest required.

Mr. Jarrett's speech has forestalled the work of the committee to consider and report upon the best means of rehabilitating ringing when the war is over.

A GUILD SECRETARY'S SUGGESTIONS.

Mr. G. L. GROVER (secretary, Guildford Diocesan Guild): I support the original motion principally because I think that any attempt to lift the Exercise out of its present seeming apathy and give it some hope for the future is well worth supporting. Although the committee (to the constitution of which I offer no objection) may make suggestions and proffer advice, the real task of rehabilitating (a terrible word and I hope I know its meaning—anyway I should have thought that restarting, which doesn't mean quite the same thing, would have furnished the members of the committee with a sufficiently large field for exploration) ringing must fall on the shoulders of the hundreds of people throughout the length and breadth of the land whose one desire will be to recommence ringing the bells of their own particular church for Sunday services.

I trust the committee will recommend that all our various territorial ringing associations appoint their own committees to consider the problem of restarting (and that equals half of rehabilitation) in their own particular districts, for, of course, what will happen unless some balancing action is taken is that ringing will recommence in the fairly large centres, but small villages will find it impossible to restart and the older men there (and while the ban remains we all grow older) will not want the bother of struggling with recruits again unless they receive a good deal of assistance and encouragement from the strong centres.

SERVICE RINGING.

I should like to hear, too, a recommendation from the committee that the various associations should make such arrangements as will ensure that all the bells in their area are rung for some services at regular intervals by bands who are capable of ringing the bells well.

This will mean, of course, that bands which are able to recommence with a full complement of ringers after the ban will have occasionally, but, I hope, only for a time, to forsake their home tower for the purpose of ringing the bells of a neighbouring church and ensuring that, as well as their own, other bells are sometimes (and regularly) put to their proper use—that is rung for the church's Sunday services. And just by way of an aside, what a test this will be as to how many of our ringers are guild or association let alone nationally minded!

I trust the committee will not waste time expressing pious hopes as to or attempting to frame rules and directions for the teaching of beginners. They will stand little hope of reaching the proper quarter and if they do they will probably fall on stony ground. When we recommence ringing the one way to rehabilitate (and here I think of the word as meaning 'reinstating in the public esteem') is to make certain that from the start the best possible standard is served up on all occasions, that things which have been tolerated in the past, such as meetings at which for hours on end a terrible travesty of change ringing was forced on the public—ringers' outings, at which it was painfully obvious that the visiting bands have taken an opportunity of showing complete ignorance of their own ability—bell openings at which all and sundry are allowed to show just how a new peal ought never to be rung, are no longer permitted by

well-organised societies, and that no tower is used for peal ringing to such an extent that it becomes a perpetual source of annoyance to the neighbourhood.

It's no use contenting ourselves with saying that the royal and only road to a high standard lies in the teaching of recruits. We all know that this is so, but we must realise that such a state of affairs is beyond the bounds of practicability. What is really practicable is a better regulation on all occasions of the material which we have on the spot. In this direction, then, I look for some useful suggestions from the committee.

I think, too, after the war there will be a great demand for a simple book on change ringing in its most elementary stages, something which is a real but not complicated explanation of ringing on, say, from three to five bells. Once a learner can ring the despised Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles he has a firm foundation on which to build all future progress. Perhaps the committee will think it worth while to invite the submission to them of drafts by would-be authors, and then from the point of view of lucidity, simplicity and price recommend the publication, immediately it is possible to restart, of what they consider to be the most useful work. Well, so much for the motion and now for the amendment.

CRITICISM OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

I must confess I was bitterly disappointed when I opened 'The Ringing World' for April 10th. I was looking eagerly forward to learning from the proposer and seconder from where the 39,998 other subscribers to a National Association are coming and how an annual subscription of a couple of bob is to make financially sound such a grandiose scheme as a ringing association providing paid full-time secretaries, incidentally office accommodation presumably on the trade union or friendly society (I nearly said Civil Service) scale, free peal ringing, free 'Ringing Worlds,' free reports, free refreshments, free fights and any more to come glad of it—in fact, a glorious Utopia of campanologists. (Not exactly free though, but all for a couple of bob, and did anybody say 'Ho, Ho!') Anyway, if a National Association cannot do all this what is the use of it, and we might as well stick to our present imperfect methods of organisation. Seriously, however, how many ringers really have any interest in a National Association? If my experience as secretary of a Diocesan Guild is any criterion, very few I warrant.

Let us ask ourselves why we became ringers or so-called ringers if you like. I think, Mr. Chairman, the majority of us—at least yokels like myself from country districts—thousands of us I am sure entered the ranks of the Exercise not because change ringing was held out to us as an interesting and extremely fascinating pastime, but because we were told that our parish church needed ringers to keep going the bells that from childhood we had heard and looked upon as an indispensable part of the life of our parish.

LIMITED INTERESTS.

The great majority of us have been content to let our own particular church services and practices furnish us with all the ringing we want. A few, perhaps, have developed the craze for change ringing and have reached such a state of interest that they would, if the ringing of bells ceased to have any relationship to church services and they were permitted to do so, carry on their art as a secular pastime, but the interest of most people who can to-day be described as ringers would quickly wane. No, the general body of ringers have little interest in ringing outside their own tower. They have no interest in their diocesan, county or other association beyond paying an annual subscription, and that only because it has been the custom of their forerunners to do so and some enthusiastic member of their own tower or a neighbouring one badgers them to continue. (Perhaps this isn't quite the state of affairs in the South London and a few other suburban areas, but it is generally true of the country as a whole.) What call or need is there in these circumstances for a National Society? Tell us, Mr. Kippin, what it could do that the existing societies haven't either done or tried to do, and to get my vote you'll have to be pretty convincing.

In closing, may I be permitted to remind anyone who has forgotten the fact that the bells are unquestionably the property of the Church, their one and only purpose so far as their owners are concerned is their use for service ringing, and on the tolerance of that use by the public at large depends the whole future of our art, for once the Church has no further desire to use its bells then no society or body of ringers whatever its constitution can prevent, at the mildest, drastic interference with the exercise of change ringing.

In hoping that the Exercise will show clearly that it makes no call for a National Society, may I add that personally I think it would be better served to concern itself with the regrouping of its existing organisations on a diocesan basis.

HUGE SUCCESS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I would like to thank you and the various writers whose speeches have already appeared in the Ringers' Conference. I certainly think it is going to be a huge success and will, as time goes on, cause many, both old and young alike, to do some hard thinking. One old friend has written to me to know what lay behind my motion, but he was afraid he would have to wait until my speech appeared. I can assure him he certainly will. The reason is I don't want favouritism, only fair play.

W. KEEBLE.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT LEICESTER.

Recruits from the Police Force.

In accordance with the Government's wishes for no travelling at Easter, the annual meeting of the Midland Counties Association, which has hitherto been always held on Easter Monday (except last year), was held on Saturday, April 11th. Following the usual rota, the meeting took place at Leicester, and during the afternoon the bells of St. Martin's Cathedral (12) and St. Margaret's (front 8) were rung clapperless to a variety of standard and Surprise methods to suit all comers.

The committee met in the Cathedral Church House during the afternoon, when the usual routine business was disposed of. The committee also discussed at length various items brought forward at the general meeting.

A very nice tea was served by the wives of local ringers, who in some mysterious way appeared to have overcome the present rationing difficulties. A company of 44 sat down, the towers represented being Belgrave, Burbage, Ashby, Burton, Broughton Astley, Billesdon, Dalby, Derby, Earl Shilton, Hineley, Ibstock, Knighton, Loughborough, Leicester Cathedral St. Margaret's and St. John's, Melton, Nottingham, Rugby and Wigston Magna.

The general meeting followed, and in the absence of the president (the Rev. Canon R. F. Wilkinson), the vice-president, Mr. Colin Harrison, took the chair. He was supported by the hon. treasurer (Miss I. B. Thompson) and the hon. secretary (Mr. Ernest Morris).

The Chairman said how pleased he was to see such a good and representative gathering present, although they had met under such sad and difficult circumstances. They all trusted that before the next annual meeting they would see things improve and, they all hoped, peace come to the earth once more. He referred to the great loss the association had suffered in the passing of Mr. William Willson, who for so many years had been a stalwart of the ringing fraternity. He was pleased to welcome Mr. Willson's daughter Lillian, now Mrs. White, with her husband, and hoped that when ringing became normal again they would see her more often in the belfry as in days gone by.

The hon. secretary then presented his review of the past year's activities, in the course of which he said the continued ban on all bellringing throughout the country had naturally curtailed most of the activities of ringers, and the Midland Counties Association in this respect shared with other guilds and societies a most difficult situation. Although in some districts the restriction had seemingly killed all life and activities in the art, in others valiant efforts were being made to keep it alive. Handbell peals showed that at least in three centres the art was not defunct, and they recorded four peals by the Leicester district, one of Stedman Cinques and three of Stedman Caters, one of the latter having been rung muffled to the memory of its composer, Mr. William Willson, immediately following the funeral service. They congratulated the Hinckley District on scoring the first seven-method peal of Doubles by the association on handbells, a performance which was repeated, together with a peal of Bob Minor. Nottingham scored four peals of Grandsire Doubles, one in two methods and one of Bob Minor.

Leicester handbell ringers had done fine work which might be copied with advantage elsewhere, and that was to ring for service in the church—somewhere near the west entrance or other convenient place. This they did at the Cathedral, St. Margaret's, Knighton, St. Augustine's and St. Barnabas' Churches, the two latter of which do not possess any ring of bells! The occasion at St. Margaret's was worthy of record when Stedman Cinques were rung for a special service for all branches of the nursing profession, when about 1,000 attended. The preacher at this service was the association's late respected president, the Rev. Canon H. E. Fitzherbert, chaplain to H.M. the King. Another occasion worthy of record was that of 'ringing out the old and ringing in the new,' when for the departure of 1941 a convivial and ringing party was held at Leicester Cathedral, some 40 ringers, wives and friends assembled.

During the year 1941 some ten or twelve policemen had been initiated into the art. They were taught by Inspector H. J. Poole and others, and these 'tyros' rang the New Year in on 'silent' bells. Each in turn called out his name and the general hon. secretary took them down. Thus nine new members were proposed immediately 1942 was proclaimed. 'May it be an omen for continued progress during the year,' said the report, 'and, let us hope and pray, a sign and token that when peace comes again the fingers will be ready and eager to broadcast the message to all the land.'

The hon. treasurer then gave her report and balance sheet. Owing to the fact that no annual report had been printed this year, it was not possible to place the balance sheet in the hands of all members, but copies would be typed and distributed to each local secretary. There was a small deficit on the year's working balance, but as this had been more than covered by interest on invested funds, they were 'on the right' side as a whole. Subscriptions naturally showed a big decrease, but the Leicester secretary (Mr. H. W. Perkins) was to be congratulated on his efforts in getting every member's subscription (save four) during 1941, mostly by personal contact, an example that might be followed by other local secretaries. If all members who are not on active service would be loyal to the association and pay their

(Continued in next column.)

DEATH OF MR. JOHN HARRISON.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE'S OLDEST BELLRINGER.

Mr. John Harrison, Ashton-under-Lyne's oldest bellringer, died in hospital on Sunday, April 12th. Born at Marphall, Chelford, Cheshire, on November 28th, 1851, Mr. Harrison first learned to ring a bell at the old Parish Church of Marple, and it was his customary rendezvous every year for the Whit Friday Sunday School and church procession.

He rang his first peal at St. Peter's, Ashton, in 1886, and his last one at St. George's, Mossley, on his 79th birthday. Since then his longest length was 81 leads of Bob Major, specially composed for his 81st birthday. His one and only peal of Stedman (on an 'inside' bell) was composed and conducted by the late J. W. Washbrook in 1919 and was specially arranged for him. It was a peal of which he was very proud.

Shortly after his 81st birthday he met with an accident and fractured several ribs. As a result he was confined to hospital for many weeks. After his recovery he found his way regularly to the church, where he continued to ring until the ban on ringing put an end to further activities.

There is no record of the number of peals in which he took part, but his longest length was the then record of Kent Treble Bob Major, 16,608 changes, rung at Mottram, Cheshire, in 1883.

Mr. Harrison joined the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows at the age of 18 and was the oldest member in the Manchester district.

He is survived by one son, six daughters, twelve grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The funeral service took place in St. Peter's Church by the Rev. L. A. Owen, M.A., prior to interment at the Dukinfield Cemetery. Owing to three of the ringers at St. Peter's being in H.M. Forces and four others on important war productive work, it was not possible to ring at the graveside, but Mr. W. W. Wolstencroft represented the ringers, who also sent floral tributes.

A SALVAGE 'FIND.'

RELIC OF THE LATE REV. W. C. PEARSON.

Two of the Sittingbourne ringers (G. and J. Webb) work in the local paper mills, and one of them, Mr. George Webb, while looking through a pile of waste paper for repulping, came across a black notebook which was filled with cuttings from 'The Ringing World,' 'Bell News' and East Anglian papers, all dealing with ringing, from 1899 to 1914.

There are accounts of peals, quarter-peals and ringers' meetings, etc., in Suffolk and Norfolk mostly. Mr. Webb brought this book to show me, and I found that in practically all these items the Rev. W. C. Pearson and/or Henley figure.

I, therefore, concluded that the book must have belonged to him and have been thrown out for salvage when his effects were disposed of. I have shown the book to various ringers, and of these Mr. Barnett says he recognises Mr. Pearson's handwriting in some of the notes of dates.

It seems to me a truly remarkable coincidence that the book should find its way to a paper mills where a couple of ringers work, and still more remarkable that one of these should happen, quite by chance, to find it.

J. E. S.

1,260 STEDMAN TRIPLES.

231456

614325 2.6.8.9.10.12.14.

314256 2.6.8. Single 9. 10.11.13.

125346 1.3.5. Single 7. 8.10.12.

Four times repeated.

Sixty 6-7's at back stroke.

B. H. SWINSON.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

subscriptions regularly, they would not show an adverse balance. Taking all things into consideration, the position was satisfactory.

Two auditors, Messrs. J. Harris and F. Poole, were chosen to audit the accounts. The present officers were re-elected, while the four representatives to serve on the Central Council for the next three years were appointed as follows: Messrs. A. Ballard, H. J. Poole, A. J. Harris and C. Harrison.

New members confirmed in their election were 10 ringing and one rejoined. Of the former nine were members of the Leicester Police Force, who have taken up the art in real earnest.

Votes of thanks to the ladies for their great work in providing such a good tea under present difficulties closed the meeting.

In the evening a social at the Victoria Hotel was thoroughly enjoyed by some 50 members and friends. The entertainment provided included handbell tunes by Inspector H. J. Poole and his 'Merry Optimists,' vocal and instrumental turns by the police and Mr. Len Styles, of St. Margaret's, with conjuring tricks. Several courses rung in various methods on handbells helped to complete a most successful meeting.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MR. H. G. CASHMORE ELECTED PRESIDENT.****Concern over Northern District.**

The 57th annual meeting of the Hertford County Association was held at St. Albans on Saturday, April 11th. There was a most encouraging gathering of ringers from all parts of the county, together with a sprinkling of enthusiastic members from outside, which proved that although the bells were silent, ringers value very much the opportunity of meeting each other in happy fellowship. Whilst this feeling exists change ringing will never die, but will continue to prosper.

Choral evensong was attended at the Cathedral at 4 p.m. and the beautiful singing of the choir was much enjoyed. The preacher was the Rev. Canon Thorpe, Vicar of St. Mary's, Watford, who gave an address from quite an original standpoint, his many points being illustrated by apt stories of much practical value.

Canon Thorpe said that among the things he missed most during the war was the early morning peal on Easter Day at Watford

Parish Church, and expressed the hope that the day may not be far distant when the glorious Easter message will again ring out from many towers throughout the country. He went on to speak of the message of the bells, and said he felt that a ringer illustrated the ideal Christian worker, for he is a person who gets his message across to the world without himself being seen or heard and often he is unknown; this latter fact being especially true in large parishes where possibly not more than a dozen in a big congregation could recognise the ringers in the same way as they might be able to recognise the members of the choir.

The preacher spoke of three characteristics of the bells. Their message, he said, is distinctive. You cannot mistake them for anything other than church bells, and when walking in the countryside no one would stop and ask what that sound is. All know without enquiry the peal that comes from the



MR. H. G. CASHMORE,
the new President.

church tower. Secondly, they are clear and do not convey muddled ideas, and, lastly, they have a definite purpose which is to call men and women to the worship of God.

These points he asked ringers to apply to their own Christian discipleship, and asked: First, if our Christian witness was so distinctive that other people have no hesitation in recognising in us the character of Christ? Secondly, are we clear in our doctrine, not muddled in our theological thinking nor just ignorant about these things? Thirdly, have we a purpose in life to glorify God and by our witness call people to worship? The preacher closed by urging those present when thinking of their beloved bells to ask themselves if their own lives are distinctive, clear and purposeful in their witness to Christ and the service of the Church.

An excellent tea was served at the Waterend Barn (now quite famous for its catering), the number falling only two short of seats booked. The business meeting followed, the acting president being in the chair and offering the company a few words of welcome.

In the absence of the treasurer (Lieut. G. E. Debenham), the secretary (Mr. G. W. Cartmel) presented the balance sheet, which showed that the year commenced with a balance in hand of £3 3s. 3d. and closed with £14 15s., a most satisfactory position. But for the unfortunate state of the Northern District, where no money had been collected (but the ringers were willing to pay), the balance would have been larger.

The report on the Benevolent Fund showed a balance in hand on this account of £31 4s. 6d., representing an increase of £1 18s. 4d. on the year. No applications for grants from the fund had been received during the year.

The Voluntary Bell Fund has now a balance at the bank of £1. 11s. 10d., an increase of £2 3s. 6d. on the year. The chief source of income was the collection at the service at the Cathedral, by the kind permission of the Dean.

CARRYING ON.

After referring with thankfulness to the preservation of Hertfordshire churches from the effects of war, the annual report, presented by the honorary secretary, said: Some have thought that the absence of church bellringing would cripple organisations such as ours. It is true that a few bands are in default with their subscriptions through want of application, and I trust that further application will have the desired result, for a little serious thinking will show that the fellowship of this or any other ringing association is well worth the small subscription contributed. One of the happy experiences that have come to me during my ringing career, and to many others, has been the making of lifelong friendships, and as the shades of life draw nearer this fellowship shines out brighter and illumines the past with sweet happy memories. One thing I would state with the fullest confidence that whilst we possess church bells there will always be found ringers to ring them for the church services and other special occasions, and the ones who will ring them with a good conscience will be those who have smiled at difficulties and supported their association's efforts to carry on.

District meetings have been held and the good work of holding frequent handbell practices has been continued at Bushey, Broxbourne and other districts, with appreciative results, for it has proved a rallying point where ringing matters could be discussed in a manner peculiar to ringers. I am glad to report that Mr. Cashmore has been elected secretary for the Watford District, and Mr. Jennings has joined the committee, a very useful combination. Mr. Radley has also succeeded Mr. Albert Lawrence as secretary for the Eastern District, and I trust that the members will back him up in his work. Thanks are also due to Mr. A. Lawrence for carrying on his brother's work.

Handbell ringing has been carried on with marked success at Bushey, 18 peals having been rung in a variety of methods, the conductors being Messrs. C. W. Woolley 9, E. C. Turner 6, E. A. Barnett 2, H. G. Cashmore 1. Where possible it would be a great advantage if more handbell ringing was done by other bands, for it is not only a fascinating occupation, but a useful stepping stone for the advance of change ringing. A few boys from a church choir, under a competent instructor, would be a valuable asset at any time. People love the bells—it seems inherent in the blood of Englishmen—and one welcomes the ringing of handbells in so many churches to-day now that the tower bells are silent.

THE LATE MR. C. H. HORTON.

We have lost many stalwarts during the past year, notably our president, Mr. Charles H. Horton, who passed away on May 22nd, whilst journeying to his allotment. His enthusiasm for ringing permeated his whole character, there was nothing superficial. He was a ringer of marked ability—he knew his job, and got on with it, and made it a success. He was first elected as secretary for the Watford District at Easter, 1924, and continued in office until his death, a great tribute to his worth. In the early years of office he was often misunderstood by sternness of speech, but time proved that it was only a veneer of his sincerity and sterling worth, and we to-day mourn the loss of one who did his duty fearlessly for this association, because his heart was centred in his work, and his enthusiasm was unquenchable. In the great London raids he lost everything but his indomitable courage, and it is consoling that his life was made happier, and that of Mrs. Horton, by the spontaneous help he received not only from his comrades but from many previously unknown people.

The report added that among others who had passed away were Mr. Henry J. Tucker, of Chichester, who was not only an original member of the association, but while living at Bishop's Stortford was for many years the outstanding conductor; Mr. W. H. North, of Braughing, who was one of the band who rang in the record peal of Boh Major at Benington; Henry Golding, a ringer at Hemel Hempstead for 59 years, a member of the association since 1897 and president in the year 1929. Information had also been received of the death on active service of Messrs. P. Buckell, of Stanmore, and R. Lawrence, B. Shepherd and R. Hall, of the Hatfield band; in addition, Comdr. Cartin, R.N.V.R., a member of the Bushey company, went down in H.M.S. 'Hood.'

(Continued on next page.)

G. & F. COPE & CO.
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Tower Clock Manufacturers

Estimates submitted for New
Clocks, Chime Additions, Re-
pairs, or Repainting of Dials

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous page.)
COMMITTEE'S DECISIONS.

Reporting on the meeting of the Executive Committee, the secretary referred to the motion (submitted later in the meeting) that a collection be made of compositions of peals that have been rung by the association. Another resolution received from the Cathedral Society suggested that the representation of eight-bell towers with eight or more members on the General Committee was inadequate and also that only those members who were regular Sunday service ringers should be eligible to serve on the General Committee or hold office in the association. The resolution was carefully considered by the committee, who unanimously agreed that two representatives from each district committee were sufficient in accordance with the rule, pointing out also that the number of members belonging to any District Committee was unlimited and was at the discretion of each district, and further that whilst agreeing with the supreme importance of Sunday service ringing, considered that the aim of the resolution would be contrary to the spirit and traditions expressed by the rules and ringing in general. It was agreed by the committee that the annual report be published in an abbreviated form, and attention was again called to the fact that the original edition copy of 'Tintinnalogia' was missing and any information that will lead to its recovery will be most welcome. The kindness of the treasurer, Mr. G. E. Debenham, in permitting the more valuable books from the library to be placed in the strongroom of his firm was gratefully acknowledged.

The report was adopted and the secretary thanked for his comprehensive survey.

COLLECTION OF COMPOSITIONS.

Arising from the report, Mr. E. Jennings proposed 'that a collection be made as far as possible of all peal compositions rung by the association, and that a suitable member be appointed to draw up the collection in manuscript form.' This resolution had been approved by the committee, and the mover brought it forward for ratification. Mr. Walter Ayre seconded and mentioned that many years ago he had brought forward a similar resolution which had never been carried out.

The president fully agreed with the resolution, for at the moment there was no complete record and nobody had the faintest idea what had been rung. When the work was done there would be a collection of peals for reference. He and Mr. Jennings had already done a good bit.

The motion was carried.

On the election of officers, Mr. Jennings proposed Mr. Harold Cashmore as president. He said that in Mr. Cashmore they had a gentleman and a most outstanding ringer in the association.—Mr. Frank Smith (just recovering from a long illness, whose presence was most cordially welcomed) seconded, and the election was confirmed.

The President thanked the members for the honour conferred on him, saying the office was not so difficult as the post of district secretary.

Mr. Walter Ayre, in proposing the re-election of Mr. G. E. Debenham as treasurer, said he frequently saw their treasurer, who was always concerned about getting the subscriptions in.—Mr. F. W. Elliott seconded, and the motion was carried.

The hon. secretary was elected 'as usual,' and, in thanking those present, he said he thought they were very bad bowlers in allowing him to be 52 not out.

Mrs. A. M. Fergusson was unanimously elected as librarian and Mr. Henry H. Hole auditor, with thanks for their services.

Mr. Walter Ayre read a circular letter concerning 'The Ringing World,' which had been signed by representative ringers throughout the country. He briefly commented upon the work Mr. Goldsmith had done for ringing, and a sum of three guineas was contributed to the fund.

CENTRAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED.

Mr. Jennings proposed that the association elect four representatives from the association to serve on the Central Council for the ensuing three years. Mr. F. W. Elliott seconded the resolution, which was agreed to. Those chosen were Messrs. Harold Cashmore, Walter Ayre, E. Jennings and Mrs. A. M. Fergusson. Authority was also given to the treasurer to pay the subscription on becoming due.

Grave concern was expressed by Mr. D. Mears and others at the position of the Northern District, and Messrs. Mears and Symons were given authority by the meeting to call a meeting of the ringers in the district and to 'put their house in order.'

The secretary was thanked by Mr. Ayre for his services, and regrets were expressed at the absence of the Dean and the Rev. Canon Thorpe (which was unavoidable), and cordial thanks given to both gentlemen for all the kind help they had rendered in connection with the day's proceedings.

During the day the bells of St. Peter's were rung silently and good work done with the handbells.

KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

George Crayson, a member of the band at Burton-in-Kendal, Westmorland, has been killed while on service in the Middle East. He started ringing under Mr. E. Jennings in 1932, and leaves a wife and one child. He was 37 years of age.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT SOUTHGATE.

A fairly representative gathering, numbering to just over forty ringers, attended the annual meeting of the North and East District of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild at Southgate on Saturday last. The handbells were well employed despite the fact that many friends effected a reunion after several months and some even after years, which, of course, tended to turn the hall into a hive alive with busy bees.

The service was conducted by the curate of Christ Church, the Rev. — Baylis, who, although admitting that this was the first opportunity he had had to address bellringers, gave an interesting resumé of his experiences at churches with no bells with which he had been connected. At one new church in a new district an electrical apparatus for amplifying music from gramophone records was installed. This resulted in an unmusical din with attendant protests from the public.

An excellent war-time tea, provided through the generous efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson, of the local band, was very much enjoyed.

The business meeting was under the chairmanship of Mr. C. T. Coles, hon. general secretary of the association. The following were elected as ringing members of the association: Messrs. F. G. Symonds, J. E. Spice, W. L. B. Leese, A. G. Crane, the latter an old member of the Southgate Society and whose lapse in membership of the association was unintentional, and the Rev. J. Trainer, a ringer from the Midlands, who is now curate at St. John's, Waterloo Road. Those present respected the memory of the late Mr. R. E. G. Geare, St. Giles-in-the-Fields, after Mr. Coles had paid tribute to this honourable gentleman.

Mr. T. J. Lock, hon. district secretary, read the names of the 39 members who were serving in His Majesty's Forces. One of them, Mr. P. Buckell, of Stanniore, had been accidentally killed whilst undergoing training.

The statement of accounts was presented and approved, but the receipts from members' subscriptions showed a very sharp decline, which, of course, affected the balance. The retiring officers of the district were all re-elected, and other items of local interest were discussed.

The next item on the agenda concerned the suggested formation of a National Association, about which members were invited to express their views, and this was done freely. Mr. E. B. Hartley commenced by recalling the main points of his letter, which had already appeared in 'The Ringing World.' He added that had he known the matter would be up for discussion he would have prepared some other points in favour of its formation. Mr. E. A. Barnett enquired as to where the money would come from to support such a venture, and Mr. E. C. S. Turner asked how many of the 40,000 bellringers in this country would give their continued support.

Mr. C. T. Coles did not agree that trades unions were national, as quoted by a previous speaker, and added that it was entirely a wrong assumption that what cannot be done under one name can yet be done under another name. Mrs. G. W. Fletcher asked what the estimated cost of running a National Association would be. Mr. J. A. Trollope suggested that if 'The Ringing World' changed hands under the proposed scheme it would need a trade journalist to be editor, who must know something about ringing, and who was there to fill that position?

Mr. C. T. Coles said that as their ringing journal was the personal property of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, there would be the cost of buying the copyright, even if it was for sale, and there would be fundamental difficulties in starting a new paper. Suppose, he went on, that a National Association was set up and associations now existing did not agree, the result would be chaos, and he considered amalgamation highly improbable. To support this Mr. A. W. Coles referred to the time when 'The Ringing World' supplanted 'The Bell News.' Mr. R. Spears suggested that inasmuch as settled times had emerged from the upset there was no reason to assume that any difficulties which would arise were insurmountable.

The usual votes of thanks ended the business meeting.

ST. MARY REDCLIFFE.

ATTEMPT AT INCENDIARISM.

The Church of St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol, is well known to ringers not only as one of the finest parish churches in England, but for its grand ring of twelve bells. During the severe air raids of a year ago the building had several very narrow escapes, but came through the ordeal practically unscathed. Last week an extraordinary attempt was made by (it is supposed) a maniac to set it on fire as well as two other Bristol churches, St. John-in-the-Wall and St. Stephen's, the latter of which is hardly less known to our readers than St. Mary's.

The Vicar of Redcliffe, the Rev. S. E. Swann, was sleeping in the crypt as a precautionary measure, for someone had broken into the church on the previous night. Mr. Swann was awakened, and found the vestry in flames. Firemen were summoned and the blaze was got under control before the main fabric was involved, but considerable damage was done to a memorial gateway.

NOTICES.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 25th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1., at 3 p.m. —A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SURREY ASSOCIATION. — The annual general meeting will be held at Croydon on April 25th. Bells of St. John's available for dumb ringing from 3 p.m., also handbells. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at Parish Hall, Silverdale Road, followed by meeting.—E. C. Talbot, Hon. Sec., 53, Birchwood Avenue, Wallington, Surrey.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Lincoln on Saturday, April 25th. 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.

In view of the rising costs of production we regret that, as from and including our issue of May 1st, it will be necessary to make an increase in the charge for NOTICES.

A notice of six lines or less will be 2s. per insertion, with an addition of 4d. per line after (a line averages eight words).

Notices other than of meetings will be charged at 6d. per line (minimum 2s. 6d.).

Correspondents are reminded that Notices should be received at 'The Ringing World' Office by Monday.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District. —The annual district meeting will be held at Cranford (Church of St. John) on Saturday, April 25th. The Memorial Hall will be available for handbell ringing and social intercourse from 3 to 7 p.m. Committee meeting 3.45 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea (1s.) and meeting. Church about 15 minutes' walk from Berkeley Hotel, Bath Road, Hounslow. Hall three minutes' walk. Bus services, 81, 91, 98 and 222. Stations Hounslow East and Central. An urgent appeal is made for subscriptions, many of which are badly in arrears.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 1, Listoke, Edgehill Road, Ealing, W.13. Phone Perivale 5320.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch. — Meeting, Kidderminster (d.v.), Saturday, April 25th, 3 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. Ten bells (silent). Usual evening arrangements. — B. C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Cookham on Saturday, April 25th. Tower bells (silent) and handbells at 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. at the King's Head (1s. 6d.). Names MUST be sent. — A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—A district meeting will be held at Great Tey on Saturday, April 25th. Handbells and 6 silent tower bells available at 2.30 p.m. Service in church 4 p.m., tea and business

meeting in Village Hall at 5 p.m. As this village is somewhat isolated I appeal to everyone who can to come along and try and make this a great success. We only need 23 to beat 1939 attendance. This can easily be done if you all play your part.—L. Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District. — A meeting will be held at Great Baddow on Saturday, April 25th. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Handbells available before and after. Will all those who require tea please notify Mr. G. Green, 3, Bell Street, Great Baddow, Chelmsford. It is hoped that all members will endeavour to support this meeting. There is a good bus service to and from Great Baddow.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, April 25th. Handbells 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. All welcome. —H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Sonning Deanery Branch.—Annual meeting Wokingham, Saturday, May 2nd. Service, St. Paul's Church, 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Parish Room. Handbell ringing in tower 4 p.m. All welcome. Notice for tea not later than April 28th to Mr. B. C. Castle, The Briars, Westfields Road, Winnersh, Wokingham.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Leek on Saturday, May 2nd, at 3 p.m. Refreshments will be provided for all who notify Mr. E. A. Ridgway, 11, Shirley Street, Leek, Staffs, before April 29th.—Andrew Thompson.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD and the HINCKLEY DISTRICT OF THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—A joint meeting for handbell ringing and social intercourse will be held at the Rainbow Inn, Allesley, on Saturday, May 2nd, at 6 p.m. Will Birmingham ringers please note?—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Hornchurch on Saturday, May 9th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Meeting to follow. All ringers welcome.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. C. Ernest Smith is now Newcroft, 1, Green Lane, Farncombe, Godalming, Surrey.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—After the end of April the address of the Rev. John Pelloe will be The Bishop's House, Ely, Cambs. Telephone Ely 249.

FAREWELL TO THE RECTOR OF LIVERPOOL.

On Saturday afternoon, April 11th, several Liverpool ringers gathered together to say good-bye and farewell to the Rector, the Rev. D. Railton, who is leaving the city to take up work associated with the Toc H movement in Scotland.

The meeting was held at a well-known club in Hope Street, and after some handbell ringing and a cup of tea, the Rev. D. P. Roberts, now Vicar of St. Catherine's, Edge Hill, voiced the sentiments of those present and handed to the Rector a small gift to remind him of the friends he was leaving behind. Mr. Railton has always been a good friend to ringers, and his departure will be a great loss to Liverpool and district.

After the Rector had expressed his appreciation of the company's kindness, a course of Grandsire Triples was rung as a farewell touch with much sincerity.

Those present were, in addition to the Rector and the Rev. D. P. Roberts, Messrs. T. R. Butler, L. L. Gray, F. Varty, T. Hammond, E. C. Birkett, T. S. Horridge, F. S. Owen, T. W. Gilmour and G. R. Newton. An apology was sent by Mr. P. W. Cave, who was suffering from tonsillitis.

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FRIDAY, MAY 1st, 1942.

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RECONSTRUCTION AND REORGANISATION

Just now there is much talk among ringers about reconstruction, and reconstruction not merely in the sense of the restoration of pre-war conditions in the Exercise, but of replacing the organisations which have done service during the last sixty years or so by others said to be more efficient. All this is quite natural; for in times of upheaval like the present, men's minds are more open to new ideas and they alter more in a year or two than during half a century of settled peace. So we found during the last war. Then there was little or no desire to alter outward conditions, and on the surface ringing after the war was no different from ringing before the war, yet there were changes and those important.

To many people, especially the older and more conservative, the idea of change is distasteful. They are satisfied with an organisation which has worked well in the past and which they feel is capable of being adapted to any necessities that may arise. Such men probably represent the great mass of solid opinion in the Exercise that in the long run will prevail.

Yet we must remember that nothing is perfect and there is always room for improvement. Compared with the whole life of the Exercise, our present organisation is comparatively modern. It came into being towards the end of the last century to meet the needs of the moment. Has it fulfilled its purpose, and should it give way now to something better? Some men say it should, and whatever may be the final opinion of ringers, there never was a time when there was more readiness to listen to what these people have to say. We hope, therefore, they will say it fully and clearly, so all may understand. They will get a careful hearing; that we can promise, even if we can promise nothing more.

But one thing must be made quite clear. These men have got to convince ringers in general that their ideas are sound, and to do that they must give us definite facts and figures which can be tested. It is no good merely to give a vague sketch of some utopian scheme based on a membership of 40,000 and an income of some thousands of pounds, paid officials, and a permanent headquarters. We want to know what membership and what income can be relied on definitely, and what are the reasons for thinking so. It is no good drawing analogies from other organisations unless it can be shown that the conditions which make them a success exist among ringers too. We must be satisfied that centralisation would be a good thing for ringing, and we must know what benefits would accrue from the new

(Continued on page 202.)

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organisation which cannot be had, or cannot be had in like measure, from existing organisations.

Finally, we must know what chance there is of a new scheme, however good, being accepted by ringers at large. All these questions may be capable of favourable answers, but until they are supplied any talk of a new and national association is not much more than beating the air.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ECKINGTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, April 24, 1942, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT 48, HIGH STREET,

A PEAL OF BOB MAXIMUS, 5280 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14½ in C sharp.

G. EDMUND DRABBLE... .. 1-2	NORMAN W. FOX 7-8
G. GORDON GRAHAM 3-4	GORDON C. BRIGGS 9-10
A. ROY FOX 5-6	PERCY J. JERVIS 11-12

Composed by H. JOHNSON.

Conducted by G. G. GRAHAM.

Witness—J. E. Bradshaw.

BIRMINGHAM.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, April 25, 1942, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOR STREET, CITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

FRANK E. HAYNES 1-2	ALBERT WALKER 7-8
WILFRED WILLIAMS 3-4	GEORGE F. SWANN 9-10
FRANK E. PERRIN 5-6	GEORGE E. FEARN 11-12

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by FRANK E. HAYNES.

The 100th peal of Stedman Cinques on handbells by the St. Martin's Guild. The 100th peal of Stedman Cinques on handbells together by Messrs. A. Walker and G. F. Swann. First peal of Stedman Cinques on handbells as conductor.

CLEEVE, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, April 26, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Two Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF Mr. H. W. KNIGHT,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor size 15 in C.

HERBERT W. KNIGHT... .. 1-2	ALBERT M. TYLER 5-6
THOMAS S. HARRIS 3-4	DONALD G. CLIFT 7-8

Conducted by DONALD G. CLIFT.

A birthday compliment to Miss Daisy Skidmore, who heard part of the peal.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING AT IPSWICH.

The annual meeting of the Suffolk Guild was held at St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, on April 18th. Members were present from Cretingham, Framsdon, Grundisburgh, Ipswich, Sudbury, Ufford and Woodbridge, as well as Mr. R. W. Stannard, of Barking. Mr. C. J. Sedgeley was in the chair.

It was decided on the proposition of the Rev. H. Drake, seconded by Mr. W. P. Garrett, that the question of a report should be left over until the next meeting.

The balance sheet for the year 1941 was received and passed with thanks to the treasurer, on the motion of Mr. F. Bowell, seconded by Miss S. Bowyer, and it was decided to purchase £20 three per cent. Defence Bonds.

All the officers were re-elected on the proposition of Mr. W. P. Garrett, seconded by Mr. P. C. Bicknell.

Two prominent members who had passed away, Charles Mee and Frederick Watling, were referred to, and the meeting stood in silence as a token of respect.

A letter was read from the executors of the late Rev. W. C. Pearson, of Henley, offering the Guild the gift of 55 handbells. This was gratefully accepted, and three trustees, Messrs. F. L. Fisher, C. J. Sedgeley and G. Symonds, were appointed with authority to lend the bells to members of the Guild and to towers.

A letter was received from the Lord Bishop of the diocese accepting the invitation to become Patron of the Guild and thanking the members. Mr. Symonds, of Lavenham, wrote regretting his absence and saying that, if the question of a National Association came up, he was in opposition to it.

MR. JAMES E. DAVIS.**SEVENTY-FIFTH BIRTHDAY.**

The many friends of Mr. James E. Davis will congratulate him on his seventy-fifth birthday, which falls to-day.

Mr. Davis was born in the parish of St. James', Bermondsey, on May 1st, 1867, and learnt to handle a bell at St. George's, Camberwell. His first peal, one of Grandsire Triples, was at Deptford in 1891, and his first as conductor, Holt's Original, at Putney in 1893. In 1896 he took part in the ringing of the same composition non-conducted at St. John's, Waterloo Road.

Mr. Davis is one of the few men who have over one thousand peals to their credit and his list is a very fine one. It includes many peals in Surprise Major methods, the 10,400 Cambridge Surprise Royal at Walthamstow in 1923, and the 7,392 Cambridge Surprise Maximus at St. Mary-le-Bow. He was the inventor of the silencers which were first used at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, and have since been adopted in many churches.

Mr. Davis holds medals for the South African War, the 1914 Star, the medal for the first Great War, the 1918 Victory Medal and the George V. Coronation Medal.

**MR. JAMES E. DAVIS.****WEDDING OF MR. FRED W. ROGERS.**

The wedding took place at St. Mary's, Portsea, on Saturday, April 4th, of Mr. Frederick William Rogers, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Rogers, 52, Samuel Road Portsmouth, to Miss Ruth Joy Barnes, youngest daughter of Mrs. E. A. Barnes and the late Mr. Barnes, of 35, Carisbrooke Road, Milton, Portsmouth.

The ceremony was performed by the Vicar, Canon H. Robins. The bride was dressed in white satin and was attended by three bridesmaids. Mr. Alfred T. Greenwood was best man. The reception, at the Unity Hall, St. John's Road, Portsmouth, was attended by about 40 guests, handbells being rung during the reception. The honeymoon was spent in London. Among the ringers present were Mr. George Williams, Master of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, of which the bridegroom is hon. secretary, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Bayley (Titchfield, Hants), Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Taylor (Portsmouth), and Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Smith (Godalming, Surrey).

BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION**CHEW DEANERY BRANCH.**

At the quarterly meeting of the Chew Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Association, held at Yatton on April 18th, members attended from Nailsea, Wrington, Yatton, Ubley, Churchill, Long Ashton and Bristol.

Full use was made of the bells with the silent apparatus, which was in perfect order and appreciated by all.

Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. Noel Kempe, who gave an interesting address. Tea was followed by the business meeting. It was resolved to hold monthly meetings during the summer alternately at Long Ashton and Yatton, and so maintain interest in the art, with the help of the silent apparatus.

The National Association came up for discussion and several views were expressed, such as the suggestion that 'The Ringing World' should be controlled by the ringing associations financially, as it was essentially a ringers' paper. Another view was that no drastic changes should be made at present with so many ringers away in the Forces and unable to give their views. Further discussion took place, but it was thought that pending further information no decisions could be made. A resolution was then made that the meeting would support the National Association in any effort to the benefit of ringers generally.

The secretary read the accounts for 1941, which showed a balance of £6 5s. on the year's working, which was thought by all to be very satisfactory.

A vote of thanks to the Rector for his service and address and to Mr. L. W. Pullin for the tea brought the meeting to a close and the tower was again visited.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**ANNUAL MEETING AT NUNEATON.**

A very successful meeting of the Warwickshire Guild was held on Saturday week at the Griff Colliery and Chilvers Coton Sports Club and Institute, Nuneaton. Members and friends were present from Allesley, Chilvers Coton, Burbage, Keresley, Nuneaton, Wolvey and Stoke-in-Coventry. Touches and courses of Doubles, Minor, Triples and Major on handbells were rung or attempted before tea.

A substantial meal had been provided and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The business meeting began under the chairmanship of the Master, Mr. J. H. W. White. As the position of president was vacant, due to the removal of Archdeacon Brook (who is now Bishop of Ipswich), Mr. A. H. Beamish proposed that the Vicar of Chilvers Coton (the Rev. F. W. Moyle) should be asked to accept the presidency. Mr. D. H. Argyle seconded and it was carried. The remaining officers were re-elected en bloc.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. and Mrs. A. Walker (Birmingham), Mr. and Mrs. W. Vann (Rugby), Messrs. Hayne and Ellender (Stoke).

Messages of remembrance to all the members were read from two members now with H.M. Forces, Mr. N. Maskell and Gunnar Jack Smith, of Knowle.

The balance sheet showed a balance in hand of £28 18s. 7d.

Mr. F. E. Pervin proposed that £20 of this amount be invested in War Savings, and this was agreed to.

Future meetings were arranged for the next three months—in May, a joint meeting with the Midland Counties Association at Allesley on the 2nd; in June, at Shilton; and in July, at Coventry.

Mr. F. E. Pervin spoke about the Ringers' Conference now in progress in 'The Ringing World,' its purpose and the interest it was creating, and hoped the Guild would support it individually. Other members were of the opinion that the paper was of great interest now and deserved every support.

This was the first meeting of the Guild since the passing of Abram Wilkerson, a former secretary, who rendered yeoman service, and on the call of Mr. E. Stone all stood for a few moments in silence.

The secretary was asked to convey to Mr. J. S. Goldsmith the warmest wishes of the members for a complete restoration to health.

Votes of thanks were passed to all the officers for their services, to the ladies who had prepared the tea, and to Mr. J. F. Clarke, who is a vice-president of the Sports Club, and whose kindness in placing a room at the disposal of the members was greatly appreciated.

Further handbell ringing was indulged in, Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Grandsire Caters being successfully brought round.

Tunes were also played by Mr. C. H. Webb and his band, and a song by Master Maurice Billington was well received. Train and bus time brought a very enjoyable meeting to a close.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**MEETING AT BARNSELY.**

The April meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at the Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday week. It followed the funeral of Mr. A. Gill, of Wath-on-Dearne, which most of the members attended. Handbells were rung in the afternoon until 5.30, when tea was served.

At the business meeting in the Crown Room, the president (Mr. E. Brookes) occupied the chair, and members were present from Bolsterstone, Eastwood, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Rawmarsh, Rotherham Parish and Sandal.

The secretary informed the members that two members had passed away since the last meeting, namely, Mr. J. Fitzgerald, of Monk Bretton, and Mr. A. Gill, of Wath, and those present stood in silence as a token of respect.

The business, being of the usual routine, was soon disposed of.

Mr. Nash, of Rotherham, praised the good work Mr. Gill had done for the society. He was a good method ringer and striker on six, eight and ten bells. He came to Wath-on-Dearne about 30 years ago. Mr. Nash expressed the great loss suffered by the society by his sudden death.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at Felkirk on May 16th.

Further handbell ringing followed. The methods rung during the afternoon and evening were Plain and Treble Bob Minor, Grandsire Triples, Plain Bob Major, Plain, Little and Gainsborough Major Spliced, and a course each of Grandsire Caters and Bob Royal.

PRIMROSE SURPRISE MAJOR.**To the Editor.**

Dear Sir,—I notice that you have mentioned the peal of Primrose Surprise Major. It was rung ten years ago at Edenham in Lincolnshire, not at Edenbridge as stated.

The late Rev. H. L. James gave us the method and two peals of it on his last visit to Edenham a few weeks before his death, but we were very sorry not to be able to score the peal before he was taken from us.

Edenham.

ARTHUR I. HOLMES.

LONDON BELL TOWERS.

THE NEW BELLS.

(Continued from page 180.)

Wren knew what he was about when he put his richest ornament into the spires and cupolas. The streets in the old city were narrow and winding. There were few sites where a church could be seen as a whole, but the towers and spires rose clear above the huddled houses, and together with the dominating mass of the great dome, made a magnificent scene from places like Highgate, or Greenwich, or Westminster Bridge.

Earth hath not anything to show more fair;

Dull must he be of soul that could pass by

A sight so touching in its majesty.

In later years many of the churches were, for one reason or another, pulled down, and the ugly mass of Cannon Street Railway Station, and the bulk of more modern buildings like Adelaide House by London Bridge, have completely ruined the scale.

In one or two instances where the parishes determined to have their towers rebuilt as nearly as possible as they were before the fire, Wren built Gothic steeples. Such were St. Michael's, Cornhill; St. Mary's, Aldermary, and St. Alban's, Wood Street. They are quite good, but they will not bear comparison with the great towers of country Gothic churches. At St. Dunstan's-in-the-East he built a tower with a spire on flying buttresses much in the same style as that of Faversham in Kent. In proportion and line, if not in detail, St. Dunstan's can hold its own with the work of any of the medieval architects, and to-day, now the houses that cloaked and almost hid it, are removed, it stands above the ruins, a burnt out shell, stripped of its bells and fittings, but still beautiful in its desolation.

When we consider the enormous financial loss caused by the Plague and the Fire, and the great cost of rebuilding the destroyed houses, it is really wonderful that London should have been able to erect such a large number of fine churches. There is nothing cheap about them. To build St. Paul's Cathedral alone was a stupendous undertaking and it takes its place as one of the greatest churches of the world. Nowadays churches are built by private subscription; then they were a charge on the public rates, and a tax on coals supplied most of the necessary funds. But it was a tax levied by common consent and paid by the general public.

Necessarily the towers and steeples were built last, and it was not until the early years of the next century that some of them were finished. The last was St. Michael's, Cornhill; which is said to have been designed by Wren when he was nearly ninety years old.

One of the earliest cares of the churchwardens and vestrymen as soon as they could get among the smoking embers of the ruined churches was the bells. The fire broke out on September 2nd and as early as October 30th the vestry of St. Sepulchre's had taken steps to deal with the destroyed bells. In the following December John Hodson was ordered to cast three new bells to match those which had escaped the fire and still hung in the steeple.

St. Sepulchre's was fortunate, for it had escaped complete destruction; and it is fortunate now, for it stands to-day unharmed amid many ruins. In 1666 it was the most notable place for change ringing in London and the parish did not suffer its bells to be silent for long. Other parishes could do little more than hang a temporary bell

in the burnt out steeple and hope for better days; but at St. Dionis', Backchurch, where the old tower still stood, there was very soon a ringing peal of five.

St. Stephen's, Coleman Street, soon had six bells and then the full octave; and the noble and weighty eight at St. Lawrence Jewry were hung in 1687.

But for the most part it was not until later that the steeples were ready to receive bells. No doubt every parish fully intended to have a full ringing peal, but the intention was not often carried out, and no more than two bells, one large and one small, were usually hung.

For that we may find more than one reason. One was financial. The bells were not a charge on the coal tax. They could only be supplied by voluntary contributions, and then, as now, voluntary contributions could only be collected if there was someone sufficiently interested to undertake the job. In some parishes there were such men, but in most the long silence had broken the traditions of the past. Bells, more than the minimum number of two, were not needed for the services of the church, and the only incentives were the pride of the parishioners in their church and the love of bell ringing as a sport. The first was strong enough in some parishes, and it produced such fine rings as those at St. Lawrence Jewry, St. Mary-le-Bow, St. Michael's, Cornhill, and St. Bride's, Fleet Street. Other parishes could less afford such expensive luxuries.

Between the fire and the time when so many of the steeples were again ready to receive bells, a change had begun to take place in the Exercise. Ringing was still very generally popular, but it was becoming less and less a sport for moneyed people. Ringers could only occasionally themselves supply or augment rings, the art was developing towards eight and ten bell ringing, and fewer rings of more bells took the place of the many fives. So in the event most of Wren's towers never held the bells they were designed for.

The majority of the bells hung in the towers of London after the fire and during the first half of the eighteenth century were cast by four famous foundries. Anthony Bartlet had succeeded to the Whitechapel foundry in 1647 and was followed by James Bartlet in 1676. They supplied many of the bells to the rebuilt churches, mostly singles, one large and one small to each tower. James Bartlet's most important peal was the fine octave with a tenor of 32 cwt. at St. Lawrence Jewry. His six largest bells were still in the tower until recently, and the whole ring after the restoration and, retuning a few years ago, ranked among the best octaves in England. Its destruction was the first and not the least of the disasters that have befallen London bells through enemy action during the war. Bartlet also supplied a ring of eight to Christ Church, Southwark. It bore an important part in the history of the London Exercise, and it, too, has perished in an air raid.

It was a very common thing in the old foundries, when the family succession failed, for the business to be transferred to the founder's foreman. James, the last of the Bartlets, died in 1702. For a year or two his foreman had been Richard Phelps, and the latter, succeeding to the business, in the next 38 years did as much as almost anyone to establish the great reputation of the Whitechapel foundry.

Phelps, who was a native of Avebury in Wiltshire, cast some hundreds of bells for parishes in different parts of England. In the City of London his name is on three

notable rings, the noble twelve at St. Michael's, Cornhill, the ten at St. Magnus', London Bridge, and the ten cast for St. Dionis', Backchurch, then at All Hallows' Lombard Street, and now awaiting a new home at Guildford Cathedral. The hour bell at St. Paul's was by him and so was the tenor at Westminster Abbey. He also cast the octaves at St. Mary's, Lambeth (since recast) and at Enfield. Among his many bells in the provinces are the fine ring at Great St. Mary's, Cambridge, and the splendid octave at St. Mary's, Bury St. Edmunds.

Almost the last job done by Richard Phelps was the old tenor at Bow Church, Cheapside. It probably was the best, and it certainly was the most famous bell in the London district, but when the ring was restored in 1933, it was found to be cracked in the crown, and was recast. Its successor had but a short life, for eight years later it perished with the rest of the bells in an air raid.

Another ring by Phelps which had a great reputation but which has long since disappeared was the heavy eight with a tenor of 44 cwt. at Christ Church, Spitalfields.

In the last three years of his life Phelps was assisted as partner by Thomas Lester and after his death the latter carried on the foundry.

One of the first men to benefit by the work created by the rebuilding of the churches was John Hodson, of Bishopsgate. He was by trade a carpenter and probably did a good deal of work as a bell hanger. He seems to have taken to bell founding as a side issue and employed other men to do the actual work, first William Hull and then Christopher Hodson, who probably was a relative and who had his foundry at St. Mary Cray.

William Wightman was at one time foreman to John Hodson, but he afterwards set up in business for him-

self in partnership with his brother Philip. The latter cast the eight at St. Clement Danes', a very fine ring, and another to be added to the list of those destroyed during the war. The back six at Mortlake and at Tottenham were by Wightman.

Of all English bell founders none has enjoyed a greater reputation than Abraham Rudhall, of Gloucester and, on the whole, none, perhaps, has more deserved it. He came of a family which started a foundry towards the end of the seventeenth century, and from then until 1830 cast about 4,521 bells.

London possessed five of their rings and all of them were good. They were the twelves at St. Brides and St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, the ten at Fulham, and the octaves at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East and St. George's-in-the-Borough. Of them the bells of St. Brides and St. Dunstan's have been completely destroyed, but the others remain.

The fourth of the leading foundries belonged to Samuel Knight and was an off-shoot of a foundry which had long been established in Reading. As early as 1478 John Knight was casting bells in that town, and over three hundred bells cast by members of his family during the following two and a half centuries are still in existence. The last of the family, Samuel, left Reading and came to London, where he had a foundry in St. Andrew's parish, Holborn. He cast many bells for churches in towns and villages, and in London he is represented by three notable rings, St. Saviour's, Southwark, St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill, and St. Margaret's, Westminster. In all cases some of the bells, and those the largest, have been recast. Happily, these rings have not suffered in the air raids.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

We regret to say that the Editor (Mr. J. S. Goldsmith) has had a further relapse, and is consequently once more unable to transact any business.

The difficulties of publishing 'The Ringing World' this week have been increased by the indisposition of his colleague, Mr. J. A. Trollope, who has had a sharp attack of sciatica.

Congratulations to Mr. Albert Walker, who reaches his 66th birthday on Sunday next.

The names of two of those present at the farewell gathering for the Rector of Liverpool, Messrs. E. R. Rapley and W. Birchell, were omitted from the report.

On April 27th, 1868, the College Youths rang Thomas Day's 15,840 Kent Treble Bob Major at Bethnal Green. It was the then record length, and seven years previously on the same date the society had rung 8,580 Stedman Cinques at Cornhill.

The Midland Counties Association rang the record peal of Cambridge Surprise Major, 12,896 changes, at Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire, on April 28th, 1923. The first peal by the Cambridge University Guild was rung on the same date in 1890.

Fifty years ago yesterday nine peals were rung. They were Grandsire Triples 2, Stedman Triples 2, Cinques 1, Oxford Treble Bob Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, and Minor 1.

To-morrow is the 27th anniversary of the peal of Grandsire Bob Triples at St. Peter's, Mancroft, Norwich, generally reckoned to be the first true peal ever rung.

DEATH OF BARNSLEY DISTRICT RINGER.

PASSING OF MR. ARTHUR GILL.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Arthur Gill, of Wath-on-Dearne, who passed away at his home very suddenly on Wednesday, April 15th. Mr. Gill was well known among Yorkshire ringers and was a tower of strength wherever ringing was concerned. He was a member of the committee of the Southern District of the Yorkshire Association and of the Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield District Societies. He had been a member of the Yorkshire Association since 1899 and rang 189 peals for it out of a total of 198. He was one of the first members of the Barnsley Society when it was formed in 1909, and he was a strong supporter until the time of his death. No one could over-estimate the good work he did to help forward its cause and exploit ringing, especially Minor methods in all varieties. Mr. Gill was a good ringer on six, eight or ten bells. His death is a great loss to the Barnsley Society and he will be greatly missed. He was 65 years of age. He had been a miner, but lost an eye and had to work on the pit top, retiring about 12 months since. He leaves a widow, one son and five daughters to mourn his death.

Arthur Gill learnt to ring at New Mills in 1897, he afterwards rang at Ackworth and South Kirkby, and later came to Wath-on-Dearne, where he did the greater part of his ringing.

The funeral was on Saturday, April 18th. The service was held in the Parish Church and was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. E. V. Evans. There were many mourners and friends present, including the widow, his son and his five daughters. The following six ringers acted as bearers: S. Briggs (Eastwood), D. Smith and H. Chant (Felkirk), E. Brookes (Hoylandswaine), W. Green and G. Lord (Wath). Other ringers who attended were C. Bell and S. Woodcock, of Darfield; A. Nash, Rotherham; F. C. Wilson, Rawmarsh; J. W. Moxon. Sandal; R. Ricketts, L. Steele and J. Nicholls, of Wath.

The interment was at Wath Cemetery and afterwards a course of Bob Major was rung at the graveside by Daniel Smith 1-2, Albert Nash 3-4, Harold Chant 5-6, Sidney Briggs 7-8. Among the many floral tributes was a wreath from the members of the Barnsley and District Society.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

MEETING AT WALSALL.

The spring meeting of the Stafford Archdeaconry Society was held at Walsall on Saturday, April 18th. A smaller number of members than usual was in attendance, but the spirit of the meeting was none the less. As it was thought inadvisable by the local authorities to have the use of the tower bells for silent practice, handbell ringing had to suffice. Although this was not of a particularly high standard, some good practice was put in. A short service was held in church, conducted by the Rev. H. J. Carpenter, Vicar, who also delivered a nice address. Cups of tea were served in the Brotherhood Institute by Mrs. W. Walker and her lady helpers.

At the general meeting which followed, an apology for absence was received from the Vicar, who had very urgent parochial business to attend to. After several members had expressed their views re the proposed National Association, it was generally agreed that the suggestion be not supported.

The date for the annual meeting was provisionally fixed for June 27th. Three places were suggested—Cannock, Penn and Tettenhall. It was eventually left with the officials to make the best arrangements possible.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar for his address and conducting the service, and to the ladies who attended at the tea tables, concluded the business. More handbell ringing was indulged in until the time arrived for departure.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE. MR. PRICE REPLIES TO DEBATE.

The discussion on Mr. Price's motion (a) is continued.

Mr. R. G. SPEARS (Kingsbury): I have read with interest the various suggestions put forward concerning the rehabilitation of ringing after the war, and I am forced to ask, is there any possibility at all of this taking place? There are two vital questions to be answered: (a) Will we be allowed to go back to the towers and ring the bells with impunity? and (b) if so, who is to do the ringing?

With regard to (a) there is a fifty-fifty chance that the answer will be 'No!' and I don't doubt that the Anti-Noise League will do all in their power to make it 'No!' They will say, and will be quite right, that the lack of ringing has caused no apparent decrease in churchgoing, and, therefore, they can serve no earthly use. Now, who is in the position to express our feelings and fight our case? Obviously, very little notice will be taken of somebody who states that he represents a Council representing 40 odd associations which represent so many other ringers. If, however, he were in the position to say that he was the secretary of the 'National Association of Church Bellringers,' he would undoubtedly command some attention. This, in my opinion, is one good reason for a National Association; there are many others, of course, but I think that the details of its formation had best be discussed at another time.

Now, taking point (b) there will only be the individuals who have been well and truly bitten by the 'ringing bug,' at some time or another. Therefore, taking for granted that we be allowed to return to the ropes, these people will be the wherewithal which the future of ringing will depend. On these few falls the task of keeping alive local interest and, above all, keeping in with the local clergy; these views, if I remember rightly, are, more or less, those of Mr. Corby.

In conclusion, then, the rehabilitation of ringing, as I see it, depends upon: (a) Our interests as a whole being guarded by some central body. (b) Contact being maintained with the clergy and interest kept alive by the local ringers. I, therefore, suggest that a National Association be formed as soon as possible and, in the meantime, association secretaries be instructed to enquire into the activities or inactivities of local bands. They could invite reports from groups which have been able to keep together and endeavour to instigate some interest into bands that have become defunct.

CLIQUEs CONDEMNED.

Mr. R. G. BELL (Watford): I heartily disagree with Mr. Trollope regarding cliques. I think they are an abomination in any walk of life. If, as he says, they have done a lot of good for ringing, I maintain that they have also done a lot of harm. Mr. Trollope surely knows (or cannot he see far enough?) that there are many ringers (good as well as bad) who just haven't got time to belong to a clique, even if they wanted to, as there are other interests in a normal life besides ringing, also there are some ringers who ring for the love of the art and the fellowship of the belfry, and are not a bit concerned with the ritual of beer drinking in a smelly pub afterwards. If Mr. Trollope would rather belong to a clique than a well-ordered parochial organisation with some keen local pride about it, to say nothing of the Vicar's patronage and all the rest of it, I would say that, despite his 50 years' experience, he still has a lot to learn.

MR. KIPPIN'S AMENDMENT.

Mr. C. H. KIPPIN: I cannot see the point in Mr. Coles' remarks. If the Surrey Association chooses to criticise a motion at its meeting it has a perfect right to do so, as we still cling to the idea that we are democratic. In any case, as this was not the motion being criticised, Mr. Coles' remarks were, to my mind, quite irrelevant and should not have been accepted by you, Mr. Chairman, as part of the discussion on this motion. The possibility of a National Association has never been explored, and it seems to me that the proposed committee has an excellent opportunity of ascertaining whether such an association could be put into being for the benefit of the Exercise and submitting its findings accordingly. To try and veto the committee from even exploring its advantages or otherwise appears to me typically narrow-minded, and discloses the rut that some ringers are in.

Despite Mr. Coles' taunt as to why have I not tabled a motion on the National Association, he must know perfectly well that motion (b) has been framed for one purpose only, and that is to confirm that the present system has been and should be all right in the future. As I favour the National Association because the present system is not all right, it must be perfectly obvious to him that a motion on these lines, after the adoption of motion (b), would be farcical and smothered before it was born.

If you, Mr. Chairman, and Mr. Coles want me to withdraw this amendment and propose a fresh resolution, it will be necessary for the proposer and seconder of motion (b) to withdraw their motion. I do not anticipate they will do that and I therefore press for this amendment.

My advice for what it is worth is: We want the committee to explore the post-war reconstruction of ringing. Well, let them do it—not with hampering conditions—but from every angle for the benefit of the Exercise in the future.

Mr. A. H. SMITH (Leatherhead): As Mr. Coles has raised objection to the voting on the subject of a National Association at the Surrey meeting, I should like to point out that the brief mention of the discussion in the report of the meeting gives rather a misleading view on the matter. Seeing that motion (b), if unopposed,

would be a definite step against a National Association, I asked, if it was not, for those interested, to vote against the motion, and the reply was that support for an amendment would be more appropriate.

The CHAIRMAN: As you will observe, Mr. Kippin still desires this proposed committee to consider the possibilities of a National Association as 'the best and quickest means of rehabilitating ringing after the war'—to quote the terms of the original motion. To save time and cost in the voting, therefore, I am going to rule that this addition to the motion shall be treated as a 'rider,' which can be separately voted upon at the same time as the motion. If it is dealt with as an amendment there would have to be a separate vote upon it before the motion was put, because it does not follow that those who would vote for the motion without the amendment would vote for it with the amendment attached. If, however, they can vote for the two things independently, the answer one way or the other will be clear cut. The method of voting will be clearly set out after the proposer of the motion has had the opportunity of replying. One other thing arises from Mr. Kippin's remarks, which really raise a point of order, and that is his suggestion that if he withdrew his amendment it would be necessary that motion (b) should be withdrawn also. I thought I made it plain that as motion (b) and the question of a National Association are so interlocked, if Mr. Kippin submitted a concrete proposal the two motions could be discussed together. It must not be overlooked that there is at present no proposal for a National Association before the Conference, and until such a motion is tabled no direct vote on it can be taken.

I will now ask Mr. J. P. Price to reply to the debate on his motion.

MR. PRICE REPLIES.

Mr. J. P. PRICE: I am very pleased with the way my motion has been received by the Conference. Almost every speaker has supported it and that leaves me very little to reply to. For, as my friend and seconder, Mr. Leslie Bunce, pointed out, all our motion does is to recommend the appointment of a small committee to consider and report on the best means of getting ringing going again when peace comes. What they should consider and what they should decide is not at present our concern, though they will, I am sure, take notice of the valuable suggestions that have been made.

I am glad, too, that you, Mr. Chairman, have been able to get the promises of such representative and influential persons to serve on the committee.

Mr. T. Harris, of Shirehampton, told us that the committee is not necessary because we have already a Central Council. I thought it was understood that the Conference has come into being just because the Council with its greater authority and responsibility cannot function in these war days. Nobody thinks, I imagine, that the Conference and its committees would be a satisfactory substitute for the Central Council in normal times. But these are not normal times. Mr. Corby also seems to think that a committee is not necessary, but it should be pointed out that the committee will not take the place of any other body or stifle general discussion, but will sum up what appears to be the general opinion of the Exercise.

I suppose I ought to say something about Mr. Kippin's amendment. I am rather sorry to see that. I don't think it really can be called an amendment at all, because until my motion is adopted as it stands, Mr. Kippin's suggestion cannot come into being. I think I understand his point of view. He wants to discuss a National Association, and he fears that unless he gets in something first he will be balked by the item on the agenda which is to come next. It is a question of tactics, but I think it is faulty tactics. For I think he may cut his own throat. Supposing his amendment is carried and the question of a National Association is referred to the new committee, will not that have the effect of putting all discussion on a National Association out of order? Can the Conference discuss and come to a decision on a question which it has referred to a committee before the committee has reported? Would that be fair or courteous to the committee? I don't think it would. But that is not my concern, and no doubt you, Mr. Chairman, will be able to find a way out of the difficulty.

The CHAIRMAN: I certainly do not intend to allow any fine point of order to burke discussion on any vital question. The rules of the Conference give me power to deal with such matters.

Mr. PRICE: So far as I am concerned, I do not care whether Mr. Kippin's amendment is carried or not. Either way will have little effect. For if the committee is instructed to consider a National Association that does not mean they must approve of it. I ask the Conference to pass my motion appointing a committee, which will consist of the gentlemen whose names have been mentioned and who have already agreed to serve.

The CHAIRMAN: I will now ask the Conference to vote on the motion. The issue is a perfectly clear one. You are not asked to express any opinion on any of the subjects which have been discussed, but only whether a committee should be appointed. The terms of Mr. Price's motion are as follows:—

(a) That a small committee be formed immediately to consider and report upon the best and quickest means of rehabilitating ringing when the war is over, and that the committee shall consist of the following, all of whom have signified their willingness to serve—

Representing the established associations: Mr. C. T. Coles, Hon. Secretary of the Middlesex County Association and the London Diocesan Guild; the Rev. C. E. Wigg, Deputy Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. (Continued on page 209.)

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**ANNUAL MEETING AT WORCESTER.**

The annual meeting of the Worcestershire and Districts Association, held in Worcester on Easter Monday, marked the 60th anniversary of its foundation. The business meeting was held in the College Hall, at which the president, the Very Rev. Arthur Davies, Dean of Worcester, presided, about forty members and several visitors being present.

It was reported that the annual peal had been rung on handbells at Evesham, being one of Grandsire Caters, which was conducted by the hon. secretary, Mr. J. D. Johnson.

The librarian, Mr. C. W. Cooper, reported that during the year there had again been a poor demand for books from the library. The report and balance sheet were adopted, the latter showing the highest balance on record.

At the request of the president, two items from the annual report were discussed—the use of bells under the Defence Regulations, and what was being done with regard to after the war reconstruction. Several members spoke on the first subject, describing what was being done in their own district, but as no one knew of any definite ruling on the order it was agreed that the matter should be arranged between the local defence authorities and the Church authorities.

The Master pointed out that the second subject was being discussed by the Ringers' Conference in 'The Ringing World,' and ringers had every opportunity of expressing their views there. Another item, perhaps the most important, included in the report, was also discussed. This was the support of 'The Ringing World.' Several members emphasised its invaluable worth to the Exercise, and it was unanimously agreed that some material aid should be given to its support by the association. The hope was expressed that other associations would do likewise.

isid its invaluable worth to the Exercise, and it was unanimously agreed that some material aid should be given to its support by the association. The hope was expressed that other associations would do likewise.

The election of officers followed. The Dean was re-elected president and the rest of the officers were re-elected en bloc. Worcester was again chosen (D.V.) for the next annual meeting. One new member was elected.

The Master and secretary were appointed to act as a sub-committee to deal with any emergency which should arise during the year, and, if requested, to state reason for any decision made by them at the next meeting.

Many of the members attended the service in the Cathedral, and later in the evening handbell ringing was indulged in, which included Grandsire Triples and Caters, Stedman Triples, Plain and Treble Bob Major, and tunes.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual general meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society was held on Saturday at Leeds Parish Church. Handbells were available in the tower from 3 p.m., and the business meeting was held at 4.45 p.m. Mr. J. F. Harvey presided and members were present from Armley, Bradford, Drighlington, Leeds Parish Church, Pudsey, Rothwell and a visitor from Arksey, Sergt.-Pilot H. Scott R.A.F.

The nominations as proposed at the last meeting were confirmed, and the following officers were elected to serve for the ensuing twelve months: President, Mr. J. F. Harvey; vice-presidents, Messrs. S. Barron, W. H. Senior and T. W. Strangeway; Ringing Master, Mr. L. Drake; secretary and treasurer, Mr. H. Lofthouse.

The secretary's report and balance sheet was read out in detail, which showed that only six subscriptions less than the previous year had been received and that the society's net assets had again increased. Eleven meetings had been held during the year and ringing had been possible at all towers visited.

The visits to towers would be (if possible) as shown on the last published list, and the next meeting is due to be held at Guiseley on Saturday, May 30th.

BELLRINGING.—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, used and practised with discretion. 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 very artful and not to be attained to its highest perfection but by an ingenious and thoughtful undertaker.—'Campanalogia,' 1762.

WINNERSH. BERKS.—On April 18th at The Briars, Westfields Road, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: Mrs. B. C. Castle 1-2, B. C. Castle 3-4, A. Diserens (conductor) 5-6, T. N. Lanaghan 7-8. First quarter-peal of Triples by ringer of 1-2 and first 'in hand' by 3-4.

A TWO-PART PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES

BY DR. G. W. SLACK.

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Repeated.

Rung at Bushey on September 1st, 1938, by the Hertford County Association, conducted by M. F. R. Hibbert. Advt.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Northern Division of the Essex Association was held at Earls Colne on Saturday week, at which 20 ringers attended from Feering, Kelvedon, Earls Colne, Greenstead Green, Haistead, Dunmow, Bocking and Braintree. The ringers availed themselves of the handbells kindly loaned by Mr. F. Claydon.

A service in the church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. H. Monks, who welcomed the ringers to Earls Colne. Mr. I. T. Chapman very ably accompanied the singing.

Tea was served at the Vicarage, by the kind invitation of the Vicar and Mrs. Monks, and was very kindly provided by Mr. F. Ridgwell.

The business meeting followed, with the District Master, Mr. H. W. Smith, in the chair. It was unanimously agreed to hold the next meeting at Shalford, a place where in normal times it would be impossible to hold a meeting, but it was felt that it might create some interest.

A discussion on the proposed scheme of a National Association followed. The secretary (Miss Snowden), briefly outlining the idea as set out by the proposer in 'The Ringing World,' said she thought the main idea was to secure the future of 'The Ringing World,' and eagerness to put it on a sound footing, and that it was thought a National Association would solve the problem.

Mr. L. W. Wiffen said it was not the first time the idea of a National Association had been thought of. He thought the time was not yet ripe, but the question of 'The Ringing World' was a very serious one, and some means would have to be found for keeping it going.

Several members expressed disapproval of a National Association, but at the same time felt there was a very urgent need for something to be done about 'The Ringing World,' but not enough was known about the proposition to discuss properly the matter.

The Master moved a vote of thanks to the Vicar and Mrs. Monks, to Mr. F. Ridgwell for kindly providing the tea, and to Mr. Chapman for accompanying the service. Mr. L. W. Wiffen supported this vote of thanks.

BELL ROPES

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SOFT AND PLIABLE IN HAND. ALL ROPES SENT
CARRIAGE PAID AND ON APPROVAL.

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DAVID MAXON, ROPE WORKS, GRANTHAM

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT CRANFORD.

The experiment, born of necessity, of holding the annual meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild at a church where, so far as is known, no ringers had ever met before was a decided success, not only as regards the attendance, but also in regard to the very pleasant conditions met with.

On Saturday last, about 30 members and friends met at Cranford, from Cranford itself, Ealing (Christ Church, St. Stephen's and St. Mary's), Enfield, Feltham, Hayes, Heston, Hillingdon (St. John's), Isleworth, Iver Heath, Kensington, Ruislip, Stamford Brook and Twickenham. A fine spring afternoon and beautiful surroundings soon compensated for the difficulties which some people found in reaching a rather out-of-the-way spot. Some made their way direct to the church and others to the Memorial Hall, and handbell ringing was carried out at both places from about 3 p.m.

The church, small but of great historic interest, on a Saxon foundation, has been described as among the most beautiful of the few ancient churches in the Diocese of London, and its rural setting and peaceful surroundings have an added charm when contrasted with the busy scenes and ultra-modern buildings on the Great West Road, the factories of Southall and other places nearby.

AN INTERESTING CHURCH.

The Rector, the Rev. Maurice Child, met the ringers at the church, and along with numerous visitors took a great interest in the various courses and touches on the handbells, which were rung in the nave. A short service was held about 5 p.m., at which the Rector gave a warm welcome to the association on their first visit, which he hoped might be the prelude to later ones, and thanked members for the collection for the Bell Fund which was made at the service. He referred to the many historic and beautiful objects in the building, especially to the bells, one of which claimed to be the oldest in the London diocese, with the possible exception of one at Westminster Abbey. It had rung for the death of the Black Prince and for the Coronation of King George VI.

After the service the Rector conducted those present round the church giving a most interesting account of the monuments, and describing the restoration work, which is still being carried out. The tower was open, and those who wished were able to go up and inspect the bells, which have just been increased from three to four by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, to whom the Rector paid a tribute for their kindness and help. He stated that it is intended to have six at the earliest opportunity.

Of the old bells, the first, mentioned above, dates from the reign of Edward III., and is inscribed in Lombardic capitals, 'XTE PIE FLOS MARIE', Christ most holy Flower of Mary. The second was cast by Brian Eldridge, and installed in the reign of King Charles I.; and the third in 1884. Members were a little loath to leave these pleasant surroundings for the Memorial Hall some distance away, but were rewarded when they did arrive with a tea excellent even by peace-time standards.

At the annual meeting which followed, presided over by Mr. E. C. S. Turner, business was mainly of a routine nature.

THE HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The hon. secretary's report was read and accepted. Extracts are as follows:—

As in the preceding year, it had not been possible to hold many meetings, and only two had taken place—the annual at St. Stephen's, Ealing, on April 5th, 1941, attendance 30, and at Heston on September 27th, attendance 21.

Two new members had been elected, and no notification had been received of any deaths or other changes at any of the towers. No reports of any peals or quarter-peals had been received.

Subscriptions had come in very badly, and it seemed useless to waste money on stamps at 2½d. each on frequent appeals. It had to be left to the sense of decency of members to pay up and help to keep the association going through these difficult times. After the war those who have not paid will expect the same privileges and assistance as those who have loyally supported the association, and it does not seem quite fair.

The accounts showed a very poor result as regards subscriptions. In view of this, expenses had been kept down to a minimum, and meeting notices, etc., had been cut out to save paper and postage.

'In regard to future policy,' continued Mr. Cockey, 'I can only appeal to those members who are still actively interested in the society to do all in their power to keep things moving, so that we may be in a position to resume our activities immediately the ban on ringing is removed, and to assist each other, as it will almost certainly prove that many towers will be shorthanded, and some sort of co-operative effort may be necessary for a time. I would commend to members the discussions now proceeding in "The Ringing World" on after-war conditions, and would suggest to them that they should give careful consideration to the many points arising, and that they themselves should join in the discussions. In this connection I would also appeal for the greatest possible support for "The Ringing World," which is so gallantly carrying on under great difficulties. It is a vital link for the Exercise, and will be even more so after the war. One is very glad to note that the Editor, Mr. Goldsmith, is still progressing favourably.' (Continued on next page.)

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

JOINT MEETING AT TICKNALL.

A successful joint meeting of the Burton and Derby Districts of the Midland Counties Association was held at Ticknall on Saturday week, when, despite the continued ban on ringing, some 24 members and friends attended from Burton (St. Paul's), Derby (Cathedral, St. Luke's and St. Peter's), Melbourne, Measham, Spaldon, Overseale, Netherseale and the local company.

Some members took the opportunity of ringing a few touches on the handbells before tea, which was partaken of in the Welfare Hall. The members brought their own eatables and Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Marriott kindly provided cups of tea.

At the meeting which followed, the chair was taken by the Vicar, the Rev. J. G. Pope, and business was of the usual routine character. A pleasing feature was the election of the Rev. J. G. Pope and his churchwarden, Mr. C. C. Hill, as honorary members, and both spoke of the pleasure it gave them to become members.

It was left in the hands of the secretary to arrange the next meeting at Rolleston-on-Dove for the Burton District on June 6th or 13th.

Expressions of opinion were discussed on items now appearing in 'The Ringing World.' The Burton secretary, Mr. J. W. Cotton, thanked the Vicar for presiding, Mr. and Mrs. Marriott for preparing the cups of tea and Mr. W. Noble for defraying cost of the Welfare Hall. This was supported by Mr. J. H. Swinfield and Mr. W. Lancaster (Derby District secretary) and carried with applause.

The Vicar, replying, expressed his pleasure at having such a goodly gathering despite the unfortunate ban on tower-bell ringing, and said that never was the work of ringers more appreciated than now when the cheering voice of the bells was missed. He stressed the importance of keeping their organisations alive for the happy days to come when the victory peals would once more ring out.

After the meeting the tower was visited, and touches of Stedman and Grand sire Doubles, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob were brought round on the silent bells.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths on Saturday last was quite up to the standard of war-time gatherings. One new member was elected, Mr. Raymond Smith, of Stourbridge, Worcestershire, who is now serving in the R.A.F.

A very welcome visitor was Mrs. Nicoll, sole surviving daughter of the late Mr. Matthew Wood. The object of her visit was to present to the society the beautifully bound album presented to her late father in 1898. The album contains the names of the subscribers to the testimonial, and the title page reads: 'On Saturday, April 2nd, 1898, the following ringers presented Matthew A. Wood with this Album and a purse containing £25 as a small token of the regard and esteem in which he is held by them and in appreciation of the good work he has done in the past 52 years towards the promotion of the high standard of change ringing which he has continuously maintained.'

The Master thanked Mrs. Nicoll for the album and also for Mr. Wood's first peal book containing peals from 1845 onwards. Mrs. Nicoll suitably responded and said that as a ringer's daughter she was always interested in her father's peal, especially the long peal of Treble Bob at Bethnal Green.

In addition to the treasurer and secretary, the Master was supported by Messrs. C. W. Roberts, E. A. Young, H. Hoskins, W. H. Pasmore, G. N. Price, F. E. Collins, H. G. Miles, R. Stannard, F. Shorter and L.-Cpl. Gower, of Basingstoke. Visitors were Mr. R. Leigh, Master of the Cambridge University Guild, and Mr. George Dawson and Mr. Edward Smith, of Leytonstone.

The next meeting will be on May 9th at Whitechapel Bell Foundry at 3 p.m.

RINGERS' CONFERENCE—(continued from page 207)

Representing youth: Mr. E. A. Barnett (Crayford) and Mr. A. G. Tyler (Hon. Secretary of the Bristol City Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association).

Representing 'blitzed' districts: Mr. G. R. Newton, Liverpool; Mr. S. F. Palmer, Sheffield; Mr. R. F. Deal, London.

Mr. C. H. Kippin has moved as a rider that the following words should be added: 'special consideration be given to the idea of forming a National Association with this end in view.'

Everybody is asked and urged to vote, whether they have taken part in the discussion or not. Send a postcard to the Chairman, Ringers' Conference, the office of 'The Ringing World,' Lower Pyrford Road, Woking, and post it not later than Tuesday next. Mark the card as follows:—

I wish to vote for (or against) Mr. Price's motion A

I wish to vote for (or against) Mr. Price's motion with the addition of Mr. Kippin's rider.

Name and address.

I hope that everybody will take the trouble to vote, for the value and success of the Conference depend very largely on the amount of opinion that is expressed.

COMPOSITION FOR THE AVERAGE READER

The simplest form of composition consists, as we have seen, in joining together an odd number of full Natural Courses by means of bobs arranged in Q Sets. As we study the science we shall speedily find out that this by no means covers everything there is in composition; nevertheless a large number of peals in all methods, especially when they are extents, are constructed in this way; and of those which include other things, the majority still largely consist of full Natural Courses joined by Q Sets.

This is so in methods like Bob Major and Double Norwich, in the Surprise Major methods, and in Stedman Caters and Cinques. In Grandsire Triples the general principle applies, but it is somewhat complicated in its actual application. In Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and in Bristol Surprise Major, full Natural Courses rarely come in a peal, and Q Sets of bobs rarer still. But they do come sometimes.

In describing the composition of a peal by joining Natural Courses together by means of Q Sets we likened it to the building of a wall from a heap of bricks we had got ready. It was quite a good illustration, but in actual practice we probably should not go to work just like that. We should probably first of all arrange our Natural Courses, or such of them as we wished to use, in a number of blocks, and then join together the blocks. In the long run it comes, of course, to the same thing, but we can see better what we are doing as we go along.

In theory all Natural Courses are equal, but if we wish to pay regard to the music of our peal we shall have to value some of them more than others. We shall try to include all that have the sixth at home at the course end, and we shall try to exclude as many as possible that have the second in sixth's place at the course end.

Now, there are twelve in-course courses with the sixth at home, and often a composer tries to get them all into his peal. Twelve is an even number, and therefore they cannot be put together first of all into one round block; they must be in at least two blocks.

So long as we do not move the sixth there are only two positions at which we can call bobs, the Wrong and the Home, and within these limits it is quite an easy thing to find out what can be done and what cannot be done. Composers discovered by experiment and experience long ago that there are only four ways in which the twelve Natural Courses with the sixth at home can be gathered into two round blocks. They are as follows:

A1 23456 W. R. B1 23456 W. R.

45236	—	—	52436	—	—
24536	—	—	43526	—	—
52436	—	—	24536	—	—
43526	—	—	53246	—	—
54326	—	—	25346	—	—
35426	—	—	32546	—	—
42356	—	—	54326	—	—
34256	—	—	35426	—	—
23456	—	—	42356	—	—
			34256	—	—
			23456	—	—

A2 53246

25346

32546

B2 45236

C1	23456	W.	R.	D1	23456	W.	R.
	45236	—	—		45236	—	—
	24536	—	—		24536	—	—
	53246	—	—		53246	—	—
	25346	—	—		25346	—	—
	32546	—	—		34256	—	—
	54326	—	—		23456	—	—
	35426	—	—				
	42356	—	—				
	34256	—	—	D2	52436	—	—
	23456	—	—		35426	—	—
					42356	—	—
					54326	—	—
C2	52436	—	—		32546	—	—
	43526	—	—		43526	—	—

We can, of course, vary the way the twelve Natural Courses are divided between the two complementary blocks by beginning any block at a different course end, provided we keep the due relation between the complementary blocks.

When we further examine these blocks we shall find that A1, A2 and B1 are each entirely made up of full Natural Courses formed by Q Sets; but each of the other four, C1, C2, D1 and D2, has incomplete Natural Courses and Q Sets, though what is incomplete in C1 is completed in C2; and what is incomplete in D1 is completed in D2. That raises a point in composition which we shall have to deal with later.

The four sets of blocks set out above are a very valuable part of the material for composing peals in many methods.

First of all we must notice that just in the same way the twelve Natural Courses with the sixth at home can be grouped into four alternative pairs of blocks, so the twelve Natural Courses with the fifth in sixth's place at the course end can be grouped into four similar pairs of blocks. And the twelve with the second, or the third, or the fourth, in sixth's place at the course end.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous page.)

ably after his recent serious illness, and I would again pay tribute to our vice-president, Mr. J. A. Trollope, for his excellent work in assisting Mr. Goldsmith, and for the articles which he contributes, which are of great historical interest. The future is uncertain, but better times may come sooner than we expect, and when in God's good time we are given victory, we must see to it that our bells are instantly ready to ring out in joy and thankfulness.

The accounts were presented by Mr. E. C. S. Turner and showed a balance of £3 9s.

All the serving officers were asked to continue in office.

Discussion re future meeting ensued, and suggestions for meetings at Uxbridge and Hayes were brought forward. Mr. W. H. Coles also stated that the Rector of Cranford hoped that another meeting could be held here during the summer, and in view of the success of the present meeting and of the fact that members would be more familiar with the district another time, it is hoped to arrange this later in the summer.

Considerable discussion arose on the position of 'The Ringing World' and of those responsible for its production, and the feeling was generally one of great sympathy and that every possible support should be given.

Heartv votes of thanks were accorded to the Rector of Cranford, to Mr. Chiltern and the lady helpers who had taken so much trouble over the tea arrangements, and to Mr. W. H. Coles for initiating the meeting and making such a pleasant gathering possible.

After the meeting further handbell ringing was indulged in till about 8 p.m., altogether three sets of handbells having been in use and some very good ringing accomplished.

WINCHESTER.—At 6, Cathedral View, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, 1,260 changes, on handbells, in 41 minutes, in honour of H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth's birthday: Miss Noice 1-2, G. Noice (conductor) 3-4-5-6.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/- For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Sonning Deanery Branch.—Annual meeting Wokingham, Saturday, May 2nd. Service, St. Paul's Church, 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Parish Room. Handbell ringing in tower 4 p.m. All welcome.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Leek on Saturday, May 2nd, at 3 p.m.—Andrew Thompson.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD and the **HINCKLEY DISTRICT OF THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—A joint meeting for handbell ringing and social intercourse will be held at the Rainbow Inn, Allesley, on Saturday, May 2nd, at 6 p.m. Will Birmingham ringers please note?—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 9th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Hornchurch on Saturday, May 9th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Meeting to follow. All ringers welcome.—J. H. Crampton, Hon. Dis. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

ISLEWORTH, MIDDLESEX.—The All Saints' band invite ringers to attend an open meeting for handbell ringing and social intercourse at All Saints' Parish Church, Isleworth, on Saturday, May 9th. Handbell ringing from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and further handbells in the Mission Hall, South Street. You will be very welcome, so do come along and bring your friends. Names for tea by Wednesday, May 6th, please. It will help so much with the catering.—(Mrs.) O. L. Rogers, Tower Sec., 17, Harvard Road, Isleworth.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at Malinslee, Saturday, May 9th, 3 p.m. Handbells and possibly 'silent' tower bell ringing. Local ringers and friends are hoping to provide tea. Good bus service from Wellington. Please make this meeting known to fellow ringers and come along.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec., 20, Wrekin View, Madeley, Shropshire.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — The annual meeting will be held at Salisbury in the Church House on Saturday, May 9th, at 3 p.m. Guild service in St. Thomas' Church at 4.30 p.m. Handbells available. — F. L. Edwards, Hon. Sec., Kingston Magna Rectory, Gillingham, Dorset.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the North-Western Division will be held at the Church, Harlow Common, on Saturday, May 9th. Silent ringing and handbells from 3 p.m. Tea at 4.30. Business to follow. Kindly advise me for tea by Thursday, May 7th.—W. Wheeler, Mill Street, Harlow Common.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual general meeting, Saturday, May 16th, at St. Lawrence's Church, Brentford (High Street). Handbell ringing from 3 p.m. Service at 4. Tea in the Parish Room at 4.45 p.m. Charge about 1/3 (not more). Business to follow. All requiring tea must advise Mr. J. E. L. Cockey, 1, Listoke, Edgehill Road, W.13, by May 11th. Buses from Hammersmith and Shepherds Bush to Isleworth and Hanwell pass the church, about half-a-mile west of Kew Bridge.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Gen. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — The annual meeting will be held (p.v.) at Kettering on Whit Monday, May 25th. Central committee 2.45, Parish Hall, Market Place. Service, with address, 3.30, Church of SS. Peter and Paul. Tea 4, followed by business meeting and election of officers. (Tea will be arranged only for those whose names are received by the general secretary not later than May 18th. This is definite.) Handbells available before and after the meeting.—Robt. G. Black, Hon. Gen. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**DISAPPOINTING MEETING AT GREAT TEY.**

A district meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association was held on Saturday at Great Tey, 12 ringers attending from six towers, viz., Mistley, Thorington, Earls Colne, Halstead, Dedham and Great Tey.

Service in church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. S. N. Grainger, who during an interesting address said he felt very strongly indeed that church bells as signals for invasion should ever have been chosen. The country needed their sound more now than ever to remind people that God still ruled on high. He thought the Central Council ought to protest again to the Home Secretary and suggest an alternative note on the sirens. 'Perhaps,' he said, 'the ban was a blessing in disguise, for too often people used to say, "Oh, those bells," but now thousands who have said that would love to hear their sweet voices once again and would appreciate them when the day comes.' The Vicar gave an account of the bells from as far back as 1550.

A good choir and congregation helped the singing of the hymns, whilst Mr. Chapman from Halstead, a ringing pupil of Miss H. G. Snowden, presided at the organ. Mr. Chapman is totally blind, but his marvellous capabilities as an organist were admired by his listeners, and, as a ringing recruit, the North-Eastern Division wish him luck in his new sphere and hope to have the pleasure of meeting him on many more occasions.

Tea at the Village Hall was followed by the business meeting. The Master being unable to attend, Miss H. G. Snowden was asked to take the chair. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Lawford late in June or early in July. The secretary expressed his regret at such a poor meeting after what the local people had done. Mr. J. Dyer had removed six clappers, made arrangements for tea, fixed up with the Vicar for a service with full choir, and then 12 people turned up, three or them visitors. All because there was a 14 mile walk from the bus. Surely it was enough to make any secretary fed up with trying to carry on. It needed a better spirit than that for ringing associations to be able to carry on if they were to restart after the war.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar for the meeting and the service and address, to Mr. Dyer for all he had done, and to the choir and organist. Mr. Chapman, said the Chairman, was now a local ringer, and as a professional organist it gave him much pleasure indeed to be able to attend the meetings.

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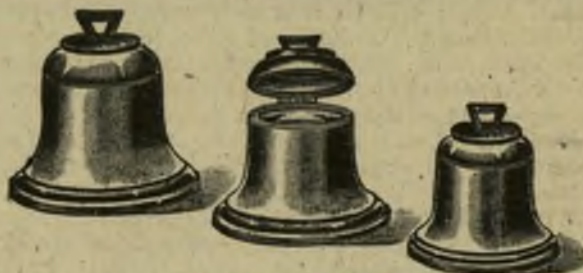
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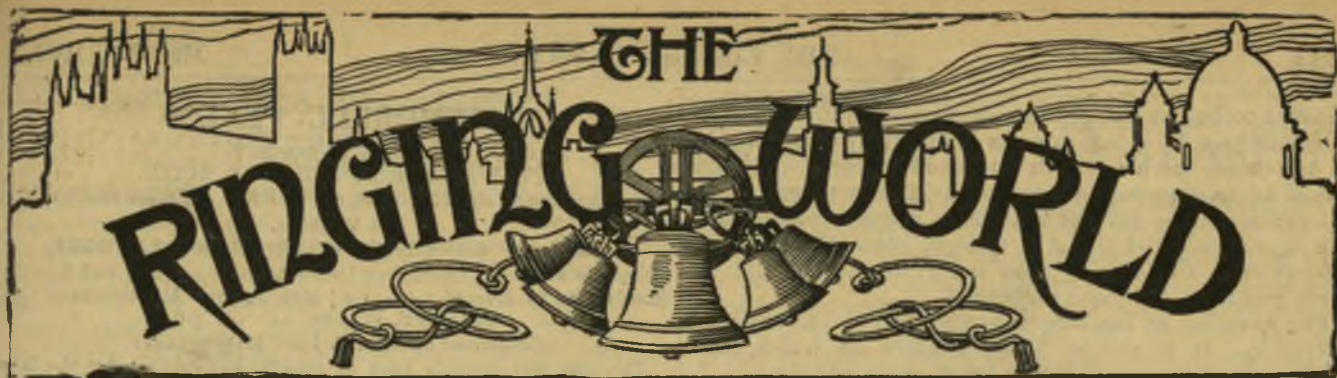
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RINGING AND THE PUBLIC.

When a fortnight ago we suggested that it will be well after the war to tighten up the discipline at open meetings we rather expected some adverse criticism. To-day we publish a letter from a correspondent who signs himself 'A Flat' which we believe fairly represents opinions held by many ringers and which call for some comment.

Broadly speaking, these people hold that the most important thing is to secure and teach recruits. That inevitably means a lot of bad ringing, but it cannot be helped, and if there are complaints from outsiders they must be treated as unreasonable and, so far as is possible, ignored.

These opinions are natural enough and have some grounds in common sense but for the most part they are based on fallacies. The teaching of learners is a necessity and a duty which must not be shirked, but it is by no means the most important thing to consider. It is not an end in itself but only a means to an end and is of value only so far as it serves that end. The main object of change ringing is to sound the bells so that they give pleasure to the listener whether he belongs to the outside public or is himself an expert ringer. There are other objects that appeal to the men who are themselves ringing, but they all should find their consummation in the æsthetic delight which is supplied by the music of the bells.

Nobody can become an efficient ringer unless he has been taught and no ringer can learn without practice. If we wish to train recruits we must put up with a certain amount of bad ringing. That cannot be helped, but it is an entirely different thing to say, as some apparently do, that every practice and every open meeting should be mainly devoted to the training of beginners and that no hindrance should ever be put in the way of the youngster who is trying to push himself to the front. After all there are others besides the ambitious beginner who should be considered. There are those men who have proved themselves to be competent ringers and there is the outside public.

Whenever ringers go to an open meeting or to a strange tower they go by courtesy of the local people whose bells they use and whose hospitality they enjoy. Is it a great thing to expect that in return they should do everything to ring the bells so that the parishioners can derive enjoyment from the sound? For the parishioners, who keep the bells in order and perhaps found the money to install them in the tower, do derive pleasure if they are properly rung, but there is little

(Continued on page 214.)

pleasure to be got out of the ringing served up too often at meetings. It is not enough that the ringing should be tolerated, perhaps with muttered curses; the aim should be to give positive pleasure. If this means some self denial on the part of ambitious ringers, some exercise of authority by those in charge, some curtailing of opportunities of teaching, the net result would still be much good for everyone concerned.

The question of teaching beginners needs careful consideration. It is one of those matters on which, unfortunately, it is easy to talk a lot of facile nonsense.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY GUILD.

FUTURE OF REV. W. C. PEARSON'S BOOKS.

The annual general meeting of the Cambridge University Guild was held on Wednesday, April 29th, in St. John's College. Those present were the Rev. A. C. Blyth (Selwyn), president and treasurer; the Master (Mr. R. Leigh, St. Catharine's); the hon. secretary (Mr. K. S. B. Croft, St. John's); the Rev. C. F. D. Moule (Ridley Hall), and others.

The Treasurer, in presenting the accounts, which were adopted, stated that the balance in hand showed an increase.

On the re-election of officers, the Rev. A. C. Blyth was unanimously re-elected president and treasurer, Mr. K. S. B. Croft was elected Master, and Mr. R. Leigh hon. secretary.

It was decided that a Guild photograph should be taken this term, outside the president's rooms at Selwyn. The printing of peal cards to keep the Guild records up to date was also discussed.

As the library of ringing books of the late Rev. W. C. Pearson, of Clare College, the founder of the Guild, was now in the president's custody in Selwyn College library, it was decided that the president, together with the Master and the hon. secretary, accompanied by any other members of the Guild who desired to do so, should inspect the collection, so that the rarer books could be sorted out and safely stored.

By his will, Mr. Pearson left the books to the Guild to be housed in the University Library 'in the space allotted to the Guild.' There is, however, no such space, and the University Library authorities will not house books for any society, but will only accept them as a gift. On the refusal of the University Librarian to house the books, Mr. Pearson's executors handed them to the Guild.

Touces of Minor and Major on handbells concluded the meeting.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

The annual meeting of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild was held in the Consistory Court at Lincoln Cathedral on Saturday, April 25th.

The Very Rev. the Dean of Lincoln was in the chair, supported by Mr. R. Richardson (Master), Mr. F. W. Stokes (hon. secretary), Mr. J. A. Freeman (Northern Branch Ringing Master), Mr. J. Bray, Mr. W. E. Clarke, Mr. W. A. Richardson (branch secretaries) and between 40 and 50 members.

Before commencing business the Master expressed the sympathy all members felt with the chairman in his recent sad bereavement.

The Dean was re-elected president for the coming year. The Master and secretary were also re-elected. Letters of apology for absence were received from Canon Marsden, president of the Northern Branch, and Mr. John Freeman, who is serving with the Forces in the Middle East.

The Master expressed his pleasure at seeing so many members present and said that after listening to the broadcast from the Albert Hall on the previous Thursday evening and seeing so many at the meeting that day he felt no fear for the future of ringing.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Dean and Chapter for allowing the use of the Consistory Court for the meeting and for giving permission for the silent ringing of the bells.

After the meeting some of the members attended the Cathedral evensong. During the evening good use was made of the Cathedral bells, and various methods were attempted from Bob Major to Stedman Cinques and London Surprise. Whether it was from lack of sound or want of practice is not known, but it was evident that all was not as it should be, and the expression was made several times during the evening that it was a good thing the bells were silent.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LILLIPUT, DORSET.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, April 28, 1942, in 120 hours and Eight Minutes,

AT VANESSA,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor size 9 in D.

MISS FAITH M. CHILD ... 1-2 | MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4

FRANCIS S. WILSON ... 5-6

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

This peal was specially rung in grateful appreciation for the late Sidney Hiller's life's work for the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, and as a last tribute of respect to him.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, April 29, 1942, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF SPLICED KENT AND OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

EDWIN JENNINGS ... 1-2 | HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 5-6

EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 3-4 | ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 7-8

Arranged to a composition of George Lewis.

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

This peal contains 2,560 changes of each method with 48 changes of method.

CRAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 2, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT 10, KING'S CLOSE,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 1-2 | GEORGE H. CROSS ... 5-6

EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 3-4 | EDWIN BARNETT ... 7-8

Composed and Conducted by GEORGE H. CROSS.

SWINDON, WILTSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(HIGHCLIFFE SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, May 2, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes.

AT HIGHCLIFFE, 81, COUNTY ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5039 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

*DENNIS W. S. SMOUT ... 9-10

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE

* First peal of Caters. † First handbell peal of Caters. First peal of Caters as conductor. A fifteenth birthday compliment to Dennis Smout. The peal was rung at the first attempt.

ECKINGTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 2, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

AT 48, HIGH STREET,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14½ in C sharp.

*G. EDMUND DRABBLE ... 1-2 | *A. ROY FOX ... 5-6

†G. GORDON GRAHAM ... 3-4 | *NORMAN W. FOX ... 7-8

*PERCY J. JERVIS ... 9-10

Composed by E. MORRIS (M.C.A. No. 3135).

Conducted by G. G. GRAHAM.

* First peal on ten bells. † First ten-bell peal 'in hand' and as conductor.

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THE BELLS OF STEPNEY.

A FAMOUS EAST END RING.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

In the year 1700 the eastern suburbs of the City of London were about as different from what they are now as they very well could be. Instead of an unbroken mass of mean and uninteresting streets stretching to the River Lea and far beyond into Essex, the district was mainly open country, cornfields and orchards, dotted here and there with villages and hamlets. On the outskirts of the City from Aldgate round about Houndsditch and Petticoat Lane, and parts of Spitalfields, there were foul slums inhabited by Jews and foreigners, and along the riverside there was a very low class neighbourhood. Mr. Justice Withens, who as a lawyer and a member of the Society of College Youths may be said to have been an authority, in one of his *obiter dicta* from the Bench, expressed his scornful wonder at there being a sober Wapping man.

The parish of Stepney (or Stebunhithe as it was formerly called) covered a large part of the area. The village was round the green and the parish church, there were hamlets at Bethnal Green, Shadwell, and other places, and along the main road eastwards from Aldgate there were houses far beyond Whitechapel Church.

The parish church of St. Dunstan was of ancient foundation, and the building as it now stands was erected at different times during the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The tower dates from the late fifteenth century. There has been much restoration and reconstruction throughout.

When the great Priory of the Holy Trinity at Aldgate was dissolved in 1540 four of its bells were sold to Stepney. The present tenor has an inscription containing 118 words and 518 letters, recording its history. Originally given to the Priory by a Nicholas Chadworth in 1386, it was recast in 1604, 1764, 1799, and finally in 1806. Another recasting not mentioned took place in 1599.

The Edwardian inventory of 1552 has not survived, but at the end of the sixteenth century there was a heavy ring of five bells. 'On the xth day of february, 1598, at a meeting of the vestry men, then and there it was agreed amongst them as followeth—First that the great bell be forth wth cast and that evy prshoner wthin the same shall gyve towards the same one yeres pew rent over and besides their qtrs rent now due. And evy pishoner that hath no pew appointed for him or her shall pay viijd according to thauncient custome of this pish over and besides his or her quarterly dues now or hereafter due and payable.'

The response of the parish was slow, the money did not come in at all well, and it was not until the April of the following year it was decided to give the order for recasting to Lawrence Wright. 'The xxix of Aprill, 1599. It was ordered and agreed that day and yere above written, by Mr. Bludder, Mr. Thos. Jones, . . . and the iiij or Churchwardens all present in the vestry that Lawrence Wright of Houndsditch in the pish of St. Buttolphs wth out Aldgate, london, Belfounder, should have the casting of the great Bell called the fyfth bell, and for the casting thereof to have 40 li (viz.) 10 li at the taking of her downe and carrying her away & at the hanging of her vp after new casting 10 li more, and the

remainder of the said some at thend of vj monthes after the hanging, and to be found wth an able security in certaine articles inden for the pforming thereof as shalbe devised.'

Lawrence Wright was a leading bellfounder at the time and the principal business rival of Robert Mot, of Whitechapel. Wright's charges were low, and he got a lot of work in various parishes; but his bells did not always give satisfaction, and he was more than once involved in legal proceedings. In 1587 he recast the tenor at St. Michael's, Cornhill, the famous Rus bell, but did not make a good job of it. The churchwardens were undecided whether they should accept it and pay for it, and in the end the parish agreed to pay Wright £3 17s. for new metal supplied and £9 6s. 9d. for the recasting. That was as much as 'his due is to be accounted justly,' but the parish made the sum up to the round £14 out of benevolence, and promised 'to consider of him better if the bell hold and be better liked of than it is now.' It was not 'better liked of,' and Robert Mot was ordered to recast it.

In 1592 and 1593 Wright recast the fourth and tenor which Mot had recently supplied to St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, but the reason probably was that the bells had been cracked not because they were poor in quality.

About the same time Wright supplied a new tenor to Hillingdon in Middlesex, but the bell was a bad one and the parish refused to pay for it, whereupon he entered an action at law. In reply the churchwardens petitioned the Court of Requests for an injunction calling on him to show cause why the bond should not be cancelled. They pleaded that Wright 'did faithfully promise and undertake to newe caste and substantially make a great bell, . . . tuneable and agreeable with the rest of the bells,' but 'he never did performe in anie good order but altogether contrarie to his said bargaine and agreement.' Nevertheless, 'the said Lawrence of a gredie and unconscionable minde hath or meaneth to sue yor said subjects upon the deeds of obligationerie, intending there greatlie to vex, trouble, and charge yor said subjects, having no juste cause or consideracion so to doe.'

In his reply Lawrence Wright said he 'did newe caste and newe make the said bell and hanged the same in the said bell frame accordinge to the true entent and meaninge of the contracte and agreement.' What was the result of the action I cannot say. I have found among the State Papers a letter referring to another suit by Lawrence Wright, but what it was about does not appear. We have no means of judging the quality of his bells, for only one of all those he cast still survives, and that is only a small one, the third at Thurnham in Kent.

RINGING AND THE PUBLIC.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your advice in the leader of April 24th reminds me of the mother who warned her boy not to go in the water until he could swim. Needless to say, he never swam the Channel. Too often it is not the daring one who makes a hash at a meeting, but the learned ones who are not paying strict attention to duty. To carry out fully your advice, meetings would soon be like desert isles.

I agree the public does not like ringing, only when they want it. So from experience the best advice is to give it them at regular intervals. Every tower should have a regular practice night and ring them. If they cannot ring themselves, get someone else to do so. Also they should have a regular peal attempt and meetings should be fitted into either peal day or practice night. Let them know there is to be ringing, then be sure and not disappoint them is the best medicine for the objectors.

'A FLAT.'

BELFRY GOSSIP.

In a further raid on Exeter on Monday morning it is reported that churches were among the buildings hit. At one church a bomb struck the tower, slicing half of it away and leaving some of the bells swinging in the open air.

Members of the Essex Association should notice that the date of the meeting of the North-Western District has been altered from May 9th to May 16th.

Congratulations to Mr. George Williams, who reached his 85th birthday yesterday.

Mrs. Rupert Richardson's many friends wish her many happy returns of her birthday, which fell on Tuesday last.

The Painswick band rang 12,312 changes of Grandsire Caters on May 5th, 1817.

What was at the time the longest peal of Superlative Surprise Major, 10,400 changes, was rung on May 6th, 1922, by the Midland Counties Association at the Bell Foundry, Loughborough. The composition had bobs with the treble behind as well as in front.

The Cumberlands rang the first peal of Grandsire Maximus at St. Saviour's, Southwark, on May 7th, 1792.

On the same date in 1807, Elijah Roberts was born.

Fifty years ago to-day two peals were rung. They were Grandsire Triples and Kent Treble Bob Royal.

Fifty years ago yesterday seven peals were rung. They were Bob Major 1, Canterbury Pleasure Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 3, Stedman Triples 1, Caters 1.

The last peal was the first on the newly augmented ten at St. Nicholas', Brighton, and the first in the method in Sussex.

REV. M. MELVILLE RETURNING TO LICHFIELD.

The Rev. Malcolm Melville, who has been assistant priest at St. Paul's, Swindon, since September, 1939, has been appointed Priest-Vicar at Lichfield Cathedral, and assistant master of the Choir School.

While at Swindon Mr. Melville has taught several young people to ring handbells, and they have rung peals of Doubles, Minor, Major, Caters and Royal, as well as touches and courses in a large variety of methods, including London Surprise Major. Three of them rang their first peal of Caters last Saturday, one of them, Dennis Smout, for his fifteenth birthday.

Mr. Melville takes up his new duties on May 26th, and returns to the city where he was in college for the two years previous to coming to Swindon.

BOWDEN RINGER MISSING.

Information has been received that Stoker John Hassell, one of the ringers at Bowden, Cheshire, has been reported missing. The ship upon which he was serving was sunk in the Mediterranean. His many ringing friends will hope that despite the uncertainty Mr. Hassell is still alive and well.

Mr. Hassell was one of the old band at Bowden when Mr. David Vincent took them over in 1935 with the object of introducing half-pull ringing, and proved a very useful pupil. He became an excellent striker and safe ringer and rang peals up to Cambridge. Best of all he quickly made many friends in Lancashire and Cheshire ringing circles.

On his marriage at Bowden Church a few months ago whilst on leave, the bride and bridegroom were 'rung out' with handbells, and while his leave lasted he took part in some handbell ringing with his old friend Mr. Vincent and his family at Altrincham.

It was due to the fact that Mr. Hassell left his handbells with Mr. Vincent that the latter's three small sons first amused themselves with change ringing and then secretly persuaded their mother to join in with them until they can now ring Bob Major.

HANDBELLS IN GIBRALTAR.

Our readers will remember that a few weeks ago we published an appeal which had been received by Mr. E. Guise, hon. secretary of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, from the Rev. W. F. E. Burnley, C.F., of Gibraltar, for a set of handbells for use among the troops in the garrison, and that an immediate response came from Mr. Charles Dean, of Croydon, who dispatched 14 of his own handbells.

The bells have arrived safely at the Rock and Mr. Guise has received the following letter from the chaplain:—

Dear Sir,—You were kind enough recently to give publicity to an appeal from me for handbells. I must admit that I doubted at the time whether we could reasonably expect a response. But I am grateful to say that I have received a set of 14 on loan from Mr. Dean, of Croydon. I have written to thank him for a generous action which illustrates the close fellowship of ringers everywhere. I should like to thank you also and the Editor of 'The Ringing World' for publishing my request. If you would care to pass this on to the Editor, whose address I do not know, he could inform his readers that our exiled ringers here can now enjoy the pleasure of handbell ringing.—W. F. E. Burnley, C.F.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

MR. KIPPIN'S QUANDARY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As you have admitted Mr. Kippin's 'amendment' as a rider to Mr. Price's motion and a vote is now being taken, there is no point in further objection to the method of procedure. At the same time, in view of Mr. Kippin's speech to the Conference this week, I think it only right that he should know that my criticisms of his amendment, and also of the incident at a meeting of the Surrey Association, were sent in the form of a letter to the Editor, and *not* as a contribution to the discussion. Why the Editor, in his capacity as chairman, chose to put it in the discussion, I do not know. I did, as a matter of fact, suggest to him that he should publish it as a letter, and that it would be 'out of order' as part of the debate.

As regards Mr. Kippin's reply to what he calls my taunt, it is true that the object of motion (b) is to get a decision as to whether or not ringers have any confidence in their present method of organisation. In addition, of course, if the motion is passed, it will at least imply that they are not in favour of a National Association. But as Mr. Kippin had no idea that this motion was being tabled, he is *not* entitled to give it as a reason why a motion in favour of a National Association was not submitted to the Conference. The failure to submit such a motion was, therefore, not caused by the submitting of motion (b). Now Mr. Kippin finds himself in a quandary and he endeavours to get round it by an amendment to motion (a). As Mr. Price says, it is a matter of tactics, and it is quite possible that his tactics will be found faulty. I am *not* trying to veto the committee from exploring the advantages of a National Association; I am of the opinion that it should *not* be left to so small a body of men to decide. Therefore, a full discussion is best, and that is what Mr. Kippin appears to wish to avoid. There has been no discussion yet, and the amendment is being voted upon.

Regarding the remarks on motion (b) at the Surrey Association meeting, no complaint was made of the criticisms, but of the request that votes should be given against the motion. I, also, cling to the idea that we are democratic, and that is why I am in favour of discussion before decision, and not decision before discussion.

C. T. COLES.

Highams Park.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

The 15th annual meeting of the East Grinstead and District Guild was held in the Rectory at Hartfield on Saturday, April 25th. The gathering was well attended, members coming from all parts of the Guild's area. Ringing was enjoyed on six tower bells and the handbells. The company sat down to tea generously provided and served by Mr. J. W. Ritson, the Rev. H. B. W. Denison, the new Rector of Hartfield, and Mrs. Denison, after which the ringers from Balcombe entertained with tune ringing on handbells and accompanied community singing, with Mrs. Denison at the piano.

The Rector took the chair at the business meeting, and in welcoming the Guild to Hartfield, congratulated members on the way they were carrying on in spite of difficulties. He also suggested that some sort of plan should be made to ensure the regular ringing of all church bells after the war, as quite a lot of towers would be left with only one or two ringers.

Five new members were elected, viz., Mr. F. White, Tunbridge Wells; the Misses B. and D. Richardson, Sundridge, and Messrs. Gardner and Johnson from Balcombe.

It was regretted that the Guild had lost by death two vice-presidents, the Rev. H. A. James and Mr. P. R. Mann. The Rev. H. B. W. Denison was added to the vice-presidents. Other alterations among the officers were the election of Mr. E. J. Oliver as treasurer, Mr. G. Lambert taking his job as auditor. Mr. R. Johnson was elected to the committee in place of Mr. B. Saunders, now serving his country.

Balcombe was the place chosen for the next meeting on May 30th. The circular letter from Central Council members with regard to 'The Ringing World' was read and received with much sympathy.

Mr. Relfe passed round for inspection an interesting illustrated account of how Big Ben was hauled into the clock tower at Westminster.

Mr. A. Batten proposed a vote of thanks to the donors of the tea, and a really excellent meeting concluded about 8 p.m.

THE LATE MR. FRANCIS TAYLOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I feel I must write a few lines in support of Mr. A. E. F. Trotman's letter of tribute to the late Mr. Francis Taylor, whose death is deeply felt by all of us here in Oxford.

At the same time I should like to express our warm thanks for the kind remarks concerning the City ringers. Mr. Trotman will have happy recollections of that complete co-operation which existed between the University and City Societies when we used to meet together at Christ Church Cathedral at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings during term and ring for service. We are all looking forward hopefully to the time when this can be revived.

V. BENNETT, Oxford Society.

Headington, Oxford.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

THE ORGANISATION OF THE EXERCISE.

The CHAIRMAN: The result of the voting on Mr. Price's motion will be announced next week. Meanwhile I call on Mr. C. T. Coles to move the second item on the agenda.

Mr. C. T. COLES (Walthamstow): Mr. Chairman, I move 'That this Conference is of the opinion that the present basis of the organisation of ringing societies has resulted in great advancement in the art of change ringing; has stimulated interest in ringing matters generally; and has caused very considerable additions to the number of ringing peals of bells in the country. It further registers its belief that, with the loyal help of all ringers, the present associations and the Central Council are capable of overcoming post-war difficulties.'

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Coles has asked me to make it plain that his remarks on this motion were prepared before the appearance of various letters, notably one from Mr. Kippin, in 'The Ringing World' a week or two ago.

Mr. COLES: My object in moving this resolution is to obtain from members of the Conference some expressions of their opinions on the functions and work of the associations and guilds which have been formed by ringers, most of them during the last 60 years or so; to ascertain if there is any general support for a change; and, if so, in what form the change should be. We have on more than one occasion recently had the idea of a National Association set before us, but nobody has given this any authoritative backing or even stated what benefit such an organisation would be to the Exercise. It must be obvious to anyone that to make a wholesale and complete change in the basis of our organisations would be, if the change was not a success, a great disaster to ringing. We could not revert. Therefore, before any change is decided upon, it would be necessary to explore all its possibilities and to be certain that it would be beneficial. It must also be obvious that until the advantages of a change, say, to a National Association are stated, they cannot be discussed, and as I am quite unable to visualise any advantages whatever in such a change I am moving this resolution in the hope that some such information may be obtained in this Conference.

LESSONS FROM HISTORY.

It is quite unnecessary for me to go deeply into the history of ringing, but I would like to remind members of this Conference that from its earliest days the Exercise has had its societies and guilds, which were at first very much confined to the cities and towns in which they were formed. Some of these societies, notably those known by the familiar names of College Youths and Cumberlands, are still in existence, and are doing good work. But with the spread of ringing, and with much greater facilities for travelling, something more was required, and thus some 60 years ago a movement, started in Devonshire, resulted in the setting up of a number of county organisations. Later a much more direct contact with the church was made and guilds covering whole dioceses were formed. To-day there are nearly fifty of these associations and guilds, covering practically the whole of England and Wales, together with the Scottish and Irish Associations. These societies are completely autonomous, but are closely linked with each other by identity of aims and through affiliation to the Central Council. The associations and guilds themselves, for convenience of working, are usually divided into districts, and the reason of this seems to be that large areas are more difficult to organise than are small areas.

Now what have these societies achieved? This is not easy to answer in a few words, but I would ask members to consider the advancement made in ringing matters generally during the last half-century. Under the direct influence of county and diocesan organisations the number of ringers in the country has increased enormously; facilities for practice, opportunities for learning and improvement, have been greatly multiplied; and in every respect the chances of a recruit becoming an efficient member of the Exercise have been added to. These kinds of improvements went on during the whole period referred to, as most of us who have had some years' experience can testify.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL.

For the more experienced ringer, as well as for the recruit, there have been greater opportunities, as is shown by the enormous increase in the number of peals rung in all sorts of methods. These increased opportunities have been due to the greater interest taken in ringing matters by church authorities, stimulated by the operations of the county and diocesan organisations working amongst them. This interest is also in the main responsible for the number of new peals of bells which have been placed in our churches, and for the large number of augmentations, during the years in which our many associations and guilds have functioned.

The work of the Central Council is well known, and it has had a great and beneficial influence on ringing. This body would have no existence with a National Association in being. At the present time, when actual ringing of bells is entirely suspended, it is necessary that whatever organisation we have shall be kept alive. There is no reason to suppose that this important point is lost sight of by association officials, and these associations, together with the Council, should be

in a position to carry on their work upon the lifting of the ban. Whatever sort of organisation we have, the loyal co-operation of all ringers is of first importance; with our existing organisations intact, there is no reason to suppose that this co-operation will not be forthcoming. I, therefore, move the resolution, which I ask the Conference to pass unanimously.

Mr. R. RICHARDSON (Surfleet): In view of the recent suggestions in the pages of 'The Ringing World' for the formation of a National Association for Ringers, I have great pleasure in seconding Mr. C. T. Coles' motion.

I do not profess to be an historian in the art and I am not going to quote from the dim ages, but, looking back over an active period of about 45 years, I have seen great changes for the better take place in the Exercise. At one time ringers were very much looked down upon and were hardly considered fit persons to associate with respectable people. Now, as a rule, we find them among the leading pillars of the church and often not only carrying out their duties in the belfry, but also acting as churchwardens, sidesmen or members of the church council. In fact, I know a good many country parishes that would be badly off were it not for the energetic and unselfish work of the ringers.

During the present century a great advancement has been made in the standard of methods rung. Most of the old unmusical methods, such as Grandsire Major, etc., have faded out. Many new ones have taken their places and a much wider range of methods is now, or was until the ban on ringing, being practised. A tremendous amount of restoration work has taken place in recent years, many fine old peals having been rehung and many brand new peals added.

All these vast improvements have been due chiefly to the ungrudging and tireless work of the association officials working in conjunction with the Central Council. The associations have gradually expanded and new ones have been formed until there is scarcely a corner of the British Isles that is not covered by them. The Central Council is doing far more than appears on the surface. True it only meets once a year (in peace time), but that does not mean that that is the only day on which it works. Its work is going on all through the year behind the scenes and few ringers realise the amount of work that some of its members do for the good of the Exercise.

A BOND OF UNITY.

During its existence the Central Council has held its meetings in some of the finest and most historic buildings in the country. More often than not it has received a welcome from the Mayor of the city or the Bishop of the diocese, and on many occasions both. All this has helped to knit ringers into a bond of unity, not only with the Church authorities, but also with the national life of the country.

Just what state the Exercise will be in when this dreadful war is over no one can forecast. Until that time, it is up to every ringer in the country to do his utmost in the fight for freedom. When peace reigns once more I feel confident, looking back over the tremendous amount of work they have accomplished in the past, that with the loyal support of every ringer the Central Council, together with the present guilds and associations, will be quite capable of handling the situation and will soon restore change ringing to something of its former glory. Therefore, it gives me great pleasure to second the motion.

Mr. J. E. BAILEY (Dartford): The motion proposed by Mr. Coles savours of 'amug satisfaction over our past achievements and an attitude of 'Everything will be all right' in the future. I do not think for one moment that either of the gentlemen concerned with the motion intended it to be taken that way, and I hope no one else will be tempted into thinking along those lines.

In my opinion, there are two things at least which societies will have to get down to much more seriously than they have been doing.

One of these is the new recruit. Recruits seem to be fairly easy to obtain, but difficult to keep. I think if societies made the necessary administrative and financial plans, this trouble could be overcome at least in part. If societies show they are interested in the recruit's progress, from the very start, by suitable awards or by other means, it will help to overcome the recruit's feeling he is not wanted until he has proved his mettle. This process is rather long and tedious, and he often feels he is not only trying to learn to ring, but trying to get the right to learn.

Another problem (which is in some ways allied to the one just mentioned) is the fact that the backbone of ringing societies has tended to become their peal total and not the manning of as many ropes as possible for service.

In order to justify our existence and the reconstruction and repair of our bells after the war, service ringing will have to be our main object. Societies can do a great deal to help in this, by giving more prominence to such things as local peals, Sunday service quarter-peals and more detailed particulars of the state of Sunday ringing in their reports and not so much elaboration of peals and their performers.

Perhaps these points are not strong enough to warrant scrapping the whole of our present system, but they are lines which societies could study and make plans to give a lead in post-war reconstruction.

Readers are reminded that contributions to the discussion should reach us by Monday next.

SURREY ASSOCIATION. COMMITTEE'S WAR-TIME POWERS.

Members recommended to follow Conference Arguments.

The annual meeting of the Surrey Association was held at Croydon on Saturday, April 26th. The middle eight of the twelve at St. John's had had their clappers removed and members took the opportunity to renew acquaintance with a bell rope. Stedman and Cambridge were rung previous to the service, which took place in the fine church, and was conducted by the Rev. E. E. Stanton, who took the occasion to remind his listeners that during this inactive period the ideals which bellringers helped to proclaim must not be lost sight of, but that we must be ready to take up our duties when the opportunity was again given to us. Tea was served in the Parish Hall, Silverdale Road.

Its proportions fully maintained the reputation associated with the repasts which have hitherto been provided by the Croydon 'syndicate.'

The business meeting commenced about 6 p.m., and in the absence of the Master, Mr. M. A. Northover was elected chairman. There were present about 50 members and friends, including Mr. C. F. Johnston and the Rev. E. E. Stanton.

Mr. Northover, on behalf of the association, expressed disappointment at the absence of the Master, Mr. D. K. C. Birt, but trusted his stay in the country was proving enjoyable and sent him the meeting's best wishes.

The treasurer's statement of accounts was read and passed. There were no new members to be elected, nor elections to be ratified.

COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The committee's report for the past year was read by the secretary and accepted. In the report especial thanks were accorded to Mr. G. W. Massey, of Claygate, for his services in connection with meetings held during the year, and best wishes were expressed upon his forthcoming entry into H.M. Forces. The details of the meetings held during the past year revealed that enthusiasm in the association was by no means lacking.

It was confirmed that a letter had been addressed to each incumbent of affiliated towers, whereby the services of a sub-committee to advise and assist in the event of bells becoming damaged by enemy action were offered, but, thanks to Providence, they had not been called upon to offer any assistance. In the same letter occasion was taken to enquire if bell frames had been correctly and adequately insured against war risks.

On the translation of the Bishop of Croydon to Portsmouth, a letter had been sent to this very good friend of the association offering congratulations on his appointment. A letter in reply was subsequently read to the meeting.

It was also announced that the new Bishop of Southwark had consented to occupy the office of his predecessor as president of the association.

Handbell and tower bell ringing still flourishes at the two Croydon churches and also at Leatherhead, though the tower bell ringing is of the dumb variety.

Opportunity was taken to renew the association's best wishes to those of its members serving with H.M. Forces with a hope for their safe and speedy return.

It was finally recommended that members should follow closely the arguments under the Ringers' Conference at present appearing in 'The Ringing World' and reflect on these; also to endeavour to bring them to the notice of non-readers, it being the duty of all lovers of ringing to do what they could to maintain interest.

OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

The existing officers were re-elected for the coming year as follows: 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. Messrs. Cooper and Kippin were elected to serve on the Central Council should this body decide to meet.

Following a resolution from the committee the meeting adopted, with one dissentient, the following motion: 'During war time the General Committee shall have power to suspend or modify any rule subject to subsequent confirmation by the annual general meeting of the association.'

Whilst the secretary on behalf of the committee admitted that in peace time such a step would not be requested, he was sure that the

(Continued in next column.)

DEATH OF MR. CORNELIUS CHARGE.

RINGER IN ENGLAND AND NEW ZEALAND.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Cornelius Charge, of 6, Merthyr Avenue, East Cosham, Portsmouth, who passed away on May 1st. The funeral took place on Monday at Farlington Church.

Mr. Charge, who served for a long period in the Metropolitan Police Force, was at the time a well-known and active ringer in London and devoted his attention to composition. He produced a number of peals, particularly of Stedman Caters, and his name was frequently to be found in peal reports as the composer. Altogether, Mr. Charge had a keen interest in ringing for over 50 years.

After he retired from the police force he went to live in New Zealand for some years, and was residing in Auckland on the occasion of the visit of some of the Australian touring party in 1934. Mr. Charge went on the long journey to Christchurch, South Island, with the visiting ringers and took part at the Cathedral in the two abortive attempts for a peal of Bob Major, one of which came to an end, to everybody's great disappointment, after more than three hours' ringing.

The warmth of Mr. and Mrs. Charge's hospitality during the stay in Auckland will always be remembered by the travellers, who join with Mr. Charge's other friends in expressing deep sympathy with Mrs. Charge in her loss.

CAPT. S. G. ARMSTRONG KILLED.

HIS RAPID ARMY PROMOTION.

The death has occurred in Libya of Capt. Sidney George Armstrong, who before he joined the Army in 1934 was an active ringer both in Surrey and the London area. He was the eldest of six sons of Mr. and Mrs. G. Armstrong and began his bellringing at Bagshot in 1922. He was always ambitious and when he took up his Army career at the age of 27 by joining the R.A.M.C. he advanced very rapidly. He was transferred to India within a year and was on the point of returning to England when the war broke out and he was instead drafted to Egypt, where towards the end of 1940 he was given a commission in a line regiment.

In July, 1941, he was posted 'missing,' but within a month news was received that he had been released from enemy hands and had rejoined his unit. He was promoted captain shortly after, and in August, 1941, was married in Cairo Cathedral to an Englishwoman. Two or three months later he went into action again, and was killed on December 7th, 1941, at Tobruk (or just outside). News has since been received that he was buried in Tobruk Cemetery. He was 35 years of age.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

meeting would appreciate that it would be practically impossible under present conditions to modify or alter rules as occasion demanded if it was necessary to call a special meeting and to obtain the minimum number of votes required as demanded by the rules. The meeting being held that day was a case in point. The rules required this meeting to be held in March normally, but it could not be denied the extra daylight in April was a distinct advantage. He further informed the meeting that they could rest assured that no step would be taken contrary to the interests of the association.

Mr. Kippin spoke in favour of the resolution, and Mr. Northover also gave his support. After some discussion the motion was passed. It was then decided that the resolution as worded should be added to rule 15(a).

Following a resolution from the annual meeting of the North-West District, the meeting recommended that due consideration be given immediately by the Central Council members regarding the ownership of 'The Ringing World' in time to come.

Mr. Kippin informed the meeting that, as treasurer, he had received no contributions from the Southern District. The treasurer of that district had received no moneys from the secretary, although it was fairly certain that a number of subscriptions had been paid. Mr. Kippin, therefore, demanded that the General Committee should meet and investigate the position.—Mr. D. Cooper seconded.

The meeting terminated with votes of thanks to the Rev. E. C. Stanton, the organist and verger, and to Mr. D. Cooper and Miss Williams for the excellent catering arrangements.

Mr. Northover extended the thanks of the association to the committee for their efforts during the year.

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For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

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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 on Saturday, May 9th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. —A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—

A meeting will be held at Hornchurch on Saturday, May 9th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Meeting to follow. All ringers welcome.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

ISLEWORTH, MIDDLESEX.—The All Saints' band invite ringers to attend an open meeting for handbell ringing and social intercourse at All Saints' Parish Church, Isleworth, on Saturday, May 9th. Handbell ringing from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and further handbells in the Mission Hall, South Street. You will be very welcome, so do come along and bring your friends. — (Mrs.) O. L. Rogers, Tower Sec., 17, Harvard Road, Isleworth.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at Malinslee, Saturday, May 9th, 3 p.m. Handbells and possibly 'silent' tower bell ringing. Local ringers and friends are hoping to provide tea. Good bus service from Wellington. Please make this meeting known to fellow ringers and come along.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec., 20, Wrekin View, Madeley, Shropshire.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — The annual meeting will be held at Salisbury in the Church House on Saturday, May 9th, at 3 p.m. Guild service in St. Thomas' Church at 4.30 p.m. Handbells available. — F. Ll. Edwards, Hon. Sec., Kington Magna Rectory, Gillingham, Dorset.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual general meeting, Saturday, May 16th, at St. Lawrence's Church, Brentford (High Street). Handbell ringing from 3 p.m. Service at 4. Tea in the Parish Room at 4.45 p.m. Charge about 1/3 (not more). Business to follow. All requiring tea must advise Mr. J. E. L. Cockey, 1, Listoke, Edgehill Road, W.13, by May 11th. Buses from Hammersmith and Shepherds Bush to Isleworth and Hanwell pass the church, about half-a-mile west of Kew Bridge.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Gen. Sec.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Felkirk on Saturday, May 16th. Handbells available 2.30 p.m. in the Schoolroom. Six silent tower bells also available if required. Tea will be provided for those who notify me not later than Wednesday, May 13th. All are welcome. — Daniel Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, May 9th, in the Vestry of St. Laurence's Church, Reading, at 4 p.m. Handbells from 3 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the North-Western Division will be held at the Church, Harlow Common, on Saturday, May 16th. Silent ringing and handbells from 3 p.m. Tea at 4.30. Business to follow.—W. Wheeler, Mill Street, Harlow Common.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — St. Albans District.—A meeting will be held at St. Peter's, St. Albans, on Saturday, May 16th. Tower open at 3 p.m. for stimulating interest for new recruits, showing them and any others the working of the bells. This meeting terminates the 'Bell Week.' Lecture, with lantern slides, on Tuesday, 12th, in St. Peter's Institute, Hatfield Road, at 8 p.m. Handbell practice in the tower on Thursday, 14th, at 8 p.m.—H. J. Hazell, Dis. Sec., 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Syston on May 16th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting at Mr. E. Payne's, near church, at 5.15 p.m. It is essential that those requiring tea should notify me by May 13th.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—The 63rd annual meeting will be held at Chelmsford on Saturday, May 23rd. Service in Cathedral 4 p.m. Meeting in Chapter House 4.45 p.m. (approx.). Tea afterwards at Cannon's Restaurant. Please notify me if tea required not later than Thursday, May 21st. Tower bells (8) and handbells available from 2.30 p.m.—L. J. Clark, Hon. Sec., 36, Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District. — The annual meeting will be held at Howden on Saturday, May 23rd. 'Silent' ringing on bells (8) from 2.30 to 8 o'clock. Short service in church at 4 p.m. Fish tea at Manor House Cafe at 5 p.m. (2s. each) for all who notify Mr. J. W. Thompson, 16, Northolmby Street, Howden, E. Yorks., by Tuesday, May 19th. Business meeting for election of officers, etc., after tea. — H. H. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

SURREY ASSOCIATION. — North-Western District.—The next meeting will be held at Kingston-on-Thames on Whit Monday, May 25th. Full details next week.—G. W. Massey, Hon. Dis. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — The annual meeting will be held (D.V.) at Kettering on Whit Monday, May 25th. Central committee 2.45, Parish Hall, Market Place. Service, with address, 3.30, Church of SS. Peter and Paul. Tea 4, followed by business meeting and election of officers. (Tea will be arranged only for those whose names are received by the general secretary not later than May 18th. This is definite.) Handbells available before and after the meeting.—Robt. G. Black, Hon. Gen. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD. — The meeting at Balcombe, arranged for July, will be held on Saturday, May 30th. Silent tower bells and handbells. Names for tea by Wednesday, May 27th, to Mr. A. Laker, Barnfield Cottages, Balcombe, Sussex. Please endeavour to attend this meeting.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

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MR. PEARSON'S BOOKS.

In the course of a long life during which his interest in change ringing never flagged, the late Rev. William Carter Pearson, of Henley, devoted much time, patience, knowledge, and money to the acquisition of books relating to the art, and he succeeded in getting together a collection which has no rival outside the British Museum and Mr. E. H. Lewis' library. When he died it was announced that he had provided for its future by bequeathing it to the Cambridge University Library, but it was under conditions that could not be fulfilled and the books have now been handed over to the University Guild.

This means that other provisions will have to be made for their future, and while we may be sure that the right thing will be done, since the collection is for more than one reason of great interest and value to the Exercise at large, we venture to express one or two points which may be worth consideration.

The value of the collection consists not only in the rarity of some of the volumes, but also in the completeness of the whole. It is important therefore that it should not be dispersed. Two things should be aimed at—absolute safety now and in the future, and accessibility to any qualified person who is engaged in research work.

These objects are not altogether easy of attainment, and we think the only satisfactory way would be to place the books in one of the great national libraries. That was Mr. Pearson's intention, though he wished also to leave the formal ownership to the University Guild, of which he was the founder.

We suggest the University Guild should carry out the first part of Mr. Pearson's intentions and, in order to do so, should waive their rights of ownership; and hand the books over to the University Library as an unconditional gift. It may be objected that this would be to break up the unity of the collection and to merge it in the vast mass of books in the great library; but that would not be so really. How books are stored on the shelves of a library is a matter which does not concern the public, and unless all the works are treated alike in the catalogues, the reader would be at a hopeless loss.

There may be a temptation to retain the books in the immediate custody of the officials of the Guild. If so, we hope it will be resisted. The risk of loss might not be an immediate one, but it is a contingency which should be faced. We confess we have never felt that the position of the Central Council library is a really satisfactory one, though how it can be bettered is not easy to say.

One other point with reference to Mr. Pearson's col-

(Continued on page 222.)

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lection. It contains two of the three extant copies of Richard Duckworth's 'Tintinnalogia,' the earliest book written on the art of change ringing. One copy alone is sufficient to make the collection complete. Would it not be a good thing to present the other to the great national library at the British Museum? That is, of course, the most central and most accessible place for research work in any and every literary subject. It has already a splendid collection of printed books and manuscripts relating to bells and ringing, but it lacks a copy of the 'Tintinnalogia.' With it, it could fairly be said to be complete in every way.

HANDBELL PEALS.

STOURBRIDGE, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Monday, April 27, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes,

AT 9, BOWLING GREEN ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

J. BASS	1-2	*J. WILLIAM SMITH	5-6
F. W. PERRENS	3-4	BERNARD C. ASHFORD	7-8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by B. C. ASHFORD.

* First handbell peal. First peal as conductor.

WATH-ON-DEARNE, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, May 2, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CENTRAL CLUB,

**A PEAL OF SPLICED PLAIN AND GAINSBOROUGH LITTLE BOB
MAJOR, 5016 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 14 in D.

DANIEL SMITH	1-2	HAROLD CHANT	5-6
*ALBERT NASH	3-4	*SIDNEY BRIGGS	7-8

Composer unknown.

Conducted by HAROLD CHANT.

* First peal of Spliced Major 'in hand.' Rung in memory of Arthur Gill, ringer of Wath, who was one of the first members of the Barnsley and District Society and a member of the Yorkshire Association since 1899, who died on April 15th, 1942.

SWINDON, WILTSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(HIGHCLIFFE SOCIETY.)

On Friday, May 8, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT HIGHCLIFFE, 81, COUNTY ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5039 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

IVOR C. N. BELL	1-2	*JACK S. ROBERTS	5-6
W. BERTRAM KYNASTON	3-4	REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE	7-8

DENNIS W. S. SMOUT 9-10

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE

* First peal away from 3-4.

NEWS FROM EAST ANGLIA.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In case ringers want to know what has been happening to bells and ringers here, I send you a few details.

All the ringable bells appear to be unharmed. They include a ring of 12 (and a semitone bell), tenor 37 cwt.; three rings of eight, tenors 14, 14½ and 10 cwt.; and a ring of five. A ring of two was burnt out, and the bells now lie bent and broken at the base of the tower. A round tower, containing three, seems unsafe, and may have to come down. The twelve-bell tower was hit apparently by a hitherto unexploded A.A. shell, and some stone facing is injured; this church, like many others in the city, has stonework and glass broken, but the only old churches very badly hurt are the two with the small rings mentioned above.

Rings of bells in this city which have been unringable for years include a ten, four rings of six and two of five. What a nice thank-offering it would be after the war to restore some of these. I have not heard of any casualties among ringers here. Some have lost their homes, but appear not to be hurt.

A. G. G. THURLOW.

ANALYSIS OF PEALS RUNG DURING THE YEAR 1940

Compiled by the Committee appointed by the Central Council of Church Bellringers.

ASSOCIATION	Number of Conductors	CINQUES ROYAL CATERS	MAJOR	TRIPLES	TOTAL
		Stedman All methods Spliced Surprise Cambridge Superlative New Cam. Kent Treble Bob Oxford Spliced Plain and Little Bob Double Norwich Plain Bob		Stedman Grandsire MINOR DOUBLES HANDBELLS	
Bath and Wells	1			1	2
Bedfordshire	1			1	1
Chester Diocesan	1		1		1
Devonshire	1	a1			1
Dudley and District	1				1
Durham and Newcastle	1				1
East Derby	1				1
Ely Diocesan	1	a1	1 1 1		4
Essex Association	1			1	1
Gloucester & Bristol	1	a1		1	2
Guilford Diocesan	1		1		1
Hereford Diocesan	1			1	1
Hertford County	1			1	1
Irish Association	1			1	1
Kent County	1			1	1
Lancashire Assoc.	1	b1	4 1	1	6
Lincoln Diocesan	1			1	1
Llandaff & Monmouth	1			1	1
London County	1			1	1
Middlesex County	1			1	1
Midland Counties	1			1	1
North Notts	1			1	1
North Staffs	1			1	1
Norwich Diocesan	1		1	1	2
Oxford Diocesan	1		1 1	1	3
Peterboro' Diocesan	1			1	1
Salisbury Guild	1	a1		2	3
Shropshire Association	1	b1		1	2
Stafford Archdeaconry	1			1	1
Soc. Royal Cumberlands	1			1	1
Suffolk Guild	1			1	1
Surrey Association	1	c1		2	3
Sussex Association	1			1	1
Swansea and Brecon	1			3	3
Warwickshire Guild	1			1	1
Win. & Ports'm'th Dio.	1		2	1	3
Worcester & Districts	1			1	1
Yorkshire Assoc.	1		3	2	5
Non-Association	1			1	1
TOTAL		1 4 10 1 5 2 11 4 3 1 5 11 13 15 40 19		86	230

ROYAL—(a) Plain Bob, (b) Little Bob, (c) Cambridge. CATERS—All Stedman except (a) Grandsire, (b) Erin. MAJOR—Spliced Surprise. Peal in four methods, viz.—London, Cambridge, Bristol and Superlative. MINOR—(d) including 1 in 11 methods, (e) including 1 in 14 methods.

REPORT OF THE PEAL ANALYSIS AND RECORD COMMITTEE, 1940.

Owing to the ban imposed on church bellringing during the year, peal ringing came to an abrupt conclusion, and in submitting this report, the committee have not given comparative figures for tower bell peals.

The following table shows how the year's total of tower bell peals is made up:—

Cinques	1
Royal	4
Caters	10
Major	42
Triples	28
Minor	40
Doubles	19

144

(Report continued in next column.)

HANDBELL PEALS, 1940.

Association.	ROYAL	CATERS	MAJOR	TRIPLES	MINOR	DOUBLES	TOTAL
	Kent Treble Bob Plain Bob Stedman	Kent Treble Bob Oxford Treble Bob Double Norwich	Plain Little	St Clement's Bob Gainsboro L. B. Grandsire			
Chester Dioc.	1		1			a2	5
Devonshire Guild						d6	1
Durham & New'tle							1
Ely Diocesan			1				1
Essex County	1			2			3
Glouc't'r & Bristol						e4	1
Guilford Guild			2			a1	2
Hereford Dioc.						a1	1
Hertford County		1	2				3
Kent County			3	1			4
Lancashire Assoc.		1				a7	2
Lincoln Dio.			4			a1	5
Middlesex County	1	1	1	9	1	1	15
Midland Counties						b2	5
Norwich Diocesan				1		c5	6
Salisbury Guild						e1	1
Yorkshire Assoc.			1	1		a1	3
Totals	1 2 2 1 2 15 15	1 1 1 5 22 18	86				

a—One method. b—Two in 3 methods. c—One in 4 methods, one in 3, one in 2, one in 1. d—one in 11 methods, one in 4, one in 1. e—One method. f—Two in 3 methods, three in 1.

COMMITTEE'S REPORT (continued from previous column).

On handbells the total is under that of 1939 as shown below:—

	1939	1940
Cinques	1	
Royal	5	3
Caters	4	2
Major	60	36
Triples	10	5
Minor	18	22
Doubles	7	18
TOTAL	105	86

As will be seen, the decrease was in peals from 8 to 12, whilst Minor and Doubles increased.

No new methods were rung on either tower or handbells. On handbells 6,240 Double Norwich Court Bob Major was rung by the Kent County Association, being the longest length yet rung in the method in hand.

The following are the number of peals rung during each month:—

	Tower	Handbells
January	14	12
February	15	8
March	45	8
April	45	6
May	21	12
June	3	4
July		10
August		5
September		9
October		3
November	1 (Irish Assoc.)	5
December		4
TOTAL	144	86

FOOTNOTES.

The number of ringers who scored their first peal is 47; those who rang their first peal in a different method or method on a different number of bells is 83; ringers of their first peal inside number 5; away from tenor 3; Cinques 1; Royal 5; Major 6; Triples 5; Minor 11; Doubles 3; on ten bells 4; eight bells 10; Surprise 2. Ringers of their first handbell peal number 28; in method in hand 41; new conductors 6; conductors in new methods 8.

Other footnotes show that five were the first on the bells; 6 first in the method on the bells; 6 since restoration or augmentation; muffled peals number 8; birthday peals 22; weddings 13; welcome and farewell 7.

E. K. FLETCHER.
G. R. PYE.
W. AYRE.
CHARLES DEAN.
G. L. GROVER.

THE BELLS OF STEPNEY.

(Continued from page 215.)

TWO OLD SEXTONS.

Soon after the recasting of Stepney tenor in 1599, the fourth was broken, and as the parishioners were not paying the money at which they were rated, the vestry passed another resolution. 'For as much as the Church is indebted in severall somes of money vnto diu. psons By reason that many pishioners have not paid the sessment taxed for the new casting of the great bell, and wheras since the casting of the said great bell the fourth bell is become broken to the further chardge of the pishioners of this pish,' it was ordered 'ffirst that in consideration of the chardge aforesaid every pishon that is placed in a pew shall geve one whole yeres pew money franckly at one payment according to the rate of his pew Over and besides his quarteridge now or hereafter to be due. And others that have no pew viijd besides their quarteridge as aforesaide. To be collected by the churchwardens in there severall hamlets, and such as shall refuse to contribute contrary to this order, to deal wth them as the churchwardens in there discreacon shall think fitt and the law will allow.'

The vestry also decided that the fourth bell should be recast and the churchwardens were to deal circumspectly for the performing thereof.

Francis Whitacres was sexton at the time and had charge of the bells. He neglected his duties and put the parish to great expense by his negligence. It may be that the bells were broken by being tolled for funerals by incompetent persons. Also it seems he was bribed by the founder to allow him to remove one of the bells from the steeple before the parish had authorised it. He boasted to the parish clerk that he intended to make what he could out of the parish, 'else we shall dye beggers,' and when the churchwarden admonished him, he answered rudely and bid him 'shake his ears among dogs,' a curious old English form of insult which is to be found in Shakespeare's plays. For all these things it was ordered by the vestrymen of the parish that 'ffrancis Whitacres, sexton, shalbe put out of his place for his misdemeanors.'

'ffirst the said ffrancis Whitacres did bidd ffrancis snow shake his eares emong dogges, when the said ffrancis Snow was churchwarden. Item the said sexton did say vnto the Clark now let us take or bennifitt and make what we can, for else we shall dye beggers. Item, for taking in of a bell and delivering the same bell out of the steeple wth out the consent of the churchwardens & pishioners wch was chardgable to the pish. Item for the great chardge that the said sexton hath put the pishoners vnto for his negligence for not looking dutifully vnto the bells. Item that the churchwarden shall not from henceforth pay vnto the said sexton any more wages or take any church duties.'

In September, 1601, Edmund Purser was admitted sexton in Whitacres' stead, and 'he shall have such wages and duties as usually hath bin paid vnto the Sexton, and also that ffrancis Whitacres late Sexton shalbe utterly dismissed and shall have no duties hereafter paid him nor meddle further in the church or pish.'

In the following century there was a family named Purser which supplied several prominent ringers, among them Charles Purser, who composed and called the long peals 'of Treble Bob Royal rung by the College

Youths in their contest with the Cumberlands. These men lived in the eastern suburbs of London, and most probably were descended from the man who was appointed sexton of Stepney in 1601.

Francis Whitacres was not the only sexton at Stepney who got into trouble. In 1643 Mr. William Culham, sexton, was admonished and threatened with dismissal. Four years later 'divers honest and sufficient men' of the parishioners complained that he had behaved in a very incivil and disorderly manner, and 'hath been a contemner and scoffer of them that are godly & hath been very neglectful of his duties.' Also that he had a public house, the Rose, in which he had placed his son, and furnished it with beer, although he knew that the parish intended to suppress ale houses.

We have here a sidelight on the religious and political disputes of the times. The Puritans had now become powerful and they were set on making the people of England as pious and godly as themselves. But the common folk had no particular wish to be reformed. Like Sir Toby Belch, they wanted to know, 'Dost thou think because thou art virtuous, there will be no more cakes and ale?' The puritan answer was to make sure, as far as they could, that there should be no more cakes and ale, and that those who hankered after them should be suitably rebuked. Probably Culham was not really a bad sexton, but no doubt he scoffed at some of the godly, and like Maria, in somewhat similar circumstances, told them to 'go and shake their ears.' Also his public house was a fact patent to all and not to be denied.

Culham had many friends and supporters in the parish, but his opponents were in the ascendancy, and he had to submit. The vestry suspended him, so he came before them and earnestly desired them to pass by all such his offences. He was reinstated for a year on condition that he should take down the sign of the Rose and that it should cease to be a victualling house. Otherwise he would have to submit to the earlier order. His submission was, however, in vain, and a very short time afterwards he was turned out of his office and another appointed in his place. When in 1661 times had changed and the reign of the saints was over, his friends tried to reinstate him, but they did not succeed. He had been first appointed to succeed Edmund Purser as sexton as far back as 1625 and had been confirmed in the post by the bishop on December 10th in that year. He died in 1666.

In 1637, the year that the Society of College Youths was founded, there evidently was at Stepney a good deal of 'pleasure' ringing, and partly, no doubt, to keep it within limits, and partly to turn it into a source of revenue, the vestry decided to make a charge of two shillings and sixpence for every peal rung. In those days two shillings and sixpence was a large amount, and the effect of the charge must have been to confine the pleasure ringing to the better class parishioners.

'It is ordered that when any ringing shalbe extraordinary in the pish except such as shalbe commanded or allowed by the Canons and constitutions of the church, they that ring shall pay two shillings and sixpence for every peale they shall obtaine leave to ring, to the use and benefit of the Church to be received by the churchwardens & to be accounted for as other church duties by them to be received.'

(To be continued.)

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.**MASTER AND SECRETARY'S RECORD.**

Members of Oxford University Society held their annual general meeting at New College on Tuesday, April 28th. The most important business of the evening was the election of the officials for the coming twelve months. J. E. Spice (New College) was re-elected Master, W. L. B. Leese (St. John's) was re-elected secretary, and Miss E. J. Macnair (Somerville) was re-elected treasurer.

The Master and secretary are both entering their third year of office, which, as far as junior members of the university are concerned, is unique in the history of the society. Other elections to the committee were Miss P. A. Scaddan (St. Hilda's), Miss J. Houldsworth (St. Hilda's) and S. D. Dukes (Merton).

The president (the Rev. C. Elliot Wigg) was re-elected as the society's Central Council representative for the next three years.

Meetings for the term were arranged for Wednesday evenings in New College tower, where the handling of a bell rope is again to be encouraged, and for Saturday afternoons, 5 to 7 p.m., and Sunday mornings, 10 to 11 a.m., both to be devoted to handbell ringing.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

The annual meeting of the East Berks and South Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Cookham on April 25th, and, as usual, was an enjoyable gathering. Ringing on silent bells was participated in by a number of enthusiasts in a variety of methods ranging from rounds to Cambridge Surprise Minor.

The singing during the service, too, was well up to its usual volume, in fact it was rather surprising, until one remembered that there are quite a number of choristers in this branch.

The tea was also pre-war standard, and the secretary was apparently making up for the lean years before the war.

Mr. W. H. Fussell took the chair for the business meeting, at which three new members were elected, one an evacuee who had seemingly not met the Oxford Diocesan Guild before.

The secretary read 'An appeal to all ringers,' and concluded with the comment, 'Let everyone ask themselves, "What would I do without 'The Ringing World'?"' The result was gratifying.

All the officers were elected en bloc, and after the usual votes of thanks a number of the party settled down to some serious handbell ringing, Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob, Double Norwich and a tune.

The visitors included Messrs. R. H. Hibbert (of course), Tony Price (with handbells), Albert Diserens, W. E. Judd and F. Hicks, of Sussex, and Supt Wiggins.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION?**DISCUSSION AT WATFORD.**

A most enjoyable meeting of the Watford District was held at Bushey on April 25th. Mr. F. W. Brinklow was voted to the chair and an interesting discussion ensued on the project for a National Association.

Mr. E. Jennings, in opening the subject, said that the present Central Council was formed half a century ago, and unless it modernised itself it could never take its rightful place in the Exercise.

Mr. P. Corby said that the idea of a National Association was apparently to run the Exercise as a business concern, and he did not think it was practicable. The Sunday service ringing was the most important thing, and he did not see what the ordinary ringer was going to get out of it.

Mr. C. C. Mayne thought that ringers should study the question very closely before they made any decision and try to see where it was leading them.

Mr. R. Spears thought the Exercise could be run on business lines with a levy on members.

Mr. H. Cashmore said that it seemed to him that the question was merely whether the central body should be the present Central Council or the Executive Committee of a National Association, and he did not see that one would be any different from the other.

Mr. K. Arthur then proposed the following resolution: 'That this meeting request the Central Council to meet during the present year with the object of considering its reorganisation on a more active basis.'

Mr. E. A. Barnett seconded and the resolution was carried unanimously.

AN AFTERNOON IN SOMERSET.

Saturday, April 25th, being a glorious spring day, three ambitious ringers, complete with cycles and handbells, set out from Bristol in search of a peal. Arriving at the Lord Nelson, Cleve, they found their host and guide waiting, and proceeded through the fields to the plantations. After tea a start was made for the peal, which at five minutes past six they had the satisfaction of accomplishing without incident, except that one member got sunburned and finished up with a face like a prize turkey. More sight-seeing followed and then a start was made for home, after thanking Mr. and Mrs. Knight for such a grand time. On their ride the wind was dead against them, but, aided half-way by a pint or two, they beat it and arrived home safely.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The condition of the Editor, Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, remains much the same as last week, and is the cause of some anxiety at times.

We are thankful to receive news that the famous ring of twelve bells suffered no damage in the recent heavy air raids on Norwich. The other well-known bells in the city are also, we understand, safe. The wedding between Mr. Edwin A. Barnett and Miss Olive Hairs will take place at St. John's Church, Burgess Hill, Sussex, on June 27th.

Mr. Frank Smallwood's many friends will hear with thankfulness that he and Mrs. Smallwood came through the recent air raid safely. Mr. Tom King's house was wrecked.

On May 17th, 1777, the Cumberland Youths rang 10,200 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, conducted by George Gross. It was one of the stages in the famous long peal contest on those bells, and nine days later the College Youths beat it with 11,080 changes.

The record length of London Surprise Major was rung at King's Norton on May 11th, 1903, by a mixed band under the auspices of the St. Martin's, Birmingham, Guild. The composition (largely based on Middleton's Cambridge) was by Gabriel Lindoff, who rang the fourth. William Pye rang the tenor and conducted, his brother Ernest was at the fifth, and James Motts, of Ipswich, at the seventh. Four of the band are still alive—Harry Chapman (treble), George R. Pye (second), William Short (third) and William Keeble (sixth). Henry Law James produced about the same time what was practically the same composition, but one lead longer, and this has been attempted more than once, but so far without success.

The first peal of Spiced Surprise Major, 5,056 Cambridge and Superlative, was rung at Whitley Bay, Northumberland, on May 14th, 1924. It was composed by Mr. J. W. Parker and conducted by Thomas T. Goffon.

What was for long a very famous peal was the 12,096 Grandsire Caters rung on May 15th, 1837, at All Saints', Fulham, by the St. James' Society. On the same date in 1894 the then longest peal of Superlative Surprise Major, 8,800 changes, was rung at Loughborough by the Midland Counties Association.

The third edition of Jasper Snowden's 'Standard Methods' (first published in 1881) appeared 50 years ago this month. This is one of the very best text books we possess. It has been revived more than once, and a new edition, entirely rewritten, will be available to aid in the rehabilitation of ringing after the war.

Fifty years ago yesterday six peals were rung. They consisted of Bob Triples 1, Grandsire Triples 1, Stedman Triples 1, Canterbury Pleasure Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 2.

ST. CLEMENT DANES'

Mrs. Louie Pennington-Bickford, widow of the Rev. William Pennington-Bickford, Rector of St. Clement Danes', Strand, London, which was burned out during an air raid, has left the residue of her £33,285 estate for the restoration of the church, one of Wren's masterpieces.

Mrs. Pennington-Bickford died on September 5th and the will is dated August 23rd, a few weeks after the death of her husband, who was grief-stricken at the loss of his church. She was the daughter of Prebendary Pennington, the previous Rector.

THE LATE CORNELIUS CHARGE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very sorry to read of the death of Mr. Cornelius Charge in last week's 'Ringing World.'

In the brief account of his ringing activity in New Zealand mention is made of his two failures, but nothing is said of what I think was a splendid performance, a peal of Bob Major 'in hand,' which he conducted round about 1937 or 1938.

I only met him once, when we took part in a peal of Stedman Cinques at Southwark with the late Mr. W. Pye on June 28th, 1919, the day that peace was signed after the last war. This was the only twelve-bell peal rung to celebrate that occasion. E. BARNETT.

10, King's Close, Crayford.

DEATH OF A LEWES RINGER.

The death, at the age of 62, is announced of Mr. George Richardson, who for many years was one of the band at Southover, Lewes. He leaves a widow and family. The funeral was on May 5th.

TWO ASSOCIATIONS MEET.

A joint meeting of the Warwickshire Guild and Hinckley District of the Midland Counties Association, held at the Rainbow Inn, Allesley, Coventry, on Saturday, May 2nd, was very successful. The visit of the Hinckley District was a courtesy visit to Mr. Webb, who has been a regular attendant at their meetings.

There was a good attendance, numbering about 30, including Mr. and Mrs. Fearn, of Birmingham, both organisations being well represented. During the evening handbells were rung, the methods including Grandsire Caters and Stedman Triples. Mr. Webb and company entertained the members with some fine tune ringing.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

RESULT OF VOTE ON FIRST MOTION.

The CHAIRMAN: Before we continue the discussion on the second motion, I have to announce the result of the vote that has been taken on motion 'A,' moved by Mr. Price, and the rider proposed by Mr. Kippin. Over 100 ringers sent in their votes, which I think may be taken as an excellent result for a first experiment of this kind.

The number of votes recorded does not, I am sure, by any means represent the interest taken in the discussion, because information reaches me from all quarters that the debate has been followed with great interest. But in this, as in many other things connected with ringing, ringers are very slow to act, and it is not at all surprising that the actual voting figures were not higher. However, it may be that many came to the conclusion that on a subject like this the main resolution was a foregone conclusion, but the figures reveal that on the subsidiary question included in the rider the voting was very close. The following is the analysis abstracted from the voting cards:—

For Mr. Price's motion	23
Ditto, but against rider	36
Ditto, with addition of rider	37
	96
Against the motion	8
Majority FOR the motion	88
For Mr. Kippin's rider	37
Against the rider	36
Ditto (and motion)	8
Ditto (but no vote given on motion)	1 45
Majority AGAINST the rider	8

I, therefore, declare that Mr. Price's motion is carried and Mr. Kippin's rider defeated.

The Conference will hope that the committee appointed under the resolution will proceed at once to consider the question of rehabilitating ringing after the war and draw up their recommendations.

(The closing date for receiving votes as fixed by the rules was Wednesday, May 6th, but quite a number came in after then. They could not be reckoned in the totals.)

The CHAIRMAN: I have received a communication from Mr. T. R. Butler, of Liverpool, in which he suggests that at least one of the committee should be a solicitor, police officer or other person who has a good and current legal knowledge and experience. The committee is now formally appointed, but they can at any time, if they think it desirable, co-opt any other person to serve with them.

OUT OF ORDER.

The CHAIRMAN: With reference to the discussion on motion (b), moved by Mr. Coles and seconded by Mr. Richardson, I have received the following amendment, proposed by Mr. C. H. Kippin and seconded by Mr. F. W. Housden, namely, to add to the last sentence:—

'although it admits that the present method of organisation would be unable to cope with "The Ringing World" problem, should this become acute during the war.'

I regret that it is necessary to rule this amendment out of order as not being germane to the main resolution. We will now proceed with the discussion.

DISCUSSION CONTINUED.

Mr. W. SHEPHERD (Addlestone, Surrey): It is with pleasure that I support a motion given in such clear terms. It calls for faith in our associations, guilds and also the Central Council to continue work which has been difficult since their first formations. At annual meetings elections are made, and in the main all those called to serve have given valuable service to the advancement of our art, yet it is often the case that many of us failed to appreciate what has been done and have let good men retire without a word of thanks. You cannot better the present constitution of church bellringers by forming another organisation that will do away with pin-pricking. Such a thing only exists between a few members, and the remedy, if any, is not even suggested. It is also suggested that compounding subscriptions be abolished, but I say that if peal ringers like to ring peals over the border they surely must expect to pay for the privilege. We also hear that the College and Cumberland Youths do not get the episcopal blessing, but if the writer of that statement will refer to 'Bell News' and 'The Ringing World' during the last 60 years he will find his statement incorrect.

We have read about a National Association, with a full-time secretary and an editor working under an executive committee to do away with annual reports and produce a cheap ringing paper. This sounds very nice, but many details are lacking. A full-time secretary with his expenses would need a sum amounting to four figures without counting the cost of the editor, who would require another large amount. The executive would also need travel and subsistence allowances which will again be heavy. We have had a National Health scheme since 1912 with many highly paid officials and huge yearly

expenditure, yet when the member needs anything he gets in touch with the local secretary.

Ringing is different in Middlesex compared with Devon, and officers approach problems from another angle. We can rely on them to stand by us in the future, for, after all, ringing is for the most part work for the Church, therefore local conditions and customs prevail to a great extent. The clergy are mostly aware of the county or diocesan ringing body and take interest in the work, but would not the word 'national' leave them indifferent? A member of the Central Council doubts we have such a body. In these circumstances why not resign membership? Nobody has done more for ringers and ringing than the Council, and this can be borne out when the whole of its labours are taken into account. The Central Council is what members make it, and, apart from its debating power, there has been a real host of hard work done by committees since its inception. It is unfair of any ringer with a few years' experience to judge the work of a Council without taking all its labours into account. No, sir, these proposed fundamental changes may suit a few, but it must not be overlooked that many hundreds of ringers do not ring peals and you will have to find a scheme very different to a National Association if you are going to give them value for their 5s. In the absence of any sound propositions, I am confident that whatever the future may hold for us our present basis of construction is the one that will serve us best.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

Mr. J. A. TROLLOPE: It is quite clear from the pages of 'The Ringing World' that the question of a National Association has interested a good many people, and we all have been expecting its advocates to take advantage of the Conference to bring their views forward.

They have done so to some degree, but in such a way that at present there is no motion by which a direct vote can be taken. It would be a pity if ringers could not have an opportunity of saying definitely whether they would like to have a National Association or not, and to give them the opportunity I will propose as an amendment to Mr. Coles' motion, that the words 'and is of opinion that a National Association is unnecessary' be added.

The idea of a National Association has been favoured by a section of the Exercise for many years. Readers of my history of the Central Council will probably remember that a scheme was mooted at a church congress at Reading nearly 60 years ago. An influential committee was formed to consider the matter, and a scheme was drawn up and submitted to the Exercise. But it came to nothing, mainly because of general apathy, but also because most of those who would have been called upon to work it thought it unworkable.

One important result there was, for the Central Council was founded as an alternative. The Council is a fact and has worked. A National Association is an ideal and no one can say whether it would work or not.

LESSONS OF HISTORY.

As a pretty close student of the history of ringing I have been very much impressed by the way in which the Exercise has reproduced in its small way the general characteristics of the people of England. The English character, the English Constitution, English law, the English way of doing things, and almost everything English are a mass of illogical incongruities. That is why foreigners and especially Frenchmen have never understood us and think we are hypocrites, why Roman Catholics scoff at the Church of England as a body that can't make up its own mind on any matter, and why Germans despise our inefficiency. They are all right up to a point, but at the bottom of the English inconsistency there is a definite principle and that is the love of personal liberty. The Englishman likes to do things for himself in his own way rather than have them done for him or do them as he is told even though it is a better way.

That is how the Ringing Exercise grew up. Ringers have always been most independent persons. They have flatly refused to submit themselves to any authority, whether it be of the parson and churchwardens or of officials of societies of their own making. I am not saying whether they were right or not; I am stating the fact.

It is extremely probable that this individualism in ordinary life will have to give way as the tendencies to standardisation become stronger. It has much lessened in my time. And it is quite possible that the Exercise will follow the same path, but it will not be for a time. At present we have to face the fact that the average ringer and especially the average country ringer has no desire to be improved or to become a unit in an efficient organisation, and however much it might do him good there is no means of putting pressure on him.

Our present organisation may not be logical and may be theoretically inefficient, but it is what has been evolved by actual circumstances. If we want to have a National Association we must first get the average ringers into that state of mind in which they will not merely accept but welcome a National Association, and be prepared to give up their individual liberty of thought and action for the good of the whole Exercise. That is really the task the advocates of a National Association must undertake.

Mr. LESLIE W. BUNCE: I beg formally to second Mr. Trollope's amendment.

(Continued on next page.)

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

(Continued from previous page.)

Mr. T. J. LOCK: After having read correspondence in support of a National Association, I fail as yet to be convinced that the present time is opportune to abolish all the existing associations and societies in favour of one controlling body with its various branches.

It seems to me that what is envisaged is a central office with paid staff operating in a similar manner to a professional body and having similar relations to its members, impression being made on a would-be member of the great advantages of membership, including a journal, usually free, and other facilities. But surely in time the central office staff, including the Editor, would become clerks interested primarily from the professional, and not from the practical ringing, point of view. Further, if such circumstances existed I presume we hon. secretaries would at least be requested to carry on as such or should we have some monetary reward for our labours; and if the latter, from what source would the finance come?

An annual fee of 5s. per member has been suggested, but I submit that no National Association would have the slightest influence over the average ringer to pay this increased subscription, and I am sure I am not the only hon. secretary who cannot draw a 1s. 6d. annual subscription from some members, even after a reminder (and Mr. Hartley must agree with me on this point). The prevailing spirit of the present time amongst ringers is friendship and a desire to help others, and so let it remain.

I want to make one suggestion. As the National Association would absorb all existing associations and societies, including the Ancient Society of College Youths and the Royal Cumberland Youths, may I make a request to those members of the former society who have expressed favour in this new adventure to have a proposition put forward at one of its meetings to the effect that the society would be prepared to declare itself disbanded in favour of a National Association. For without this the scheme would not be one hundred per cent. successful.

FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES.

Mr. PETER CROOK, Bolton: I agree there is something that could be done in the interest of ringers by the aid of a national scheme, but I am afraid that when one gets down to 'brass tacks' he will find many obstacles in forming a National Association.

The first will be the financial problem. I have been collecting association subscriptions (a mere 1s. 6d. per year) for over 20 years, and I find it is not an easy task, although I am at their heels all the time. So if we only take 50 per cent. of the ringers, it will be a disappointing effort to try and get 20,000 subscriptions in from some headquarters.

The work of the associations and guilds is all voluntary, but one cannot expect the administration of a National Association to be done on this basis. An office and staff, however small, along with stationery, postage, etc., would entail a subscription so large that it would not get the support it would need to carry on.

Not many years ago I, along with others, had the experience of trying to arrange a national scheme. Men from the provinces met in London and tried to work out a scheme, but it did not materialise, the chief stumbling-block being finance. Some of the 'bodies' concerned had a fairly large bank account, others had none. Those with the hard-earned money would not submit to it being pooled. This and the administration settled the whole question.

AN AFFILIATION SCHEME.

I would like to suggest some form of affiliation. Instead of paying a non-resident subscription for the privilege of ringing a peal each association or guild pay a reasonable small amount annually to the Central Council, and the individual ringer pay an entrance fee, also to the Central Council, which would entitle him to ring peals in other affiliated territory. The money accrued from such sources could be used for the benefit of all ringers, especially the new entrants to the art, in the way of literature. The Central Council is waiting for funds to publish other books. Grants could also be made to our only ringers' paper. It will cause a greater setback to ringing than the war if it closes down.

What do you or the majority benefit from your peal fee to another association? I am a member of many associations, but when visiting some districts I have perused their annual report, but could not find my name in the list of non-resident members. I rang a peal in one district and told them I was a member of their association. I later received a letter to say that my name could not be traced in their books. Fortunately, I had kept my receipt, and still my name does not appear in their annual report.

How much simpler it would be to produce an affiliation card and put a footnote under the peal recording 'Affiliated member.'

The administration of this could be easy. The individual could pay his local general secretary his entrance fee, who in return issues him an affiliation card, and forwards the whole money along with the present subscription to the Central Council.

Perhaps 'Universal' could be substituted for 'National.'

BOURNEMOUTH.—On Sunday, May 10th, in St. Peter's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples as a farewell to Dr. Cyril Garbett, Lord Bishop of Winchester and Archbishop-elect of York. Dr. Garbett preached at St. Peter's on this day at evensong: Herbert Mitchell 1-2, Mrs. F. John Marshall 3-4, Arthur V. Davis (conductor) 5-6, Francis S. Wilson 7-8.

NATIONAL SURVEY OF CHURCHES.

AN APPEAL FOR RINGERS' HELP.

Day by day, as a result of enemy action, many priceless architectural treasures are being destroyed, and of some of them not even the smallest serviceable illustrative record remains. If this lack of record continues it will be tragic, both in the case of the great architectural masterpieces, and of the small country churches, built and added to in many periods, and forming the groundwork of the history of their parishes. With them may be lost their fittings and furnishings—stained glass, woodwork, monuments, pictures and carvings.

Of less than a quarter of the churches in this country is there an adequate illustrative or descriptive survey, which would either enable a competent architect to reconstruct such parts of the buildings and its fittings as might be damaged, or preserve the image of the building and its contents for posterity, should it be completely destroyed.

Many ringers who in peace time were able to go about the country and visit towers have probably collected pictures of the churches they visited, or of the bells they have rung. Now an appeal is being made by the Central Council for the Care of Churches for the help of ringers in the formation of a National Survey of Churches, and all who have collected pictures, or who have cameras and would be willing to make records, are asked to respond. Photographs, drawings or printed matter describing churches are urgently wanted as a precaution against irreparable damage to these buildings for lack of sufficient information on which to carry out repairs. For example, a quite typical country church may have a 13th century chancel with two windows added in the 14th century, and a 15th century roof, while the nave is of the 15th century with a 17th century tower and porch. The mixture of styles is part of the charm of the building, but unless adequate records of all these details are preserved, it would be impossible to carry out repairs or restoration which would reproduce the original building. If it is decided that a building cannot or should not be reinstated, then it would be a great loss, both to the locality and to the architectural wealth of the country, if no pictures of it remained to show posterity what it was like.

The War Office has stated that permits are not required for photographing churches, provided that they are undamaged and not in protected areas, and that neither war damage nor military activities of any kind are included in the picture. It would be advisable for photographers to obtain and have with them, when taking photographs, a copy of 'The Control of Photography Order (No. 1), 1939,' obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, price 1d.

Permission to photograph damaged churches, or churches in restricted areas, can be obtained by making application on D.R. Form 5 obtained from the Central Council for the Care of Churches.

Anyone who is interested should write to the secretary of the Council at their temporary address, Farham, Dunster, Somerset, for free leaflets of advice, describing the work, and giving information about the special release of photographic materials and other facilities.

BIRTHDAY IN CHESHIRE.

A very pleasant gathering was held on Sunday, April 19th, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. David Vincent, of Hale, Cheshire. Their son, Peter, reached his ninth birthday on the previous Friday, and to celebrate it his parents invited Mr. A. Barnes, of Reddish, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Bailey and Mr. P. Laffin, of Stockport, Messrs. Edwards, Elkins and Brown, of the local (Bowdon) company, with Mrs. Elkins and Mary.

The hero of the day, Master Peter, rang the trebles to a course of Grandsire Caters after a preliminary skirmish, and his brothers, Gordon (14) and John (12), rang a pair each in Plain Bob and Grandsire. Mrs. Vincent also performed, ringing the tenors to both Bob Major and Grandsire Caters.

After a look round the garden, which was sprayed with fruit blossom, and lunch, which was a credit to its founder, a peal was attempted by the adults. The first attempt ended with an almost voluntary breakdown after 30 minutes, the bells being small and so shrill that they were almost painful. Mr. Bailey then produced his well-used set, once in the possession of the great J. W. Washbrook, and upon which many peals have been rung in recent years. They are mellow and easy to listen to, and on these the band got nearly half-way, but curious noises outside the window caused the master of the house, who was ringing the tenors, to hawl for silence. A remediation of both noises 'off' and noises 'on' caused a Q set to split in, or rather at, the Middle, and Pritchard's Bob Major stopped one course short of half-way. Then there was a noble set of handbells, size 22 in C, to be tried out, and on them a pretty sketchy course of Grandsire Cinques was rung, which demonstrated the tones of a beautiful set, dated 1873.

Fifteen sat down to tea, after which Master Peter and his brothers did some more ringing, and conversation ranged the field of ringing. There were representatives of Suffolk, Cheshire, Lancashire, Surrey, Kent and Hereford present.

KINGSBURY, MIDDLESEX.—On Thursday, May 7th, at No. 7, Glenwood Grove, a quarter-peal of Bob Major, 1,344 changes, in 37 minutes: Mrs. J. H. Botham 1-2, K. Arthur 3-4, E. B. Hartley (conductor) 5-6, R. G. Speats 7-8.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. SONNING DEANERY BRANCH SECRETARY.

Departure of Mr. W. J. Paice.

A successful war-time annual meeting of the Sonning Deanery Branch of the Oxford Guild was held at Wokingham on Saturday, May 2nd. Proceedings commenced with handbell ringing at the west end of the nave of St. Paul's Church, followed by a simple service conducted by the Rector, the Rev. the Hon. P. H. Scott, M.A. A short and telling address was given by the curate (the Rev. D. R. Carlin) from the words, 'In that day there shall be upon the bells holiness to the Lord.' He spoke of the present ban on church bells and said that if ringers were called upon to ring at the present moment it would be for a secular purpose and as a warning to the community, but they all, ringers and others alike, looked forward to the day when the bells should fulfil their true function and ring out for the blessings of peace and holiness unto the Lord. The preacher concluded his address with Tennyson's well-known poem, and never did those beautiful words sound more appropriate and inspiring than at that moment, 'Ring out the old, ring in the new; Ring out the thousand wars of old, ring in the thousand years of peace; Ring out the darkness of the land, ring in the Christ that is to be.'

Tea followed in St. Paul's Parish Room, ably prepared and served by Mrs. Peachy and Mr. Eamer. It proved to be an excellent tea for war time, and over 30 members and friends were present, including the Rector, curate and organist of St. Paul's.

Canon Coleridge, chairman of the branch, presided at the business meeting. An apology was received from the Rev. C. E. Wigg, Deputy Master of the Guild, who sent best wishes for a successful meeting.

The treasurer presented the balance sheet, which showed a balance in hand of £5 5s. 2d., while the Restoration Fund showed a credit of £17 2s.—The balance sheet was adopted on the proposition of Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Rance.

A short report by the hon. secretary was also adopted.

CANON COLERIDGE RE-ELECTED.

Canon Coleridge vacated the chair and said that he should not mind at all if they would elect someone else in his place, as he was getting old and in these times did not find it easy to get about, although he had always been glad to be connected with that branch of the Guild and to have served so many years as chairman.

Miss Robinson, in proposing the re-election of the Canon, said they did not dare to think of anyone else as chairman so long as he was willing to serve, and Mr. Rance, in seconding, said after all it gave Canon Coleridge a little outing once a year.—Mr. R. T. Hibbert strongly supported the election, which was carried with acclamation.

The Chairman announced that the next item was a very sad one, as, owing to leaving the district, Mr. W. J. Paice was not able to continue as secretary and treasurer of the branch. Canon Coleridge paid a very high tribute to Mr. Paice's painstaking work for the past 15 years, and said that among the branch secretaries of the Guild Mr. Paice took a very high place indeed. He wished to make a proposition, which would be recorded in the minutes, that a most sincere and hearty vote of thanks and appreciation be accorded to Mr. Paice for all he had done for the branch.

This was seconded by Miss Robinson, who also spoke in high praise of Mr. Paice's interest and work, as did Mr. F. Nye, of Bagsbot, and Mr. R. T. Hibbert.

The retiring secretary feelingly replied, and thanked all for their kind expressions and for the help and encouragement they had always given him. He said it was a sad moment for him to give up that work, which he had always loved to do while he was able and to leave so many valued and trusted friends. He had always tried to keep in the forefront of his mind the honour, not only of the branch, but of the whole Diocesan Guild.

NEW SECRETARY APPOINTED.

Mr. J. Moth proposed the election of Mr. B. C. Castle as successor to Mr. Paice, and this was seconded by Mr. Tilley and carried unanimously.

Mr. Paice supported the election and asked that the same generous help might be extended to Mr. Castle as he had himself received.—Mr. Castle promised to do his best for the branch.

The foremen of the different towers were elected to form the Branch Committee, and Messrs. Dentry, Moth, Rance and Darvill were elected as representatives to the Guild Committee, the latter in the place of Mr. Castle, on the motion of Mr. Rance, seconded by Mr. Parker.

The question of giving financial support to 'The Ringing World' (Continued in next column.)

A NEGLECTED TOWER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Several times lately you have stressed the fact that bells must be looked after and kept in order ready to ring again when the ban is removed, and Mr. A. A. Hughes, of the Whitechapel Foundry, published some useful hints on the care of bells and their fittings.

I fear, however, that there are many rings up and down the country going to rack and ruin through sheer neglect.

On Sunday recently I went for a cycle ride round my old district to look at the countryside. I called at the old Norman church at Stanton-on-Hine Heath, where I learnt to pull a bell. The churchyard was well kept, with daffodils growing in profusion. As I walked up the path I noticed wood-pigeons and jackdaws flying in and out of the bell chamber windows, so knew the wire netting must have decayed. The church door was locked, but I found the key and made my way up the tower. The floor of the ringing chamber, which once was a model of cleanliness, was littered with bird droppings, which had come down through the rope holes into the clock chamber and thence into the ringing chamber below. The clock chamber floor was an inch deep in dirt, all of which must have come down through the rope holes. When I raised the trap door into the bell chamber I was met by a shower of sticks and dirt and the carcass of a dead pigeon. The place was full of wood-pigeons, jackdaws and starlings, which eyed me for a moment and then flew wildly about, making for the openings in the netting.

The whole place was indescribably filthy, sticks and dirt everywhere; bells, frame and fittings covered with droppings, the tops of the wheels were full, and ridges of it along the tops of the headstocks. Two of the bells had heaps six inches high piled up on the soundbow where they happened to be directly below nests in the roof. In the corner of the treble pit was a nest containing two young pigeons. Most of the gudgeons were red with rust, but I found a bottle containing oil, so was able to give them all a good oiling before I left.

No doubt there are many other towers in like condition, in which case many good going peals will be derelict by the time all this is over.

E. V. RODENHURST.

Prees, Salop.

SONNING DEANERY MEETING.

(Continued from previous column.)

was introduced by the chairman, who explained the matter fully, and pointed out the seriousness of the position and the grave illness of the Editor (Mr. J. S. Goldsmith), whose recovery was greatly handicapped and retarded owing to his self-sacrificing efforts to keep the paper going at considerable loss to himself. Canon Coleridge spoke with pride of what the Oxford Guild had done in making a substantial grant from its funds as had other branches of the Guild. He hoped that the Sonning Deanery Branch would be willing and able to take a share in such a praiseworthy effort.

Mr. R. T. Hibbert spoke of the noble self-sacrifice of Mr. Goldsmith, not only in maintaining a paper for the Exercise, but in many other ways to help ringers and ringing.

Mr. W. J. Paice also spoke of what ringers owed to the Editor of 'The Ringing World' for many years past.

Miss Robinson then proposed that £10 be given from the Branch Restoration Fund towards the fund for the support of 'The Ringing World,' and this was seconded by Mr. W. Parker.

A discussion took place upon this resolution, and it was pointed out by Mr. Paice that although the fund was instituted primarily for the restoration of bells, it had never been drawn upon for that purpose and there did not seem to be any immediate need for it. There seemed to be no reason, therefore, why it should not be used for any other worthy purpose.

It was then proposed by Mr. Nye and seconded by Mr. Paice that the name of the fund be changed to the Branch Reserve Fund, and this was agreed.

The original resolution was also put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Canon Coleridge proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to all who had worked to make the meeting so successful, including the Rector of St. Paul's for the service, the Rev. Carlin for his address, the organist and those who had arranged the tea.

Members were present from Binfield, Hurst, Sandhurst, Waltham St. Lawrence, Wokingham (All Saints' and St. Paul's), and visitors from Reading and other places, including Messrs. Corbett (Guildford Guild), Levett (Hastings), Gardiner (Swindon), Osler (Bramley, Hants) and others.

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A1 23456 W. R. B1 23456 W. R.

45236 — —
 24536 — —
 52436 — —
 43526 — —
 54326 — —
 35426 — —
 42356 — —
 34256 — —
 23456 — —

52436 — —
 43526 — —
 24536 — —
 53246 — —
 25346 — —
 32546 — —
 54326 — —
 35426 — —
 42356 — —
 34256 — —
 23456 — —

A2 53246 — —
 25346 — —
 32546 — —

B2 45236
D1 23456 W. R.

C1 23456 W. R.
 45236 — —
 24536 — —
 53246 — —
 25346 — —
 32546 — —
 54326 — —
 35426 — —
 42356 — —
 34256 — —
 23456 — —

D2 52436 — —
 35426 — —
 42356 — —
 54326 — —
 32546 — —
 43526 — —

C2 52436 — —
 43526 — —

These four pairs of round blocks are the four different ways in which the 12 in-course Natural Courses with the sixth at home can be grouped together, and they provide some of the most valuable and most widely used of the material for composing peals in all methods in which three bells are affected by a bob.

Each of the blocks is capable of being varied in a definite number of ways. In the first place the calling may be started at any one of the course ends, the same relationship between the two complementary blocks being, of course, kept.

In the second place all the blocks and all the variations of them can be reversed, and they can be reversed in two different ways.

Let us consider these variations in some detail. Suppose we write out one of these blocks (say A1) in full on a long strip of paper and paste it on a drum just the right size so that the final rounds would come on the top of the first rounds. We have now 1,008 true changes written on our strip of paper and if we start with rounds and follow the drum round until we come to rounds again we shall have passed through all the changes of the block and shall have reached a certain number of bobs at certain intervals.

If we start at any other point (say the second course end, 14523678) and follow the drum round till we come back to 14523678, we shall equally have passed the same 1,008 changes and the same bobs at the same intervals. The only difference is that, as we started at a later point, we shall have those changes at the end which before we had at the beginning.

But now, instead of beginning with 1452367, let us write rounds in the place on the drum where that row comes, and then prick changes with bobs at exactly the same intervals as before until we come back to rounds. We shall again have a block of 1,008 changes, and it must be a true one, because all the rows will bear to 12345678 the same relationship that the rows in the first block did to 14523678. The actual rows will be different but the composition is the same.

In the same way we can start from any row we please on the drum and, going round it until we again reach the same row, have a block of 1,008 changes. In actual practice we should only start and finish at a course end with 1,7,8, in their home positions, but any other starting point could be used to produce a true block. This will give us the first kind of variation we spoke of just now.

We take our drum again, but now, instead of following the changes forward, we will follow them backwards. If we start from rounds we shall come back to rounds, and we shall again have a true block of 1,008 changes with the bobs at the same intervals, only reversed in order and with rounds and the course ends at the handstroke instead of the backstroke. We can easily alter the latter by writing rounds in the place of any one of the backstrokes and keeping the same relation between the changes.

In our block, A1, bobs are made at the Home and at the Wrong. If we reverse from a course end the Homes in the original will still be Homes in the reversed, only if there is a bob at the course end from which we start we shall not come to it until we reach it at the end of the block. Going forward from the course end the Wrong lead is the first we come to. Going backwards it is the sixth lead we come to, and when we adjust the reverse by turning handstrokes into backstrokes the Wrong becomes a Middle.

Now let us start on our drum not from a lead end, but from a row half way between a Home and a Wrong lead, when the treble is making the first of two blows behind. In the place of whatever row comes on the drum we write the row 86745231, and from it we prick changes according to the method and the bobs as they are on the drum as we follow it backwards.

Half a lead from the start we shall come on the drum to a Home lead, and that in our variation will be a Wrong lead. Just before we complete the circuit of the drum we shall come to a Wrong lead, and that in our variation will become a Home lead.

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NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual general meeting, Saturday, May 16th, at St. Lawrence's Church, Brentford (High Street). Handbell ringing from 3 p.m. Service at 4. Tea in the Parish Room at 4.45 p.m. Charge about 1s. 3d. (not more). Business to follow. Buses from Hammersmith and Shepherds Bush to Isleworth and Hounslow pass the church, about half-a-mile west of Kew Bridge.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Gen. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the North-Western Division will be held at the Church, Harlow Common, on Saturday, May 16th. Silent ringing and handbells from 3 p.m. Tea at 4.30. Business to follow.—W. Wheeler, Mill Street, Harlow Common.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—A meeting will be held at St. Peter's, St. Albans, on Saturday, May 16th. Tower open at 3 p.m. for stimulating interest for new recruits, showing them and any others the working of the bells. This meeting terminates the 'Bell Week.'—H. J. Hazell, Dis. Sec., 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Syston on May 16th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting at Mr. E. Payne's, near church, at 5.15 p.m. — H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Taunton Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. James', Taunton, on Saturday, May 16th. Bells (8) available from 3.30 p.m.—R. W. Hayward, Hon. Sec., Tregoney, Hovelands Lane, Taunton.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 23rd, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—A meeting will be held at Hitchin on Saturday, May 23rd. Handbells available in the tower of the Parish Church from 5 p.m. Business meeting at 6.30 to elect a district secretary and committee. Please make a special effort to attend, as it is hoped to get some form of programme arranged for the summer months to help to hold the district together until better times. — Don Mears, A. E. Symonds, Hitchin.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, on Saturday, May 23rd. Ringing (10) at 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by meeting and tea. All ringers welcome. Notify by Thursday, 21st.—E. A. Stafford, Acting Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Our next meeting is to be held at the Social Club, Broughton Astley, on Saturday, May 23rd, at 6 p.m. We shall be pleased to welcome any visiting ringers and friends. We hope to have plenty of handbell ringing.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—The 63rd annual meeting will be held at Chelmsford on Saturday, May 23rd. Service in Cathedral 4 p.m. Meeting in Chapter House 4.45 p.m. (approx.). Tea afterwards at Cannon's Restaurant. Please notify me if tea required not later than Thursday, May 21st. Tower bells (8) and handbells available from 2.30 p.m.—L. J. Clark, Hon. Sec., 36, Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District. — The annual meeting will be held at Howden on Saturday, May 23rd. 'Silent' ringing on bells (8) from 2.30 to 8 o'clock. Short service in church at 4 p.m. Fish tea at Manor House Cafe at 5 p.m. (2s. each) for all who notify Mr. J. W. Thompson, 16, Northolmby Street, Howden, E. Yorks, by Tuesday, May 19th. Business meeting for election of officers, etc., after tea. — H. H. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held (p.v.) at Kettering on Whit Monday, May 25th. Central committee 2.45, Parish Hall, Market Place. Service, with address, 3.30, Church of SS. Peter and Paul. Tea 4, followed by business meeting and election of officers. (Tea will be arranged only for those whose names are received by the general secretary not later than May 18th. This is definite.) Handbells available before and after the meeting.—Robt. G. Black, Hon. Gen. Sec., Stamford Road, Goddington, Kettering.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District. — A meeting will be held at Kingston-on-Thames on Whit Monday, May 25th. Handbells available at the Parish Church during the afternoon and evening. Tea 4.30 p.m. Short evensong 6.30, followed by business meeting in the vestry. Spend the day in the beautiful parklands in the vicinity and come to the meeting in the afternoon. All welcome. — G. W. Massey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 173, Coverts Road, Claygate.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The meeting at Balcombe, arranged for July, will be held on Saturday, May 30th. Silent tower bells and handbells. Names for tea by Wednesday, May 27th, to Mr. A. Laker, Barnfield Cottages, Balcombe, Sussex. Please endeavour to attend this meeting.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch. — The next meeting will be held at St. John's, Worcester, on Saturday, May 30th. Service in church 3.30 p.m., followed by business meeting. Numbers not later than Tuesday, May 26th. — Ernest F. Cubberley, Branch Hon. Sec., Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held in St. Peter's belfry, Brighton, on Saturday, May 30th. Tower open and handbells available 3.30. Business meeting 4.30. Address by the Vicar of Brighton. No tea arrangements. Half rail fare, maximum 2s., to resident members.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Gen. Sec.

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FRIDAY, MAY 22nd, 1942.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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THE PROBLEMS OF RECONSTRUCTION

It would be well, before we attempt to decide what is best to be done to restore change ringing after the war, to make quite sure what is the general nature of the problems which will face us. There are some who seem to think that when the ban is removed, it will not be removed unconditionally, but that regulations will be laid down imposing restrictions on the use of bells. They think that the body known as the Anti-Noise League will not fail to make its influence felt, and they urge that we should form ourselves into a National Association in order to have a sufficient status to meet its action.

These fears and conjectures are groundless. The present ban is imposed by authority conferred on the Government to deal with problems which arise directly out of war conditions and for no other purpose. When peace comes the authority will lapse absolutely, and though Parliament will certainly find it necessary to renew it, to deal with some things such as food and petrol rationing during the period of reconstruction, it is quite certain that it will refuse even to consider the renewal of those orders, such as the black-out and the ban on ringing, which are merely restrictive of personal liberty. Any general regulation of the use of church bells would need a special Act of Parliament and such would be opposed by the whole influence of the Church.

On the contrary, when peace comes there will be a universal call for the bells, a call which will be far wider than ringers will be able to meet, and the immediate problem will be how to get enough ringers together to man the ropes.

Nevertheless in the task of getting ringing back again into normal conditions, it is certain that we shall have to face in an increasingly acute form a problem which has always been more or less with us, and that is the problem of the individual objector. Not infrequently there live close to a ringing peal one or two people who do not like bellringing, and sometimes they are very insistent in their dislike. They vary a lot. Some are reasonable people, and some are the reverse of reasonable. Some have a legitimate grievance, and with some their grievance is of their own making, though it is not the less real for that.

We have, of course, long been familiar with this sort of thing, but though it will be nothing new when peace comes, it will most certainly be more frequent after the long silence of the bells, and upon the way it is dealt with will largely depend the extent to which change ringing

(Continued on page 234.)

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will be restored in some places. Every case is quite independent, and will have to be dealt with on its individual merits by the people on the spot. That is a good thing in some respects, for the man who objects to the nuisance of bells in his immediate neighbourhood is not concerned with any attempt to make general restrictions on ringing. All he wants is the cessation of his own grievance and, that abated, he cares not a jot what happens in the next parish—probably he rather likes to hear the bells at a distance.

These objectors vary enormously in kind, and there is no precise and general way of dealing with them. What would be most successful in one instance would be disastrous in another. But there are one or two general principles which all ringers should always keep in mind. The first is that every effort should be made to reduce and do away with all causes of legitimate complaint. The unnecessary sounding of single bells, pulling up and ceasing bells without regard to the outside effect, bad ringing, and bad striking with frequent break-downs—these can and should be avoided. If a band cannot ring a method decently well, they should ring something they can ring. It is better to strike Treble Bob well than to strike Cambridge Surprise badly, and worthy of more credit. Generally speaking, more stress should be laid on the way a method is rung than on what method is rung.

Another thing is that objectors should always, as far as possible, be dealt with tactfully. Often a few friendly words will meet the case. If the band is in the right, they should give way as little as possible, but in doing so they should avoid any appearance of truculence. A band should always remember that objectors can often get ringing much curtailed and even stopped, and they should so act that no objections do arise, even if it means they must forgo some of the things they would like to do.

BAN TO REMAIN.

QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT.

From time to time in official quarters attempts are made to get the ban on church bells removed, but hitherto without success. The latest attempt was made in the House of Commons last week, when Mr. A. P. Herbert (Ind., Oxford University), asking what form of enemy incursion was to be signalled by church bells, pointed out that

Church bells were greatly missed;

They were not the most effective available signal;

The church was the only public building which was never on the telephone; and

The use of church bells for any military purpose might legitimately be taken as a technical justification for any enemy action against any church.

Sir James Grigg said that the ringing of church bells signified landings or imminent landings of parachutists or other airborne troops near the church. He knew that church bells were greatly missed, and fully sympathised with this feeling. The other points had likewise been fully considered, but in spite of them the reason for which this plan was originally adopted still held good.

WEDDING OF MR. H. E. THOMPSON.

On Saturday, May 9th, the wedding took place at the Church of the Holy Innocents, Kingsbury, Middlesex, of Mr. Herbert E. Thompson, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Thompson, of 64, Bromley Street, Stepney, to Miss Margaret Ball, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Ball, 69, Springfield Mount, Kingsbury.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was dressed in white satin and wore an orange blossom headdress. She was attended by two bridesmaids, Miss Dora Boyce, dressed in turquoise taffeta, and Miss Joy Bunch in cyclamen taffeta, with contrasting headdresses. Mr. Ted Kipps was best man. Unfortunately there were no hand-bells to ring.

Mr. Thompson's many ringing friends, who know him as the secretary of the Stepney band and a prominent member of the A.S.C.Y., will join in wishing him and his bride health, wealth and happiness.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, May 10, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5080 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16½.

MRS. J. THOMAS ...	1-2	JOHN THOMAS ...	5-6
MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ...	3-4	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ...	7-8
*EDWIN BARNETT... ... 9-10			

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First handbell peal of Treble Bob Royal.

BURBAGE, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, May 10, 1942, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT STEDMAN, SKETCHLEY ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different 720's.

*BETTY RAYFIELD ...	1-2	ALFRED BALLARD... ..	3-4
FRANK K. MEASURES 5-6			

Conducted by F. K. MEASURES.

* First attempt for a peal 'in hand.' Specially arranged for Mrs. Rayfield, who is to be congratulated on the way she rang her bells, having never previously rung a 720 'in hand.'

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, May 11, 1942, in Two Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

*RUSSELL G. SPEARS ...	1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ...	5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT ...	3-4	*ERIC B. HARTLEY	7-8

Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

* First peal on handbells.

WALTON, LIVERPOOL.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, May 13, 1942, in One Hour and Forty-Seven Minutes,

AT 56, CHEPSTOW STREET,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

T. S. NORRIDGE	1-2	E. G. RAPLEY	3-4
*T. W. HAMMOND 5-6			

Conducted by E. G. RAPLEY.

* First peal of Bob Minor.

BOURNEMOUTH, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, May 14, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT BRAYSTONES, SOUTHBOURNE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings.

Tenor in D.

MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY	1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS	3-4
*JOSCELIN M. TURNER 5-6			

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* First peal 'in hand.' Rung on Ascension Day.

SWINDON, WILTSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
(HIGHCLIFFE SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, May 16, 1942, in One Hour and Forty-Three Minutes,

AT 134, CROFT ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

Tenor size 13 in F.

IVOR C. N. BELL	1-2	*JACK S. ROBERTS	3-4
REV. MALCOLM C. C. MELVILLE 5-6			

Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE.

* First peal of Minor 'in hand.'

GOOD STRIKING—

Keep time:— how sour sweet music is,

When time is broke and no proportion kept!

Shakespeare.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

DOUBTFUL AUTHORSHIP.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I entirely agree with your remark in 'The Ringing World' of April 17th when you say that Washbrook's No. 1 has not received the attention it deserves.

I have often wondered, since Mr. Trollope's 'Stedman' was published, which of the following is the original composition.

The first I have taken from his book, and the second from my father's pocket book, which says, '5,040 Stedman Triples, by J. J. Parker.' Perhaps Mr. C. W. Roberts or someone else can enlighten me.

WASHBROOK'S No. 1.

231456 H L Q

246351

125346 x x x

Nine times, repeated, omitting H in 4th and 9th parts.

S at 14 in last course of last part produces:—

(524361) S H L Q

634251 x x x

351246 x x x

326541 x x x

253461 x x x

Nine times repeated, omitting Q in first course of all except the sixth part produces:—

524361

231456 S at 2

J. J. PARKER.

231456 H L Q

346125

532146 x x x

Nine times repeated, adding L in first course of the 4th and 9th parts

The first course end in the first part is produced by S at 2.

Add to the 10th part Q S at 14, which produces:—

3467251 S H L Q

536421 x x x

345261 x x x

641235 x

455216 x x

Nine times repeated, omitting L in first and sixth parts produces:—

231456

Rung at Crayford, March 4th, 1892.

I might add that in or about 1920 I called Mr. Parker's peal at Crayford, having previously reversed the two halves by transferring the Singles to 11 and 9. In order to satisfy myself that the truth of the composition had not been interfered with, I sent the figures to Mr. Parker for confirmation. In his reply he said, 'You will no doubt be interested to know your father called this peal the first time it was rung.' He made no mention that it was a variation of Washbrook's.

E. BARNETT.

Crayford.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HORNCURCH.

A most successful meeting of the South-Western Division of the Essex Association was held at Horncurch on Saturday, May 9th, about 20 members being present from Romford, Leytonstone, Priddlewell, Wanstead, Brentwood and Horncurch. The service was conducted by the Vicar of Horncurch, the Rev. Canon R. A. Courthope, who gave a very inspiring address, after which a most excellent tea was kindly provided by the wives and friends of the local ringers and was very much appreciated by all.

The business meeting then followed, presided over by Canon Courthope, supported by the District Master, Mr. J. Chalk. The District Master stated how pleased he was to see that their secretary, Mr. J. Crampin, had managed to get a week-end to attend the meeting, and how glad he was that Mr. Joyce was present after such a long time away from the district. He also welcomed Mr. Stannard, of the College Youths. An apology was read from Mr. R. Heazel for his absence owing to an accident he had sustained, and Mr. Butler was asked to convey sympathy and hopes for a speedy recovery. Canon Courthope was made an honorary member of the association. It was proposed to hold the next meeting at Woodford, the date being left to the secretary to arrange.

A lengthy and very interesting discussion took place with regard to the National Association.

The meeting concluded with a very hearty vote of thanks to the Rev. Canon R. A. Courthope for conducting the service and presiding over the meeting, to the organist, Mr. Arnold Page, for accompanying the hymns, to the local ringers and the ladies for a most excellent tea, and to Mr. McDougal for having everything in readiness. A few touches on the handbells were rung during the evening.

THE BELLS OF STEPNEY.

(Continued from page 224.)

THEIR PLACE IN RINGING HISTORY.

In the year 1619 Stepney tenor was once more broken, and on March 30th it was 'ordered and decreed that the fyft bell wch is broken should be cast with what convenient speed may be, and for the payment and satisfaction of the Bell founder who shall performe the said work, yt is agreed that there shalbe an assessmt made of every one in the said pish and also every out dwellers according to the third part of the rate that he or they shall pay vnto the poore in theyre severall hamletts.'

As with other parishes, the fees charged for the use of the bells were a substantial portion of the church income. In 1602 the charge 'to the prop vse of the Parish wt out any allowance or payment to ringers for ringing all the bells called a Peale' was xvs.

In 1628 it was ordered 'that such summe & summes of money as shall arise by the Bells, the breaking of the churchyard, & the church clothes shall quarterlie be brought and put in the chest that thereby there may be money upon all occasions to defray such expenses as shall belong to the pish Church of Stepnie.'

At some time during the seventeenth century the ring at Stepney was increased to six. In August, 1725, the tenor, during ringing, broke from its bearings and fell down to the first floor of the tower; but, fortunately, did no other damage than smashing the wheel. The writer in the 'Norwich Gazette' who reported the incident remarked that the bell was allowed to be the finest in tone in England, and 'tis said the Parish intend now to make those 6 Bells up to a Peal of 8, which will be then the finest Ring of 8 in England.' The tenor weighed 49 cwt.

The augmentation was carried out. On September 12th, 1734, the Rambling Ringers visited the steeple and rang a third of a peal, no doubt the first part of Annable's composition. John Trenell rang the seventh and John Hayward, with Thomas Clark to help him, the tenor. Laughton was loud in his praises of the way the bells went. A fortnight later, on September 28th, 1734, the College Youths rang the first peal in the steeple. The method was Bob Major and the time taken was three hours and thirty-nine minutes. The band was a good one. John Cundell and John Trenell between them rang the tenor, Richard Spicer rang the seventh, Annable called from the fifth and other well known men in the band were Andrew Field, John Dearmore and John Ward.

A little more than four years after this peal, on February 26th, 1739, the Eastern Scholars rang another in the same method; again with two men to the tenor, and this they claimed as the 'first compleat peal of five thousand forty Bob Major that ever was rung in that steeple.' On the face of it it looks like an assertion that the earlier performance was a false one, but in view of the men who took part in it, I do not think we ought to come to that conclusion. It is more likely that the Eastern Scholars knew nothing about the other peal.

It was not until thirty years later that the next recorded peal was rung on the bells by the London Youths. 'By order of the Grand Master, the Society did ring on Saturday, February 14th, 1769, a compleat Peal of 5040 Grandsire Tripples with two Singles in 3 hours & 47

minutes. It is the first peal in the method at that church and are the largest peal in the country. Performed in the Year of Bells 3258. The peal was call'd from the scale of the late Mr. John Holt by Brother Chrstr. Wells, who reversed the courses by calling the last half method first and the first last. Never done before.'

The fourth peal on the bells, also Grandsire Tripples, was by the Junior Society of Cumberland Youths on February 24th, 1785. The elder George Gross conducted, and he called a composition with 100 bobs and 2 single changes only.' The figures are not given in the peal book, but we may be sure it was Holt's Ten-part with the singles at plain leads instead of bob leads.

In the year 1797 the tenor had again been broken and on August 9th the churchwardens, at a vestry meeting reported that the tenor bell was cracked and useless and the sixth was a very bad bell. The opinion was expressed that the bells were too heavy to be rung easily, and it was suggested that they should be recast into a lighter ring. It was decided to have a new octave with a 36 cwt. tenor, and the churchwardens were authorised to treat with Thomas Mears in the matter; but six months later another vestry rescinded the resolution and decided that the tenor and sixth alone should be recast, and as near as possible to their old weights. Nine years later the present ring was cast at the Whitechapel foundry. As the old tenor weighed 49 cwt. and the new one 31 cwt. it is probable that no new metal was needed for the extra bells, and that there is to-day in Stepney steeple the metal of the bells that hung in the Priory of the Holy Trinity in Aldgate in the fourteenth century.

When the new ring was opened in 1807 three peals were rung. On March 8th the Junior Cumberlands rang 5,039 Grandsire Caters, the composition of John Norman, who conducted. James Marlton rang the tenor. On the following day the senior Society of Cumberland Youths rang 5,075 Grandsire Caters, and on March 13th 5,080 Oxford Treble Bob Royal. In February, 1808, the junior Cumberlands rang 5,200 Oxford Royal.

The latter performance was composed and conducted by Noonan and is described in the peal book as 'a true peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal and the first in that method on the bells.' It looks like a direct assertion that the peal George Gross had called less than a twelve-month before was false; but the book was written in such an inaccurate and haphazard way and the Junior Cumberlands were generally such a disreputable lot that much attention cannot be paid to it.

During the nineteenth century, and right up to the present war, Stepney bells were among the most popular with London ringers, and many peals have been rung on them. The most outstanding was the 5,040 London Surprise Royal by the College Youths on November 14th, 1907. The method was an attempt by Gabriel Lindoff to extend London Surprise Major to ten bells. An extension on the lines he and other people were working is not possible and naturally he did not succeed in his attempt. A long and heated controversy arose on the matter, which was carried on in the pages of 'The Bell News' and in the Central Council, but whether or not the method is entitled to be called London Surprise in no way affects the merits of the performance, for it was by far the most difficult Royal method in which a peal had been rung. Mr. George Price conducted from the fourth.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.**THE SOCIETY'S NAME BOOK.**

Interest in the meetings of the Ancient Society of College Youths is still as keen as ever, as the attendance at the Whitechapel Foundry on Saturday week clearly showed. Two new members were elected, Mr. Brian Wayman, of Teddington, and Mr. John Botham, of Kenton.

A letter from Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., regretting inability to attend the meetings, was read. 'Although absent in person,' wrote Mr. Groombridge, 'I am with you in my thoughts.' The hope was expressed by the meeting that when the summer weather came 'dear, old Tom' might be able to attend.

Mr. Wayman said he had just returned from Lincolnshire and had been asked by Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson to convey their very best wishes to the company.

Referring to the passing of Mr. Cornelius Charge, late of Fulham, Mr. C. W. Roberts paid tribute to his ability as a composer, and said he had given to the Exercise some very useful compositions. As a tribute to his memory, the members stood for a few moments in silence.

Returning the current name book of the society, from which he had been making a copy, Mr. E. A. Young made a few useful suggestions for making the book more interesting to future ringers, such as an entry against a member's name of the year he became Master, and a note against such names as William T. Cockerill, who was secretary for many years.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Young for the work he had carried out, and, in replying, Mr. Young undertook to help with the suggested additions to the book.

Mr. G. N. Price called attention to the bells of St. Saviour's, Southwark, and expressed doubts as to whether everything had been done to ensure their safety. They had been taken down from the steeple, but are at present on the floor of the transepts. Several speakers suggested sandbagging as a precaution, and it was decided to draw the attention of the Cathedral authorities to the matter.

In addition, to the Master, secretary and treasurer, the following members were present: J. Shepherd, W. H. Pasmore, G. N. Price, J. A. Trollope, C. Mayne, C. Potheary, C. H. Kippin, F. E. Collins, E. A. Young, H. Hoskins, R. F. Deal, H. G. Miles, C. W. Roberts, E. Hartley, R. Spears, C. Mayer, E. Jennings, B. Wayman and Corpl. Kenneth Arthur, R.A.F.

The next meeting will be to-morrow, May 23rd, at the Whitechapel Foundry.

SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT ISLEWORTH.**NOVELTY HANDBELL COMPETITION.**

A successful gathering of ringers was held at All Saints' Church, Isleworth, on Saturday, May 9th, when nine members and 21 friends of the All Saints', Isleworth, band met for handbell ringing and social intercourse. Visitors came from South Croydon, Ealing, Ruislip, Stamford Brook, Twickenham, Kingston-on-Thames, Epsom, Claygate, Isleworth and Teddington. Handbell ringing took place in the church from 3 p.m. until 4.15 p.m. The local band then rang a course of Grandsire Caters for the service, which was conducted by the Rev. K. Toole-Mackson, Mr. T. A. B. King presiding at the organ.

The Rev. Toole-Mackson gave a most inspiring address and expressed great confidence in the future. At the same time, he said he hoped that ringers would continue to hold as many meetings as possible, as otherwise he felt there would be a great decline in the art of bell-ringing through so many of the ringing fellowships being seriously depleted by present conditions.

The service was followed by an excellent tea in the Mission Hall, after which further handbell ringing was continued. A novelty competition was staged, in which all the ringers were asked to write their names on small slips of paper which were then mixed up and drawn from a hat. The first four names drawn formed the first team, the second four the second team and so on until six teams had been drawn. These teams were then asked to ring a plain course of any method on eight bells and they would be judged to decide the winning team. The judges—the Rev. Toole-Mackson, Mrs. J. Herbert and Mrs. A. B. Wiffen—gave their decision in favour of the team which rang a good course of Grandsire Triples and consisted of the following: W. Massey 1-2, G. W. Massey 3-4, J. Herbert 5-6, and E. C. S. Turner 7-8. The ringing of the other teams was quite good considering that they had been picked at random, and all brought their courses to a successful conclusion. Other ringing during the evening consisted of Grandsire Caters and Cinques, Bob Minor, Major and Royal, with some touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples.

MONS. JOSEF DENYN.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—Last week a member of the Belgian Free Army in this country told me that the great carillonneur of his country, Mons. Josef Denyn, had passed away recently. Is there any confirmation of this report?

This soldier was a prisoner in German hands in Belgium and had escaped via France and Spain to this country.

EDWARD J. THOMAS.

Cardmarthen.

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Tenor 82 cwt.

HANDBELLS, BELL ROPES,
MUFFLES,
Etc.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Members of the East Grinstead and District Guild should note that the meeting arranged at Balcombe for May 30th has been postponed so as not to clash with the annual meeting of the Sussex County Association.

Congratulations to Mr. E. Alexander Young, who reaches his 77th birthday to-day, and to Mr. Ernest Turner, who will celebrate his thirty-second birthday to-morrow.

Mr. B. C. Ashford writes that the time taken in the handbell peal rung at Stourbridge on April 27th was two hours and nineteen minutes, not two hours and twenty-nine minutes as reported.

Mr. J. M. Turner, who rang 5-6 to Grandsire Doubles at Bourne-mouth on May 14th, has taken part in several peals on tower bells, his last being one of Grandsire Triples on June 28th, 1913. Since then he has spent over 20 years abroad, keeping in touch with the Exercise during the whole of that time by means of a regularly sent ringing paper.

On May 17th, 1735, the College Youths rang at St. Lawrence Jewry 5,040 changes of Court Bob Major. It was the method which is given in text books as Double London Court, but as it has irregular lead ends, it is now obsolete.

On May 18th, 1846, Thurstans' Four-part peal of Stedman Triples was rung for the first time. '— it, Harry, what peal have you been ringing?' asked John Lates of the conductor when he came out of the tower. 'The bells came round with a single!'

Thomas Day's long peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, 16,608 changes, was rung at Mottram on May 18th, 1883.

On May 20th, 1820, a disastrous fire broke out at York Minster, which did much damage and destroyed the old heavy ring of ten bells.

What at the time was the record peal of Stedman Caters, 13,054 changes, was rung at Cheltenham on May 21st, 1888. Canon Coleridge rang the ninth.

On the same date in 1921 William Pye rang his 1,000th peal as conductor.

The College Youths rang 12,675 Stedman Cinques in fine style at St. Saviour's, Southwark, on May 21st, 1923, with Mr. Alfred B. Peck at the tenor. It was probably the most splendid failure in the history of the art, for the composition was afterwards found to be false in one six.

What may have been the first true peal of Stedman Triples was rung on May 22nd, 1799, at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields.

James W. Washbrook rang the tenor and called 17,024 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Kidlington on May 22nd, 1899. The truth of the performance was afterwards strongly challenged.

Fifty years ago yesterday six peals were rung—Grandsire Triples 1, Stedman Triples 1, Bob Major 1, Oxford Treble Bob Major 1, and Double Norwich Court Bob Major 2.

THE AIR RAID ON YORK.

RINGERS SAFE: RING OF EIGHT DAMAGED.

All the York ringers are safe, we are pleased to say after the recent raid on the city. Several, however, had narrow escapes and had their houses damaged.

One fine old church, dating back to the early part of the fifteenth century, was gutted by fire, and it is feared the ring of eight bells, dating from 1729, is seriously damaged. Two of the smaller bells have fallen to the ground and one of them is broken. The other six are still aloft mixed up with the remains of the clock and half burnt belfry beams.

Another of the city's historic buildings, which housed the Rangoon Bell, is also in ruins. The Rangoon Bell, captured by the 51st Regiment, now the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, when they stormed Rangoon in April, 1852, is safe and apparently undamaged.

THE REV. W. C. PEARSON'S BOOKS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—After reading your editorial article in 'The Ringing World' of May 15th, I am glad to be able to assure you that the Cambridge University Guild is fully conscious that the future of Mr. Pearson's books is a matter which concerns the Exercise as a whole, and that the views you express are in principle those of every member of the Guild whom I have consulted since it was first known that the University Library would not accept the books on the terms of Mr. Pearson's will.

If a final decision as to the disposal of the books is not announced immediately it will be because the securing of the aims you mention, viz., the keeping of the collection intact, its future safety and accessibility, needs no little negotiation and deliberation; and also because members of the Guild who have the right to be consulted and whose judgment is valuable are at present widely scattered. I can also assure you that your suggestion that one of the copies of Duckworth's 'Tintinnalogia' should be presented to the British Museum will receive full consideration.

It may be of general interest if I say that the books we have received include all those mentioned in the notice in 'The Ringing World' of January 23rd with the exception of 'A Rich Cabinet with a Variety of Inventions,' by J. White.

A. C. BLYTH, President, C.U.G.C.R.

Selwyn College.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

THE ORGANISATION OF THE EXERCISE.

A Challenge to the National Association Supporters.

The debate on Mr. C. T. Coles' resolution is continued.

Lt.-Col. C. F. JERRAM (Helford, Cornwall): In supporting Mr. Coles' motion, there is one aspect of the present organisation which has not yet been touched upon and on which I am, perhaps, qualified to speak. With the concurrence and help of the Central Council several guilds and associations have approached the diocesan authorities with a view to the incorporation of a ringing member, on the Diocesan Advisory Board on Faculties. In several dioceses this has now become a regular practice, notably in diocesan guilds, and usually takes the form of a regular appointment to the Board, by the Bishop, of an official of the Guild.

Such an appointment is of considerable benefit to the Board in tower and bell matters. The great advantage to ringers and ringing is obvious in that only so can the ringers' views be kept before the authority, responsible to the Chancellor, on all tower matters. Further, a guild or association official is in direct touch with the Central Council to which he can go for advice on technical matters. This link between the ringer and the authority which supplies the towers and bells was just coming well into its own when the war broke out. It will be invaluable when the war is over. It would appear, to me at least, doubtful if such co-operation could take place without the aid and incentive of a local association.

Mr. R. LEIGH (Cambridge): I am in complete agreement with the remarks made by Mr. P. Crook. I suggest that any ringer, who is already a member of a county or diocesan association, should have issued to him by the Central Council (on payment of an 'entrance fee') a suitably headed card, otherwise plain. In the space below the heading other associations would (on payment of a subscription equal to the average of all non-resident entrance fees for the various associations) stamp their association name and the date of stamping. On producing this card it would at once be clear whether the owner was or was not a member of a given association. With regard to the non-appearance of such non-residents' names in annual reports, it is surely up to members to give a gentle reminder to the hard-worked secretary. The card would serve as a 'combined receipt.' Separate associations could use a similar card to replace annual subscription receipts also.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

Mr. K. ARTHUR (Ruislip): Mr. Coles' opening speech of the present debate contains one very striking sentence. He says, 'At the present time, when actual ringing of bells is entirely suspended, it is necessary that whatever organisation we have shall be kept alive.' Does he intend this remark to apply unequivocally to all our organisations, I wonder? If so, what of the Central Council, our organised development par excellence?

There is no doubt that in the fifty years or so of their existence the county and diocesan associations have achieved much for the benefit of the Exercise, and the Central Council has done no less in co-ordinating their efforts, but in these days of adversity we cannot be content to rest on these laurels. Whereas most of the associations are endeavouring to keep the flame kindled, the Central Council appears to be hopelessly apathetic. The proposals for the formation of a National Association constitute a direct challenge to the efficiency of the Council, and the failure to accept the glove shows a weakness which might very well lead to disaster. As I see it, a reorganised Central Council—not necessarily reconstituted—with a more vigorous policy would satisfy any needs of the Exercise. If the present representatives on the Council feel they are unable to promote such a plan, then let them make way for those who can.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

As regards the idea of a National Association, I am not an advocate of it. The good relations of our guilds and associations with their local churches and clergy form the keystone of organised ringing, and a sudden rupture of these would be comparable to bringing the arch on our heads. A National Association savours too much of a reversion to secular activities, and, after all, a ringer is, or should be, primarily a churchman.

Mr. NORMAN S. BAGWORTH, Wimbledon: Respecting Mr. Trollope's remarks supporting his amendment to Mr. Coles' motion, whilst I agree in some ways with his views, I do not think he has quite hit the nail on the head.

The idea of a National Association may have been favoured many years ago, but the point of issue is the merits or demerits of a National Association now or in the early future. Conditions to-day are vastly different from those prevailing at the time of the formation of the Central Council, all will agree. Mr. Trollope's analysis of the English character, constitution, etc., and the European or Asiatic opinion of the average Britisher will not help us to put the 'ringing house in order.' He tells us that the Central Council is a fact, and works, and a National Association an ideal which no one can say whether it would work or not. Can Mr. Trollope say that it will not work now just because it could not fifty or more years ago?

Without decrying the work of the Central Council and what it has done in the past (every ringer owes a lot to it if they are really fair-minded and not short-sighted), the fact remains that there is

admittedly much more to-do, and urgent and important work it is. Since the Central Council has been spoken of by many contributors to the Conference, I should like to see some newly-elected and entirely new member of the Central Council contribute his or her views on what he or she thinks the immediate aims of the Central Council should be in the light of present conditions, and what circumstances are likely to present themselves when the ban is lifted. Perhaps this would then give rise to more interesting discussion in the Conference as to what the post-war aims of all ringing organisations should be without paying more attention to the traditions of the Exercise than they deserve. (I am sure we sometimes placed too much importance on tradition in the past.)

Mr. Trollope stresses 'individualism,' but he must realise that the 'individuals' who turned down the formation of a National Association fifty or more years ago are not alive to-day. As for the idea that the formation of a National Association would mean giving up liberty, he has 'opened his mouth and put his foot in it,' to my mind. He (perhaps unwittingly) states the true aim of what all ringing organisations should be when he says, 'thought and action for the good of the whole Exercise,' but I cannot see how it would necessarily kill all individual liberty of thought and action.

INFORMATION WANTED.

Mr. J. P. PRICE: Being, compared with some of the members of the Conference, to some extent new to ringing, I can perhaps approach this question of a National Association with a more open mind than others, and I hope the opportunity that Mr. Trollope's amendment will give as a direct challenge to the supporters of a National Association will be taken full advantage of so that those of us who are still open to learn may hear the arguments. Up to the present I must admit I have heard of little to be gained from a National Association as compared with the organisation we have at present, but I am afraid it would rob us of a good deal of that close association with our churches which we value so much to-day. Bishops, clergy and other churchpeople will give us their support and confidence because our diocesan guilds, and their equivalent in the county associations, stand in close local relationship to them. Will the same thing apply to a National Association, which it seems to me would be an organisation detached from the Church rather than linked with it? And not only the clergy and the Church, as an organisation, would be less inclined to associate with us, but from what I have heard of ringers they too might not regard an association, national in character, with little or no local touch, with any favour. We have one form of organisation, which for what it is worth has stood the test; is it worth sacrificing it for problematical success in another direction, with little to gain and much to lose? That is what I would like to see answered. What can a National Association give us that our existing organisation cannot? Others have asked the question; I repeat it. I think ringers are entitled to know, and the advocates of a National Association cannot expect to get support until they have provided a sufficient and satisfying answer. To tell us that ringers of the future will save an occasional non-resident subscription is, I think, hardly sufficient. Throughout a career of 50 years a friend of mine has joined about 30 associations at an average cost, he tells me, of about 5s. each. He doesn't begrudge a penny of it; indeed, he feels himself an honoured person to have had the privilege. To have rung his peals 'on the cheap' would not have given him half the pleasure. If the question of non-resident subscriptions is the only point of importance, I cannot see any real advantage in 'swopping horses,' at this particular stage anyhow. Unless you turn your association into a trades union, with the accompanying pains and penalties also, I cannot see how you can expect to collect, either any large proportion of subscriptions: you are likely to lose a great deal of your voluntary help, and the cost of running the association will be infinitely more than the present organisation. I await with interest, as I am sure a great many others do, to hear what the advocates of the National Association can tell the Conference on these matters. They can't expect our votes without some further information.

Readers are asked to send their contributions to the debate on Mr. Coles' motion so that they reach us not later than Tuesday morning next.

THE LATE MR. C. CHARGE,

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The peal to which Mr. E. Barnett refers in his letter in this week's issue of 'The Ringing World' is, I think, the one conducted by Mr. J. S. Wilde, of Dunedin, New Zealand, and not by Mr. C. Charge.

One thing both these stalwarts had in common was an evergreen interest in the art, despite the distance they were from any live centre of activity. Many of us would do well to bear in mind their examples and endeavour, in these difficult times, to keep an interest as keen as they have done through all the years.

The details of the peal are: Dunedin, New Zealand. On Monday, December 20th, 1937, in three hours and ten minutes, at 9, Balmoral Street, a peal of Bob Major, 5,120 changes: Charles Wilde 1-2, James S. Wilde 3-4, Joseph Whipp 5-6, John Grimes 7-8. Composed and conducted by J. S. Wilde.

C. KENNETH LEWIS.

Marple, Cheshire.

Mr. Barnett has given us similar information.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT BRENTFORD War-time's Effect.

In normal times, when the chief attraction at meetings is the bells, it is only to be expected that one of the greatest anxieties of the secretary and others responsible is to arrange the annual meeting in a district where plenty of bells are available. It is, therefore, only natural that twelve and ten bell towers come first on the list, and eight bell towers occasionally; and that where such towers are in close proximity is a favourite place for the big meetings of an association. It is not surprising that in the 45 years of its existence the Middlesex County Association has not, prior to this year, held its annual meeting at the six-bell tower of St. Lawrence's, Brentford, and the fact that this was the first such meeting held in the county town of Middlesex was specially noted.

The meeting was held on Saturday, May 16th, at the invitation of the Vicar, the Rev. W. Paton. Divine service was well attended, and the lesson was read by the president, Preb. W. P. Cole Sheane. The Vicar, in his address, referred to the noises and clamours of the present day, the noise of the guns and the clamour of politicians; but the bells, he said, were silent. He drew many parallels, and found several lessons to be learned from our present-day difficulties. He looked forward to the day when, as he said, 'the noise of our bells will bring us peace.'

Tea was served in the Mission Hall adjoining, and despite accommodation being stretched owing to some latecomers, seats were found for everybody.

At the business meeting which followed, the chair was taken by the president, who was supported by Messrs. G. W. Fletcher and J. A. Trollope (vice-presidents), Mr. W. H. Oram (hon. treasurer), Messrs. J. E. L. Cockey and T. J. Lock (district secretaries), H. Kirby (Master), C. T. Coles (hon. secretary), and a company of nearly sixty members, who attended from Twickenham, Ealing, Edmonton, Walthamstow, Fulham, Willesden, Kingsbury, Isleworth, Harrow, Ruislip, Bishops-gate, Chiswick, Hillingdon, Upper Clapton, North Mimms, Beddington, Crayford, Beckenham, Brentford, etc.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

Prior to the ordinary business, the Hon. Secretary read the names of members of the association who had died since the last annual meeting. These included P. Buckell, J. Hunt, A. Panther, G. Lindoff, the Rev. A. H. Lloyd, H. A. Edwards, C. W. Clarke, C. Mee, R. E. G. Geare, A. Gill and C. Charge. As a mark of respect all present stood in silence for a few moments.

The report for 1941 was read by the hon. secretary, who pointed out that, owing to the necessity of economy, especially in paper, the report had been confined to a single sheet, and supplies were strictly limited. The report stated: The continuance of the ban, the damage done to many churches by enemy action, and the black-out, made it extremely difficult for the district secretaries to arrange any considerable number of meetings. Despite these difficulties, however, seven district meetings were held during the year, and the attendances, although not up to the usual standard, were satisfactory. These meetings took place at Kilburn, Monken Hadley, Stanmore, Upper Clapton and Bishopsgate (St. Botolph's); also at Ealing (St. Stephen's) and Heston. The highest attendance (40) was at Stanmore on August 9th, whilst the Ealing meeting in April had the quite satisfactory attendance of 30. These meetings are almost the only present means of bringing members together, and their continuance depends entirely on the support given to them.

During the year 18 peals were rung, all, of course, on handbells. Thirteen members took part in them, and there were five conductors. One member, Mr. Harold Howson, rang his first peal. Most of the peals were rung at Enfield, and Mr. J. Thomas conducted 13 of them. The other conductors were Mr. C. W. Woolley (2), and the Rev. M. C. C. Melville and Messrs. I. J. Attwater and E. A. Barnett one each.

Very few new members were elected, which is not surprising. The number was five, two in each district and one under the emergency rule for ringers in H.M. Forces.

Attention was again drawn to the proposal to prepare a list of churches in the diocese which have been damaged or destroyed by enemy action, and tower secretaries and others are urged to keep a record of all damage done. Other information required for future record purposes is the names of members serving in H.M. Forces. This information should be sent to the hon. secretary.

Subscriptions showed a considerable decrease, as was perhaps to be expected. All members who can do so were urged promptly to pay their dues, with a view to building up a very necessary reserve for the difficult days ahead. These days may come sooner than they some-

times dare to hope, and they should be ready for them. In the meantime the ban on ringing continues, despite all the efforts by the hon. secretary of the Central Council, and other influential persons, to get it lifted. As loyal citizens they must be content, and if their small sacrifice was a means of helping to bring the war to a successful conclusion, they were satisfied.

The balance sheet, showing a small increase in income over expenditure, and assets to the value of £164 12s. 6d., was submitted by the hon. treasurer (Mr. W. H. Oram) and adopted.

OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

The whole of the officers were re-elected as follows: President, the Rev. Preb. W. P. Cole Sheane; active vice-presidents, Messrs. G. W. Fletcher and J. A. Trollope; Master, Mr. H. Kirby; hon. treasurer, Mr. W. H. Oram; hon. secretary, Mr. C. T. Coles; assistant hon. secretary, Mr. E. C. S. Turner. Mr. G. W. Fletcher was re-elected hon. auditor, and Messrs. Oram, Coles and Turner trustees of stock.

Messrs. J. E. Lewis Cockey, G. W. Fletcher, C. T. Coles and W. G. Wilson were re-elected as Central Council representatives for the next session.

One new member was elected, Mrs. A. M. Kersey, of St. Andrew's, Kingsbury.

The following resolution was unanimously passed: 'This annual meeting of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild requests the Central Council of Church Bellingers to support any action which may be taken by the Church authorities to obtain compensation from the Government for bells destroyed or damaged by enemy action.' It was considered that this was a matter primarily for the Church authorities, as the owners or trustees of the bells, but that ringers should be prepared to give support to any action taken.

An appeal that has received a considerable measure of support from many associations and individual ringers was next discussed, and was sympathetically dealt with.

A resolution conveying the good wishes of the meeting to all members of the association serving in His Majesty's Forces was proposed by the president, who wished them all Godspeed and a safe return to ringing.—This was seconded by Mr. J. Herbert and carried unanimously.

An invitation having been received from Fulham to hold the next annual meeting at All Saints' Church, it was resolved that, although strictly out of its turn, as Fulham was a central place the meeting should be held there.

The President proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. W. Paton for taking the service, and for the use of his garden for handbell ringing, etc.; to Mrs. Paton for presiding at the organ; to the ladies who had assisted at tea; and to the churchwarden, Mr. G. Marshall, for his valuable help.—This was carried, and the Rev. W. Paton very suitably replied.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the president.

The usual paragraph about members adjourning to the tower for more ringing has, in these days, to be omitted, but they adjourned instead to the garden, one band at each end out of each other's way. Otherwise Bob Major and Grandsire Triples might not have bleuded harmoniously.

THE REBUILDING OF ST. PAUL'S.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In the admirable article appearing in your issue of May 1st on the rebuilding of London churches after the Great Fire, mention was made of the fact that the work was carried out by means of local taxation. It may be of interest to add that in the case of St. Paul's Cathedral the King issued a brief calling for contributions from the whole realm.

Kington Magna raised £1 5s. 11d. The list of subscriptions is duly entered in the register of that date. The Rector, the Rev. Aldrich Swan, was evidently a man of means: he gave 5s.! Most of the contributions were in sums of 6d. or less, down to 1d. Mr. Trollope may be able to tell us how the money was sent in those days and what it would cost.

Kington Magna Rectory.

F. LI. EDWARDS.

The money would be collected and forwarded to London in the form of coins. There was no system, based on credit, by which cheques and token money could be used, though a start had recently been made by the founding of the Bank of England. Tithe was paid in kind, and perhaps to some extent wages, but in ordinary business transactions silver or copper coins, which were worth their face value, were used. See the quotation from the Stepney parish accounts in this week's 'Ringing World'.—J. A. Trollope.

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THE GREAT BELL OF MOSCOW.

BY RICHARD F. DEAL.

The Russians, like ourselves, have always been lovers of bells, and it would be remarkable had they not at times made some large ones. Every schoolboy has heard of the Great Bell, and almost every book on Russia makes some reference to it, yet authoritative information is scarce and difficult to obtain. Through the courtesy of Mr. A. A. Hughes, of the Whitechapel Foundry, I have been able to read a description of this extraordinary example of casting, with an account of the manner in which it was raised from the pit where it was made, and in which it remained for over a century. It is from the pen of Auguste de Montferrand, who directed the operation, which was carried out by military engineers.

The book opens with the dedication (to a Russian Prince), followed by a description of some heavy bells, the most remarkable, apart from the subject of this work, being another bell in Moscow called 'Uspenski,' cast by Michael Gavriloff Bagdanoff to take the place of a similar bell destroyed by the French in blowing up the Kremlin. It weighs about 63½ tons. He gives the weight of a bell at St. Stephen's, Vienna, as 85,400 lb., but, according to Sir E. B. Denison, it is 17 tons 14 cwt. A bell at Pekin is said to weigh 140,000 lb.

The writer proceeds to describe the Great Bell, called Tsarine Kolokol, or Queen of Bells. 'It was cast in 1733 by the orders of the Empress Anna Ivanovna to replace that of the Tsar Alexis Michaelovitch (cast in 1651), broken at the time of the fire at the Kremlin in 1701. The extraordinary size of this bell, which is 20ft. 7in. in height and 22ft. 8in. in diameter, the beauty of its form and the value of its metal cause it to be an interesting monument, under the double consideration of the religious ideas which are attached to it, and the high degree of perfection in the art of casting in metal to which the Russians had arrived in those rather remote days.'

ELABORATE DECORATION.

Upon the bell are cast in natural size portraits of the Tsar Alexis Michaelovitch and of the Empress Anna Ivanovna, and on the upper part representations of our Lord, the Virgin and the Holy Evangelists. The weight is about 193 tons. Some parts of the decoration were left for chiselling after removal of the mould. We are not told the name of the founder. It was probably intended that a tower should be built to receive the bell, over the pit in which it was cast; but in 1737 one of the several great fires which Moscow has suffered destroyed a wooden structure surrounding the bell, which became heated by a mass of blazing rafters, etc., falling on it. While in this state it was fractured through water being thrown upon it by over-zealous people. It remained in the ground until 1836, when M. de Montferrand received instructions to prepare plans and to direct the work of raising it. This he carried out, and the bell now stands in the Grand Square of the Kremlin, near the 'Tower of Ivan Veliki.'

We are given a carefully drawn plan and elevation showing the disposition of the several capstans employed, and the arrangement of the heavy timber framework erected over the pit; an inclined plane was constructed to bear the bell on the last stage of its journey to the pedestal which had been prepared for it. The preliminary work occupied six weeks, and on April 30th, 1836, the Military Governor of the city gave the order to commence the operation of raising the bell. I give the writer's account of this in his own simple yet graphic phrases:—

HOW THE BELL WAS RAISED.

'It was not till ten o'clock in the morning, by which time an immense crowd had filled the Kremlin and its neighbourhood, that I received orders to commence, the Te Deum having been previously sung to obtain from the Most High a happy result to our labours. At the instant I gave the signal my workmen, and the people who surrounded me, crossed themselves, and the machines were put in motion. At first, cracks were heard when the ropes got into a state of tension, but the strength of the framing was such that they soon ceased, and the colossus began to appear, dragging with it a part of the iron grating on which it had been placed. The strain on our machinery to raise this enormous mass of metal was so great that two of the cables were at once broken. Shortly after a sheave of one of the pulleys gave way, and was hurled forcibly against the scaffolding. The bell continued to ascend; the most profound silence reigned among the spectators; nothing was heard save the dull regular sound of the capstans. An interest mixed with dread had succeeded the hope of success, and the persons who a short time before had surrounded and congratulated me slipped away one by one. I had only nine capstans remaining which worked freely. These were no more than I wanted. Close to the bell, which had now mounted to a third of the distance it had to travel, I had caused a ladder to be fixed to facilitate the passing of four workmen, who were placed above to direct the action of the cables. At this period the operation became more complicated. In consequence of the breaking of the cables, the bell had slowly taken an oblique direction, which interfered with its rising; two cables, on which there had been a greater strain than on the others, broke almost at the same instant, and I then gave the signal to stop. Anxiety was at its height; of the four workmen placed on the bell, three hurried away and only one waited my orders. I sent him into the pit under the colossus, which caused the framing to groan beneath its weight, to fix some timber stays. When

(Continued in next column.)

RINGER'S WEDDING IN CANADA.

Ringers in England who to-day enter the holy state of matrimony have to forgo the honour of having the bells rung, but no such restrictions exist in Canada, and on March 14th last, when Sub-Lieut. Arthur Izard was married at Victoria, British Columbia, his fellow ringers rang him into church and then rang the bridal couple out. The bells were fired and it was quite like an old country wedding.

It was the second time the bells had been rung for a wedding ceremony, except for two golden weddings, those of Mr. Melhuish and Mr. Sampson, both ringers. The wedding was rather colourful, because it was a beautiful day, and there was the usual naval sword party.

Lieut. Izard, who is in the Navy, is the second son of Mr. E. W. Izard, the mainstay of the Victoria band.

After the wedding ceremony the ringers went to the reception at the house of Mr. E. W. Izard, and rang a few touches on the handbells. They also rang in the garden during the interval before the couple left, and their ringing was very much appreciated by the guests.

On Sunday, the 22nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung in honour of the wedding. Those who took part were Messrs. Boniface, King, Arthur Izard, Roberts (conductor), Sampson, Lomas, E. W. Izard and Hutchins. It was a perfect quarter-peal, with almost perfect striking.

CANADIAN RINGER'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE.

Reg. Lane, one of the band at Victoria, British Columbia, joined the Royal Canadian Air Force about a year ago. He went overseas eight months ago, and has been very prominent in the headlines. He was soon made a pilot officer, and has been doing good service over Germany. The band heard recently that he had been presented to their Majesties, and feel very proud of their colleague.

THE GREAT BELL OF MOSCOW

(Continued from previous column.)

this brave fellow came out, I caused the bell to be lowered, and contrived it should be placed clear of the ground without accident.'

It was found that the ropes had been injured by wet which had penetrated them in their carriage from St. Petersburg to Moscow, where they were stored for six months. De Montferrand ordered new cables, and increased the number of capstans to twenty, and on July 26th the bell was fixed on its pedestal.

In a lithograph the bell is shown clear of the ground, almost ready to commence its journey up the inclined plane. In the background is the Tower of Ivan Veliki, the highest of several towers in the Kremlin (about 320ft.). I have read elsewhere that Napoleon during his short stay in Moscow was told that the ball and cross surmounting the tower were of pure gold: he had them taken down, and, finding they were of iron, had the false informers shot.

Other views show the Great Bell in its final resting place: in one of them several bells are seen hung in openings in a building adjoining the tower; the very large one in the central opening I take to be 'Uspenski' (Assumption) referred to above. I believe there are 33 bells in the chime, the second in size weighing about 34 tons.

The bronze cross crowning the Great Bell is a later addition: to fix it necessitated the removal of a small quantity of metal, of which analysis produced the following result: Copper, 84.51 parts; tin, 13.21 parts; sulphur, 1.25 parts; loss, 1.03 parts. The loss is attributed to zinc and arsenic. It is surprising to read that the Russians in those days had a method of repairing broken bells by welding, which the author describes in some detail; it could not, of course, be applied to the big bell, which is nearly 2ft. thick at the sound-bow.

THE BELLS OF ST. PETERSBURG.

A description is given of eleven bells at the Cathedral of St. Isaac at St. Petersburg, cast by 'an able workman,' Ivan Makaroff Stoukolnik, from old coins taken out of circulation, with the addition of great quantities of gold and silver: the largest is 11ft. in diameter and weighs about 29 tons. St. Isaac's Cathedral is a rectangular domed building of Classic style, built during the reign of Nicholas I: (1796-1855). The bells are distributed in four towers; they are fixed, and struck by ropes attached to the clappers, the usual practice in Russia.

This concludes M. de Montferrand's very interesting narrative. He tells us nothing about himself, and I have been unable to gather any information about him. As I have said, the operation of raising the Great Bell was carried out by the military, so it may be assumed that he was an officer of Engineers, perhaps serving under the Tsar of Russia, but more probably with the Army of France—his name, of course, indicates French origin. That he viewed his difficult task in a spirit of humility, even of piety, is evident from the closing words of his address to the Reader. . . . and if my Reader should be of opinion that I have badly written, figured, or shown how the Queen of Bells has been placed where it is now to be, let him believe me to be a man who recognises to himself that he is liable to err and to sin, and that I will gladly essay to correct myself by the means of the grace of God, whom I supplicate to keep me in His holy and worthy guard.'

ELEMENTARY COMPOSITION.

FOR THE AVERAGE READER.

A1 23456 W. R. B1 23456 W. R.

45236	—	—	52436	—	—
24536	—	—	43526	—	—
52436	—	—	24536	—	—
43526	—	—	53246	—	—
54326	—	—	25346	—	—
35426	—	—	32546	—	—
42356	—	—	54326	—	—
34256	—	—	35426	—	—
23456	—	—	42356	—	—
			34256	—	—
			23456	—	—

A2 53246 —
25346 —
32546 —

B2 45236

C1 23456 W. R. D1 23456 W. R.

45236	—	—	45236	—	—
24536	—	—	24536	—	—
53246	—	—	53246	—	—
25346	—	—	25346	—	—
32546	—	—	34256	—	—
54326	—	—	23456	—	—
35426	—	—			
42356	—	—			
34256	—	—			
23456	—	—			

D2 52436 — —

35426 — —

42356 — —

54326 — —

32546 — —

43526 — —

C2 52436 — —
43526 — —

We have been discussing these four pairs of round blocks which give us the different ways in which the twelve in-course Natural Courses can be grouped together into two blocks. Last week we showed how each of the blocks can be varied either by beginning at a different course-end or by reversal. There are two kinds of reversal, and if we apply them to block A1 they will give us the following:—

A3 23456 M, R. A4 23456 W. R.

42356	—	—	52436	—	—
34256	—	—	35426	—	—
62453	—	—	42356	—	—
46253	—	—	54326	—	—
24653	—	—	25346	—	—
36452	—	—	34256	—	—
43652	—	—	53246	—	—
64352	—	—	45236	—	—
23456	—	—	23456	—	—

It will be seen that variation A3 keeps the fifth's place

bell fixed instead of the sixth's place bell, and so we will leave it out of our present discussion. The other variation A4, together with the complementary block of three courses formed by joining together 24536, 32546, and 43526 by a Q Set of bobs at the Wrong contains exactly the same Natural Courses as each of the pairs of blocks A, B, C and D, and gives us what is practically another pair of round blocks containing the twelve in-course Natural Courses with the sixth at home. In the same way we can write out the reverse variations of blocks B and C. When we come to the pair D1 and D2, we shall find that one of them is the reverse of the other.

It would not be a very big job to write out all these variations, and when we further vary each one by beginning at different course-ends we shall find that there are forty-eight different ways in which the twelve in-course Natural Courses can be grouped into a pair of round blocks.

Similarly there are forty-eight pairs of blocks with the 2nd in sixth's place, forty-eight with the 3rd in sixth's place, and forty-eight with each 4th and 5th in sixth's place. Together they provide a most excellent mass of material for composing peals, and we will next see broadly how we can use them.

As an example we will suppose that we want to compose a peal with the full in-course extent of the method. We know we cannot get together more than fifty-nine of the sixty Natural Courses, and so our problem will be to join together one 11-course block with one bell in sixth's place, and one of each of the pairs of blocks with the other bells in sixth's place. We have to join nine blocks together, and to do so we must use Q Sets of bobs at the Middle.

We will start with the block B1. The course 45236 we will ignore as the one which must be omitted from the final composition.

We shall need four Q Sets to join the eight blocks to the first one. Go through block B1 and prick the Q Sets which would result from calling bobs at each of the Middles. Then from them select any four in which each of the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th is twice a sixth's-place bell. For instance bobs in the first, second, fifth and eleventh courses will give these Q Sets:—

52436	42635	62534
35426	45623	65324
53246	23645	63542
34256	24653	64352

Next select a pair of blocks from our material in which 63542 appears in one block and 64352 in the other. Similarly a pair in which 45623 appears in one block and 24653 in the other, and so with the blocks with the 4th and 5th in sixth's place. Make the bobs as in the selected blocks and the four Q Sets, and the whole will fall into a true peal of fifty-nine courses.

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THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

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'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 23rd, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—A meeting will be held at Hitchin on Saturday, May 23rd. Handbells available in the tower of the Parish Church from 5 p.m. Business meeting at 6.30 to elect a district secretary and committee. Please make a special effort to attend, as it is hoped to get some form of programme arranged for the summer months to help to hold the district together until better times. — Don Mears, A. E. Symonds, Hitchin.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, on Saturday, May 23rd. Ringing (10) at 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by meeting and tea. All ringers welcome.—E. A. Stafford, Acting Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Our next meeting is to be held at the Social Club, Broughton Astley, on Saturday, May 23rd, at 6 p.m. We shall be pleased to welcome any visiting ringers and friends. We hope to have plenty of handbell ringing.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—The 63rd annual meeting will be held at Chelmsford on Saturday, May 23rd. Service in Cathedral 4 p.m. Meeting in Chapter House 4.45 p.m. (approx.). Tea afterwards at Cannon's Restaurant. Tower bells (8) and handbells available from 2.30 p.m.—L. J. Clark, Hon. Sec., 36, Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The annual meeting will be held at Howden on Saturday, May 23rd. 'Silent' ringing on bells (8) from 2.30 to 8 o'clock. Short service in church at 4 p.m. Business meeting for election of officers, etc., after tea. — H. H. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held (p.v.) at Kettering on Whit Monday, May 25th. Central committee 2.45, Parish Hall, Market Place. Service, with address, 3.30, Church of SS. Peter and Paul. Tea 4, followed by business meeting and election of officers. Handbells available before and after meeting.—Robt. G. Black, Hon. Gen. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—A meeting will be held at Kingston-on-Thames on Whit Monday, May 25th. Handbells available at the Parish Church during the afternoon and evening. Tea 4.30 p.m. Short evensong 6.30, followed by business

meeting in the vestry. Spend the day in the beautiful parklands in the vicinity and come to the meeting in the afternoon. All welcome. — G. W. Massey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 173, Coverts Road, Claygate.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 30th, at Guiseley. Handbells available from 5 p.m. Business meeting 7 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. John's, Worcester, on Saturday, May 30th. Service in church 3.30 p.m., followed by business meeting. Numbers not later than Tuesday, May 26th. — Ernest F. Cubberley, Branch Hon. Sec., Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held in St. Peter's belfry, Brighton, on Saturday, May 30th. Tower open and handbells available 3.30. Business meeting 4.30. Address by the Vicar of Brighton. No tea arrangements. Half rail fare, maximum 2s., to resident members.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Gen. Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Belbroughton (D.V.), Saturday, May 30th, 3 p.m. Bells (6) available 'silent.' Tea 5.15 p.m. at the Shoes. Handbells and social evening.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Bushey, Saturday, May 30th.—Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The meeting at Balcombe on May 30th is cancelled. A later date will be arranged.—A. E. Laker for C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting will be held in the schoolroom, Crossstone, Todmorden, on Saturday, June 6th. Assemble 3.30 p.m. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand.—Ivan Kay, Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—The annual meeting of the Branch will be held at Lincoln on Saturday, June 6th. Further particulars next week.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Bletchley on Saturday, June 6th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Saturday, May 30th. No names, no tea. Please make an effort to attend! All welcome.—R. H. Howson, 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

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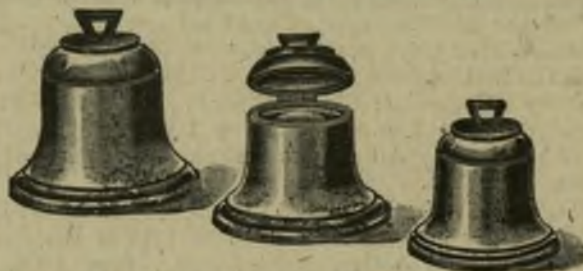
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PEAL RINGING.

The Analysis for 1940 which we published a fortnight ago provides a striking commentary on the times we are living in. Instead of the usual double page table with a couple of extra pages of comments and explanations, we have a bare page, and this meagre record will be still more meagre when the Analysis for last year appears. In the first half of 1940 the reduction of peal ringing was caused by the war; in the second half the ban completely put an end to all tower bell peals.

Most of us cherish the hope, if only unconsciously, that when peace comes we shall be able to pick up the dropped threads of our lives, and to resume our interests and activities as they were before war came, and not least among them are the peals which we were planning to attempt and which we hoped to ring. We still look forward to them, and though we sometimes realise that there will be difficulties in the way, we do not intend to let those difficulties thwart us if we can help it. Let us hope that our intentions will be fulfilled and that peal ringing will again be as popular as it was.

Meanwhile, it may be useful to consider what is the proper place that peal ringing holds in the life of the Exercise. On that question opinion is by no means unanimous. There are, and always have been, ringers who look upon peal ringing as the most important thing in the art and towards which all their energies and hopes are directed. In normal times they always have a programme of peals before them and they lose no opportunity for carrying it out. Other things, such as practices and meetings, are well enough in their way and are useful and indeed necessary, but the other is the really important thing, because only in peal ringing can these men get what they feel to be the best out of the art of change ringing.

There are other people, and they have perhaps increased noticeably in more recent years, who think that the one important thing for the Exercise is to ring the bells for the Sunday church services. They do not altogether object to peal ringing, but they hold it should be an extra and occasional activity; and often they are prone to consider that those who put peal ringing first are selfish and lacking in their duties and responsibilities.

These two contradictory views are held and held strongly, but fortunately ringers, like Englishmen in general, are seldom logical persons, and it is quite possible for two such seemingly mutually destructive opinions to exist side by side, not only in the Exercise at large, but even in the same individual. It is well that it is so. That map is of the most value to the Exer-

(Continued on page 246.)

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cise who when he is concerned with peal ringing treats peal ringing as the really important thing, and at the same time never neglects his duties as a churchman and a service ringer. Whatever others may think, he finds no difficulty in bringing the two into harmony.

Are peal ringers selfish? Some are of course, but then so are some who look no further than service ringing. Success in peal ringing means getting together a number of men, who are bound together by ties of friendship and common aims, and who are prepared to consider each other's interests. Such a body must be to some extent exclusive, but, as everyone can see for himself if he uses his eyes, it is just these people who are the most active and willing in helping others. Whatever theoretical objections there may be against peal ringing, experience has proved that it is of the utmost value to the Exercise. The keenest peal ringer is usually the best service ringer. We hope, therefore, that after the war peals will speedily resume their old place in the life and activity of the Exercise.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, May 21, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes.

At 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

*EDWIN JENNINGS	...	1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE	...	5-6
*ERNEST C. S. TURNER	...	3-4	FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW	...	7-8

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

* First handbell peal of Surprise Major.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 23, 1942, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes.

At 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 8040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 15.

EDWIN JENNINGS	...	1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE	...	5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT	...	3-4	ERNEST C. S. TURNER	...	7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

BRANKSOME, DORSET.

THE LADIES' GUILD.

On Saturday, May 23, 1942, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes.

At 101, SURREY ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 8040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor 15 in C.

MISS FAITH M. CHILD	...	1-2	MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY	...	3-4
MISS JESSIE C. CHICK	...	5-6			

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

Miss Chick was elected a member of the Guild before starting.

DEATH OF A FEERING RINGER.

It is with great regret that we have to report the death in the Essex County Hospital on May 6th of Mr. Percy J. Langstone, of Feering, after a long illness patiently borne.

Deceased had been employed for 42 years by Messrs. Hurst and Sons at their trial grounds except for a period during the last war, when he was wounded three times and was a prisoner of war for nine months. After resuming work he underwent a serious operation, from which he never fully recovered.

He was of a modest disposition and it can truly be said he was the friend of all and the enemy of none. He had rung 40 peals, all Major, and was an excellent striker.

The interment took place on May 9th amidst many expressions of regret. There were present besides relatives some of his former work-mates, who also sent beautiful floral tributes.

Deceased was a bachelor and was 57 years of age.

TWO EIGHTEENTH CENTURY BANDS.

BROMLEY AND HORSHAM.

By J. A. TROLLOPE.

Among the bells destroyed in earlier air raids was the ring of eight at Bromley in Kent. Bromley is now part of the outer suburban ring of London, but it was once and for long centuries a village deep in the heart of the country, living its own self-centred life. In May, 1773, the bells of the parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul were recast and made into an octave by Thomas Janaway, of Chelsea, and at the same time a 'sete of youths join'd in articles to learn to ring.' They made such progress that on September 22nd in the following year they rang 'a half-quarter Peal of Bob Major which is 5000 & 40 changes.'

These youths were young men whose ages varied from eighteen to twenty-six and they were artisans employed in the village. Three were carpenters, two were shoemakers, and one each a bricklayer, a breeches-maker, and a gardener. Two of the carpenters, brothers named John and William Chapman, whose ages were then eighteen and twenty-three, became the mainstays of the new society.

In the first peal the tenor was rung and the bobs called by William Cook. He had taken part in the first peal on the bells, one of Oxford Treble Bob Major, rung in June, 1773, by James Barham and his band. Possibly he was one of the Leeds men and had accepted an invitation to settle in Bromley and become the instructor and captain of the newly formed company.

During the closing years of the eighteenth century the Bromley Youths rang many peals in the then standard Major methods, including three or four six thousands. On February 15th, 1783, at their home tower they accomplished 12,672 changes of Bob Major. William Chapman conducted from the tenor, John Chapman rang the seventh and James Barnard the sixth.

Barnard was a London man, and for many years a friend and supporter of the elder George Gross. As far back as the year 1774 they had rung peals together for the Cumberland Youths, and both were in the famous 12,000 of Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch in 1784. When Gross quarrelled with the Cumberlands and left them to form the Junior Cumberlands Society, Barnard was the only one of the long peal band who went with him. The two men were still peal ringing together in 1800. In 1783 it would seem that Barnard was living for a time at Bromley or nearby, for his name for twelve months was absent from the records of any London society.

William Chapman and his brother joined the Cumberland Youths and rang some peals with them, William calling Oxford Treble Bob Major at Lewisham in 1786, and Bob Major in 1787. The society at the time had no outstanding conductor, for George Gross had left them, and John Reeves had not yet rejoined.

On March 19th, 1789, the Bromley Youths rang Reeves' peal of Real Double Bob Major 5,520 changes 'which is the full extent of changes that can be obtained in this method with the tenors together, and the first peal of Real Double with two bobs in a lead rung in England.' Charles Purser had called 5,184 changes at St. Dunstan's-in-the-West for the College Youths on March 12th, 1778; and six days later John Reeves called 5,264 changes at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields for the London Youths. Both peals evidently were false.

William Chapman continued to be an active ringer for many years, and when he died in 1817 he had taken part in more than sixty peals, a great number for those days. At his interment the bells were rung muffled, and on the Wednesday following, January 15th, a muffled peal of Grandsire Triples was rung in his memory by the Bromley Youths conducted by John Allen. This was the first recorded muffled five-thousand ever accomplished. A broadsheet with the particulars of the peal was printed and a framed copy, after having been for many years in a local tavern, was preserved in the belfry until the recent catastrophe.

In 1828 Allen called one of the earliest name peals, Grandsire Triples, with a band of Johns.

The Bromley Youths were typical of bands in the late eighteenth century all over the country and, like the majority of them, they much declined after the first quarter of the nineteenth century. They had kept a record of their performances in a peal book, and though it had gone through some adventures, it had found a home in the church. During the raid it suffered no damage, but by a most regrettable oversight, it was afterwards left exposed to the weather and has been practically ruined.

Not very far from Bromley, over the border in Sussex at Horsham, there was a company very similar in character and skill to the Bromley Youths. Before the year 1751 there was a heavy ring of six in the steeple, the tenor of which is said to have weighed 36 cwt. In 1752 they were recast by Lester and Pack into a ring of eight, and in due time an excellent band of ringers was got together.

They consisted of good class townsmen, prominent among them being members of the family of Lintott. In old Camberwell Church there was a brass to the memory of Henry Lyntot, born at Horsham in Sussex, who died in 1600. In 1633 William Lyntott was paid £3 15s. 4d. for carrying Horsham tenor to and from Chertsey to be recast; and the family seem to have been leading and prosperous tradesmen of the town.

The first peal in the steeple was one of Grandsire Triples rung on April 11th, 1766, by local men and conducted by Thomas Bristow. Thomas Lintott rang the fifth and Thomas Aldridge the tenor.

On May 2nd, 1775, the Horsham Society rang 5,040 changes of Union Triples at Bolney, the first in the method in Sussex. Bristow again conducted and Thomas Lintott rang the sixth.

The latter was now beginning to take the leading part in the band. On February 28th, 1775, he joined the Society of Cumberland Youths before ringing the treble to a peal of Bob Major at Whitechapel, and from that time he was an active member of the London society.

In the next year the Cumberland Youths paid a visit to Horsham and rang 5,152 changes of Bob Major, the first peal in the method on the bells. George Gross conducted, the elder Samuel Muggeridge rang the tenor and Samuel and Francis Wood were at the fifth and sixth. Thomas Lintott rang the second, William Tyler, another local man, the treble, and James Wilson, of Cuckfield, and Samuel Beecham, of Bolney, rang the third and fourth. The peal book specially notes that 'the ropes were hard twisted, with worsted sallies.'

On Sunday, May 17th, 1777, a band of Cumberland Youths, made up from Horsham and the surrounding

(Continued on next page.)

BROMLEY AND HORSHAM

(Continued from previous page.)

villages, rang what was claimed to be the first peal of Bob Triples ever accomplished in the county of Sussex. Lintott conducted from the fifth. On August 27th he paid another visit to London and rang the second to 5,152 changes of Bob Major at Whitechapel. On Sunday, November 16th, a band of Cumberland Youths, all of them inhabitants of Horsham, rang at the parish church 'a peal of Backward Grandsire Triples,' 'being the first ever rung reversed in this method by any men in the Kingdom.' The composition was by John Holt and Thomas Lintott called the bobs.

Exactly what was rung is doubtful. It may have been Reverse Grandsire Triples, or it may have been Holt's Ten-part with the calling of the second half rung before that of the first half. Perhaps the former is the more likely, but when in 1782 George Gross called at Hackney '5,040 Grandsire Triples Reversed' the performance was claimed in the Cumberland's peal book as the first in the method. The Horsham peal was booked as Backward Grandsire Triples and no claim was made for it. Christopher Wells had called the Ten-part reversed at Stepney in 1769.

On the last day of the year 1777 the Horsham band went to Brighton, and with Lintott again as conductor, rang the first peal, one of Grandsire Triples, on the bells in St. Nicholas' steeple.

In the following June George Gross, with Edward and Benjamin Simmonds, paid a visit to the Horsham band and spent a busy week-end peal ringing. On the Sunday they rang 5,264 changes of Bob Major at Bolney and then went on to Brighton, where, next day, they first repeated the 5,264 and then rang 6,160 changes in the same method. The three visitors and four of the Sussex men, Thomas Jones, John Wheatley, Thomas Lintott and James Wilson, rang in all three peals. George Gross conducted.

On July 15th the Horsham company, with James Wilson, of Cuckfield, rang what seems to have been the first peal at St. John's, Southover, Lewes. The method was Grandsire Triples and Thomas Lintott conducted. A month later he called the 5,264 changes of Bob Major at Dorking with a mixed band, which included Edward and Benjamin Simmonds, and Samuel Muggeridge. The composition apparently was the same as Gross had called at Bolney and Brighton.

On November 5th Lintott called 'the peal again, this time with his own band and in his own tower, and four days later he further imitated Gross by calling the 6,160.

The figures of the 5,264 are lost, and there is no clue to what it was like. It consisted of forty-seven courses and it is rather difficult to imagine what, specially attractive, there can have been in such a seemingly awkward number, but evidently there was something, for two days after Christmas Day, at Epsom, Lintott called it yet again. The band was a mixed one and included the brothers Simmonds. Two days after that George Gross met the band at Croydon and called the in-course extent of Bob Major with the tenors together, fifty-nine courses. This he claimed as his own composition, but the figures are lost. It is somewhat of a pity, for if we could compare them with the similar peals in the 'Clavis,' we should have had a good means of testing

whether Gross was really an original composer or whether his best peals were copied or stolen from John Reeves.

On February 15th, 1779, a band composed entirely of Horsham men rang a peal of Bob Triples at the parish church, and on May 24th some of them helped to make up a band that rang 11,088 changes of Bob Major in six hours and fifty minutes at St. Nicholas', Brighton. George Gross rang the treble and conducted, Thomas Jones and Thomas Lintott, of Horsham, rang the second and third, Joseph Welland, who came from Chiddingley, rang the fourth, Edward Simmonds the fifth, John Wheatley, of Epsom, the sixth, James Wilson, of Cuckfield, the seventh, and Benjamin Simmonds the tenor. It was most unusual in those days to make up a band from so many scattered towers, but there seems to have been in Sussex a lot of friendliness and co-operation between bands, and that undoubtedly was an important factor in their success as peal ringers.

In 1781 Lintott called a peal of Bob Triples at Horsham, and soon after that the Horsham men seem to have dropped their close connection with the Society of Cumberland Youths. They rang the first peal on Uckfield bells in 1785, all of them being Horsham men, except James Wilson, who rang the tenor. All the band were old members of the Cumberlands Society, but the performance was not entered in the peal book.

What seems to have been Thomas Lintott's last peal as conductor was one of Grandsire Triples on September 12th, 1792, at Leatherhead, where the bells had just been opened and where a fortnight earlier the College Youths had rung the first peal in the tower. Anthony Lintott, who rang the second to the Grandsire, apparently was one of Thomas Lintott's sons and the nephew of the Anthony Lintott who had taken part in the peal of 1766. In 1794 the younger Anthony called Holt's Ten-part at Horsham, his father and brother, Thomas Lintott, junior, ringing the third and fifth. Thomas Jones rang the sixth and Thomas Bristow the seventh.

In 1798 Charles Barber and James Bartlett from Kensington visited Horsham, and Bartlett called the original. In this peal Anthony Lintott rang the seventh, and another member of the family, James, the third. Thomas Jones was at the treble and a visitor from Halifax, William Bottomley, at the sixth. This was practically the end of the Horsham Society as an active peal ringing company. One peal was rung in 1810, another in 1818, and on October 10th, 1821, 5,040 changes of Grandsire Triples. The band was made up of George Jones, Thomas Lintott, James Whybrow, Isaac Aldridge, Thomas Jones, William Oakes, Thomas Lintott, junior, and John Vaughan. It was fifty-five years since the first peal had been rung in the steeple, and so obviously these men were the sons and grandsons of the men with the same names who took part in the earlier performance. The Thomas Lintott who rang the second was the son, and the Thomas Lintott who rang the seventh was the grandson of the man who had done so much to make Horsham company one of the best of the provincial bands.

After 1821 enthusiasm for the art of change ringing declined in Horsham and, like in so many more places, at the same time virtually came to an end.

(Continued on next page.)

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**ST. ALBANS DISTRICT.**

A most successful 'Bell Week' was arranged in St. Albans beginning on Sunday, May 10th, when handbells were rung in St. Peter's Church for morning and evening services. Previous to matins Grandsire Doubles were rung by Mrs. Fergusson 1-2, Miss K. West 3-4, R. Darvill 5-6. In the afternoon at Fellowship the same band rung Grandsire Doubles and Bob Minor, and for evensong Grandsire Triples were rung by Mrs. Fergusson 1-2, W. L. Buckingham 3-4, R. Darvill 5-6, Miss K. West 7-8.

On Tuesday evening following, a lantern lecture was given by Mr. W. Ayre in the Institute showing many interesting views of bell founding, bell hanging, position of bells in motion, different types of frames, etc. The lecture opened with a course of Grandsire Triples by F. Spicer 1-2, R. Darvill 3-4, W. Ayre 5-6, H. J. Hazell 7-8, and closed with a slide showing a course of Bob Major.

On Saturday, the 16th, the district meeting was held. The tower being open to anyone interested, many took the opportunity of seeing bells in motion. Some recruits were attracted to the art.

The election of officers took place at this meeting, and the secretary was asked if he would be willing to stand again.

Although Mr. H. J. Hazell was elected two years ago as acting war-time secretary for the duration of the war, there was a feeling that another might be better able to carry out the duties, so a proposal was made that Mr. R. Darvill be elected. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Mrs. Fergusson for providing tea.

Further ringing was indulged in till about 8 p.m., a good course of Double Norwich being 'rung' on the silent tower bells.

BROMLEY AND HORSHAM.

(Continued from previous page.)

Edward and Benjamin Simmonds, whose names have been mentioned above, were Leatherhead men and keen and active ringers. Edward removed to Islington, where he set up in business as a carpenter and bellhanger. Benjamin remained at home and for several years was the leader of a good band and a conductor who called several peals. The names of both brothers frequently appear in the peal books of the College Youths and Cumberland Youths.

THE SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.**ANNUAL MEETING AT GLASGOW.**

The Scottish Association held their annual meeting at St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, on Saturday. Although the majority were members of the local band, ringers from Dundee, Alloa and Paisley were also present. Prof. Reginald O. Street (president), Mr. W. H. Pickett (Master) and Mr. C. R. Raine (hon. secretary and treasurer) were re-elected to their respective offices. As Mr. Raine expects to go on service shortly, it was agreed that Mr. E. A. Stafford should carry on as acting secretary until his return.

Mr. Pickett reported that, with the exception of Glasgow, all practice seemed to have ceased altogether. He appealed to members to try and keep things going so as to keep the bands together. Messrs. E. W. Pye, H. Bryson and A. E. Jemmeson, of St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, were elected members of the association.

The next annual meeting was fixed for St. John's, Alloa. The President announced the death of the Rev. W. Wilson, St. John's Church, Alloa. He took a keen interest in ringing and was always ready to welcome the association to St. John's. Members stood in silence for a few moments as a mark of respect.

It was agreed to send parcels to members serving with H.M. Forces. Sgt. Preston thanked the association, on behalf of serving members, for parcels previously received, and gave an assurance of their appreciation.

The Very Rev. J. G. Murray, Provost of the Cathedral, conducted the service and afterwards joined the members at an excellent 'pre-war' tea, provided by Mrs. Preston in her usual satisfying manner.

A return to the tower was made, when Stedman and Grandsire Caters and Triples and Kent Treble Bob Royal were brought round, also rounds and call changes.

Thus ended a very enjoyable meeting, although numbers were small.

REV. W. C. PEARSON'S NOTEBOOK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The notebook, full of cuttings, which belonged to the Rev. W. C. Pearson, and was found under such peculiar circumstances by the two Sittingbourne ringers, has been offered to the Cambridge University Guild by Mr. J. E. Spice. The Guild has decided to accept the book, and it will be placed in the Pearson collection, with a note attached giving the facts of its discovery.

We think that, as mention has been made of the book in 'The Ringing World,' readers should know what has become of it.

K. S. B. CROFT, C.U.G.

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THE EDITOR.

We are very sorry to say that the condition of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith is much worse, and is causing anxiety.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

The ban was referred to at the Oxford Diocesan Conference. The Rev. C. W. Fisher, of East Hendred, asked if they were doing the right thing by letting the matter go without comment. It was a grievous loss that they went on year by year without hearing their bells. Canon Coleridge explained the situation and what had been done.

Mr. Ernest Turner made an interesting variation from normal usage when he called Holt's Original last Saturday. Instead of leaving the singled-in block till the end, he called a single instead of the 88th bob, 573624, then two bobs and another single, and then went on with the peal as usual, coming home with a bob. Mr. Harry G. Miles suggested the alteration.

Those ringers who have had the pleasure of meeting Mr. J. Van Luyt, of Capetown, will be sorry to hear that he has been unwell for some time and has been obliged to go to hospital for treatment and is still away from his duties in the Town Planning Department at the City Hall.

Mr. Van Luyt is the carillonneur at the City Hall, where there is a carillon of nearly 50 bells. He is also a gifted musician and a well-known conductor.

On Mr. Van Luyt's visits to Europe he always looks up his ringing friends in England and the Netherlands, especially his old friend, the late Josef Denyn, of Mechlin, whose death was recently reported in the Press.

The first true peal of Treble Tea in Ireland was rung at St. Patrick's, Dublin, on May 24th, 1901. Four days later at Bray, Mr. John S. Goldsmith called the first peal of Surprise Major (Superlative) outside England.

The first peal of Stedman Caters was rung on May 28th, 1787, by the ancient Society of College Youths at St. John's, Horsleydown. The bells, which had been unringable for many years, perished in one of the air raids. The peal board recording the Caters had disappeared a long-time ago, but a copy is given in Davies' and Trollope's books on Stedman.

The record peal of Bristol Surprise Major, 15,264 changes, was rung by the Middlesex County Association at Hornchurch in Essex on May 28th, 1912. William Pye rang the tenor and conducted.

Forty-one years ago to-day the first handbell peal of Stedman Caters on the sea was rung by a band returning from a ringing tour in Ireland.

The College Youths rang 5,000 Oxford Treble Bob Royal at St. Sepulchre's, Holborn, on May 30th, 1741.

The first peal of New Cumberland Major was rung at St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, on May 31st, 1886.

Fifty years ago yesterday five peals were rung. One was Double Norwich Court Bob Major and two each of Grandsire and Stedman Triples.

ST. LAWRENCE'S, BRENTFORD.

Brentford, where the Middlesex County Association held last Saturday week its annual meeting for the first time, was at one time reckoned as the county town and was the principal market town between London and the Buckinghamshire border, but it was not an original parish. The Church of St. Lawrence, where the meeting was held, is of ancient foundation, but was a chapelry in the parish of Hanwell. Like many other churches in the district, it has kept its mediæval tower, on to which a new nave and chancel were added in the eighteenth century, the result being insignificant architecturally, but not without pleasing features.

The bells are a ring of six, all with one exception of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries by the Whitechapel Foundry or Warner's. The third is a pre-Reformation bell by William Culverden, of Aldgate, and dates from about 1510. About fifty years ago Warners recast some of the bells and hung the lot in a cast-iron frame. Space was provided for two trebles, but so far it has not been possible to add them.

The first peal on the bells was one of Cambridge Minor rung on March 18th, 1933, by the College Youths and conducted by Mr. O. W. Roberts. Since then three or four others have been rung by the Middlesex County Association, all of them conducted by Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner.

At the other end of Brentford High Street there is another church in what was once a part of the parish of Ealing. Here there is a ring of six bells cast at Whitechapel in the present century. They have never been hung for ringing.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

The discussion on Mr. C. T. Coles' motion is continued.

Mr. ERNEST C. S. TURNER: The advocates of a National Association have said a lot about the benefits we should gain from such an organisation, but except for one thing they do not seem to have made up their minds what those benefits really would be. The one definite thing is that anyone visiting a different part of the country to ring a peal would not have to pay an entrance fee to the local association. That no doubt would be an advantage to the individual, but would it be great enough to justify scrapping and recasting the whole of the Exercise's present organisation? If such a thing is desirable it could easily be attained by the present associations agreeing to forgo the payment of the subscription by peal ringers. But why should they? It is not a great thing to expect a man who enjoys the benefit of peal ringing in a strange tower to contribute something to the expenses of the body that provides him the means of so doing. No other people get their pastime so cheaply as ringers do, and it is greatly to be feared that they take the privilege as a matter of course with little thoughts of gratitude. That brings us to the fundamental weakness of all these suggestions. We are asked to support large schemes which will cost a lot of money to run and a lot of officials to work. Where are the money and the men to come from? That is what we should like to know. We have no guarantee whatever that even a small proportion of ringers would be willing to pay the annual subscription necessary, and we have no reason to think that the men who voluntarily carry on the work of the present associations would be willing to scrap their present arrangements and take orders from some central officials. And would the present bodies agree to hand over the funds they have accumulated during the last fifty or sixty years? It is hardly likely.

WHAT GOOD WOULD IT DO?

And then what benefits would or could a National Association give us that we cannot get from our present diocesan or county associations? We must not forget that almost all the problems and difficulties that face ringers are local, not national. Such things as getting together and keeping together a band, complaints of people who object to bellringing near their houses, getting permission to attempt peals at home or in strange towers, and all the difficulties that arise from slackness on the part of some of the band, rivalries, jealousies and the rest. These are the real problems that face ringers, and no National Association can help. Our local associations can help and do help, though it is indirectly and by fostering the right spirit among ringers and securing the help and co-operation of the clergy.

Mr. ARTHUR H. SMITH, Great Bookham: Following the evolution of the human race from separate local tribes to the powerful nations of to-day, it seems to me that a National or English Association is the natural trend for ringing.

Some 60 or 70 years ago local societies were being amalgamated into county or diocesan guilds, but chiefly since the last war many different guilds have sprung up inside these, with a consequent overlapping of boundaries, many ringers being resident members of two or more societies, which gives an inaccurate total of ringers, and also with two or more societies having an 'interest' in the towers for peals, meetings, etc., it is a small wonder that some of the more 'convenient' towers have been overdone in the past to the detriment of those who follow on.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

Among the speeches I note a fear of the National Association being a secular body. That surely lies with its members, and I would like to ask, what was the Central Council? Perhaps if that had had some influential church officials at its head it would not have failed us when the testing time came, for even if it were impossible to avert the ban, it could have given weight to the forming of a national body of alarm-givers, which many have tried to do locally only to be frozen off in official red tape manner.

The Central Council complained that lack of funds hampered their work of publications. Well, if the many balances, large or small, of the various societies were pooled, under a national fund, a good deal could be done, for after all the moneys were subscribed for the advancement of ringing, and quite large sums are lying tied up doing nothing of the sort. So from that you can gather that I too feel that motion (b) savours too much of smugness to be supported, and that it was proposed by an official makes it worse.

Some question the financial side of the proposed scheme. As a member of a comparatively small trade union, about 3d. per week of my contribution goes to the general fund, which provides me with legal aid, accident and death benefits and a journal (issued monthly before paper shortage) besides paying the salaries of the head office and organising officials.

The Rev. F. LI. EDWARDS: I am not at all convinced that ringers would gain much advantage by forming a National Association, or that the result of such a movement would be anything very different from what we already have. Any nation-wide organisation has to be worked through district branches with local secretaries. It would be only natural that the present diocesan and territorial guilds or associations should in most cases constitute the districts for this purpose. There would be a central committee, on which the various districts would be

(Continued in next column.)

MONS. JOSEF DENYN.

A FAMOUS CARILLONNEUR.

We printed a letter last week from Mr. E. J. Thomas, of Carmarthen, in which he told us that he had been informed by a Belgian soldier now serving in this country that Monsieur Josef Denyn, the famous carillonneur, of Malines, has lately passed away. Belgium at present is, of course, in complete subjection to the Germans, and the news that reaches this country of what happens there is very scanty. We are not likely, therefore, to receive any confirmation of M. Denyn's death, but, since he had reached an advanced age, it is not unlikely.

For many years M. Denyn was generally acknowledged, not only in his own country, but throughout the world, to be the most skilful of living carillonneurs. He had many friends in England, and for long it was his custom to pay an annual visit to Cattistock, and give a recital on the carillon in the church there. Our readers will remember that those bells were destroyed by fire some months ago. He held the post of carillonneur at St. Rombold's Cathedral at Malines, and as far back as July, 1912, the twenty-fifth anniversary of his appointment was celebrated in the city by a festival attended by the King and Queen of Belgium and a large concourse of people from all parts of the country, when a recital was given by the leading bell-masters, and a new bell cast by van Aerschoot, of Amsterdam, with a medallion portrait of Josef Denyn on it, was added to the carillon.

Although the use of bells is common throughout the world, the Low Countries, Holland and Belgium, are the only ones besides our own that have developed bell music on any system. We evolved the very English system of change ringing; they invented the carillon. Carillon music is just as much a national characteristic of Belgium as change ringing is of England.

CARILLONS AND CHANGE RINGING.

There have been many attempts to compare the two systems, mostly by enthusiastic advocates of carillons, and almost all to the disadvantage of change ringing. But the two are so diverse that all comparison is futile. It is easy enough to contrast the 'monotonous and mearless repetitions of changes' and their absence of anything like melody, with carillon music which can broadcast over the countryside the works of the great musical masters; but that sort of thing misses the whole point of the matter, for though the English ringing peals have small claim to be considered as formal music, they have an appeal and an æsthetic value which the other lacks.

From time to time attempts have been made to introduce carillons into this country, sometimes in their complete form, but more usually as chimes, such as that at Coventry Cathedral. Cost is, of course, a great obstacle to the installation of a complete carillon, but Loughborough has one which will bear comparison with the best anywhere.

The English bellfounders for long have cast the best and truest bells in the world and manufactured the most efficient mechanism. There are several notable English made carillons abroad, especially in America.

There are in Belgium about 30 carillons of importance, and in Holland about 20. The most famous are Bruges, 47 bells; Antwerp, 47 bells; Ghent, 52 bells; and Malines, 45 bells. The last, which, as stated above, was in the charge of Mons. Denyn, is usually considered the finest of the lot.

Unlike English bells, which always belong to the church in which they hang, Belgian bells are always the property of the town. In some cases, Bruges, for instance, and Ghent, they hang in secular towers built for the purpose. In others, Antwerp, for instance, and Malines, they hang in the towers of cathedrals; but in all cases they are owned and controlled by the civic authorities. At Antwerp there are other bells the property of the Church, though they are seldom or never used.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

(Continued from previous column.)

represented. The association would hold an annual meeting, which in theory all members would be entitled to attend; but as no building would be available to accommodate half the ringers of England, attendance would in practice have to be limited to a proportional number of representatives from each district and—you would practically have the Central Council over again!

True, a full-time paid secretary would mean in some ways more continuous activity, but only in some ways, as the various committees of the Central Council are more or less constantly at work, and on any matter of importance the Standing Committee are consulted by post from time to time, but in my view it is a certainty that only a minority of the computed 40,000 ringers would pay annual subscriptions to the proposed association—and at 5s. a year only a comparatively small minority. It is, in fact, very doubtful whether the financial result would ever warrant the appointment of a full-time secretary.

In short, it does not appear to me that the proposed innovation is likely to prove either practicable or appreciably advantageous.

The CHAIRMAN: In answer to an enquiry which has reached me, I should like to say that any number of votes may be sent in on the same postcard, provided the names are given separately.

YE LAIE OF YE ANTIENT RINGER.

The following 'poem' appeared in the second number of 'The Ringing World.' We think it is just good enough to reproduce.

Ye Menne of ye Tower of Sainte Ioseph
Of ye village of Sumthyngeforde,
Were assembled one daie in iovial waie
Adowne ye festal boarde,
And with Pipes, and with Songes, and with Glasses
They were merrie with one accorde.

Then warm'd with ye festive spirite
Their fancyes flyghte tooke wynges,
And they told Grete Thynges of their doynge,
And of Menn of Olde did they synge,
And ye 'Famous Pele of Steadman's Cinques
That ye Colledg Youths did ryng.'

Then upp spake an Antient Ringer,
Of hoarie miene was hee,
'Ye talke,' quoth hee, 'of your doynge
And what ryne fellowes ye bee,
But lysten, and I will tell you
Of ye Thynges That Have Happen'd to Mee.'

Then a hushe felle over that meetynge
For they'd heard ye yarne before,
And they knew when ye old manne was started
He was goode for an houre or moore,
And they at ye farthest corner
Began to crepe to ye dore.

'It was,' quoth that Antient Rynger,
'In ye sumer of Forty-two
Wee ascended ye towere of Saint Ioseph
Eight trustie menne and true,
To ryng of ye Pele of Bob Maiors
Forty thousand, three hundred and two.

'And I was ye Menne at ye Tenour
And ye bobbes were call'd by Mee,
And ye Ingenious Composition
I had work'd out specialie;
And ye seven obey'd all ye orderes I gave
With grete fidelitie.

'Wee started at sixe of ye mornynge
And range through ye reste of ye daie
And ye folloyng mornynge was breaking
When ye manne at ye fyfth gave waie;
So I tooke his rope in addition to myne,
Though that's nothyng to me but plaie.

'Mornynge was waning to evenynge
Ere ye Third and ye Sixth felle outs;
So I tooke one rope with my elbowe,
And wounde ye other aboute
Ye parte that I usually sitt onn
And continu'd ye bobbes to shoute.

'Then an houre or two lapsed sans excitement
And a pele I'd begun to compose,
When another manne's rope fell vacant,
I really forget now whose,
So I tooke ye taile ende in my mouthe
And call'd ye bobbes through my nose.

'Ye dawne of ye fyfthe daie was breakynge
When ye pele at length came rounde,
And settyng ye eight bells I was ringynge
I look'd arounde me and founde
Seven prostrate lifelesse figures
Scatter'd aboute ye grounde.

'Saie Ryngers! Tell me trulie
Have I not Glorie wonne?'
Hee looked arounde about ye borde,
But answer came there nonne.
By twos and threes they'd all clear'd oute
And left him nere a one.

J. A. T.

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.'

AS OTHERS SEE US.

SCOTTISH WRITER VISITS GLASGOW BELFRY.

It is interesting often to read what outsiders think of us. Here are some of the experiences of Mr. Jack House, a regular contributor to the 'Glasgow Citizen,' who accepted an invitation to visit the belfry of St. Mary's Cathedral. He admits the terminology of campanology is a mystery to all but bellringers, and asks ringers to forgive him for any mistakes. In the following extracts he has mixed the treble with the tenor, but that is a small matter.

Every second Saturday six or eight men ring the bells of St. Mary's Cathedral in Great Western Road, Glasgow. Yet the military don't turn out, nor is there an invasion scare. The only people who can hear the bells are the campanologists themselves.

I went to St. Mary's Cathedral on Saturday to see and hear the bells rung. As I climbed the steps I could hear the bells of St. Mary's chiming as clear as if we were back in the ringing days of peace.

Behind an oaken door I found the bellringers in their grey stone chamber. Six men, shirt-sleeved, were pulling rhythmically on ropes that ran through holes in the high wooden ceiling above them.

High on the stone walls I saw little bells. As the ringers pulled, a hammer struck each bell. But the real bells of St. Mary's, far above in the tower, were silent although they were swinging. Each has been gagged for the duration.

The little bells sounded pleasant, though not impressive. But the band were taking them seriously. A campanologist has a lot to remember, and he can't take his mind off his ringing for a moment.

Every now and then the conductor of the band called 'Bob.' At first I looked round to see which bellringer was Bob. Then I found it was an instruction to ring the changes.

A seventh bellringer, who wasn't ringing at the moment, explained that the six men were ringing Cambridge Surprise Minor. If there had been another ringer present they'd have had eight on the job, and that would be Cambridge Surprise Major.

He showed me the music for Cambridge Surprise Major. It consisted of rows of numbers with lines running down and across the rows. The card looked as if it was recording a descent in the patient's temperature. But it's all quite clear to a bellringer.

While the six men were ringing, the seventh man took me up the turret stairs to the belfry. There are 100 steps altogether, so I was 'peching' slightly when I reached what seemed to me an infirm wooden platform directly above the bells.

There are 10 bells in St. Mary's Cathedral. They weigh some 6½ tons! The biggest is the treble, which is 1 ton 12 cwt. 1 qr. 6 lb.

The conductor is the representative of a firm of organ builders. Other men in the band were a professor of the 'Tech,' a soldier who was a bricklayer in England in private life and a member of a famous bellringing family, a draughtsman, a Customs officer, a Post Office man, and a tea warehouseman.

Among the bandsmen I didn't see are a tailor, an engineer, two electricians, and two CA apprentices. It took about a year and a half to train each of these men to be a change ringer. I doubt I couldn't learn it so fast.

I had a shot at pulling the rope. They gave me the giant treble to practise on. You're supposed to pull the rope until a piece decorated in red, white and blue comes down to meet you. It's this piece you pull when you're actually ringing.

I couldn't get the knack of it at all. One bellringer pulled down the red, white and blue and hung on. Treble lifted him high in the air. Inexperienced bellringers are sometimes lifted right to the ceiling if they don't let go at the right time.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

A meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Felkirk on May 16th, at which members were present from Eastwood, Rotherham Parish, Sprotborough, Sandal and a good muster of the local company. Handbells were rung in the Schoolroom during the afternoon, and the business meeting followed tea, the Vicar, the Right Rev. J. H. Dickenson, presiding.

The business, being of usual routine, was soon disposed of. The chairman assured the members he was pleased to meet them once more, and although he was leaving in a day or two, he wished the society good luck in the work it was doing and hoped it would carry on.

Mr. Moxon, Sandal, replied, and thanked the Vicar for the kindness and welcome he had given the ringers during the five years he had been at Felkirk, and wished him every success in his new parish.

Further handbell ringing followed in methods from Doubles to Bob Royal. Some of the members climbed to the ringing chamber to try the silent tower bells, but as this is not very musical they soon had enough.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at Wath-on-Deane on Saturday, June 20th, as the annual joint meeting with the Southern District of the Yorkshire Association and the societies within its district.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING AT SALISBURY.

The annual meeting of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held in the Church House, Salisbury, on Saturday, May 9th. Owing to increased difficulty of transport, there was only a small attendance. Those present were representative of the four city churches and five of the eight branches. The president, Master and others had written apologising for inability to attend.

The chair was taken by Mr. A. F. Martin Stewart, vice-president, who, during the proceedings, spoke in eloquent terms of the devoted services of the late Mr. S. Hillier to the cause of the Guild, and paid tribute to the memory of Mr. Doel. All present stood in silent respect to the memory of members of the Guild who had passed away during the last twelve months.

The general secretary presented his statement of accounts, which showed an augmented balance in hand.

On the proposal of Mr. J. E. Figgures, seconded by Mr. C. H. Jennings, all the officers were re-elected: The Rev. C. C. Cox, Master; the Rev. F. L. Edwards, secretary; Mr. F. Green, assistant secretary; the Rev. Canon Newman and Mr. W. Hinks, auditors; the Rev. Canon Gorringe, Mr. E. Coward and Mr. J. I. Davis, members of committee.

Mr. W. Foot, of Berwick St. John, who has been an active member of the Guild ever since its foundation 60 years ago and has trained many young hands, was made a life member in recognition of his splendid work as a ringer over such a long period.

In view of much difficulty and delay caused by existing circumstances in getting in all the necessary returns for the annual report, the secretary suggested that a combined report for 1941-2 be issued later in the year. On the motion of Mr. G. K. Norton, seconded by Mr. F. W. Romaine, it was unanimously agreed that this should be done; also that it should be left to each branch to decide what amount it should pay to the Guild funds for 1942.

Authority was granted to the Master, secretary and assistant secretary, with the Rev. C. A. Phillips and Mr. F. W. Romaine, to act as a standing committee in making any future arrangements for the business of the Guild, while the present difficulties continue.

The Chairman spoke in moving terms of the illness of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith and of the incalculable debt under which he had placed the whole Exercise by his devoted labours, and the secretary was requested to write him a letter of sympathy.

A short service was held in the Church House Chapel.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL.

The plans for the rebuilding of Coventry Cathedral, which was destroyed in the great air raid on the city, have been entrusted to Sir Giles G. Scott, the architect of Liverpool Cathedral.

The tower, the apse and the outside walls were unaffected by the bombing and will be incorporated in any new building.

The tower is one of the three finest in England and challenges comparison with Salisbury and Norwich. The apse, too, is a characteristic feature of the old cathedral that has to be included in the new one, but the old arcade has been utterly destroyed.

The building was more like a large parish church. Now the architect intends to give it all the impressiveness of a cathedral without dwarfing the tower and spire. It is a difficult problem of proportions.

New parts will be blended with those that are left, but the new will not be a copy of old Gothic in any way. They will have to be in a Gothic style if there is to be no violent contrast, but it will have a definitely modern treatment.

But there will be no rebuilding until after the war.

DEATH OF MR. A. V. SELBY.

AN OLD KENSINGTON RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Albert Victor Selby, who passed away on Wednesday, May 20th, in Westminster Hospital, at the age of 67. The funeral service was at St. Mary Abbot's last Tuesday and the interment at Kensington Cemetery, Gunnersbury.

Mr. Selby was born at Westerham in Kent, where, with his two brothers, he learnt to ring. He joined the Kensington band about 44 years ago and with them did most of his ringing. He had taken part in about 50 peals, including Stedman Caters and Cinques, Double Norwich Caters and Treble Ten, and several Major methods, including Superlative. He was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION

LEICESTER DISTRICT.

Syston—noted for its 'turkey suppers' and other enjoyable 'do's' in past times—was the scene of a very successful meeting on Saturday, May 16th. The tower bell were available (silent), and touches were brought round in Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and Triples, Plain, Kent Treble and Cambridge Surprise Major. The local sexton, clerk and general factotum, Mr. Ernest Payne, kindly arranged for tea at his home, and a most sumptuous spread was provided, for which he and Mrs. Payne are to be complimented, considering present catering difficulties. About 30 members and friends sat down, and towers represented included Belgrave, Billesdon, Broughton Astley, Leicester Cathedral and St. Margaret's, Sileby, Thruxington and others. Also welcomed were Mr. and Mrs. Baker (Gainsborough), Mr. and Mrs. T. Groombridge, jun. (Kent, now at Nottingham), Miss B. Rayfield (Eastbourne) and Pte. R. Davison, R.A.O.C. (West Hartlepool).

The Vicar of Syston (the Rev. F. Tetley), in a witty speech, welcomed the association to Syston, and hoped it would not be long before he could welcome them again to come and have a right royal peal and after it a 'celebration' feast at some place 'within the meaning of the Act.' He was not a ringer himself and recalled his ignorance on a visit to a belfry where he heard a peal in which someone named 'Bob' was always being called at, and who was no better at the end than he was in the beginning. He was pleased to become an honorary member of the association, and hoped to make fuller acquaintance of members when better times prevailed.

At the meeting which followed, the local chairman, Mr. George H. T. Walker, presided, supported by Mr. H. W. Perkins (local secretary) and Mr. Ernest Morris (general secretary).

It was decided to hold the next meeting in June at Sileby (six bells), and to arrange a combined meeting with Hinckley District in July, either at Enderby, Whetstone or Countesthorpe, both of which would be advertised in due course. It was further decided to emulate the Hinckley District's plan of having a collection at each meeting to help pay for advertising future meetings in 'The Ringing World', and thus help to keep down the general expenses of the association. This concluded the business, when further ringing and a convivial at the local helped to make the meeting a very happy and successful one.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The letter and figures in your last issue of 'The Ringing World' bring up old history.

The figures of Washbrook's No. 1 peal of Stedman Triples were published in 'Bell News', December 7th, 1889, page 423.

The following week he corrected an error, the Editor making the remark, 'Our correspondent's own mistake, not ours.'

On January 4th, 1890, page 465, appeared several peals of Stedman Triples by J. J. Parker with the remark about this same peal published by Washbrook claiming to have discovered it on September 20th and venturing to publish it as the first composer.

The interest of composers in getting in first in those days was very keen and most interesting. I hope these few remarks may be of interest.

1, Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh.

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

PLAIN BOB AND GAINSBOROUGH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is becoming the custom in several places to ring peals on handbells, in which each course consists of two leads of Plain Bob Major, one of Gainsborough Little Bob and two of Plain Bob. These are published as Spliced peals, and no doubt they are technically. But actually the method is Bob Major throughout with a sixth's place bob in each course. Five of the bells ring nothing but Bob Major, the treble makes sixth's place in one lead in each course, and the tenors have an extra dodge together behind.

On handbells the tenors, after dodging in 3-4 and 5-6 up, dodge in 7-8 behind, and then dodge in 3-4 and 5-6 down; instead of making the second's place and the parted lead.

What happens is that the difficult part of the tenors' work is cut out and peal-ringing becomes comparatively easy for a beginner. It is quite a good device, though it would not be likely to appeal to expert ringers. But in the report it appears as two methods 'spliced,' and that is rather misleading. I heard one man say it should be called the Emasculated Variation of Bob Major.

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A1	23456	W.	R.	B1	23456	W.	R.
	45236	—	—		52436	—	—
	24536	—	—		43526	—	—
	52436	—	—		24536	—	—
	43526	—	—		53246	—	—
	54326	—	—		25346	—	—
	35426	—	—		32546	—	—
	42356	—	—		54326	—	—
	34256	—	—		35426	—	—
	23456	—	—		42356	—	—
					34256	—	—
					23456	—	—
A2	53246	—	—				
	25346	—	—				
	32546	—	—	B2	45236		
C1	23456	W.	R.	D1	23456	W.	R.
	45236	—	—		45236	—	—
	24536	—	—		24536	—	—
	53246	—	—		53246	—	—
	25346	—	—		25346	—	—
	32546	—	—		34256	—	—
	54326	—	—		23456	—	—
	35426	—	—				
	42356	—	—				
	34256	—	—	D2	52436	—	—
	23456	—	—		35426	—	—
					42356	—	—
					54326	—	—
C2	52436	—	—		32546	—	—
	43526	—	—		43526	—	—

Last week we were discussing the construction of a peal, and we selected it not only because it is an interesting composition in itself, but because it illustrates in the simplest way and without complications, the general principles which lie behind all composition.

We may broadly state those principles in the following manner. First state clearly the problem to be solved. Next collect the material available, and sort it out and arrange it. Then see how it can be joined together into one block.

First, our selected problem is to produce the longest peal of Bob Major possible, using bobs at the Wrong, Middle, and Home only.

Our material consists of the sixty in-course Natural Courses, but we know at the start that we cannot get more than fifty-nine of them into our peal.

We restrict the range of our investigation by deciding that first of all we will arrange our material by grouping together all those Natural Courses which have the same bell in sixth place at the course-end. There are twelve Natural Courses with the 6th at home, and we know that what we can do with them we can similarly do with the twelve with the 5th in sixth's place, the twelve with the 4th in sixth's place, and the others.

Twelve is an even number, and therefore the twelve Natural Courses with the 6th at home cannot be gathered into one round block. There must be two of them. So we thoroughly examine the various ways in

which the twelve Natural Courses can be set down in pairs of complementary blocks. We find that there are forty-eight ways which consist of those given above and their variations, produced in the manner we described last week. We set down these forty-eight either on paper or mentally. We then take the twelve Natural Courses with the 5th in sixth's place at the course-end and treat them in the same way. So with the other Natural Courses.

We have now got our material arranged and grouped, and our problem is next to join together one pair of complementary blocks with each of the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th in sixth's place at the course-end. That to the full extent we cannot do. We shall have to be content in one instance with a single block instead of a pair, and since we wish our peal to be as long as possible, we select one form of the block B1 (which contains eleven Natural Courses) and discard the odd course which will not appear in our peal.

To join the blocks together we must use bobs at the Middle arranged in Q Sets, and in order to simplify our problem we first restrict ourselves to the plan of taking the block B1 as our basis and joining the other blocks to it, two at a time.

We must use Q Sets at the Middle, and, to see what are available, we set down all the Q Sets at the Middle in which the 6th is involved. Here they are:—

23456	43652	63254
42356	32654	62453
34256	24653	64352
32546	52643	62345
53246	23645	63542
25346	35642	65243
52436	42635	62534
45236	25634	65432
24536	54632	64235
35426	45623	65324
43526	53624	63425
54326	34625	64523

As we have discarded the Natural Course 45236 we cannot use the eighth of these Q Sets, but all the others are available for our use.

We have to join to the block B1 two blocks with the 5th in sixth's place, two with the 4th, two with the 3rd, and two with the 2nd. We need four Q Sets. We go through the above table and we group together all the fours in which each of 2, 3, 4, and 5 is twice a sixth's place bell. For instance, the first, second, fourth and fifth.

23456	43652	63254
42356	32654	62453
32546	52643	62345
53246	23645	63542

Similarly the third, ninth, tenth and eleventh; the first, third, seventh and twelfth; and others.

When we have selected one particular Q Set for use, we turn back to our groups of blocks and we pick one pair of complementary blocks with each of 2, 3, 4 and 5 in sixth's place, making sure (this is the important thing) that each block contains one member of our selected Q Sets, and one member only.

When we bob the selected four Q Sets the four pairs of complementary blocks will join up with the foundation block B1 and we shall have a peal of fifty-nine courses.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch. — The next meeting will be held at St. John's, Worcester, on Saturday, May 30th. Service in church 3.30 p.m., followed by business meeting. — Ernest F. Cubberley, Branch Hon. Sec., Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — The annual general meeting will be held in St. Peter's belfry, Brighton, on Saturday, May 30th. Tower open and handbells available 3.30. Business meeting 4.30. Address by the Vicar of Brighton. No tea arrangements. Half rail fare, maximum 2s., to resident members.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Gen. Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Belbroughton (D.V.), Saturday, May 30th, 3 p.m. Bells (6) available 'silent.' Tea 5.15 p.m. at the Shoes. Handbells and social evening.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Bushey, Saturday, May 30th.—Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch. —Next meeting will be held in the schoolroom, Crossstone, Todmorden, on Saturday, June 6th. Assemble 3.30 p.m. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand.—Ivan Kay, Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Bletchley on Saturday, June 6th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Saturday, May 30th. No names, no tea. Please make an effort to attend. All welcome.—R. H. Howson, 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 6th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch. —The annual meeting will be held at St. Giles', Lincoln, on Saturday, June 6th. Business meeting 3.30 p.m., 'silent' ringing afternoon and evening. Please make own arrangements for tea.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Kingsley on Saturday, June 6th, at 3 p.m. Handbells available. Will all those who require tea kindly notify Mr. H. Carnwell, Sunnyside, Kingsley, Staffs, not later than June 2nd? — Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Burton District.—Our next meeting is to be held at Rolleston-on-Dove on Saturday, June 6th. Handbells available at 4 p.m. Tea in the Church Room at 4.45 p.m., followed by meeting. Cups of tea will be provided, but members must take own eatables and sugar. Visitors warmly welcomed.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD. — Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Moulton on June 13th. Service 3.30. Tea 4.15, followed by business meeting. Bells available for 'silent' ringing. Handbells, bowls, etc., on Vicarage lawn. All who intend coming to tea must send their names to Mr. T. H. Charlton, Hogsgate, Moulton, Spalding, not later than Tuesday, June 9th.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Leigh on Saturday, June 13th. Further announcement next week. — T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., Peckham Bush, Tonbridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch. —A meeting will be held at Huyton on Saturday, June 13th. Handbells and tower bells, with clappers removed, will be available from 3 p.m. A short service will be held at 5 p.m., after which tea and meeting. Tea will be provided only for those who send their names to Mr. W. R. Birchall, 68, Rupert Road, Huyton, on or before Wednesday, June 10th.—George R. Newton, 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool, 17.

NATIONAL GUILD OF POLICE RINGERS. — A meeting will be held at Leicester on Saturday, June 13th. Assemble 12 mid-day at Hotel Belgrave, Loughborough Road (near tram terminus). Luncheon 1 p.m. Ringing, Cathedral (12), 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Tea at Cathedral Church House 4.45 p.m., followed by meeting. Social evening, Hotel Victory, Great Central Street, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Notifications for meals to Inspector H. J. Poole, Hon. Sec., 150, Narborough Road South, Leicester, as early as possible, not later than first post Thursday, June 11th.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preliminary Notice. —An important general meeting of the Yorkshire Association will be held at Selby on Saturday, June 20th. Please book the date. Full particulars later.—L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

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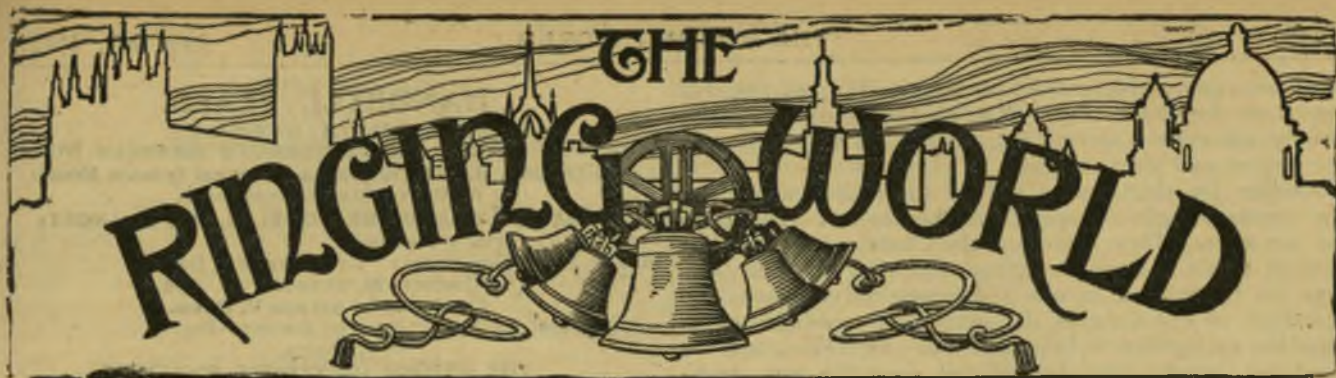
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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

A remark by one of the 'speakers' in the Conference, that if the Central Council 'had had some influential church official at its head it would not have failed us when the testing time came,' calls for some comment. With what the sentence says on its surface we do not propose to deal; the Conference is for the free discussion of matters and the most diverse and debatable opinions have their proper place in it. What we want to call attention to is the implication that the Council has been tested and that it has failed. The speaker assumed that there is no doubt about it and that everybody knows it.

We do not know whether this opinion is held by any number of our readers. Certainly there has been some criticism, like that which said the Council was hopelessly apathetic and the present representatives should make way for others more energetic. Such criticism, however ill informed and unpractical, is not likely to do much harm, but it would be unfortunate, and bad for the Exercise after the war, if an impression did get about among unthinking ringers that the Council could and ought to have done something which it has neglected to do.

The Central Council occupies a definite and important place in the organisation of the Exercise; but its functions are designed for peace times, and they must, and should, be in abeyance during such times as these. It is not merely that its members have, for the most part, other things to do, or that conditions do not permit of their holding meetings. It is that the things with which the Council is concerned and for which it exists are temporarily suspended, and there is nothing it can do or should try to do. Of course, it is most essential that the life of the Exercise should be kept alive and interest in change ringing maintained until better times come, but that is a task which is not laid on the Council, but on other people; not on any centralised body, but on individuals and the rank and file. The Exercise is, in fact, in the position of a motor-car which has had its engine cut off. It must run on under the momentum it has acquired until it is possible to start the engine again.

It is significant that critics who call loudly on the Council to do something do not suggest anything that it could do, except that some of them seem to think it ought to have secured the removal of the ban on church bell ringing. The ban is a bad thing; that we all agree, but it does not follow that it ought to be removed. The people of England, through Parliament, have given to the men in authority power to make such orders as they think the safety of the country calls for. Of the need they are the final judges, for they alone know all the circumstances. They decided that the use of church bells

(Continued on page 258.)

must be reserved for certain purposes. We, as ringers, may and do doubt very much whether those purposes will be adequately served, but we are not the judges in the matter and must submit.

Neither for that matter are we the people who have the greatest right to speak on the matter. The bells are not ours. They belong to the Church, and it is the Church which is most concerned with their silence. We may be thankful it is so. As everybody knows, the secretary of the Council did everything possible to induce the authorities to raise the ban. He failed, and we need not wonder that he did fail since the late Archbishop of Canterbury, and more than one Member of Parliament, tried and failed also.

The ban is like the black-out, an unmitigated evil, but an evil which must be endured. The Central Council has not been tested and has not failed.

THE EDITOR.

The news of the death of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, which it is our sad duty to report in this issue, will be received throughout the Exercise with the profoundest sorrow. For thirty-one years he had been the Editor of this journal, which he founded in the year 1911, and his influence on the art of change ringing has been very great; but that is not the thought which to-day will be uppermost in the minds of our readers. They will think of him in other and more intimate terms. To scores of ringers he was a close, personal friend, loved and valued for rare qualities of kindness, sympathy and generosity, and even among those who had not in like measure the privilege of personal friendship, it was what he was, perhaps even more than what he had done, which endeared him to people. How strong was the affection felt for him among all ringers was most strikingly shown by the extraordinary response to the recent appeal made for him. There had been nothing like it before in the history of the Exercise, and while we regret that he was not spared to enjoy the result of the appeal, we are glad to know that it touched him to the depths of his being, and in no small degree lightened the tedium of his long illness.

John Goldsmith came of a family which for generations had been connected with Southover, Lewes, Church. His father was parish clerk and his grandfather before that; and his mother carried on the duties after her husband died. It was she who, as he was fond of telling us in after years, first sent John Goldsmith to the belfry and made a ringer of him. He had thus change ringing in his very bones. At a very early age he showed a great aptitude for the art. He took the fullest advantage of the nearness of the famous Brighton band. The fact that he was a ringer among ringers, sharing his fellows' opinions and ambitions, helped in no small degree to make him the success he was, but all that would not have availed without the deep sympathy and wide vision, the limitless patience and goodness of heart which were his very own.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BOURNEMOUTH, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD

On Thursday, May 14, 1942, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

At BRAYSTONES, SOUTHBORNE.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings.

Tenor in D.

MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 1-2 | ARTHUR V. DAVIS ... 3-4

*JOSECELIN M. TURNER ... 5-6

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* First peal 'in hand.' Rung on Ascension Day.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Tuesday, May 19, 1942, in One Hour and Forty-Five Minutes,

At HERTFORD COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings.

Tenor size 14 in E flat.

*PETER C. GIBBS (Hertford) 1-2 | WM. L. B. LEESE (St. John's) 3-4

JOAN HOULDSWORTH (St. Hilda's) ... 5-6

Conducted by WILLIAM L. B. LEESE.

* First peal.

SWINDON, WILTSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, May 25, 1942, in Three Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes.

At 6, REGENT CIRCUS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAXIMUS, 5016 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

*IVOR C. N. BELL ... 1-2 | *WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 7-8

*JACK S. ROBERTS ... 3-4 | *REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE ... 9-10

*W. BERTRAM KYNASTON ... 5-6 | *DENNIS W. S. SMOUT ... 11-12

Composed and Conducted by REV. MALCOLM C. C. MELVILLE.

* First attempt for a peal on twelve bells. † First attempt for Bob Maximus, and first attempt for a peal on twelve bells 'in hand.' ‡ 25th peal. First attempt for a peal as conductor on twelve bells. The band are indebted to Mr. Leese, of Oxford University, for coming over to Swindon, and thus making the attempt possible.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, May 26, 1942, in Two Hours and Eleven Minutes,

At 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

EDWIN JENNINGS ... 1-2 | ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 5-6

EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 3-4 | HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 7-8

Composed by J. PLATT. Conducted by EDWIN A. BARNETT.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, May 27, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

At 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16½.

MRS. J. THOMAS ... 1-2 | ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 5-6

*ALBERT M. TYLER ... 3-4 | MRS. E. K. FLETCHER ... 7-8

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal of Grandsire Caters. First peal of Grandsire Caters on handbells as conductor.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 30, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor in C.

*MISS BETTY RAYFIELD ... 1-2 | EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD ... 5-6

*ALFRED BALLARD ... 3-4 | ERNEST MORRIS ... 7-8

Composed and Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.

* First handbell peal of Bob Major and first attempt. Specially arranged for Miss Rayfield, who now returns to Eastbourne, thence to H.M. Forces.

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JOHN HOLT.**A GREAT RINGER.**

BY J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Of all the members of the Exercise during its long history none has been more widely known than John Holt, and none has rendered greater service to the art of change ringing. Yet his career was quite short and his story is a simple one and soon told. Little definite information about him has come down to us apart from the entries in peal books and the figures of his compositions, but there are hints and allusions sufficient to enable us to put together a fairly full account.

He was born on March 11th, 1726, the son of Hugh and Mary Holt, and was baptised at Christ Church, Newgate Street, on March 31st. For that statement I have no direct evidence, since the name is a fairly common one and absolute identification is not possible. Having studied his life and taken all known circumstances into consideration, I came to the conclusion that he was born about the year 1725 and that in all probability he was a London man. I then searched the parish registers and when I discovered the entry at Christ Church in March, 1726, I had no reasonable doubt that it referred to the future ringer.

His family evidently were in very poor circumstances, and except for his natural parts he grew up without any advantages whatever. Doubtless he could read and write, for few Londoners have ever been without that qualification, but of education in the ordinary sense he had none. The 'Clavis' speaks of him as a 'poor unlettered youth.' By trade he was a shoemaker, like two other men, John Noonan and Joseph J. Parker, who later made names as composers comparable to his own. Socially he was on a lower level than the average member of the leading metropolitan societies; lower not merely than the 'gentlemen' such as Theodore Eccleston, Francis Popham and William Gardiner, but also men such as Benjamin Annable, John Cundell, and John Hardham. In the Union Scholars' book, which is now in the British Museum, his name is entered, not like the rest in ordinary Old English characters, but is highly ornamented and with every mark of distinction, so that Jasper Snowdon concluded that when he joined he must have been considered a very great acquisition to the society. But this is only an example of the difficulties which beset the historical investigator and of how appearances may lead astray even a very clever and careful man; for the entry was not made when Holt joined, but some years later after he had become the leading man among the Union Scholars and had shown something of the stuff he was made of. In 1745 he was a young and unknown man who came shyly knocking at the door of the Union Scholars because they were, just then, the least of all the big societies, and so the more likely to give him a welcome and find him a place.

Of his appearance we know nothing, but it is pretty certain that he was not one of those big, lusty, men like Annable, or Cundell, or Trenell, or Mainwaring, who delighted in turning in big bells. The heaviest he ever rang to a peal was the tenth at St. Bride's, which may have weighed some 15 cwt. Usually he was to be found at the light end and one is tempted to imagine him as a man of rather frail physique and not over strong; but apart from his early death there is no real justification for such a view.

The Union Scholars were an old and well-established company; but since 1718 they had not been able to produce a band good enough to ring a peal except when they were temporarily strengthened by deserters from the Eastern Scholars. The last of these visitations was in 1741, and of that band Sharp, Lovell, Dickenson and Simms had gone back and some of the others had dropped out of peal ringing. Holt's task was first to make a position for himself within the society, and then to gather together a peal-ringing band. He took two years to do it, and on October 27th, 1747, by calling a peal of Bob Major at St. Margaret's, Westminster, he inaugurated the last and most prolific period of peal ringing activity in the history of the Union Scholars.

In the five years between October, 1747, and September, 1752, the company rang twenty-two peals, all of which, save one, Holt called. They consisted of Plain Bob Triples 4, Plain Bob Major 9, Double Bob Major 3, Grandsire Triples 1, Grandsire Caters 2, Grandsire Cinques 1, Oxford Treble Bob Major 1, and Court Bob Major 1. Most of them were rung in the West End at St. Margaret's, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, St. Giles'-in-the-Fields, and St. Bride's. During the same period the Eastern Scholars rang thirteen peals, the College Youths three peals, and the newly founded Cumberland Youths fourteen peals.

Three of Holt's peals were rung on the front bells in twelve-bell towers, which shows that the company was short of heavy bell ringers, for there were men in other societies able to ring the tenors in those steeples to peals. Heavy bell ringing then was a feat confined to a comparatively few exceptionally strong and skilled men.

On December 5th, 1749, Holt called a peal of Bob Major on the largest eight bells at St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill, the first of Major on the bells. To this Thomas Prior rang the tenor. Like most ringers at the time he had migrated from society to society and had recently come from the College Youths, who, at the time, were ringing no peals. The ringer of the treble was James Albion and this apparently was his first peal. He was a Hackney born man and was by profession a mercantile clerk and professional writer. He re-wrote the peal and name books of the Union Scholars and afterwards those of most of the contemporary London societies. His excellent work is still to be seen in the manuscripts in the British Museum and in the earliest of the books belonging to the Ancient Society of College Youths.

The only peal Holt rang in and did not conduct was called by Thomas Ward. He may have been a son of John Ward, who took part in Annable's first peal and for many years was a leading member of the College Youths' band. Thomas Ward rang in Holt's first peal and in a dozen by the Union Scholars, but he evidently was ambitious of leadership and deserted to the Eastern Scholars, with whom he called two or three five-thousands, including the last rung by that society.

Other interesting peals rung by the Union Scholars at this time included Grandsire Caters at St. Sepulchre's 'being,' as the peal book claims, 'the first ever performed in that method on those Bells,' a claim which no doubt was literally correct, but nineteen years before John Cundell had called a peal of Grandsire Caters in the steeple. Meanwhile, however, the bells had been recast by Samuel Knight. Five days after Holt's peal, George Meakins called a longer length.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

EASTERN DISTRICT.

The annual meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at Howden on Saturday, May 23rd, and was attended by about 14 ringers from Eastrington, Goole, Hemmingbrough, Hessele, Hull, Selby, York and the local company. Two welcome visitors were Mr. P. J. Johnson, the vice-president of the Western District, and Mrs. Johnson, of Headingley, Leeds.

A short service was held in church, at which the Vicar of Howden officiated and the Vicar of Wressell gave the address. Tea was served in the Manor House Cafe, where the hostess, as usual, looked after the company well by putting on an excellent meal.

At the business meeting the Vicar of Howden, the Rev. A. Woring, presided, and two new life members were elected, the Rev. A. Woring and the Rev. H. Firby, of Eastrington. Goole was selected as the next place of meeting, to be held in August if possible.

Mr. F. Cryer was re-elected vice-president, and Messrs. Walters, Hill and Sellers on the committee, all for a period of three years.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar for his kindness at all times to the association, to the Vicar of Wressell for his address, and to the organist. In his reply, the Vicar gave the association a hearty welcome to Howden, where they would always be welcome. A vote of thanks was passed to the local company, Mr. R. B. Smith responding.

Mr. C. Hill raised the question of the ban on ringing, and said he thought the association ought to bring the matter before the Central Council and persuade it to bring pressure to bear on the authorities to relax the ban and allow Sunday service ringing at least. After others had spoken the secretary promised to bring the matter up at the general committee meeting at Selby on June 20th.

Ringing took place on tower bells with clappers fastened and on handbells, and so ended a meeting small in numbers, but very pleasant and enthusiastic.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Kettering on Whit Monday. Service was conducted in the Church of SS. Peter and Paul by the Rev. A. T. Segger, of Walgrave, the Master (the Rev. E. S. Powell) read the lesson, and the address was given by the Rector of Kettering, the Rev. G. Holborow. Mr. S. J. Loasby officiated at the organ.

Fifty-one sat down to tea, after which the business meeting was held. The general secretary, Mr. R. G. Black, said he had just heard that Mr. G. W. Brafield, leader of the Earls Barton band, had passed away the day before. He had been looking forward to attending this meeting. Only 33 years of age, he leaves a widow and a two-year-old daughter. As a token of respect the company stood in silence.

The officers were all re-elected. Discussion took place on the difficulty some of the branch secretaries are having in collecting subscriptions, which was most marked in those branches where no meetings were held.

The Master spoke of the duties as members of a Diocesan Guild; subscriptions should be paid, but it was more important still to keep in every branch a nucleus of keen members, who would have plenty to do, to re-establish ringing after the war. That would prove to be real hard work for someone.

The place of next year's annual meeting was left to the Central Committee to deal with.

Mr. J. C. Dean moved a vote of thanks to the Rector for the service and for his address, to Mr. H. Baxter for the greater part of the arrangements, and to Mrs. Kennedy and her band of helpers for producing such an excellent tea in these difficult times.

Besides those mentioned there were present Mrs. Powell, the Rev. W. R. M. Chanlin (Northampton), the Rev. C. R. Norcock (Weekley) and Mr. T. Tebbutt (Central Council representative), Messrs. H. Baxter, R. W. Butcher and J. C. Dean (branch secretaries).

Apologies were received from the Rev. J. H. Marlow, the Rev. F. V. Fenn and Mr. A. Bigley. Mr. E. C. Lambert and Mr. Higgins, of Cosgrove, discovered when they had got part of the way to Kettering that they could not get there in time, so they returned home.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

VISIT TO GUISELEY.

At the May meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society, held on Saturday, May 30th, at Guiseley, the starting time was fixed at 5 p.m. to enable those who were working late, and those who wanted to work in their garden after dinner, a chance of getting to the meeting. The same times will be tried again next month.

Mr. J. F. Harvey presided at the business meeting, and members were present from Armley, Bradford, Bramley, Idle, Drighlington, Shipley and the local company. A vote of thanks was passed to the Rector, churchwardens and the local company for permission to hold the meeting and other arrangements.

The next meeting will be held at Idle on Saturday, May 27th. The meeting will begin at 5 p.m., and the local company asks members to bring sandwiches or other food. Tea for drinking will be provided at 6 p.m., and the business meeting will follow.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

We are very sorry to learn that during the air raid on Exeter the tower of St. Sidwell's Church was cut in half by a bomb and has since been demolished. St. Sidwell's contained a fine ring of ten bells.

We much regret to hear that Mr. Tom Miller has been taken ill and has been removed to a Birmingham hospital. All his many friends will wish him a speedy recovery.

The two old churches destroyed in the air raid on Norwich were St. Bartholomew's and St. Benedict's. Neither was of any particular value. St. Benedict's had one of the four round towers in the city, with a ring of three bells, all by members of the Brend family and of different dates between 1573 and 1639. They were hung for ringing in ancient frame and fittings, and 50 years ago were occasionally rung to changes.

Last Monday was the thirtieth anniversary of a notable handbell peal. On June 1st, 1912, 14,031 changes of Stedman Caters were rung at Guildford by a band who scored many peals in the method. Mr. A. H. Pulling rang 3-4 and conducted; the others were A. F. Shepherd 1-2, W. Shepherd 5-6, J. Hunt 7-8, and F. Blondell 9-10. This was at the time the longest length in hand, beating 13,440 Bob Major rung at Pudsey 31 years ago to-day. In August, 1912, Mr. Pulling's band beat their own and everybody else's lengths on tower or handbells by ringing 19,738 changes in nine and a half hours.

The first peal on the twelve at St. Martin's, Birmingham, 5,324 Grandsire Cinques, was rung on June 3rd, 1773.

John W. Taylor, the famous bellfounder of Loughborough and a notable ringer, died on June 4th, 1919.

Holt's Original was rung non-conducted at St. John's, Waterloo Road, on June 4th, 1898.

Fifty years ago to-morrow was Whit Monday. Seven peals were rung—Grandsire Triples 3, Stedman Triples 1, Caters 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, and Oxford Treble Bob Major 1. The last was 16,608 changes at Debenham.

As an example of how things have changed, it is interesting to learn that James Motts, the conductor of this peal, rode the 14 miles between Ipswich and Debenham on a high 'penny-farthing' bicycle.

DEATH OF MR. J. S. GOLDSMITH.

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, which took place soon after midnight last Monday. The funeral was at Pyrford Church yesterday.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The Master (Mr. E. G. Fenn) presided at the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths on Saturday, May 23rd, and was supported by the hon. secretary (Mr. A. B. Peck) and the hon. treasurer (Mr. A. A. Hughes). The following members were present: Messrs. R. Stannard, J. A. Trollope, C. W. Roberts, E. A. Young, C. H. Kippin, R. Spears, H. Hoskins, W. H. Pasmore, G. M. Kirby, R. F. Deal, W. T. Elson, E. Hartley, J. Chapman, H. G. Miles, C. C. Mayne, and Corps. K. Arthur and W. J. Coward, R.A.F., and Lt.-Corpl. W. J. Davidson, of Newcastle. A visitor was Pilot Officer Christopher Brown, R.A.F., of Chew Magna.

A letter was read from the Vice-Provost of Southwark Cathedral acknowledging a communication from the society respecting the safety of the bells, which are now on the floor of the two transepts. The writer said he appreciated the point raised and promised to consult the Cathedral surveyor.

Mr. W. H. Lawrence, of Little Munden, wrote sending greetings and his appreciation of many kindnesses he had received during 50 years.

Mr. Alexander Young was congratulated on his 77th birthday, which had fallen on the previous day.

The loss of two members of the society, Mr. A. V. Selby, of Kensington, and Capt. S. G. Armstrong, was mentioned, and members stood in silence as a mark of respect.

The Master brought greetings from Mr. Geoffrey Rice, and Mr. E. A. Young from Mr. Isaac Emery.

There was a considerable amount of handbell ringing, including a touch of Grandsire Triples by officers and N.C.O.'s of H.M. Forces.

The next meeting will be on June 6th at the Whitechapel Foundry.

MONS. JOSEF DENYN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—News was received in Loughborough some six or eight months ago that M. Denyn had been accidentally killed by having been run over by a German military vehicle in Malines and that he was buried with the honours due to him as a Chevalier of the Order of Leopold.

JOHN TAYLOR AND CO.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**HINCKLEY DISTRICT MEETING.**

A most successful meeting of the Hinckley District of the Midland Counties Association was held at Broughton Astley on May 23rd, when a strong gathering of ringers and friends met at the Social Hall. Untiring efforts have been made by the district officers since the ban to make handbell ringing interesting and attractive, and this combined meeting and social evening was a further enterprise on their part, the results with the assistance of the local band being highly successful.

Mr. A. Ballard presided and was supported by the hon. secretary, Mr. W. A. Wood, Mr. G. A. Newton and Mr. F. R. Measures. Members were present from Burbage, Croft, Coventry, Earl Shilton, Leicester, Sapcote, the local band, and a member of West Hartlepool ringers now in H.M. Forces and stationed in the locality. The Rector, the Rev. C. N. Turner, made an inspiring speech of welcome and said how much the visit of the ringers and the changes and tunes on the handbells were enjoyed. All looked forward to the time when the ban on the ringing of tower bells would be lifted. Mr. C. Cooke, choir-master, most aptly endorsed the Rector's remarks.

The methods rung on handbells included Stedman Triples and Grandsire Caters. Tunes were played by C. H. Webb (Coventry), E. G. Webb (Croft), G. Newton and E. Chesterton (Earl Shilton) and C. Brown (Sapcote).

The surprise item of the meeting was the showing by Mr. A. Hubbard of a film, 'Ringing of Grandsire Caters,' by a cast of all M.C.A. stars, featuring 'Josiah' (Old Joe to his pals at Leicester). Unfortunately, it was not a sound picture, but this was recompensed by the expression on old Joe's face as the tenors dodged, and, judged by the applause given, one would have thought Clark Gable was being screened.

Mr. A. Ballard proposed a vote of thanks to all who had assisted to make the meeting a success, and this was seconded by Mr. C. H. Webb. Mr. H. Fretter suitably responded.

A move was then made to a certain establishment round the corner, where a room was available and further ringing of changes of tunes took place. Some idea of the enthusiasm prevailing can be gathered from the action of the young lady member who, when grandfather left for home on the last bus, would not accompany him, and so had to walk nine miles home. All agreed that the venture had been most successful and enjoyable and was a happy token for the future of bellringing.

DEATH OF MR. T. C. TOMPKINS,**OLD STONY STRATFORD RINGER.**

We regret to announce the death of Mr. T. C. Tompkins, of Stony Stratford, who passed away at his residence on Sunday, May 17th, after an illness lasting only ten days. He was 74 years of age. He became a member of St. Giles' band about 1908, and under the conductorship of the late C. N. Valentine he soon became a most enthusiastic and proficient peal ringer as well as a regular Sunday service ringer. His peals numbered about 70, and among them was the first peal of seven Surprise Minor methods for the Oxford Diocesan Guild. He was also a member of the Peterborough and Bedfordshire Guilds.

The funeral took place at St. Giles' Church on Wednesday, May 20th, the interment being in the Calverton Road Cemetery. The hearers were four of his fellow ringers. The floral tokens included one from St. Giles' tower and from the North Bucks Branch.

Of a quiet and genial disposition, he will be sadly missed by his colleagues and the deepest sympathy is extended to his widow.

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.**VARIATION OR INNOVATION.****To the Editor.**

Dear Sir,—With reference to the handbell peal of Grandsire Triples rung at Bushey on May 23rd, conducted by E. C. S. Turner, in view of the note in Belfry Gossip, I would suggest that this composition is wrongly described as 'Holt's Original,' nor do I think it an interesting variation.

I would call it an 'innovation' and one which ought not to be allowed in a composition of this sort. If the peal is allowed to go through as Holt's Original it should most certainly have a footnote to the effect that the 'innovation' was made.

THOMAS H. REEVES.

136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

THE RECENT AIR RAIDS ON BATH.

Altogether 14 churches and chapels have been destroyed or very badly damaged by enemy action. Two churches possessing peals of eight have been completely burned it. In one case a good peal by Taylors has been melted, and in another church in the centre of the city the bells are lying broken at the foot of the tower.

Mr. Tom King, who lived near Twerton Parish Church, had his house completely demolished by a direct hit. Although both he and Mrs. King were buried under the debris for some hours, they were practically unhurt, except for shock.

Mr. W. Prescott also had his house badly damaged. So far as we have been able to ascertain, there have been no casualties amongst the Bath ringers.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE W. BRADFIELD.**CAPTAIN OF EARLS BARTON BAND.**

We regret to announce the death of Mr. George W. Bradfield, the captain of the Earls Barton band, who passed away on Sunday, May 24th, after a very short illness, at the age of 33.

The funeral took place at the Parish Church and was attended by many people, including Mr. W. Perkins, of Irthlingborough, Mr. F. Barber, of Doddington, and Mr. B. P. Morris, of Kettering, who represented the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, and Mr. T. Houghton, of the local company. The Vicar paid a tribute to Mr. Bradfield's love of bells and ringing and to his loyalty as a churchman. After the service a course of Bob Minor was rung on handbells by W. G. Callis, C. W. Partridge and W. Perkins.

When tower bell ringing came to an end Mr. Bradfield enthusiastically took up handbell ringing and was proficient in a number of Doubles and Minor methods. He leaves a widow and a little daughter to mourn their loss.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE THOMAS GRANT.

We regret to record the death of Mr. George Thomas Grant, of Bishopstoke, Hants, who died on May 11th, at the age of 66.

Mr. Grant was taught to ring at the age of 17 at Fareham, Hants, by the late John Whiting, who did so much for ringing in South Hampshire at the end of the last and beginning of the present century.

In 1910 Mr. Grant moved to Bishopstoke and joined the local band of ringers. In 1915 he was elected captain and remained so to his death. He had taken part in about a dozen peals.

Mr. Grant had been a member of church choirs from his school days, first at Fareham and afterwards at Bishopstoke. He was a very regular Sunday service ringer, and his genial personality and friendly smile will be sadly missed.

The funeral service was held at the Parish Church on May 15th. Mr. G. Williams (Master) represented the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, and Mr. G. Pullinger the local ringers. The many floral tributes included one from the local ringers.

DEATH OF WELL-KNOWN LANC'S RINGER.**MR. J. H. RIDYARD'S FATAL ACCIDENT.**

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. Joseph H. Ridyard, who met with a fatal accident when cycling to his work on May 21st.

The funeral was at St. Mark's, Worsley, on the 25th, and was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. J. Renshaw. Mr. E. Derbyshire, the Vicar's warden, was at the organ, and Mr. H. Chapman, the people's warden, read the lesson. The Vicar paid a tribute to Mr. Ridyard's life-long service to the Church as a bellringer, and after the last hymn a course of Grandsire Triples was rung by R. Allread 1-2, P. H. Derbyshire 3-4, F. Grundy 5-6, and Peter Crook, sen. 7-8. The local ringers sent a floral tribute and acted as bearers.

Mr. Ridyard joined the Lancashire Association in 1911 and had rung 121 peals, the majority of which he conducted. He had been hon. secretary of the Manchester branch for six years and was a keen ringer and conductor. He will be greatly missed. He leaves a widow and a son to mourn their loss.

A FAMILY GATHERING AT EAST ILSLEY.

On Whit Sunday, at the old Church of St. Mary, East Ilsley, the baptism of two granddaughters of Mr. W. Hibbert was solemnised. The father of one is doing his bit somewhere in the East, the father of the other being Mr. C. J. Hibbert, the conductor of the local band. As no touch or peal could be rung in the tower, the handbells were brought into use and a touch of 209 Grandsire Triples was rung double-handed, after which several plain courses, in which grandfather and father, great-uncle and aunt and three second cousins participated. The health of the fathers, mothers and daughters were toasted in a well-known 'house of call' before the family separated.

FAREWELL PEAL TO REV. M. MELVILLE.**BOB MAXIMUS AT SWINDON.**

The handbell peal of Plain Bob Maximus rung on May 25th at Swindon, and reported in this week's 'Ringing World,' was a farewell peal to the Rev. Malcolm Melville, who left the next day to join the staff of Lichfield Cathedral. It was rung at the new headquarters of the Highcliffe Society, and after the peal Mrs. Bell kindly entertained the ringers to tea.

The three-and-a-half hours' peal ringing was apparently not enough for the ringers, for after tea they kept it up until a late hour in a variety of methods: Treble Twelve, Double Norwich Royal and Major, Grandsire Cinques, Little Grandsire Caters, Little Bob Royal, London Surprise and several other Plain Major methods. Hopes were expressed that it would not be long before Mr. Melville returned for a visit and perhaps a peal.

DAGENHAM, ESSEX.—At 108, Gay Gardens, on Friday, May 22nd, 1,440 of Bob Minor in 33 minutes: L. Bullock (age 12) 1-2, J. Bullock 3-4, T. Bullock (age 15, conductor) 5-6. A birthday compliment to J. Bullock.

A FAMOUS LONG PEAL.

TREBLE BOB AT DEBENHAM.

To-morrow is the fiftieth anniversary of a performance which, though it has since been beaten, will always rank high among long peal records. On Whit Monday, June 6th, 1892, eight men belonging to the Norwich Diocesan Association rang in ten hours and thirty-two minutes at Debenham, in Suffolk, Thomas Day's peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major, 16,608 changes.

The band was a picked one, and came from several towers. James Motts, the conductor, his brother William, Robert Brundle and Frederick Tillet belonged to St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich; Arthur Aldham, formerly an Ipswich man, was at the time living in Leicestershire; David Collins and his brother Edgar belonged to the village of Worlingworth; and William Crickmer to Earl Soham. Of these men Messrs. Brundle, Tillet and Crickmer happily are still with us.

The peal was not rung at the first attempt. Ever since the same composition had been rung to the Kent Variation at Mottram in Lancashire in the year 1883, it had been the ambition of the Suffolk men, and many attempts had been made, ten by James Motts' party and some by rival bands under Charles Mee and others. In the previous year the band who were ultimately successful (except that Mr. W. P. Garrett took part instead of Edgar Collins) rang 12,320 changes, and then failed owing to a misunderstanding about the calling of a bob.

EXCELLENT STRIKING.

The performance was specially marked by the general excellence of the striking and the complete absence of anything in the nature of a muddle or even a trip. For that there were reasons. The band were, as we have said, picked men, and they belonged to a district where there was a long tradition of ringing and where the standards of striking were higher than almost anywhere else in England. In East Suffolk men then rang Oxford Treble Bob Major and little else except Oxford Treble Bob Major. All the skill and experience that later men devoted to ringing more difficult methods they devoted to striking. In addition, conducting, as some moderns understand it, did not exist. The conductor was expected to call the bobs at the right places and to make sure that there was no shift of course. He was not expected to drag the band through a muddle; he never attempted to do so, nor would an average band have tolerated such a thing. Anything more serious than a missed dodge or a temporary lapse in striking meant a lost peal.

The result was that fewer peals were rung, but the average quality was high. This was the reason why so many attempts had to be made before the long peal was achieved.

Fifty years ago Treble Bob was just coming to the end of its long supremacy as the most popular of Major methods. The Oxford variation had already been superseded by the Kent everywhere except in East Anglia. The merits of Double Norwich were beginning to be widely appreciated, and the more advanced bands were turning to Superlative, which authorities like Arthur Heywood and Earle Bulwer were proclaiming as the 'queen' of methods. Oxford Treble Bob died slowly in East Anglia, but its time had come, and the long Debenham peal served as a fitting climax to its supremacy.

SUCCESSIVE RECORD LENGTHS.

The first long peal of Treble Bob Major was rung as far back as 1727 by the Norwich Scholars. It was a 10,060 and remained the record until 1800, when George Gross called 10,112 at Edmonton. Whether it was true or false there is no means of knowing. This was beaten in 1814 at Otley in Yorkshire, when Shipway's 12,320 was rung by eleven men, the conductor calling from manuscript. There followed 14,016 at Oldham in 1821, and 15,168 at Elland in 1831, the last with ten ringers and two conductors.

Thomas Day, of Birmingham, now turned his attention to the composition of long peals in the method, and obtained some lengths, including 15,840 and 16,608. The first was rung by the College Youths at Bethnal Green in 1868. The band included most of the men who were then the leading members of the society—Cooter, Pettit, Horrex, Matt. Wood, Murray Hayes, and Haley, who called. The peal has always been spoken of as first class in its execution.

Day's longer length was rung at Farsheaton in 1872, but during the performance the bells got out of their proper order and rounds were forced up at the end. The peal was correctly rung at Mottram in 1883. All these peals from that at Otley were in the Kent Variation.

When the Suffolk men started for their peal at Debenham they were not attempting a length longer than anything that had been rung, and the reason was that no such composition had been produced. It was not until the present century that a 16,800 was produced by Mr. E. Timbrell, and this was rung at Mottram in 1906 by the Chester Diocesan Guild. The truth of the performance was challenged, but with what justification we cannot say.

Longer lengths have since been rung, 17,280 of Kent at Over in 1923 and 17,824 of Oxford at Heptonstall in 1927. In 1922, 18,240 of Kent was rung at Mottram, but the composition afterwards turned out to be false.

The longest true peal of Major yet achieved was rung nine years ago to-day at Bennington in Hertfordshire. The method was Bob Major and the number of changes 18,144.

NOTICES.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch. —Next meeting will be held in the schoolroom, Cross-stone, Todmorden, on Saturday, June 6th. Assemble 3.30 p.m. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand.—Ivan Kay, Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. —The next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 6th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. —A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch. —The annual meeting will be held at St. Giles', Lincoln, on Saturday, June 6th. Business meeting 3.30 p.m., 'silent' ringing afternoon and evening. Please make own arrangements for tea.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. —Burton District.—Our next meeting is to be held at Rolleston-on-Dove on Saturday, June 6th. Handbells available at 4 p.m. Tea in the Church Room at 4.45 p.m., followed by meeting. Cups of tea will be provided, but members must take own eatables and sugar. Visitors warmly welcomed.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD. —Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Moulton on June 13th. Service 3.30. Tea 4.15, followed by business meeting. Bells available for 'silent' ringing. Handbells, bowls, etc., on Vicarage lawn. All who intend coming to tea must send their names to Mr. T. H. Charlton, Hogs-gate, Moulton, Spalding, not later than Tuesday, June 9th.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch. —A meeting will be held at Huyton on Saturday, June 13th. Handbells and tower bells, with clappers removed, will be available from 3 p.m. A short service will be held at 5 p.m., after which tea and meeting. Tea will be provided only for those who send their names to Mr. W. R. Birchall, 68, Rupert Road, Huyton, on or before Wednesday, June 10th.—George R. Newton, 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool, 17.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Leigh on Saturday, June 13th. Service in church at 4 o'clock, followed by tea and business meeting. All those requiring tea must let Mr. B. Pankhurst, The Chestnuts, Leigh, Kent, know by Wednesday, June 10th. If fine there will be a cricket match on the Green. —T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

NATIONAL GUILD OF POLICE RINGERS. —A meeting will be held at Leicester on Saturday, June 13th. Assemble 12 mid-day at Hotel Belgrave, Loughborough Road (near tram terminus). Luncheon 1 p.m. Ringing, Cathedral (12), 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Tea at Cathedral Church House 4.45 p.m., followed by meeting. Social evening, Hotel Victory, Great Central Street, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Notifications for meals to Inspector H. J. Poole, Hon. Sec., 150, Narborough Road South, Leicester, as early as possible, not later than first post Thursday, June 11th.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—A meeting will be held at King's Langley on Saturday, June 13th. Room at the Blue Cafe, corner of Church Lane, for meeting, talking and handbell ringing. A service will probably be arranged. Those who require tea must notify me by June 10th.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Central Bucks Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Chearsley on Saturday, June 13th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. All are welcome.—F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., 30, Horn Street, Winslow, Bucks.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at All Saints', Hertford, on Saturday, June 13th, at 3 p.m. Silent tower bell ringing, also handbells during afternoon and evening. Service at 4.30. Tea at 5.30 to all who send in their names to G. Radley, 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon, Herts, not later than June 10th. Short meeting to follow tea. All welcome. Please come early. — G. Radley, Dis. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District. —A summer joint meeting in conjunction with the Sheffield and District Society, the Barnsley and District Society and the Doncaster and District Society will be held at Wath-on-Dearne on Saturday, June 20th. Handbells will be available at the Church House from 2.30 p.m. Tea will be provided at Warburton's Cafe at 5 p.m. at 1s. 6d. per head. All those requiring tea must notify Mr. A. Nash, Holly House, Wath-on-Dearne, near Rotherham, by June 17th. This is important, so please do not fail. Business meeting at Church House, 6.30 p.m., followed by discussions and handbells. — Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at East Dereham on Saturday, June 20th. Bells, if possible, 3.15; service 4.30; tea 5.15 (bring some with you if you can!); followed by business meeting. Bowls afterwards, by kind invitation of the Vicar. Please send numbers for tea to Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich, by June 15th.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch.—A meeting will be held at Prestwich on Saturday, June 20th. Bells ready at 3 p.m. Meeting at 7 p.m. Nominations are required for branch secretary. The committee will meet at the same time. — W. H. Shuker, Gen. Sec., 36, Colwyn Avenue, Fallowfield, Manchester 14.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — An important general meeting of the association will be held at Selby on Saturday, June 20th. The back eight bells at the Abbey will be available for 'silent' ringing from 2.30 p.m. General Committee meet in the Abbey Sacristy at 3 p.m. prompt. Service in the Abbey at 4.15 p.m. Tea can be obtained near the Abbey. The general meeting will take place in the Abbey Sacristy at 6 p.m. prompt. Business urgent and important. — L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

GOLDEN WEDDING.

WHITE—RHODES.—On Whit Monday, June 6th, 1892, at All Saints' Church, Cotgrave, Notts, by Rev. A. Hensley, William Edward, of Cotgrave, to Adelaide Marson, of Nottingham.

BIRTH.

CROSS.—At the Sussex Maternity Hospital, Brighton, on May 26th, 1942, to Irene Stella (née Turk, of St. Michael's, Aldershot), wife of Instructor Lieutenant R. G. Cross, R.N., a son, Michael Paul. Present address: 58, Fonthill Road, Hove, 4.

DEATHS.

DEXTER.—Ellen, the wife of Frederick H. Dexter, suddenly, on May 26th, at 4, Stuart Street, Leicester.

TOMPKINS. — On Sunday, May 17th, at his residence, 43, The Green, Stony Stratford, Thomas Charles Tompkins, aged 74 years.

As the death of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith has very much increased the administrative difficulties of producing 'The Ringing World,' we shall be very glad if all those who have any contributions to make to the Ringers' Conference on the subject of a National Association will post their contributions to us on or before Sunday next.

AIR RAID DAMAGE AT NORWICH.

CHURCHES AND ANCIENT INNS.

We are now permitted to publish fuller details of the damage caused in Norwich recently by enemy action. One of the churches wrecked by a direct hit was St. Benedict's, a flint building in the Early English style. Its round tower, cracked and badly scarred, stands out bravely against a background of ruined shops and houses in the street to which it has given its name. The tower and one of the walls of the nave are all that remain.

With its embattled tower and flint walls standing, the ancient Church of St. Bartholomew, Heigham, is also a blackened ruin, its burnt-out nave and chancel open to the sky.

As was the case with many churches in the city, the Cathedral suffered damage to tracery and windows. Most of the damage here was caused by a bomb which fell in the vicinity of the Close, some distance from the east end. Windows on all sides of the Cathedral were affected.

St. Martin-at-Oak, the ancient flint church in Oak Street, was saved from destruction by promptitude in tackling fire bombs, although it sustained some interior damage before a blaze near its west end was extinguished by sailors who were passing at the time.

It was fortunate that the valuable stained glass east window at St. Stephen's Church had been removed to a place of safety in the early days of the war, since this fine old church suffered badly from blast, which shattered most of its glass.

Nearly every church in the bombed areas suffered damage in varying degrees, among them St. Peter Mancroft, which lost glass and mullions, and St. Andrew's, which has a hole in its roof. One of the city's newest churches, St. Anne's, on the Earlham housing estate, was destroyed.

The old city wall on the west side of the city, facing the most severe onslaught of its career, stood up well to the attack, but the full force of a heavy bomb was too great a strain for the remains of St. Benedict's Gates. Although the gate pillar was swept away, with a small portion of the wall, other sections of the wall, both here and in the Chapel Field area, remain practically unscarred, almost on the edge of very large craters.

Among the most picturesque Norwich buildings wrecked by Nazi fury was the old Dolphin public-house, for long a popular subject with artists and photographers. Fire bombs have gutted this one-time residence of Bishop Hall, who lived there after his ejection by the Puritans, but its attractive south frontage, though blackened and scarred, is more or less intact, and this venerable tavern, scheduled for preservation as an ancient monument, is almost certain to be restored after the war.

More familiar to city visitors were the striking thatched and gabled lines of the Boar's Head in St. Stephen's Street, which succumbed to the flames only after a long battle by fire fighters. The history of this ancient hostelry dates from the 15th century, and although its front and picturesque roof had comparatively recently been restored, its ancient beams and timbered interior were largely original. Altogether Norwich licensed houses suffered severely.

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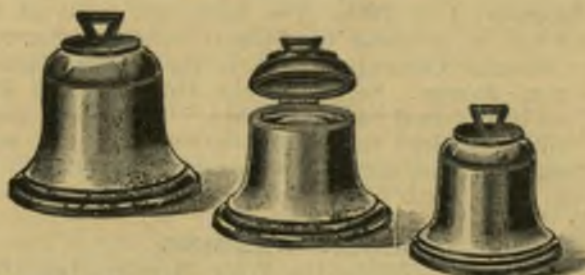
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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

During the past week to hundreds of ringers has come, mingled with a sense of regret for the loss of Mr. Goldsmith, the thought, What will become of 'The Ringing World'? It is an important and indeed a vital question, for on the answer depends, it is not too much to say, the future existence of the Exercise as it is at present organised.

At the moment there is no answer, and what the answer ultimately will be no one can say, but ringers will read with a great sense of relief the official notice printed on another page to the effect that the Central Council, through its responsible officials, has made arrangements with the parties interested, by which, pending a final settlement, the publication of the paper will be continued. We have no idea what that settlement will be, and we have no intention of indulging in speculation or conjecture; but we do think it necessary to call attention to the seriousness of the situation and to the responsibility which rests on every individual ringer in the matter.

For more than sixty years the Exercise has enjoyed the advantages of a weekly journal entirely devoted to the interests of change ringing, and during the ten years before that another paper, 'Church Bells,' reserved at least one page every week for ringing matters. So that there is no man now living who can form from personal experience any idea of what the Exercise would be like without a weekly journal. Those seventy years formed the period during which the Exercise was rescued from the dying condition into which earlier circumstances had reduced it, the period in which by far the greatest development in the art took place, and in which that organisation was evolved, with its culmination in the Central Council, which has united ringers with ringers, given them a status, and brought them into co-operation with the Church, without which, in these days, the art would have no chance of survival. How far the development was directly due first to 'Church Bells,' then to 'The Bell News,' and lastly to 'The Ringing World,' is not easy to say, but this at least is certain: as the societies and the Central Council grew up and developed their activities they depended more and more for their ordinary working on the weekly journal. It became almost the only, and certainly the principal, means of communication between the members, so that if it suddenly ceased, they would be blind, and dumb, and impotent.

(Continued on page 266.)

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Mufflers, Ringing Mats, Matting, Flag Lines, etc., etc.

Privileges men have long enjoyed and never been without they take as a matter of course and do not value, and we fear it is so with not a few ringers. It would need the stoppage of 'The Ringing World' to make them realise what its value has been to them. No doubt the lesson would be a salutary one, but at what a cost it would have been learnt! If by any mischance 'The Ringing World' should have to cease publication, the hopes of it being revived within a measurable time, or of another being started in its stead, would be small indeed.

Our readers should ponder these things, and if they value in any way the art of change ringing, they should realise that each one of them individually is concerned in the matter and bears his share of responsibility. It is not the concern only of those who are leaders and are most active. It concerns everyone. It will not avail for a man to say, I care little for peal ringing and would be quite content with the service and practice ringing my own tower would give me without my going further afield. Those men in the long run are just as much dependent on the well-being of the Exercise at large as are the active peal ringers. The men who think, and in some cases not without reason, that the one important thing is the parochial band and its service ringing, are narrowly selfish and disloyal to the Church if they obstinately refuse to recognise the obligations laid on them by the fact that they are members of an Exercise which is co-extensive with the belfries of the whole country.

What then can and should the average ringer do? At present we cannot say, nor indeed is it our province to say. It is possible, and even probable, that shortly the Exercise will be called upon by those in authority to make some effort and to face some sacrifices to meet the emergency. When the call comes each ringer must be prepared to do his share cheerfully and willingly. If each does do his share the individual sacrifice and effort needed will be surprisingly small, though the total result will be gratifyingly large.

Meanwhile, readers can do much to help to tide over the difficulties in administration which are inevitable in the present circumstances, if they will send in reports of meetings promptly, if they will write letters giving their opinions on current topics, and if they will exercise patience and forbearance, remembering that an editor who uses a blue pencil or rejects a contribution does not do so from any personal motives, but because he has to consider the interests of his readers at large and to maintain a certain high standard.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

At the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths last Saturday the Master (Mr. E. G. Fenn) paid tribute to the loss ringers had sustained by the death of the Editor of 'The Ringing World.' Mr. Goldsmith had always been a good friend to the society and had rendered immense service to the Exercise at large. It was hoped that every endeavour would be made to keep 'The Ringing World' going.

The treasurer reported that he had met the surveyor of Southwark Cathedral, who stated that licence was being applied for permission to remove the bells to the west end of the church and brick them up. Mr. Roberts congratulated the officers on their efforts in this matter.

In accordance with Rule 4, it was proposed by letter by Mr. Donald Clift, seconded by Mr. Wilfred Williams, that Mr. Royston G. Bryant, of Stapleton, Bristol, be elected a member. This was carried unanimously.

The members present were the Master, Secretary and Treasurer, Messrs. J. H. Shepherd, G. N. Kirby, H. Hoskins, C. W. Roberts, E. A. Young, J. Strickland, E. C. S. Turner, F. Collins, C. Kippin, C. Mayne, E. J. Lewis Cockey, J. A. Trollope, F. C. Newman, L. Fox, R. F. Deal, W. J. Davidson, R. Stannard, H. J. Miles, E. C. Hartley, R. Spears and G. N. Price.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Wednesday, May 22, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes.*

AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16½.

Mrs. J. THOMAS...	...	1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER	...	5-6
*ALBERT M. TYLER	...	3-4	Mrs. E. K. FLETCHER	...	7-8
JOHN THOMAS 9-10					

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal of Grandsire Caters. First peal of Grandsire Caters on handbells as conductor.

[This peal was reported in our last issue in an incomplete form.]

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, June 2, 1942, in Two Hours and Two Minutes.

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

J. J. PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor size 15.

EDWIN JENNINGS ...	...	1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE	...	5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT	...	3-4	ERNEST C. S. TURNER...	...	7-8

Conducted by HAROLD G. CASHMORE.

BURGESS HILL, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(ST. PETER'S SOCIETY, BRIGHTON.)

On Wednesday, June 3, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes.

AT RESTORMEL, JAMES LANE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

MISS OLIVE HAIRS ...	...	1-2	R. GORDON CROSS	...	5-6
FRANK I. HAIRS ...	...	3-4	Mrs. F. I. HAIRS...	...	7-8

Composed by H. HOWLETT. Conducted by R. GORDON CROSS.

Rung in honour of the birth of a son to the wife of the conductor. Mrs. Cross is also a member of the above society.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT KINGSTON.

About forty ringers visited Kingston-on-Thames on Whit Monday to attend a meeting of the Surrey Association. Beddington, Croydon, Epsom (Christ Church), Kingston, Leatherhead in the North-Western District, and Chichester, Ealing, Harrow, Guildford, Kingsbury, Reigate and Ruislip were among the places represented.

Handbell ringing began at about 3.15 and continued in a variety of methods until about 4.30, when the party dispersed to various restaurants in the town for tea. Later more ringing was heard before evensong at 6.30. A short business meeting was then held in the choir vestry, at which the District Master, Mr. D. Cooper, took the chair.

It was decided to leave the arrangement of the next meeting, to be held probably in July, in the hands of the committee. It was agreed to hold the usual ringers' rally at Leatherhead on August Bank Holiday, if possible jointly with the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Guild.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar for the use of the tower and bells, for conducting the service and for his inspiring address, and to Mr. F. E. Hawthorne for other arrangements.

Ringing on handbells and also on the eight silent tower bells then continued until about 8.30.

REBUILDING OF COVENTRY CATHEDRAL.

A SUGGESTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—According to the public press it is announced that Sir Giles Scott, the architect of Liverpool Cathedral, is to prepare plans for the rebuilding of Coventry Cathedral.

Having in mind actions of a similar nature being taken in respect of many other churches, etc., which have been damaged, or even new churches to be built, I am wondering whether any of your readers, possessing the necessary qualifications, would be willing to write an article, or series of articles, with a view to possible publication in a journal issued by an association whose interests are directed towards architecture and surveying, and of which I am a member.

The subject matter would, of course, deal with bells and bell hanging, and would give information on stresses and strains transmitted to the fabric of the tower, control of noise and other useful knowledge for the architect that would, at least, lead to the restoration of some lost peals of bells. Further details would be given by me.

T. J. LOCK.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

A QUESTION OF AUTHORSHIP.

Mr. Edwin Barnett's recent letter giving the figures of two peals of Stedman Triples—one by James W. Washbrook, the other by Joseph J. Parker—raises a very interesting question of the authorship of one of the best five-thousands in the method. Mr. George Williams has thrown a good deal of light on the matter, but the story will bear telling in even fuller detail.

About the beginning of the year 1889 the study of the composition of Stedman Triples, which had been neglected since Thomas Thurstans' peal was rung in 1846, attracted the attention of some of the best brains in the Exercise, notably Arthur Heywood, Henry Earle Bulwer, James W. Washbrook and Joseph J. Parker.

The first two worked in collaboration, the others independently, and there is no reason to think that one of them gained anything from the others' investigations, though they all reached pretty much the same conclusions, as indeed men of their ability were bound to do.

The four men had first to find out something about the problems involved in Stedman Triples composition and to discover the solutions, for all that sort of thing was a sealed book to the Exercise at large. Heywood was the first to publish a new peal. His No. 1, a ten-part, appeared in 'The Bell News' of May 25th, 1889, and to it he added a note which marked one of the standards by which he was working. 'The author obtained another ten-part peal, but does not present it, for, containing several sets of six consecutive bobs, it is not fit to be rung.' After that he published at regular intervals the various compositions which appear in C. D. P. Davies' 'Stedman.'

Washbrook evidently had already deeply studied the problem, for on June 1st, 1899, he published a letter in which he explained quite accurately and quite clearly the general principles on which twin-bob composition is based. For this he certainly owed nothing to Heywood, and it would be a mistake to suppose (as is natural) that the great advance in the composition in Stedman Triples was due entirely to Heywood's 'Investigations,' for they were not published in 'The Bell News' until the middle of 1890.

Bulwer began to publish peals in September, 1889. They were stated to have been composed between May and August.

J. J. Parker contributed an article giving peals and explanations of composition in November, and on December 7th Washbrook published his No. 1, the composition referred to by Mr. Barnett. He did not say when he composed it, but he called it at Braughing on November 22nd.

In the following January, Parker continued his articles and included this paragraph: 'The following four-part which I discovered on September 20th—and which is the only one of the kind containing thirty four-bob sets—has already appeared in another form by Mr. Washbrook; but as I am inclined to think that I discovered it first and as I had it ready for publication when Mr. Washbrook's appeared, I shall take the liberty to give it.' Then follows the other peal mentioned by Mr. Barnett.

The facts seem clear enough. Both men composed the peal independently and almost at the same time. Washbrook was the first to ring it and the first to publish it. He may also have been the first to compose it, for though Parker was quite honest and quite fair in what he said, he was only 'inclined to think' he had the priority. When C. D. P. Davies published his book on Stedman he quite properly attributed the peal to Washbrook, and the same has been done in the later book by J. A. Trollope.

DEATH OF MR. J. W. MELDRUM.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. J. W. Meldrum, of Liverpool. He had been one of the ringers at St. Francis Xavier's many years ago, but did not take an active part in ringing until 1920, when he joined the Lancashire Association. He was an ex-chief inspector of Liverpool Police and was one of the earliest members of the National Police Guild. Although he had not rung a large number of peals, he was a real enthusiast, and seldom missed a meeting or practice in the Liverpool district. He was an unattached member of the Lancashire Association, but identified himself chiefly with Walton-on-the-Hill on Sundays and St. Nicholas', Liverpool, on Tuesday nights.

Always willing to help when called upon, he was of a most kindly disposition and will be very much missed. He leaves a widow and family to mourn their loss.

MR. WALTER PERKINS.

FIFTY YEARS A BELLRINGER.

Fifty years ago on May 29th, 1892, Mr. Walter Perkins began to ring at Finedon. In 1902 he moved to Irthlingborough and he had ever since been associated with St. Peter's belfry. His first peal, on September 28th, 1895, was in the same tower, and following it he has taken part in 416 peals, of which he conducted 114. They were in a great variety of methods up to London Surprise Major, and included 10,176 Treble Bob Major at South Wigston in 1901. One hundred and forty-three were at Irthlingborough, the rest in 82 other churches.

From 1910 to 1921 Mr. Perkins was secretary of the Wellingborough and District Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Association, and from 1915 to 1920 a member of the Central Council. He celebrated his golden wedding in April, 1938, and rang his last peal at Staverton on July 6th, 1939.

JOHN HOLT.

(Continued from page 259.)

HIS FINE COMPOSITIONS.

John Holt called peals of Grandsire Caters at St. Martin's and Cinques at St. Bride's. The latter belfry was still the College Youths' stronghold, but however great their interest in the tower may have been, they had either not the desire, or not sufficient influence, to exclude rival companies. No peal of Cinques had been rung there since the College Youths' first performance in 1725, unless one was included among the forgotten peals by the London Scholars, who, as part donors of the two trebles, had a special interest in the belfry.

Twice in the year 1751 Holt and his band visited Hillingdon, a village adjoining Uxbridge at the western extremity of Middlesex, where there was a good band of ringers and an old tradition of ringing. On April 9th they rang 5,040 changes of Bob Major 'immediately after ringing 5,800 Double Bob Major, the whole being 7 hours 30 minutes.' We may, perhaps, assume (though the record does not definitely say so) that the two peals were rung as one without interval or setting the bells, or altering the positions of the band. Joseph Dickenson, who both before and after was a member of the Society of Eastern Scholars, rang the 24 cwt. tenor unassisted. On the second visit in August the company rang 5,040 changes of Double Bob Major 'with the sixth at home and in the Tittum Course twelve times each.'

On February 16th, 1752, the society rang at St. Margaret's, Westminster, 5,040 changes of Court Bob Major, 'being the first that ever was rung on those bells.' Holt conducted from the third, and the other bells were rung by James Davis, William Underwood, James Albion, Oliver Ellingworth, James Vickers, James Newby and John Lloyd. This William Underwood was almost certainly not the man who had been a prominent member of the Society of London Scholars, but his son, who was afterwards to play a prominent part in London ringing, and especially in the Society of College Youths. Apparently this was his first peal. Both father and son, however, were ringing at the time.

Shoemaking, which was John Holt's occupation, is a sedentary one, and to a large extent mechanical, so it gave him great opportunities for thinking. Intellectually he was far above the average, and it was quite natural that he should turn his attention to composition and to the solution of such problems as then fronted the Exercise. The popular methods at the time were Bob Triples and Major, and Grandsire Caters, and in all three Annable's peals held the field. But already some men, notably Joseph Prior, had tried to widen the range of composition and Holt carried on the work. He produced several peals of Bob Major and Grandsire Caters, and one of Bob Triples without a single. These compositions were developments of the plans on which Annable had worked, and though good, are not much more than could have been expected from a competent composer. It was into the problem of Grandsire Triples that he put his best work, and how brilliantly successful he was there is common knowledge.

Grandsire Triples had been introduced towards the close of the seventeenth century and was now rung all over England. It was freely practised in London, but the men there did not use it for peal ringing. Before

1751 only three peals of it are recorded—the Hick Triples by the Union Scholars in 1718, a peal by the Eastern Scholars in 1733, conducted by Mainwaring, and another by the Union Scholars in 1736, composed and conducted by John Denmead. During the same period many peals in the method had been rung in different parts of the country.

Why did the London men, who included the most active of peal ringers, thus neglect a method which they regularly used for short touches? It was not altogether because they had no true peal. They knew of Garthorn's composition and Annable's. It is likely they knew of John Vicar's Six-part, and there was the peal John Denmead had called at St. Martin's. Exactly what that was like we cannot be sure, for the figures have disappeared, but the probability is that it was the bob-and-single peal printed in the 'Clavis' without a composer's name, and which has been rung many times during the ages. It has often been ascribed to Holt, but erroneously, due perhaps to the fact that it came from the Union Scholars. It is worth noticing that when Denmead called his peal he rang the sixth.

The real reason why Londoners did not ring peals of Grandsire Triples is, I think, to be found in the composition given in Doleman's 'Campanalogia' of 1702. The book gives a half-peal and goes on to say that the only way to ring a five-thousand was to double it by two singles. No suggestion was made that the peal would be true, but undoubtedly many men took it as such, and it was freely practised. We may be fairly certain that by far the greatest number of the peals of Grandsire Triples rung throughout the country before 1751 were this false composition.

But the London men knew, though the country men did not, that the composition was false, and they 'could not see any satisfaction from repeatedly practising a false peal when so many true ones present themselves in other methods.' The method got a bad name for peal ringing, and the prejudice against it was not dispelled by the appearance of Annable's and Denmead's compositions. It was not until 1771 that the College Youths rang their first peal in the method, after they had rung peals of Double Grandsire.

It is also not unlikely that the early bob-and-single peals were not generally approved of as 'proper' Grandsire Triples. With their rigid plan they seemed to be (what indeed they usually are) peals in a different method with a 3-lead course, and men had a separate name for that method—Gogmagog.

Ringers would not have denied the general right of these peals to be called Grandsire, but they looked on them in much the same way as we do now on multi-bob peals of Stedman. What they wanted was a five-thousand in which the bobs were freely arranged as they were in the touches they rang. In fact, Doleman's peal would have been just the thing—if it had been true. Singles, generally, were disliked, but there would have been no insuperable objection to them if they were thought necessary.

To-day, with our knowledge of the Law of Q Sets, to compose a one-part peal of Grandsire Triples is no very arduous undertaking, but it was far otherwise in John Holt's time. He had to deal with an entirely unexplored problem; his brain was a mathematical one, but he was totally untrained, and he, perforce, had to

work by intuition and empirical methods. Yet he must, of course, have had some general scheme in his mind. The number of ways in which you can arrange bobs and plain leads in a 5,040 is so almost inconceivably great that no mere hit-or-miss plan is ever likely to bring success. What his scheme was cannot be known, but there is one which would be likely to occur to anyone in his position. It is to take the fifteen-lead blocks produced by the 3-lead-course plan, and try to unite them by omits instead of by singles.

Annable had already experimented with this without success, and in itself it is not very promising, yet it well may have been Holt's starting point, and some confirmation may be found in the fact that in the peal the sixth is never called Before.

The Original was composed some time before the middle of 1751 and on Sunday, July 7th, in that year the Union Scholars rang it at St. Margaret's, Westminster. The band was—James Davis, James Albion, Jacob Hall, Thomas Jackson, James Vickers, James Newby, John Lloyd, and George Fleury, and Edward Davis at the tenor. Holt, thinking it too great an undertaking to call the peal and ring at the same time, sat in the belfry and conducted from manuscript.

It seems strange that two men should have been needed to ring the tenor behind, for just about the same time both before and after, several men turned it in to Major. As I have said, the Union Scholars seem to have been short of heavy bell ringers. Fleury had rung St. Bride's tenor single handed to Cinques, but he needed help to ring Wycombe tenor behind the Triples. But in those days big bells varied so much in their hanging and

from time to time according to the weather, that no reliable comparisons can be made.

A board was put up in the belfry to record the performance of the Original. Some fifty years ago it was restored and now hangs in the base of the tower which serves as the main porch of the church.

No record of the peal appears in the peal book and this has given rise to some conjecture. Osborn thought it was not entered because it was considered irregular for the conductor to ring and not call. Jasper Snowdon thought it was because Annable did not approve of the composition. Neither reason is convincing. The Union Scholars had rung the peal and they had recorded it on an expensive tablet. It is not likely they would have boggled at entering it in their book, or would have paid undue attention to the hostile criticism of a rival belonging to another company. The probability is that it was entered, and in after years when the book became dilapidated someone took it away to keep as an interesting curio. The peals were not numbered and there is no means of checking any loss of pages.

According to tradition the one-part was the first of Holt's Grandsire peals to be composed, and the ten-part and the six-part came later. That seems probable, for although the Original seems the more complex, the others, and especially the ten-part, are by far the finer productions.

(To be continued.)

THE MUSIC OF STEDMAN CATERS.—Of all methods on nine and more bells, Stedman Caters, 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.

John Taylor & Co.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Congratulations to Mr. E. H. Lewis, whose birthday was yesterday.

Last week we published the report of a peal of Grandsire Caters at Enfield with only four names. The correct thing is to put the blame on the conductor who sent in the report or, failing him, on the printer, but (strictly between ourselves) it was the man who read the proofs who really was at fault. In the circumstances perhaps he may be forgiven.

The first peal of St. Blaise Surprise Major was rung at Holy Trinity, Guildford, by the Winchester Diocesan Guild, on June 8th, 1927. Mr. A. H. Pulling conducted.

The last peal on the old bells of Coventry Cathedral was rung on June 9th, 1883. The tower, which was almost the only part of the church to escape destruction in the heavy air raid, now contains a chime of modern bells not hung for ringing.

A landmark in the history of peal ringing was reached 15 years ago yesterday, when, at Warnham in Sussex, Law James' composition containing 5,406 changes of Spliced London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major was rung for the first time. Mr. John S. Goldsmith took part in the performance.

Grandsire on even numbers is now considered to be a bastard system (to use Sir Arthur Heywood's description of it), but at one time it was very popular in the Birmingham district, and perhaps not without reason. The St. Martin's men rang 5,040 changes of Maximus on June 12th, 1815.

Nottingham men rang the first peal (one of Grandsire Triples) on the bells of Ashbourne Church in Derbyshire on June 13th, 1821. They walked the 27 miles, there and back, and had a free fight with the local men in the churchyard.

Fifty years ago yesterday two peals were rung, one was Stedman Triples, conducted by Mr. George Williams, the other Holt's Original, conducted by Mr. John Austin. Both men fortunately are still with us.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS.

Important Notice.

Through the kindness of the Executors of the late Mr. Goldsmith and the co-operation of the Woodbridge Press, Ltd., the publication of this paper is being continued for the present.

This will enable steps to be taken to safeguard its future.

E. H. LEWIS, President.

GEO. W. FLETCHER, Hon. Secretary.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

The Ringers' Conference was the last thing connected with change ringing in which the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith took an interest. He was enthusiastically in favour of the idea, which he believed would do an immense amount of good by stimulating thought and keeping alive interest in these slack days. He personally drafted the rules, from his sick bed he carried out the duties of chairman, and he corresponded by letter with many of the people who were helping.

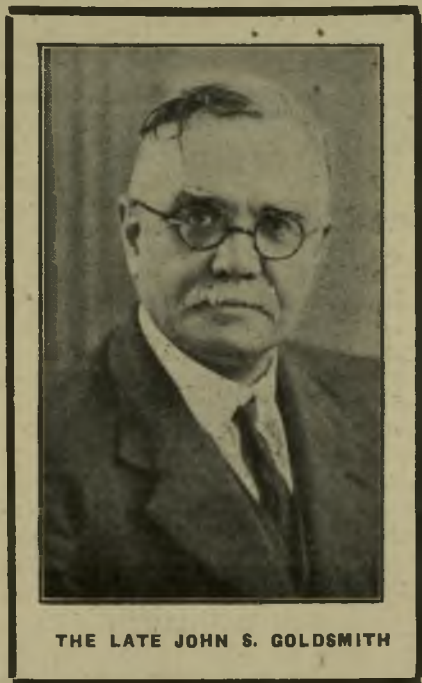
When he died it was only fitting that the Conference should be suspended temporarily, but the idea is too good a one and contains too many possibilities for it to be dropped prematurely. We should, therefore, like to carry it on, but there are one or two difficulties out of which our readers must help us. We have one or two 'speeches' on Mr. C. T. Coles' resolution and the National Association already in type, but anything else that has been sent in is, in the particular circumstances of the time, not available. If, then, readers would like the Conference to continue we must ask them to forward again any matter they have already sent in. We do not know how far the movers of the resolutions not yet debated have sent in their opening speeches, but in all cases we ask them to do so again. We are sorry to give them the trouble, but they will not mind, we feel sure, when they realise that they will be helping us to carry on in the very difficult circumstances of the present time. Similarly any reader who has any contribution to make, whether on the subject of the National Association or any other germane matter, should let us have it without delay. We need some help of this sort at the present and we need it at once.

FIRST THINGS FIRST.—The young ringer's first object must be to manage his bell, over which he must have entire control before he attempts to join in peal with others.—C. A. W. Troyte.

THE LATE MR. J. S. GOLDSMITH.**FUNERAL AT PYRFORD.**

On a lovely summer day last week, when the leafy Surrey lanes were looking at their best, all that was mortal of John Sparkes Goldsmith was laid to rest in the churchyard at Pyrford. The number of people who had gathered to pay their last respects taxed the accommodation of the small church to the utmost, but it is quite safe to say that it would have been increased three-fold had it not have been for the restrictions and difficulties of travelling. Ringers were present from all parts of the country and many of the local residents.

The service in church, which was taken by the Vicar, the Rev. C. A. Hamilton, began with the ringers' hymn, 'Unchanging God Who livest,' and the 23rd Psalm,



THE LATE JOHN S. GOLDSMITH

'The Lord is my shepherd.' In place of the familiar passage from St. Paul, the lesson, read by the Rev. F. A. Woodard, Vicar of Horsell, was from the Revelation of St. John the Divine, the account of the vision of the great multitude which no man could number which stood before the throne, clothed with white robes and palms in their hands. The second hymn was 'Thine for ever God of love.'

The burial office at the grave and the committal were taken by Canon G. F. Coleridge, and the coffin was laid upon that of Mr. Goldsmith's wife, who died some years ago.

At the conclusion a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on Mr. Goldsmith's handbells over the open grave by Mrs. Fletcher 1-2, E. H. Lewis 3-4, A. H. Pulling 5-6, A. Walker 7-8.

The family mourners were: Mr. John H. Goldsmith (son) and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Renshaw (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. E. C. Goldsmith (brother), Mrs. J. Muzzell (cousin) and Mr. E. C. Goldsmith, junior (nephew), Mr. W. Head (brother-in-law).

Among the many personal friends were Miss Q. M. White, Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Gribble, Mr. G. E. Mason and Mr. H. G. Mason, Mr. L. Jenkins (director of the Woodbridge Press, Ltd.), representatives of the Woking Urban Council and other public bodies of Woking.

MANY RINGERS PRESENT.

Among the ringers present were: Mr. E. H. Lewis (President of the Central Council), Mr. G. W. Fletcher (hon. secretary of the Council), Mrs. Fletcher, Mr. A. A. Hughes (Whitechapel Foundry), Mr. C. F. Johnston (Croydon Foundry), Mr. A. B. Peck (representing the Ancient Society of College Youths), Mr. Rupert Richardson and Mrs. Richardson, Mr. C. T. Coles (Middlesex Association), Councillor A. Paddon Smith, J.P., and Mr. Albert Walker (St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham), Mr. George Williams (Winchester Diocesan Guild), Mr. George Cross and Mr. George Steere (Society of Royal Cumberland Youths), Mr. G. L. Grover, Mr. Alfred Pulling, Mr. C. Hazelden, Mr. J. Corbett and Mr. A. Harman (Guildford Diocesan Guild), Mr. R. T. Hibbert (Oxford Diocesan Guild), Mr. J. Hardcastle (Yorkshire Association), Mr. J. W. Jones (Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association), Mrs. Fergusson (Hertford County Association), Mr. G. W. Massey, Mr. E. G. Talbot and Mr. H. V. Young (Surrey Association), Mr. E. Alexander Young, Mr. W. H. Fussell, Mr. J. H. Shepherd, Mr. C. W. Denyer, Mr. E. Barnett, Mr. C. Denyer, Mr. Leslie W. Bunce, Mr. C. Deane, Mrs. Hazelden, Mrs. Harman, Mrs. Massey, Mr. A. V. Bristow, Mr. R. Jonas, Mr. E. G. Heath, Mr. S. Petter, Miss K. Avenall, Mr. H. Chaffey, Mr. F. Cherryman, Mr. E. Sherwood, Mr. A. H. Smith, Mr. W. E. Enticknap, Mr. W. J. Robinson, Mr. W. J. Whiting, Mr. F. Nye and Mr. J. A. Trollope.

FLORAL TRIBUTES.

The many beautiful floral wreaths included those sent by the following: From his Children and his Grandchildren; Mrs. R. Renshaw and family; Mary; Central Council of Church Bellringers; Rupert and Mrs. Richardson, Surfleet; Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Hughes; Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Lewis; J. A. Trollope; Councillor A. Paddon Smith; the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild of Change Ringers; Mr. E. Denison Taylor; Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and Ringing Members, Staff, Gillett and Johnston; St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham; Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Fletcher; Mr. and Mrs. J. Parker; the Surrey Association of Change Bellringers; Guildford Diocesan Guild; Aldershot Tower; Guildford Diocesan Guild, Leatherhead District; Farnham District; Ladies' Guild of Change Ringers; Mr. and Mrs. Corbett; Mr. and Mrs. Grover; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Walker; Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Bayley (Neon); Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Gribble; Old Woking Bellringers; Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Coles; Enid, Surfleet; Woking District Meat Trades; Mr. C. Goldsmith; Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Mason; Bert and Phyllis; Mr. and Mrs. Harman, Gwen and Silvia; Ringers St. John the Baptist, Wonerish; Mrs. Cattell; Mr. and Mrs. Collins and Dick; Mr. and Mrs. Morris; Cousins at Southover; Nellie and Bill, Newhaven; Woking Food Control Committee; Woking Food Officers and Staff; Mr. J. Wise; Mrs. Celman and family; Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Gibbons, Evelyn and Derek; an old friend; Mr. and Mrs. Nye and family; Mr. and Mrs. Clarke and Silvia.

(Continued on next page.)

THE LATE MR. J. S. GOLDSMITH.

(Continued from previous page.)

Mr. J. H. Goldsmith and Mrs. Renshaw wish to convey their grateful thanks to the many friends for their expressions of sympathy in their great loss and for their tributes to their late father.

The funeral arrangements were in the hands of Mr. J. Corbett, of Bagshot, and were admirably carried out.

MR. GOLDSMITH'S RINGING CAREER.

Mr. Goldsmith, when he died, was 64 years old and, far more so than in the case of most leading ringers, his time and activities had been devoted to the cause of change ringing. A full account of his life would therefore be both absorbingly interesting and instructive to our readers, but, unfortunately, we do not possess the necessary material to write it, nor, in any case, would it have been possible to do justice to such a subject amid the emotions and the anxieties of the last few days. We must content ourselves with a general sketch as near as possible to the right thing as we can make it.

John Sparkes Goldsmith was born on January 13th, 1878, in the parish of Southover, Lewes, where his father was parish clerk. The Goldsmiths had been connected with the church for many years and John was the fourth generation that had been ringers. One of the earlier members, grandfather or great-grandfather, had taken part in one of the first peals on the bells.

Mr. Goldsmith's father died in his early boyhood, but his mother carried on the duties as parish clerk, and one of her ambitions was that the connection between the family and the belfry should not be broken. She employed her son to toll the bell for deaths and funerals, and as soon as ever he was old enough, she almost insisted that he should become a ringer.

EARLY EXPERIENCES.

Not long since, in 'The Ringing World,' behind a thin veil of anonymity, he told us of some of his early experiences. 'From a time almost as long as I can remember,' he wrote, 'I was allowed to take part in the chiming, and I frequently also chimed the death knell.'

When he began to learn change ringing he took to it with enthusiasm, and in later years he still remembered the thrill with which he joined in the early morning ringing and how important he felt on his first Christmas Day as a bellringer. In those days, with the other ringers, he used to practise tune ringing, and he never quite lost a liking for it. Up to a few months before his death he would occasionally get together some of his friends' and neighbours and instruct them how to ring simple tunes on the fine peal of handbells presented to him by Mr. A. A. Hughes.

The band at Southover fifty years ago, like all country bands, had no idea of anything beyond Grandsire Triples, but they had a full share of enthusiasm and skill. John Goldsmith quickly became their equal in all respects, and on April 8th, 1893, when he was no more than fifteen years old, he rang the treble to Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples and followed it up by three more peals that year—one of Grandsire and two of Plain Bob. His second peal was composed and conducted by Mr. George Williams, and thus began a close friendship which lasted unbroken through the years and was well illustrated by Mr. Williams' presence at the funeral last week.

Early in 1894 Mr. Goldsmith rang his first peal away from the treble, and shortly afterwards his first peal of Stedman Triples. Mr. Alfred Turner, who is still at Southover, called the one and Mr. Williams the other.

All these peals had been at Southover, but now Mr. Goldsmith began to go about the county of Sussex peal ringing with the more energetic ringers of the neighbourhood. On November 27th, 1894, when he was still only sixteen years old, he rang at the first attempt his first peal as conductor. A board in Southover belfry records the feat.

PEAL RINGING ACTIVITY.

The year 1895 brought peals of Grandsire Major, Double Norwich Court Bob Major and Grandsire Caters. On April 6th, 1896, he called Union Triples at Ringmer. The Rev. C. D. P. Davies, who was at the time curate at Ringmer, took part in this peal. In the same year Mr. Goldsmith rang in three peals of Superlative, a method then practised by only one or two of the most advanced bands in the country. Mr. Frank Bennett took part in two of them and the third, at Crawley, was a farewell peal to Mr. F. Dench, who was leaving the town to join the Rochester Row band in London.

On the second day of the year 1897 Mr. Goldsmith rang the sixth to a peal of Stedman Caters, a method for which he had always afterwards a great affection and which he used to say he understood better than any other. The first peal of Kent Treble Bob Major followed shortly afterwards at Steyning. In this he rang the tenor, a position he very seldom occupied during his life, though he was a strongly built man, with the breadth of shoulder and frame of an athlete. In the same year, 1897, he called his first peal of Stedman Triples and rang his first peals of Cambridge Surprise Major and London Surprise Major. These performances led to a paragraph in 'The Bell News' referring to him as probably the most brilliant of the young ringers at the time. A second peal of London Surprise commemorated his twentieth birthday.

A BUSY YEAR.

In the year 1898 he added to his list Canterbury Pleasure Major, Court Bob Triples, New Cumberland Surprise Major and Treble Bob Royal, as well as a peal in seven minor methods. The Treble Ten was rung at St. Nicholas', Brighton, fully muffled for Mr. William E. Gladstone. That year was one of the busiest in his peal ringing life. In all he took part in 44 peals, which included London, Cambridge and Superlative, and he finished the year with what he always looked back on with pride as one of his best achievements—five peals in two days. On Christmas Eve he had rung Superlative Surprise at St. Peter's, Brighton. On Boxing Day the band started with Superlative at Warnham and followed it up with Kent Treble Bob on the same bells. Early next day Grandsire Triples was rung at Southover, and before midnight Bob Major at Ringmer and another in the same method at Buxted. The band was not entirely the same throughout, but Mr. Keith Hart called all the peals, and two or three others besides Mr. Goldsmith rang in the five. Earlier in the year a four days' ringing tour in Hampshire yielded him six peals, two of Superlative, three of Cambridge and one of Stedman Triples. Mr. George Williams called five and Mr. Keith Hart one.

The next year, 1899, was almost as prolific as the last and added 37 peals. On his 21st birthday Mr. Goldsmith rang his first peal of Superlative as conductor. Fittingly this was at Southover. On March 4th, with a peal of London at Arundel, he reached his 100th, and probably no other man had then had so fine a list for his first century. On May 16th he rang in Mr. George Williams' 400th peal, and on May 20th in Mr. Frank Bennett's 200th peal. Forty years later he took part in the 1,500th peal by each of the two, rung together on the bells of St. Mary's, Southampton, unfortunately no longer in existence.

These two years comprise the most active part of Mr. Goldsmith's career as a peal ringer. Other claims now intervened, and though he was a keen peal ringer till the end, he never had again the same opportunities of scoring a large number. At the end of 1899 his number was 132. When he died it had reached 463. The number for 1900 was thirteen. None was of any particular interest except Mr. Goldsmith's first peal as conductor of the Original. The footnote that the Superlative at St. Peter's, Brighton, on May 19th, 1900, was 'rung in honour of the relief of Mafeking' brings a wry smile to the faces of those who remember Mafeking, and the war of 1914-1918, to say nothing of the present conflict.

A NOTABLE RINGING TOUR.

Queen Victoria died early in the year 1901 and Mr. Goldsmith called two deeply muffled peals of Grandsire Triples, one at Southover, the other at Eastbourne. On May 11th he rang the sixth at Southover and called a peal of London Surprise, to which Mr. George Williams rang the tenor.

A fortnight later he took part in a tour in Ireland, and so began an association in peal ringing with a number of ringers which lasted through the years and was one of his most cherished possessions. Among the men whose friendship was then gained or cemented were Bob Pye and his brothers, William and Ernest, Gabriel Lindoff, William Short, Isaac Shade, William H. Barber and James George. During the tour Treble Ten and Stedman Caters were rung at St. Patrick's Cathedral and Stedman Caters at Christ Church Cathedral. On the heavy eight at Bray in County Wicklow Goldsmith called 5,088 Superlative, the first peal in a Surprise method rung out of England. The tour finished with a peal of New Cambridge Major at Bangor, the first in a Surprise method rung in Wales.

(To be continued.)

(Continued from next column.)

FROM MR. WILLIAM KEEBLE.

It is with great regret that I have read of the passing away of the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith. His name will long be remembered for his brilliant leading articles and for his unfailing sense of fair play. Also for his courage at all times in defending the interests of the average ringer, and I feel sure his memory will long be cherished by ringers throughout the British Isles and elsewhere wherever ringers foregather to practise the noble art. Gone before, but not forgotten, Colchester.

WILLIAM KEEBLE.

THE LATE MR. J. S. GOLDSMITH.

APPRECIATIONS.

Among ringers all over England the news of the death of Mr. Goldsmith has been received with profound sorrow and has called forth expressions of regret and appreciations of his work and character. The following are typical:—

FROM THE REV. F. LLEWELLYN EDWARDS.

The past week has been a sad time for thousands of ringers throughout the kingdom. Quite apart from those who had the privilege of his acquaintance, the late Editor of 'The Ringing World' was in such close contact with the thoughts and aspirations of his world-wide circle of readers that his passing cannot but be felt by all as the loss of a personal friend.

The editorial note in last week's issue rightly throws into relief those personal and intensely human qualities which commanded the affection and respect of friends and acquaintances. On behalf of his colleagues on the Literature Committee of the Central Council, I venture to seek the opportunity of paying a humble tribute to that aspect of his life and work, with which the name of John Goldsmith will always be most closely associated.

The period during which he founded and conducted 'The Ringing World' was one of widespread and in many ways unprecedented activity and advance on the part of the ringing fraternity. For some 30 years he provided the only general means of communication between ringers throughout the British Empire. The leading articles from his pen week by week were distinguished by fertility of imagination, sound judgment and aptitude of phrase, and served to stimulate thought and action and indeed in no small measure to direct the aims and efforts of all concerned. In the nature of things it must be left to a later generation to assess the permanent value of his contribution to the general life and development of the Exercise, but one thing may be said at once without fear of contradiction. The name of John Goldsmith will long be held in honour as that of a man who for 30 continuous years devoted his skill and abilities to the self-imposed task of promoting the true interests of ringers as servants of the Church of Christ and trustees of a great national heritage, assisting the progress of their art and encouraging the maintenance and advancement of all that is highest and best in its cherished traditions. That task he carried out with a high degree of steadfast purpose, courageous perseverance and self-sacrificing endeavour. Battling against ill-health and the difficulties of these troublous times, he has indeed fallen sword in hand. God rest and reward his gallant soul.

F. L. EDWARDS.

Kington Magna Rectory, Dorset.

FROM MR. W. SHEPHERD.

A valedictory tribute is difficult because John Goldsmith was an old personal friend of mine for forty years. During the period he worked for the 'Surrey Times' he managed to secure one column per week for ringing matters, and when we were striving hard with the idea of making handbells popular in Surrey he helped us considerably with his pen. He gave us of his best, his enthusiasm was boundless, always ready to devote his great ability to the service of ringers and ringing. He was loyal, kindly, thoughtful and considerate. As he lived so, he served.

When I visited him shortly before his passing I saw a marked change, but he welcomed me. During conversation he was at times the John Goldsmith many of us knew years ago. And now he has passed from us after giving to the Exercise more than full measure of service, in fact he often put service before self and lately had to pay the penalty. A great personality, a fine leader, he will ever be remembered by what he has done.

W. SHEPHERD.

Addlestone.

FROM MR. GEORGE R. NEWTON.

I do not know who will read these few lines, but I feel it will be someone who will credit me with sincerity when I say how sorry I am to hear of the death of Mr. Goldsmith. I had only just started ringing in 1896 when I remember his name was prominently brought to my notice. He was either 20 or 21 and his first 50 peals were recorded, including at least one of London Surprise. In those days and at that age it was a great record. I met him many times and never pulled a rope with him, but I always admired his great ability and fine character. We shall miss him more than we at present know.

GEORGE R. NEWTON.

57, Ampthill Road, Liverpool.

(Continued in previous column.)

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THE CURFEW CHIMES OF WINDSOR.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The other day I wandered into a church, and, seeing a hymn book (Ancient and Modern with music settings), I sat down and began to wade through the tunes of those hymns which are not included in the 'Standard' category, in a similar way to which a ringer will wade through unknown methods and compositions with the hope of raking up something really good and worth popularising.

After an hour or so in this engagement I suddenly stumbled on the solution of a problem which had been a puzzle to me for many years, and my mind was taken back to nearly twenty years ago when it was my thankless task to perform 'sentry go' near the Curfew Tower at Windsor Castle.

Many were the nights when awaiting the guard relief I would stand under the arches and listen to and count the twelve strokes announcing midnight, followed by the dismal chimes.

The tune of those unfamiliar chimes fairly got on my nerves by its weirdness, and soon I knew every note, but, try as I might, I could not connect it with anything I had ever heard before.

I was prompted to ask Tom Smith, Len Stilwell, Tom Farr and other famous locals to enlighten me as to the origin of the tune as played on the clock chimes every three hours, but no one knew definitely, and guesses were varied and my curiosity was never satisfied.

Many times since those days when thinking of Windsor Castle I have remembered those chimes, and until to-day the melody (if it can be called a melody) has remained to me as mysterious as ever.

But let me return to my solitary hour in church scanning the hymn tunes. I came across hymn 352, St. David, Ravenscroft psalms, 1621, 'Christ is gone up yet ere he passed,' and at last the secret of the Curfew Chimes was revealed.

There it was. The same old tune. Definitely old-fashioned. Weary, dreary, dull and dead. I have often wondered how many other people, ringers included, have listened to those chimes and failed to find their meaning, and I wonder whether there are other chimes in the country similar. Following the verse is one change of 'Queens' and one of 'Rounds.' The whole twice repeated! C.W.P.

THE PEARSON LIBRARY.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I beg most earnestly to confirm the general conclusions of your excellent 'leader' recently, and I trust it will have good results.

In regard to the unfortunate happenings to such treasures we have the recent 'loss' of the Stedman 'Campanologia,' to the grief of the Hertfordshire Guild, who have been extremely generous in lending it. I may add (sotto voce) it was lent to me a few years ago that I might take a photo of the title-page. The next time I saw it was in the hands of a young St. Albans ringer up for a practice at a St. Clement Danes' meeting!

To read the history of any famous library is to be made aware of astonishing losses and dispersals in past days. And so, I fear, it will continue. Where, for instance, are the Ellacombe and Heywood collections? A 'Stedman' was found (and bought) by Professor E. N. de C. Andrade, D.S., from a semi-underground book store at Dover. Its only provenance I found after acquiring it from the doctor were family arms, as a book-plate, and the initials W.N.E. with 'e donis paternis.' I wonder what the book thought whilst waiting on the dark shelves at Dover for yet another ringer's hand (or perhaps the pulping mill)! And what are its memories of the Rev. Ellacombe and the family?

In regard to the Central Council Library, I remember its being discussed every year and it is steadily growing. There was a proposal that rare or valuable books should be inspected only under the supervision of the local public librarian, as are books of reference. A promising idea.

There was the ringer bookseller of Cambridge, Boutell. He was a benefactor of a certain college. Would it come forward and help us? Italian Villa, Elstree Hill, Bromley, Kent. E. ALEX. YOUNG.

GOLDEN WEDDING.

On Saturday, June 6th, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. White, of Colgrave, celebrated their golden wedding, having been married at All Saints', Colgrave, on Whit Monday, 1892. Mr. White joined the Midland Counties Association in 1887 and has served the association faithfully in various offices until last year, when owing to ill-health he resigned the treasurer'ship. For several years also he was a member of the Central Council. His many ringing friends will extend to him and to his wife their hearty congratulations and best wishes for their continued felicity.

THOUGHTS ON FUTURE PROBLEMS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Matters of vital interest have lately been discussed in your columns, and I am sure they must have aroused widespread attention. Some of these matters are urgent—our future as ringers, recruits, services ringing, our relations with the public and the Church. The new post-war order will affect all these. Let us prepare for that time by planning and discussing now.

Foremost is the matter of new blood. Recruits we must have in plenty or we perish as a craft. Now, Mr. Editor, what shall we do to get enough of the right type? What about a smashing lady conductor in each tower? There would always be a following. Mixed companies, too, would attract youngsters and arouse a competitive spirit, some of which could be applied to campanology, we trust. The Sunday School and the choir should be easy recruiting grounds. In towers reforms could be started which would make them more attractive, things like heaving for touches on bended knee should be abolished, likewise saluting, holding the rope in a certain way and other irksome details. Open leads and good striking could all go by the board in order to endear ringing to new ears. After all, this is an age of mass production.

THE CHURCH MUST DO SOMETHING.

The Church, yes, even the Church, I am afraid, must do something to make ringing more attractive to ringers. One urgent reform is the provision of a suitable 'escape hatch' in those churches where it is not easy to get out having once got in. How many of my fellow ringers have experienced the mortification of having to walk through the centre of a congregation, with no more protection than a rather unconvincing grin gives, after completing one's labour in the tower. In such cases, the proposed 'escape hatch' would be a god-send. These hatches should give the speediest route to the fresh air, preferably direct to the car park. In this park it should be permissible to keep engines running, so that a really hot get-away can be accomplished after ringing. If these conditions were observed, one would not in future hear the little girl asking who 'are the men one always meets leaving church as we are going in'!

No doubt the Sunday of the future will be the big day out for everybody. All other activities will be subservient to this. What will the Church do? I venture to prophesy that the hours of services will be profoundly modified, they will be held very early and very late in the day; they will also be 'potted.' Perhaps some genius of the future will apply the 'conveyor belt' system to services, or to congregations. Much valuable time would be saved. 'Potted' services will consist of a non-stop digest of three or four services; all over in a few minutes. The long-looked-for day for banning sermons will dawn after the war and in these conditions. Be assured, my readers, no national disaster will follow this step. It is probable that among the many clergymen in this country, one could be found to broadcast an occasional sermon, or some exciting homily could be read. Where do the bells fit in? It will be seen that service ringing must overlap or actually coincide with the services. With modern systems of silencing, the services would not seriously interfere with the ringing. The organ could be dispensed with on those days when the bells were being rung, or hymns in the chord of the peal played.

BELLS AS PART OF NATIONAL LIFE.

Bells are a real part of our national life, and we must strive to foster and even increase this spirit. Let us bring them in, for all we are worth, into our work and play. To widen the appeal the bells make, let us 'peal,' not only great saints, but great sinners as well. Let distinction in their particular vice or virtue be the only qualification. The devil is entitled to a long overdue peal; after all, he has frustrated for thousands of years the will of God, no mean achievement! and such a performance should not pass unnoticed. I feel sure God is too good a sportsman to take exception to this, if we do it. Finally, let me commend with all my heart a return to the good old English way of dedicating a new peal of bells—that dear system known as 'upending the tenor on the village green,' but with this improvement, that the treble and all the rest of the peal share this honour. Fewer peals of six and many more of twelve would be only the first fruits of this policy. With all the bells 'upended' and full of strong punch, and the whole community invited to 'go to it,' the bells would not, in the future, lack interest or support. They would be, very truly, welded into our national life.

Mr. Editor, I have indicated only a few ways of putting ringing back 'on the map.' Now is the accepted time. Let us take it with both hands.

RAYMOND PHILPOTT.

2, Church Street, Leatherhead.

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NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-. For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Moulton on June 13th. Service 3.30. Tea 4.15, followed by business meeting. Bells available for 'silent' ringing. Handbells, bowls, etc., on Vicarage lawn.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at Huyton on Saturday, June 13th. Handbells and tower bells, with clappers removed, will be available from 3 p.m. A short service will be held at 5 p.m., after which tea and meeting.—George R. Newton, 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool, 17.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Leigh on Saturday, June 13th. Service in church at 4 o'clock, followed by tea and business meeting. If fine there will be a cricket match on the Green.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

NATIONAL GUILD OF POLICE RINGERS.—A meeting will be held at Leicester on Saturday, June 13th. Assemble 12 mid-day at Hotel Belgrave, Loughborough Road (near tram terminus). Luncheon 1 p.m. Ringing, Cathedral (12), 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Tea at Cathedral Church House 4.45 p.m., followed by meeting. Social evening, Hotel Victory, Great Central Street, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—A meeting will be held at King's Langley on Saturday, June 13th. Room at the Blue Cafe, corner of Church Lane, for meeting, talking and handbell ringing. A service will probably be arranged.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Central Bucks Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Chearsley on Saturday, June 13th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. All are welcome.—F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., 30, Horn Street, Winslow, Bucks.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at All Saints', Hertford, on Saturday, June 13th, at 3 p.m. Silent tower bell ringing, also handbells during afternoon and evening. Service at 4.30. Tea at 5.30 to all who send in their names to G. Radley, 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon, Herts. Short meeting to follow tea. All welcome. Please come early.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Pulborough, Sunday, June 14th, 3 p.m. Bells (6, silent) and handbells. Tea and cake, kindly supplied by Mr. Stilwell (Pikeholm, Pulborough), to those who notify him two days previous of their intention to be present.—E. Treagus, Acting Div. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—A summer joint meeting in conjunction with the Sheffield and District Society, the Barnsley and District Society and the Doncaster and District Society will be held at Wath-on-Dearne on Saturday, June 20th. Hand-

bells will be available at the Church House from 2.30 p.m. Tea will be provided at Warburton's Cafe at 5 p.m. at 1s. 6d. per head. All those requiring tea must notify Mr. A. Nash, Holly House, Wath-on-Dearne, near Rotherham, by June 17th. This is important, so please do not fail. Business meeting at Church House, 6.30 p.m., followed by discussions and handbells.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at East Dereham on Saturday, June 20th. Bells available 3.15; service 4.30; tea 5.15 (bring some with you if you can!); followed by business meeting. Bowls afterwards, by kind invitation of the Vicar. Please send numbers for tea to Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich, by June 15th.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—A meeting will be held at Prestwich on Saturday, June 20th. Bells ready at 3 p.m. Meeting at 7 p.m. Nominations are required for branch secretary. The committee will meet at the same time.—W. H. Shuker, Gen. Sec., 36, Colwyn Avenue, Fallowfield, Manchester 14.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—An important general meeting of the association will be held at Selby on Saturday, June 20th. The back eight bells at the Abbey will be available for 'silent' ringing from 2.30 p.m. General Committee meet in the Abbey Sacristy at 3 p.m. prompt. Service in the Abbey at 4.15 p.m. Tea can be obtained near the Abbey. The general meeting will take place in the Abbey Sacristy at 6 p.m. prompt. Business urgent and important.—L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The next meeting will take place in the School at Shilton, near Coventry, on Saturday, June 20th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. Cups of tea will be served, but please bring own 'eats' and sugar. The Vicar (Rev. Harold Smith) extends a hearty welcome to all members and friends.—Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 27th, at 3.30 p.m., at the Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, by kind invitation of the Hertford County Association. Tea at 1s. per head will be provided for those notifying Mr. E. Jennings, 50, Rudolph Road, Bushey, not later than Thursday, June 25th.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held at Hagley on Saturday, June 27th, by the kind invitation of the Worcestershire and Districts Association. Bells (8) available for silent practice from 3 p.m. Tea in Hagley Park at 5 p.m., followed by short business meeting. Handbell ringing afterwards. Please notify regarding tea not later than 24th inst. to Mr. Bernard C. Ashford, 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge, Worcs.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—A meeting will be held at Writtle on Saturday, June 27th. Service at 4.30, tea and business meeting to follow. It is essential that those who require tea should notify Mr. T. Lincoln, Oxney Green, Writtle, by Wednesday, June 24th.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. J. Frank Smallwood has removed from Bath to 2, Oakford Avenue, Weston-super-Mare.

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No. 1,630. Vol. XXXVII.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19th, 1942.

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THE EXERCISE.

The gathering of ringers by the graveside in Pyrford Churchyard and the appreciations we have received form a remarkable tribute to the memory of a man widely held in esteem and affection. And they are something more still. They are a proof and a visible expression of one of the strongest links which bind ringers together into that somewhat vague entity we call the Exercise.

The attractions of change ringing are many and the reasons why men devote their time and energies to it are various. To some it is a means of serving their church. A few see in it a means of picking up a few shillings now and then (but of late years these people have much diminished and are now almost extinct). To some it is a most excellent bodily exercise. To some it provides intellectual enjoyment of the highest class. And to some (who include the best and most skilful of all) it is the most absorbingly fascinating sport that ever was invented. All these things appeal to most ringers in varying degree and at different times, for change ringing has many rewards to bestow on those who serve her faithfully.

But if you were to go to a man who has spent a lifetime as a ringer, and can look back on a successful record in the art, and if you were to ask him, What have you got out of it all that you value most? the chances are he would reply, The friends I have made. We have noticed this time after time, and the fact should make us all proud of being ringers, and the more resolved to do nothing unworthy of so great an ideal.

Friendship is a very precious thing and varies a great deal in its quality. In its highest form it is not to be broadcast over the whole community, but must be reserved for the inner circle of friends. But beyond that a decent man has still plenty of friendship and goodwill to give those with whom he comes comparatively seldom into contact. It is here that ringing has done so much good. Whatever the reason may be, it is a fact that the idea has grown up among us that ringers are the members of a body with definite relations and obligations one to another, so that a ringer visiting a strange town has only to go into the belfry to be made welcome and to be asked to ring.

It is a fine thing and one we may well be proud of. There is nothing quite like it elsewhere. A keen chess player would not expect to turn up at a chess club in a strange town and expect to be given a game; nor would a cricketer expect to join in with a local team whom he had never met before. Neither (to put the comparison on another level) would a man, however fine a singer he

(Continued on page 278.)

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might be, expect to join without notice the choir of any church he might visit.

This brotherhood among ringers is one of our most precious possessions. How we came by it is not too clear. It was not always so. It is one of the results of the several influences which, during the last sixty years, have transformed the Exercise, and of which the great territorial associations with the Central Council at their head are not the least. But however we did get it, it is a thing we must cherish and never let go, for it concerns the very life of the Exercise and the art of change ringing.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BIRMINGHAM.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, June 6, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Nine Minutes,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

FRANK E. PERVIN 1-2	FRANK W. PERRENS 5-6
ALBERT WALKER 3-4	*PTE. A. J. ADAMS, R.A.O.C. 7-8
†ALFRED BALLARD 9-10	

Composed by J. GROVES. Conducted by FRANK E. PERVIN.

Witnesses—George E. Fearn and George F. Swann.

* First peal 'in hand.' † 200th peal.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, June 8, 1942, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER 1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE 5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT 3-4	EDWIN JENNINGS 7-8

Composed by J. F. PENNING. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, June 10, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, FULHAM,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16.

*HARRY HARRIS 1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	*HUGH M. PAGE 7-8

Composed by J. F. PENNING. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER

* First peal. † First handbell peal.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
(BRISTOL GUILD OF HANDBELL RINGERS.)

On Wednesday, June 10, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-ON-THE-WALLS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor size 18 in G.

*EDGAR G. RAPLEY 1-2	ALBERT M. TYLER 5-6
ROYSTON G. BRYANT 3-4	THOMAS HARRIS 7-8

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by ALBERT M. TYLER.

* First peal of Major on handbells and first peal of Plain Bob Major. Mr. Rapley was elected a member of both societies before the peal.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Wednesday, June 10, 1942, in One Hour and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT 10, WALTON CRESCENT,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings. Tenor size 14 in E flat.

*PEGGY KINIFFLE (Westfield) 1-2	WM. L. B. LEESE (St. John's) 3-4
JEAN M. BUCKLEY (Lady Margaret Hall) ... 5-6	

Conducted by WILLIAM L. B. LEESE.

* First peal.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, June 11, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

At 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANCES;

Tenor size 16½.

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2 *JOHN THOMAS 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER 3-4 *MRS. E. K. FLETCHER 7-8

Composed by W. H. WILDE. Conducted by Mrs. E. K. FLETCHER

* 100th peal together.

GILWERN, BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, June 13, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

At THE MILL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANCES;

Tenor size 18 in G.

WILFRED WILLIAMS 1-2 | ALBERT M. TYLER 5-6
ROYSTON G. BRYANT 3-4 | DONALD G. CLIFT 7-8

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS

Umpire—Sydney T. Rackham.

The first eight-bell peal 'in hand' rung in Wales.

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES H. GORDON.

WELL-KNOWN BRISTOL RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Charles H. Gordon, of Bristol, who passed away suddenly on May 28th at the age of 77.

Mr. Gordon was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association and the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association, and was also one of the founders in 1894 of the present St. Stephen's (Bristol) Ringing Guild.

He rang in about 100 peals, ranging from Grandsire Triples to London Surprise Major and Cambridge Royal. He took part in a peal of Stedman Triples on Lundy Island on August 8th, 1905, the only peal rung on the island.

For over 30 years Mr. Gordon was assistant clerk to the Kingswood Urban Council.

THE CURFEW CHIMES OF WINDSOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent C. W. P. is, of course, entitled to his own opinion, and tastes differ, but the tune St. David is one of those fine old psalm tunes which have come down to us from the late 16th century, the time of Tallis and Byrd, in the opinion of many authorities the best period of English church music. It is included in all the standard hymnals, and should be very effective as a chime on a good ring of bells.

'ORGANIST.'

ELEMENTARY COMPOSITION

(Continued from next column.)

The final composition is the application of the Q Sets to the groups of paired round blocks, and it can be done only in one simple and straightforward manner. Whenever in any group of round blocks each block contains one member and one member only of a set of Q Sets we have an expression of our peal.

We could if we were so disposed go on and prick all the possible expressions. There is an enormous number of them, but the number is definite and easily calculable. The expressions (or as we usually call them the variations) differ in appearance and according to the older standards most of them would rank as 'original' compositions. But we must realise that they are not.

This way of looking at a composition will appear to many people as novel and older composers would contest it strongly. It is, however, becoming to be accepted increasingly by the best of the younger composers even if sometimes they do so somewhat partially; and it is most interesting and instructive to notice that it was the way that Richard Duckworth, the earliest writer on change ringing, looked on peals nearly three hundred years ago.

ELEMENTARY COMPOSITION.

FOR THE AVERAGE READER.

It is not at all unlikely that a reader who has been following the explanation we gave recently of the composition of a peal of Bob Major has wondered why we did not conclude by giving, or at least indicating, a set of figures showing a definite number of course ends and the bobs that produce them. Perhaps to most ringers any idea of a peal apart from such figures is meaningless.

The omission was deliberate on our part, because we are using this peal, not for any interest it has in itself (though it has a lot of interest), but as an illustration, and because there is a profound truth which we want to point out and explain. It was not that we were talking generally and more or less vaguely. We were, or at any rate we tried to be, quite definite and precise. We stated the problem definitely. We gathered the available material together and we arranged it in certain definite groups. We worked out all the Q Sets that are possible to use for joining together the necessary blocks. And we saw exactly how those Q Sets can be used. But we did not go further and set down or indicate any one instance of the use of these Q Sets. Why?

The answer is that the composition, as a composition, is already complete. What remains is to apply in a particular or selected way the composition we have already got. To put it into final words to reduce to a concrete form the abstract truth we have already discovered.

It is rather a pity we should have to use words that sound somewhat high flown and pedantic, but there does not seem to be a better way of expressing it, and when it is understood a great flood of light is thrown on the nature of composition and the problems of theoretic ringing.

The fact we must now grasp is that we have got one composition, but there are many ways in which it can be expressed and one expression is not in itself of more importance than another.

Let us go back and have another look at our peal.

We have the sixty in-course Natural Courses as our material. These courses we separate into groups according to the bells in sixth place at the course ends. The Natural Courses with the 2nd in sixths we group together in pairs of round blocks in as many ways as possible, and we discover that there are forty-eight of these ways.

In similar fashion we group the Natural Courses with the 3rd in sixth place, and the 4th and the others.

We have now got our material not merely grouped and arranged, but grouped and arranged in a number of alternative ways, any one of which is available for use. And when we work out the combinations of these ways we find we have an enormous and indeed a stupendous number of ways in which the sixty Natural Courses can be set down in pairs of blocks. But large as the number is they are for our purposes, so far, all alike and can be treated as if they were only one.

Next we worked out the available Q Sets. We need a definite number of them and they must consist of a set which bear a definite relation to each other. We can without much trouble see what sets are to be had and write them down in figures.

(Continued in previous column.)

JOHN HOLT.

(Continued from page 269.)

A GREAT COMPOSER.

As a composer John Holt holds a position which is unique in the history of change ringing. As we trace the development of the science from the first invention of the Sixes down to the latest production in Spliced Surprise or Stedman Triples, we can see how our present knowledge has been gained by a succession of able men, who, working on what had been done before them, handed on their discoveries to those who came after. More often than not in early days there was no actual explanation of how peals were produced, but usually the peals themselves gave sufficient explanation for the later men to work on. The story of the evolution of 'Thurstans' four-part peal of Stedman Triples is a striking example of how the production of one man was developed and carried on by the next, until, after many years, the desired end was reached; and when Thurstans achieved his masterpiece he did but put the coping stone to the structure many men had had a hand in building.

But John Holt seems to stand entirely outside any such succession. It is difficult to trace the genesis of his compositions in earlier peals, and when he died his secrets died with him. His peals became widely known and popular, but it was beyond the capacity of his successors to understand their construction, and for more than a century, until modern times, the composition of Grandsire Triples remained a sealed book. All that could be done, beyond the multiplication of bob-and-single peals, was to obtain close variations and transpositions of the ten-part. John Reeves, with his well-known variation, and William Shipway with his five-part, came nearest to adding something which may fairly be called original; but for the other men what they did was well summed up by the authors of the 'Clavis' when they wrote that 'it may be no difficult task for some to produce variations of Mr. Holt's peal and broach them for their own. But the discerning part of the exercise are not to be so blinded, and we will be bold to say that if anyone will produce a peal of Grandsire Triples with two singles, and will say he did not borrow his plan from Mr. Holt, he is a braggart and an impostor, and will be branded as such by every judicious professor of the art.'

All this shows how far advanced Holt was beyond the development of his day, and how great was his achievement. It illustrates also the custom of the time by which a composer made public the results of his work, but never thought of explaining the processes by which he had obtained it. Indeed, in the case of Holt, anything like explanation would probably have been impossible. He was, as I have said, uneducated and totally untrained, and anything like the formal explanations such as C. D. P. Davies, W. H. Thompson and Arthur Heywood published, would have been quite beyond him, as they would have been beyond John Carter, who, in his mental equipment, was in many respects not unlike Holt.

It would be intensely interesting and instructive to learn how Holt worked, but anything beyond conjecture is impossible. He may have got the idea of the reversal of the two halves of the ten-part from Garthorn's peal, but it is just as likely that it was a piece of brilliant intuition which came to him after he had experimented with many other plans and failed. The Original, too,

most likely was not the result of any one deliberate plan, but of much patient trial and error during which he gradually saw light.

I have already given what seemed to me to have been a likely starting point for the Original, and I think it instructive to reproduce the opinion of Joseph J. Parker, who made a name as a composer of Grandsire Triples worthy to stand alongside that of John Holt. Parker's article was the last thing he wrote and was published shortly after I had written my account of Holt on which I am now largely drawing.

'The origin of our old peals,' wrote Mr. Parker, 'will always be of interest, and anything calculated to show the mental stages gone through by the early composers should be interesting.'

'While I was engaged upon my investigations of Grandsire Triples in the year 1888 I built a certain table of lead ends with a view to trying to obtain a six-part peal with the 6th and 7th never called Before. While experimenting with the table, I noticed that certain passages in the table were similar to some passages in Holt's peal. This set me wondering what suggested to Holt the idea of having two bells never called Before, and those two bells the 2nd and 6th; also why the peal contained so many calls.'

'To get anything like a feasible answer to these questions we have to consider what material Holt would have in those days to assist him in producing such a peal. To this last question I will suggest that the Bob and Single peal gave him the idea for a six-part peal, with the 6th and 7th never called Before, and I believe this was the kind of peal Holt set out to compose.'

'Taking the Bob and Single peal to start with, naturally it would occur to Holt to substitute bobs for all the singles, not that that would get him very far.'

'At this stage a few experiments will have suggested a table of lead ends, similar to the one I built in 1888, at which time I happened to transpose the peal from the row 347526—to see what it would be like with the 6th and 7th taking the place of the 2nd and 6th. I found that it produced a very poor peal, and I took no further interest at the time.'

'Having recently reproduced the transpositions from my table, to see what actually happened in the process, I found the result very interesting. I will here give a description of the table, which is built in three sections.'

'Section A. This is built to the following rows: 236745, 346725, 426735, 327645, 247635, and 437625. Bobbing every row except when the 6th or 7th comes Before, will give the whole section in six round blocks, with 6-7 and 7-6 coming into 4-5 at regular intervals. These row should be taken as the dominant numbers of 24 Q Sets.'

'Section B. This is built to the following six rows, 234567, 342567, 423567, 324576, 243576, 432576. Treated as Section A, this gives six round blocks with 6-7 and 7-6 coming behind at regular intervals. Again we get the dominant numbers of 24 Q Sets.'

'Section C should contain 24 B Blocks in which the 6th and 7th never come Before.'

'I will now endeavour to show how I believe Holt first composed his peal. In dealing with sections A and B, by plaining nine Q Sets in each case, he got the whole of Section A with nine B Blocks linked together with one round block. He also got Section B with fourteen B Blocks linked together into one round block.'

'At this stage a certain B Block will appear in both sections, but by omitting two bobs, the three false rows are cut out and the two sections joined up together, giving the peal in its transposed form with Section A at the beginning, and Section B with all the 6-7's and 7-6's at the end of the peal.

'We now see that Holt had to transpose in order to get some 6-7's spread about the peal instead of 2-6's, and to get the singles to come in the last four leads.

'With regard to the number of calls I would suggest that Holt never selected and bobbed thirty Q Sets, but that he adopted the plan of plaining eighteen Q Sets.

'In building his table, I think we may take it for granted that Holt began with Section B, as he would naturally start with the row 752634 when the rest would follow.'

Joseph J. Parker's explanation of the construction of the Original is a masterly one and clearly shows the design that is behind the peal, but whether it accurately describes the process by which John Holt obtained it, is perhaps rather doubtful. It imputes to him a knowledge of the general laws of composition in the method which he can hardly have possessed and which has been attained only in modern times by the patient and skilful investigation of men like W. H. Thompson and J. J. Parker himself.

(To be continued.)

MR. GOLDSMITH'S HANDBELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your account of the ringing career of our old and mutual friend you refer to his set of handbells, and I feel bound to make a correction. They were not a gift from me, but were ordered by him from the firm in the ordinary way of business.

A. A. HUGHES.

The Bell Foundry, Whitechapel.

ENTHRONEMENT OF THE ARCHBISHOP

HANDBELLS IN YORK MINSTER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following will no doubt be of interest to many of your readers.

Bellringing history was made in York Minster on Thursday, June 11th, when handbells were brought into use inside the Minster in place of the tower bells, which unfortunately could not be used on account of the ban, as they were on previous similar occasions.

The ringers took their stand just inside the gates of the chapel dedicated to the Yorkshire Light Infantry Regiment on the west side of the north transept. The occasion was the enthronement of Dr. Cyril Forster Garbett as Archbishop of York.

The ringers had about 20 minutes at their disposal before the service, which was timed for 2.30 p.m. The ringing consisted of Grandsire Caters, Grandsire Triples on the back eight and rounds on the twelve for about three minutes. The names of the ringers taking part were Messrs. G. Worth, E. Rickitt, S. Steel, A. C. Fearnley, T. F. Earnshaw and L. Woodcock. Other ringers present were G. Horner (hon. secretary) and H. Forden. We had a 'try out' the previous Tuesday night at 9 p.m. in the Minster, the object being to find the most suitable place to stand so the bells could be heard to the best effect. Also to give the Dean, the Very Rev. E. M. Milner-White, an opportunity to decide if they were likely to be a success. With the Dean were Chancellor the Rev. Frederick Harrison and Chamberlain the Rev. H. F. J. A. Frazer. They were all pleased with the result.

Probably the effect of the ringing would be better then, when everything was still, and the Minster empty, than it would be when it was filled, and filling, with a crowded congregation. I have heard personally comments on the ringing from members of the congregation, and all agreed it was 'very nice.' One lady said she was particularly pleased with the last piece, viz., the rounds on twelve bells. I think that remark would apply to about 99 per cent. of the general public, as to them change ringing, however well struck, is only a conglomeration of sound, whereas if rounds are continued for a bit, they can follow them. However, as all ringers know, the real attraction to them is method ringing.

The whole thing was an eleventh hour arrangement, so to speak, otherwise I dare say the microphone could have been placed to get a better reception of the bells and consequently a better broadcast.

T. F. EARNSHAW, President.

York Minster Society.

5, Nun Mill Street, York.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Members of the Ancient Society of College Youths should note that there will be no meeting at the Bell Foundry to-morrow, but instead a visit to Bushey, in Hertfordshire, next week.

The peal of Stedman Caters at Birmingham reported in another column was arranged for Pte. Adams, of Banstead, Surrey, who thus had the opportunity of ringing his first peal in hand. To make it possible, the St. Martin's Guild placed their headquarters at the disposal of the band and postponed a peal attempt of their own.

The handbell peal rung in Bristol last week was arranged at 24 hours' notice specially for Mr. Edgar G. Rapley, of West Grinstead, Sussex. He has been working at Bath during a temporary release from duty with H.M. Forces, but was suddenly recalled to his unit, so he dropped in on the Bristol Guild's weekly practice on Tuesday, and Wednesday's peal was arranged.

The peal of Bob Major at Gilwern last Saturday was the first eight-bell handbell peal in Wales. So far as is known, the only other handbell peal in the Principality was one of Stedman Caters rung in All Saints' belfry, Newport, Mon, some time before the Great War of 1914-18. The late William Pye took part. The band desire to thank Mr. and Mrs. Rackham for their generous hospitality after the peal and for providing the facilities which made this attempt possible.

Ten years ago last Tuesday at Beddington, Mr. Charles H. Kippin called the first peal of Londonthorpe Surprise Major. On the following Sunday he repeated the performance at Horley in Surrey.

Next Sunday is the tenth anniversary of the first peal of Spliced Surprise Major in eight methods. It was conducted by William Pye and rung at Willesden. The methods were London, Rutland, Bristol, Cambridge, Superlative, New Gloucester, Norfolk and Yorkshire.

On June 15th, 1851, at the Osborn Arms in Spitalfields, a band of College Youths rang 5,086 changes of Stedman Caters on handbells. It would have been the first in the method in hand, but the composition turned out to be false, and the honour went in 1855 to the Cumberland Youths. Meanwhile both Triples and Cinques had been rung.

The first peal at Lincoln Cathedral, one of Treble Bob Major, was rung on June 15th, 1886.

On June 16th, 1816, a mixed band of College Youths and Cumberland Youths with William Booth and William Hall, of Sheffield, rang 5,280 Oxford Treble Bob Royal at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch.

Jasper W. Snowdon, who as author and leader did so much for the Exercise and the art of ringing, and whose influence is not yet exhausted, was born at Ilkley Vicarage 98 years ago, on June 18th, 1844.

An early peal of Grandire Triples was rung at St. Peter-at-Arch, Lincoln, on June 20th, 1756. The method was called Catharans Triples and evidently was John Garthorn's original composition. The church has recently been pulled down in the course of street improvement.

Fifty years ago to-day Holt's Original was called at Pinner in Middlesex by Mr. W. H. L. Buckingham. Besides the conductor, two of the band, Mr. C. H. Martin and Mr. James George, are still alive.

Fifty years ago yesterday four peals were rung, one was Grandire Triples, two Kent Treble Bob Major, and one Kent Treble Bob Royal.

THE FUTURE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Though few of us in the South-West of England knew the late Editor of 'The Ringing World' personally, yet through the weekly copy of the paper we knew him as an unselfish and devoted servant of the Exercise, keeping us all in touch with one another's thoughts and activities, inspiring and guiding us so often with those excellent leading articles of his.

The best way in which we can express our gratitude for all he has done for change ringing these last 31 years is to make the paper which he founded, and edited so well, the permanent journal of the Exercise. There are, I believe, nearly 50 recognised guilds and associations, and if they are to work for the benefit of the whole, and not simply as separate units, they must have a common source of information and a common means of imparting knowledge. May I suggest what is, after all, probably in the minds of many others, that each guild and association should feel itself in honour bound to contribute so much in advance every year for the permanent establishment of 'The Ringing World,' and that the Central Council should fix the amount according to respective resident membership?

A paper we must continue to have: now it is up to us all not only to continue this paper as a tribute to the late Editor's labours for the whole Exercise, but 'to make some effort and to face some sacrifices' to this end.

E. V. COX.

The Rectory, Tedburn St. Mary, Exeter.

DEATH OF MR. ERNEST BRETT.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Ernest Brett, who passed away on June 6th at St. John's Hospital, Chelmsford. Mr. Brett, who was 65 years of age, was a well-known member of the London Exercise and had rung many peals in a number of methods. He retired some years back from the Metropolitan Police Force and was a member of the National Guild of Police Ringers.

THE LATE MR. JOHN S. GOLDSMITH.

(Continued from page 273.)

A GREAT RINGING JOURNALIST.

In the year 1902 Mr. Goldsmith rang seventeen peals and called eleven, a much smaller number than in 1898 and 1899; but which, for most ringers, would represent a busy year. One of the peals he called was Double Norwich Court Bob Royal at St. Nicholas', Brighton, a method in which at the time very few peals had been accomplished. Another was Stedman Triples, at Southover, on November 29th, his farewell peal on leaving Lewes to take up an appointment at Woking.

When he left school, Mr. Goldsmith was apprenticed to his uncle, who owned the 'East Sussex News,' and he thoroughly learnt the trade of a printer and newspaper work in all its branches. Particularly he developed into a very skilled reporter and journalist. He was an expert shorthand writer and typist; he had the gift of instinctively selecting just those passages in a speech which gave the essence of what the speaker said, and he could write a descriptive account of any event at short notice and in good, sound English.

APPOINTMENT AT WOKING.

In 1903 he was appointed to take charge of the editorial work of 'The Woking News and Mail,' and shortly afterwards he became manager. This brought him into contact with the Woodbridge Press, Ltd., of Guildford, the firm which has printed 'The Ringing World' from the beginning.

Woking at the time was rapidly expanding, following its receipt of powers of local government in 1895. Goldsmith was closely associated with local activities, and became a very widely-known member of the community.

He had married shortly before he left Lewes, and during this period of his life he worked extremely hard at his profession. His opportunities for ringing were much curtailed, for the nearest band of any account was at Guildford. He managed to get away now and then for a peal and rang eight in 1904 and six in 1905. One of them, on August 23rd, 1904, was Stedman Cinques at St. Martin's, Birmingham. It was Mr. Albert Walker's first peal in the method as conductor, and the 10th was rung by Mr. A. Paddon Smith. Thus began a connection between Mr. Goldsmith and St. Martin's, Birmingham, and its ringers, which ever after remained one of his most cherished possessions.

TWELVE BELL RINGING.

At no time during his life had Mr. Goldsmith the opportunity of practising in a twelve-bell tower, but he adapted himself to twelve-bell ringing without the slightest difficulty, and used to say that he could see his way as clearly among twelve ropes as among eight.

Gifted as he was both as a bellringer and a journalist, it is not surprising that he formed the ambition to combine the two and to produce a ringing journal which should not only meet the needs of the Exercise, but also reach the very high standard its founder set before himself. How early he began to cherish the idea we do not know, but he must have pondered it long and deeply, for he well knew the difficulties which lay in his way and the risks he would have to run. That he succeeded is a tribute to his faith and perseverance as much as to his skill and knowledge. It is quite safe to say no other man could have done it, and that in itself is some

measure of the debt the Exercise owes to the memory of John Sparkes Goldsmith.

It will be well if, at this point, we make a rapid survey of ringing journalism through the ages.

The first periodicals to print any reports of ringing were 'The Era' and 'Bell's Life.' Both were sporting papers, and both dealt frankly with change ringing as a secular sport among other secular sports. Some time before the middle of the nineteenth century 'The Era' began to print short reports of occasional peals, accounts of prize ringing, and challenges from various bands or individuals to ring against all comers for wagers of money.

Later on 'Bell's Life' was the paper favoured by ringers for the publication of their peals, and it went so far as to print some of Jasper Snowdon's early articles on the history and science of change ringing.

At that time the Exercise, owing to circumstances which do not now concern us, had reached its lowest ebb, and a number of devoted men were engaged on the belfry reform movement which, in the end, did so much good. One of them was Canon Erskine Clark, who was Vicar of Battersea and himself a ringer. In 1870 or 1871 he was concerned with the foundation of a weekly illustrated newspaper called 'Church Bells,' and became its first editor.

'Church Bells' was primarily a Church paper, dealing with ordinary church matters and appealing to average churchpeople, but a page was reserved for bellringers and bellringing, and H. T. Ellacombe was given the oversight of it.

'THE BELL NEWS.'

The gain to the Exercise was very great. Now, for the first time, there was a visible link which bound ringers together and gave them an interest in one another's doings. In due course it led to the idea of launching a paper entirely devoted to ringers and ringing. Whose idea it primarily was we do not know. Jasper Snowdon was concerned in the matter, but whether as the mover or as the adviser is uncertain. The man who actually started and owned the paper was Harvey Reeves, a printer by trade, and one who had been in the employment of the great publishing house of Cassell's. He was the best man for the job at the time, and his peculiarities and shortcomings in after years should not blind us to his real merits and the service he rendered to the Exercise.

'The Bell News' appeared as a tiny monthly eight-page paper in February, 1881, and had sufficient success to be turned in April, 1882, into a weekly paper. In the sixty years since then the Exercise has never lacked the benefit of a journal week by week.

What 'Church Bells' did in a small way, 'The Bell News' did in full measure, and we may fairly date the modern period in the history of change ringing, with all its advance and improvements, from April, 1882.

Harvey Reeves had been a ringer, and he had some pretensions to be a composer of Grandsire Triples (his quarter-peal is still the best and most popular in the method), but his work as editor of 'The Bell News' was passive rather than active. He printed what was sent him. He published articles by leading ringers, and very good some of them were. But he made no effort to influence ringers, and to more than a handful he was

(Continued on next page.)

THE LATE MR. J. S. GOLDSMITH.

(Continued from previous page.)

completely unknown personally. As time went on he got very slack, and it was generally understood that the paper was only kept alive by the very substantial financial support given it by Sir Arthur Heywood and others. It is not surprising that a good deal of dissatisfaction grew up, with a demand for a better journal. It was easier, however, to make the demand than to satisfy it.

Two attempts were made and both were failures. The first was by a man named Bedwell, of Lewisham, in Kent, who launched a weekly journal called 'Campanology.' It started fairly well in September, 1896, and lasted until the following March, but it could not stay the course. Its opposition had galvanised 'The Bells News' into something like life, and there was nothing in the new paper so superior to the old that men should prefer it.

'THE BELLRINGER'.

Some years later William Willson, of Leicester, started 'The Bellringer,' which had a still shorter life. Willson had abundance of energy and enthusiasm, he had plenty of ideas, he gave full measure for money, and he could write in a vigorous and somewhat boisterous style which in its proper place was not ineffective. As a writer of occasional articles he was quite good. But he had not the gifts of a journalist and still less those of an editor. His exuberant personality was too much in evidence in the paper, and the novelty of his style and the extremeness of his opinions rather irritated and antagonised the more old-fashioned and sober people.

So 'The Bell News' was once more left alone in the field, and yet, as the years went on, it did not improve, nor did the feeling abate that something better ought to be had. As we turn over the pages of the journal there is only one thing, apart from the articles contributed by outsiders, that we can wholeheartedly admire and indeed envy. For a few years during the early nineties Harvey Reeves published a series of portraits of leading ringers on full page art paper, which are a delight to look at. Although he charged only a penny extra for the copies that contained them, these portraits are quite good enough for framing. To-day, alas, the relatively increased cost of paper and printing has put such luxuries far out of the reach of an ordinary journal.

THE MAN AND THE OPPORTUNITY.

This, then, is a rough survey of the position when Mr. Goldsmith made up his mind to start a new ringing paper. There was a need and there was a demand. Could he meet it? Others had tried and had failed. Could he succeed?

Looking back now over the years we can see easily enough that he possessed just those qualities and those advantages that others lacked, and we may be quite sure that he, and he alone, could have done the thing he did. Did he know it himself? Perhaps he did, for no man could have ventured on such an undertaking unless he was sure of himself. And he had almost every qualification necessary for the job. He was a trained and competent journalist as the others were not. He was a skilled ringer, more so than Willson, far more so than Bedwell, or Harvey Reeves. He had the character and personality which could gain the confidence and affection of ringers. He had grown up as a ringer among ringers, sharing their views and ambitions. His out-

look was the same as theirs, though it was wider, and so he was eminently fitted to express their opinions and minister to their needs. He held no extreme views, nor did he specialise on any particular branch of the science or art of change ringing. Specialisation is an excellent thing in its way, and is necessary to progress, but it tends to give a man an undue sense of the importance of his own subject, and that in an editor of a newspaper is a defect. And he had the feeling that the thing was worth doing for its own sake apart from anything it might bring him or he could get out of it. That was as important as any of the other things for, without it, no really good work is ever done by anyone.

(To be continued.)

APPRECIATIONS.

FROM MR. THOMAS H. REEVES, FOR THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

We of the St. Martin's Guild always had a warm and sincere regard for the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith and we were always happy to welcome him at our gatherings. His services to ringers and the art of change ringing generally will never be fully known or appreciated, but to many of us who valued his friendship, his passing will be a sad loss. He has had a full and useful life of service, and we trust he is now at rest.

THOMAS H. REEVES.

136, Newton Road, Birmingham.

FROM MR. C. H. JENNINGS.

We all deeply regret the passing of the late Editor of 'The Ringing World,' John S. Goldsmith.

I first met him and Mrs. Goldsmith 30 years ago at Woking, a lasting friendship was the result, and we have met and rung together on many occasions since.

We pay humble tribute to a fine personality. He was enthusiastic and a warmhearted friend, and he has left behind an inspiring and glorious memory of his wide work for the Church. He was a cheerful and faithful friend and the centre of good fellowship. He worked with great enthusiasm for improvement not only in ringing but belfry reform; it was born in him; he helped to raise a higher standard of ringing, and was most loyal to his Church. His work for 'The Ringing World' will be a lasting memory.

His passing has bereaved us of a valuable friend, and marks the close of a life devoted to the service of the Church and his fellow-men, and in the words of the ringers' hymn—sung at the burial service—'Called home to rest at last.'

We salute the memory of a good and true brother, a great ringer and a loyal servant of the Church. R.I.P. C. H. JENNINGS.

59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

FROM MR. GEORGE E. SYMONDS.

On behalf of St. Mary-le-Tower Society, Ipswich, I, as hon. secretary, am writing to you re the death of our beloved Editor of 'The Ringing World,' Mr. John S. Goldsmith.

From reports from time to time in our paper it seemed evident that he had a very serious illness.

We at Ipswich held him in the greatest esteem. He always was willing to do all ringers a good turn, even though it might sometimes be inconvenient to him.

His visit to St. Mary-le-Tower Church on the occasion of the unveiling of our peal board containing eight peals of Maximus was much appreciated by all our members.

We have lost a friend who has done an immense amount of hard work for the good of the Exercise and will be sorely missed.

This society send their deepest sympathy to the relatives in their sad bereavement.

G. E. SYMONDS.

57, Mornington Avenue, Ipswich.

FROM MR. W. H. LLOYD.

I have ever been impressed by his energy, enthusiasm and sincerity in all matters pertaining to the Exercise, and I trust his influence and example will be a source of inspiration and encouragement for many years to come.

W. H. LLOYD.

41, East Street, Taunton.

FROM MR. BERNARD C. ASHFORD.

I am directed by the Northern Branch Committee of the Worcester and Districts Association to write expressing our profound regret at the great loss the Exercise has sustained by the passing of Mr. Goldsmith, a loss fully appreciated by many members in our country areas who had never been fortunate enough to meet him, whilst among his old friends around here the additional feeling of sad personal loss is extremely keen.

BERNARD C. ASHFORD.

9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.**A QUESTION OF AUTHORSHIP.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I have just read my 'Ringing World' of June 12th and was deeply interested in the question put as to the relative claims of J. J. Parker and J. W. Washbrook to be the first to compose a peal of Stedman Triples on a new plan.

I can throw some light on this, as I was one of a ringing party invited by Canon Wigram to ring in Herts in November, 1889. Six peals were rung in the week, one at Braughing, when the peal composed by J. W. Washbrook was conducted by him. I was not particularly keen to ring in it, as I knew the striking was likely to be below first class, judging from a peal rung the previous day. To my relief I was able to stand out and hand over the spare rope to a brother parson, the Rev. A. D. Hill, who had arrived late in the week.

Just before the start I asked Washbrook, 'What are you going to ring?' His answer was, 'I want you to listen and tell me afterwards what peal it is.' I went into the chancel, where I had a full view of the ringers in the gallery and also heard the calls. Being quite ignorant of the intricacies of composition as well as having no musical ear whatever, I was dependent on 'Troyte' and a clear view of the ropes for checking the part-ends. I was expecting the familiar 'Thurstans,' but as no call was made I imagined a plain course was being rung by way of a try out for adjustment of tail-ends, etc., but it was nothing of the sort, as the first call—or rather 'yell'—was 'Single' at the end of the course, which put me off my bearings, never up to then having heard or rung anything but Thurstans with a couple of Brook's Variation.

The peal was rung, but as Squire Proctor and a couple of his Benington band had turned up towards the end and were anxious for a pull, I went up with them to the belfry and rang a short touch, eliciting a remark from the Rev. W. S. Willett, who was never known to strike a faulty blow in a peal: 'There, that's something worth doing. I enjoyed that far more than the peal.' Walking from the tower I asked Washbrook what the peal was. He said, 'I have been trying to get it for months, but I only succeeded this morning. I woke suddenly and saw the composition before me as plain as plain can be.' (I expect he had been dreaming about it.)

This settles the date—an early morning hour of November 21st, 1889—more than two months later than Parker had composed his peal on similar lines, justifying him in saying, in that modest way so characteristic of him, that 'he was inclined to think he had the priority,' though Washbrook by every rule and custom was entitled to it.

Both Parker and Washbrook, Squire Proctor and his men and those who rang the peal 52 years ago have passed away. I alone am the solitary survivor of the party, but my memory of the Braughing peal and what was said in connection with it are as clear to me to-day as on the day when the peal was first rung.

G. F. COLERIDGE.

Crowthorne Vicarage, Berks.

WASHBROOK'S EXPLANATION.

Dear Sir,—I was glad to read your note on above in last week's 'Ringing World,' amplifying my few remarks on same.

I well remember Washbrook's letter on above when it came out, and thought it was the most concise explanation of composition possible in the space of half a column. I had often wanted to find it, but owing to there being no index it was always an endless job. However, on reading your note, I have looked it up and find it is June 1st, 1889. Would it not be a good idea to republish it in 'The Ringing World' for the benefit of would-be composers of the younger generation?

I had spent two separate weeks in and around Oxford with Washbrook about this date. He was always dinnin' these ideas to me when not ringing.

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

1, Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT LEIGH.**

At a meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association, held at Leigh on Saturday, June 13th, members were present from Brasted, East Peckham, Penshurst, Shipbourne, Tunbridge Wells, Sundridge and the local band, as well as Mr. T. E. Sone, of Paddock Wood.

The service in church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. F. W. Sealy, who gave the members a very hearty welcome and hoped when they came again they would be able to ring the tower bells instead of handbells after the service.

Tea was served under the chestnut tree on the green and was followed by the meeting. The Vicar being unable to stay, Mr. E. J. Ladd took the chair. Sundridge was selected for the next meeting place on Saturday, August 8th. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. A. Batten to the Vicar for taking the service and to the organist. The secretary thanked Mr. B. Pankhurst for making all the arrangements during the afternoon. Some good touches were brought round on the handbells.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.**THE PRINCIPLES OF TWIN BOB PEALS.**

By JAMES W. WASHBROOK.

The following article by J. W. Washbrook appeared in 'The Bell News' as far back as June 1st, 1889. It was the earliest explanation of one of the most interesting problems in composition—the principles of twin bob peals of Stedman Triples. These principles are explained in great detail in the 'Investigations' by Heywood and Bulwer, which are included in C. D. P. Davies' book on the method, and much more generally in J. A. Trollope's book. But Washbrook has the credit for being the first in the field, and at the suggestion of Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner, we reprint his article for the benefit of our readers.

It has long been known to the Exercise (wrote Washbrook) of the impossibility of producing a peal of Stedman Triples with single bobs. In the whole peal, as it must come together, we find there are 120 sixes which must be produced by bobs, and 120 which must be produced by plain sixes—that is if no other species of calls are allowed. This is evident from the following example. Take the plain course and one beginning with 6532147, and if we prick down the two courses we find that the fourth six of the plain course is identical with the eighth six of the other, and yet the changes each side of the repeating ones are totally different. Thus in the plain course we get

3467251

4376521

3475612

3746521

7345612

7436521

4735612

7453162

And in the other we get

7364251

3746521

7345612

7436521

4735612

4376521

3475612

4357162

It will be seen that these sixes contain the same changes and each derives from a totally different six and both are slow sixes.

To get the whole peal both 7364251 and 3467251 must be included in it. Well, it is evident that one of them must be bobbed and the other not to make it true. Now, as there are 120 of these pairs in the whole peal which must come, call how you will, and one of each pair must be bobbed with double bobs, it is at once apparent that we must have 240 bobs and cannot under any circumstances have less.

Now if we take the 7th as the plain course bell as in Thurstans' peal (and I may mention you must have one), we shall find, seeing that she must not be interfered with by bobs, that there are 360 sixes which cannot be utilised, those being when she is in 4-5 up and in 6-7 up and down. That leaves us with only 480 sixes available for bobbing.

As I stated above, there are 120 repeating pairs; one of each pair must be bobbed with double bobs, and consequently one of each pair must be treated the same with plain leads, so it is at once apparent that the whole 480 sixes are absorbed—half must be plain sixes and half bob sixes.

It must be noticed that I am not treating of singles. They may be carted in wholesale in place of plain sixes, but never in place of bobs except in pairs as bobs.

To get a peal with common bobs we must have 240, neither more nor less. As two bobs are always called together it takes four bobs to add every course. For example, if you call bobs at 3-4 in two consecutive courses, you get the bells back to the same position again with one course to the good. This is universal throughout the peal and is a privilege enjoyed by no other method in the matter of extents. Thus, so far everything is in favour of a peal with common bobs only, but the point which beats us is the compulsory 240 bob sixes and plain sixes. Just as it takes four bobs to add one course, so does it take 236 bobs to add 59 courses, the number required in addition to the plain course. We get two pairs of bobs not used up, and which consequently are false with their sister plain sixes.

That in short is the whole thing. You must have 240 bob sixes and 240 plain sixes for a true peal of Stedman Triples with common bobs only. You cannot use more or less than 236 bobs to add 59 courses (the number required) to the plain course. Therefore, a peal of Stedman Triples with common bobs only is impossible.

THE MUSIC OF THE BELLS.

What music is there that compared may be
With well-tuned bells' enchanting melody?
Breaking with their sweet sounds the willing air.
They in the listening ear the soul ensnare.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT CHELMSFORD.

The 63rd annual meeting of the Essex Association was held at Chelmsford on Saturday, May 23rd, when some 45 members attended. At the service in the Cathedral the address was given by the Provost, the Very Rev. W. F. R. Morrow, and the singing was ably accompanied by Mr. I. T. Chapman, A.R.C.O., the blind organist of Halstead, who recently was elected a member of the association.

The meeting followed in the Chapter House, when the Master, in his report, stated that the following peals on handbells had been rung during the year: Bob Royal 2, Bob Major 4, Minor in four methods 1, Doubles in two methods 1. Five were conducted by C. W. Woolley, one each by A. H. Everett, O. Broyd and H. Turner. Six members rang their first peal double-handed.

District meetings had been held at Braintree, Bocking, Halstead, Little Clacton, Ramsey, Bradfield, Brentwood, Loughton, Danbury and Chelmsford.

The balance in the general account on December 31st, 1941, was £234 9s. 4d. and in the Bell Restoration Fund £100 12s. 6d.

He regretted to record the death of the following members: The Rev. F. H. Moore, of Sible Hedingham, R. Woodward, of Harwich, both honorary members, also of Mr. A. J. Smith, of Langham, Miss E. M. Caton, of Mistley, Mr. G. E. Jennings, of Tendring, Mr. H. E. Parker, of Barking, and Mr. G. Perry, of Loughton. Mr. E. J. Durrant, of Thorpe-le-Soken, had been missing since the Dunkirk evacuation.

He wished to thank the district masters and secretaries and also the general secretary and the committee for all their work in endeavouring to keep interest in ringing alive during these trying times, and trusted that the time was not far distant when we should be able to resume our full activities.

The Master, Dr. P. T. Spencer-Phillips, was re-elected, as also were the hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. L. J. Clark, and the auditors, Messrs. E. J. Butler and R. Heazel. Messrs. J. Turner and W. Sillitoe were elected life members of the association.

The secretary reported that the committee had subscribed £5 5s. from the association funds to the appeal on behalf of the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, and the committee's action was approved by the meeting.

A discussion on the future of 'The Ringing World' followed, and a resolution was passed urging the Central Council to take steps to prepare a scheme to ensure the continuity of publication of the journal.

The Provost was thanked for allowing the use of the Cathedral and for conducting the service, as also was Mr. Chapman for his services at the organ.

Tea followed at Cannon's Restaurant, and during the afternoon and evening good use was made of the eight clapperless tower-bells and handbells.

MARRIAGE OF MR. EDWIN NASH.

On Saturday, May 23rd, at the Parish Church, Mells, Somerset, the marriage was solemnised between Mr. Edwin Nash, elder son of Mrs. Nash and the late Mr. P. Nash, of the Talbot Inn, Mells, and Miss Elizabeth Stewart Smith. The service was fully choral, the choristers paying tribute to a fellow chorister. The Rector, the Ven. W. N. Higgins, officiated, and Mr. A. Evans was at the organ. The hymns were 'The Voice that breathed o'er Eden' and 'Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven.' The bride, who was given away by Mr. Kemp, wore a powder blue two-piece, with accessories to match. There were no bridesmaids. Mr. R. Nash, R.N., brother of the bridegroom, was best man. The reception was held at the Talbot Inn, and the honeymoon was spent at Seaton. Handbells were rung in the church.

Mr. Nash is a branch secretary of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association and is a member of the Ancient Society of College Youlths. A course of Grandsire Triples was rung during the signing of the register.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT BLETCHLEY.

The annual meeting of the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Bletchley on June 6th. Members were present from Bradwell, Stony Stratford, Stoke Goldington, Weston-Underwood, Shenley, Milton Keynes, Newport Pagnell, Cosgrove and the local company. In church the Rector (the Rev. J. L. Milne) officiated at the organ, the Rev. J. F. Amies conducted the service, and the Rev. C. E. Wigg (Deputy Master) gave an encouraging address.

The company of 19 sat down to tea generously provided and served by local ladies. As the chairman, the Rev. J. P. Taylor, was unable to attend, the chair was taken by the Rev. J. L. Milne. All the branch officers were re-elected, and a grant towards the upkeep of 'The Ringing World' was voted.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the Rector for welcome shown to the branch, to the Rev. J. F. Amies and the Rev. C. E. Wigg for assisting with the service, and to the persons who provided tea. Ringing on handbells concluded a very satisfactory meeting.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/- For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.

—A summer joint meeting in conjunction with the Sheffield and District Society, the Barnsley and District Society and the Doncaster and District Society will be held at Wath-on-Deane on Saturday, June 20th. Handbells will be available at the Church House from 2.30 p.m. Tea will be provided at Warburton's Cafe at 5 p.m., at 1s. 6d. per head. Business meeting at Church House, 6.30 p.m., followed by discussion and handbells. —Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at East Dereham on Saturday, June 20th. Bells available 3.15; service 4.30; tea 5.15 (bring some with you if you can!); followed by business meeting. Bowls afterwards, by kind invitation of the Vicar.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch.—A meeting will be held at Prestwich on Saturday, June 20th. Bells ready at 3 p.m. Meeting at 7 p.m. Nominations are required for branch secretary. The committee will meet at the same time. — W. H. Shuker, Gen. Sec., 36, Colwyn Avenue, Fallowfield, Manchester 14.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — An important general meeting of the association will be held at Selby on Saturday, June 20th. The back eight bells at the Abbey will be available for 'silent' ringing from 2.30 p.m. General Committee meet in the Abbey Sacristy at 3 p.m. prompt. Service in the Abbey at 4.15 p.m. Tea can be obtained near the Abbey. The general meeting will take place in the Abbey Sacristy at 6 p.m. prompt. Business urgent and important. — L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The next meeting will take place in the School at Shilton, near Coventry, on Saturday, June 20th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. Cups of tea will be served, but please bring own 'eats' and sugar. The Vicar (Rev. Harold Smith) extends a hearty welcome to all members and friends.—Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held at Hagley on Saturday, June 27th, by the kind invitation of the Worcestershire and Districts Association. Bells (8) available for silent practice from 3 p.m. Tea in Hagley Park at 5 p.m., followed by short business meeting. Handbell ringing afterwards. Please notify regarding tea not later than 24th inst. to Mr. Bernard C. Ashford, 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge, Worcs.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 27th, at 3.30 p.m., at the Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, by kind invitation of the Hertford County Association. Tea at 1s. per head will be provided for those notifying Mr. E. Jennings, 50, Rudolph Road, Bushey, not later than Thursday, June 25th.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—A meeting will be held at Writtle on Saturday, June 27th. Service at 4.30, tea and business meeting to follow. It is essential that those who require tea should notify Mr. T. Lincoln, Oxney Green, Writtle, by Wednesday, June 24th.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Just to remind you of Mr. E. J. Oliver's kind invitation to ring in his garden at Shaldon, Upper Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells, on Saturday, June 27th. If you intend being there, please drop him a card by June 24th.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—The annual meeting will be held at Penn on Saturday, June 27th. Bells (silent) from 3 o'clock. Service, with an address by Preb. Hartill, Vicar, at 4.45. Cups of tea will be provided at the Rose and Crown at 5.30, followed by general meeting. Good bus service from Railway Street, Wolverhampton.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Hagley on Saturday, June 27th. Bells (silent) will be available at 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Please let me know how many for tea by the 23rd.—John Goodman, Hon. Sec., 45, Holcroft Street, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—A meeting will be held at Wool on Saturday, June 27th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and short meeting on the lawn. Suitable train service—Bournemouth dept. 3.10, Weymouth dept. 2.25. Kindly notify early for tea.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Hagley (D.V.), jointly with St. Martin's Guild and Dudley Guild, Saturday, June 27th, 3 p.m. Bells (8) for 'silent' practice. Tea 5 p.m., handbells and usual evening arrangements.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—An evening meeting will be held at the Wagon and Horses (opposite church), Whitwick, on Saturday, June 27th, 6 p.m., to discuss future activities. Handbells available. Cups of — provided. Subscriptions are now overdue, and I should be glad to receive same. Please attend if possible.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec., Hyom, Penistone Street, Ibstock.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next district meeting is at Barwell on Saturday, June 27th. Silent ringing 5 to 7. Meeting in the Queen's Head, followed by handbells, at 7.30. All welcome.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—A meeting will be held at Thames Ditton on Saturday, June 27th. Handbells (also 6 silent bells) available 3 p.m. It is hoped to provide tea for those who notify me not later than June 23rd. All ringers welcome.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Sec., 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Idle on Saturday, June 27th. Handbells available from 5 p.m. Tea (for drinking only) will be provided at 6 p.m. Will members please bring own food? Business meeting 7 p.m.—H. Loft-house, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—The annual meeting of the Grimsby District will be held at Barton-on-Humber on Saturday, June 27th. St. Peter's eight will be available for silent ringing during afternoon and evening. Service will be held about 4.15 (exact time not yet fixed). The business meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Election of officers, etc. Will members please make own arrangements for tea. Please try to attend.—H. T. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec., 394, Wellington Street, Grimsby.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Sileby on June 27th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting in Pochin Hall, near church, at 5.15 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify me by June 25th.—H. W. Perkins, Dis. Hon. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

WANTED.

WANTED.—Copies of 'Ringing World' from 1931-1942. After 'cuttings' have been made, paper will be given for salvage.—A. S. Richards, 70, Station Road, West Wickham, Kent.

MARRIAGE.

BARNETT—HAIRS.—On Saturday, June 13th, at St. John's Church, Burgess Hill, Sussex, Edwin Arthur, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Barnett, of Crayford, Kent, to Olive Delia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. I. Hairs, of Burgess Hill, Sussex. Present address: 26, Bucks Avenue, Oxhey, Herts.

DEATH.

BRETT.—On June 6th, at St. John's Hospital, Chelmsford, Ernest Brett, aged 65.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 26th, 1942.

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TWO YEARS OF THE BAN.

On June 14th, 1940, an Order in Council was made prohibiting the ringing or chiming of church bells, except by the military or the police as a notification of the landing of enemy troops by air, and during the two full years since then the bells of our churches throughout the land have been silent.

No such thing had ever happened before. For more than a thousand years, almost from the time when England became a Christian country, the church bells had been one of the most familiar and intimate features in the ordinary life of the common people. They called the faithful to prayer, they knolled the departing souls, they made merry at weddings, they announced victory, they welcomed the great men of the land. In one way or another they voiced the aspirations and ministered to the needs of the community, so that they became almost the most precious of all the parish possessions. It was not for nothing that England got the name of the 'ringing isle.' No doubt in modern times, with the vastly increased interests and changing outlook, the old sentiment has been largely obscured and to some extent lost. Yet it still survives below the surface, for it is in the blood of Englishmen. How otherwise can we account for the large sums of money that were spent annually to restore old bells and supply new ones? And to very many people the silence of the church bells means a real loss.

We, as ringers, have a special deprivation, for we are debarred from that activity we most delight in, and by which (so we are assured by competent authority) we can best serve our Church. But we accept the situation. Not willingly and still less gladly, but without complaining. If this is one of the sacrifices we are called on to make for the sake of England, we are ready to make it, and to count it a small thing. We do not question the right or the competence of the persons who decided that the bells should be used as a warning, though we may doubt whether they would actually be very effective for that purpose.

We must face the fact that not until victory and peace come will there be any likelihood of the ban being lifted. The chances of invasion may be lessened, they may shrink to nothing, but even so the authorities cannot allow the bells to ring again. If they did, some people would begin to think there was less need for war effort and become slack.

The longer the ban remains the greater will be the difficulties in putting change ringing on its feet when the time comes. When that will be no one knows, for
(Continued on page 290.)

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the end is not in sight. It may be sooner than we think or even dare hope, but it may be far off. The only thing we are certain of is that, be it soon or be it late, we shall win the victory. And because we have that faith we must be ready so that the Church's bells may sound again and give forth the same message and the same inspiration they have done for a thousand years.

There is not a great deal we can actually do at the present, and there is not a great deal that needs to be done. The one important thing is to maintain our interest, to keep in touch with one another, and never to forget what a fine thing we have in change ringing. The more meetings that are held the better, and all ringers should support the officers of their associations who, in the face of disappointments and difficulties, are doing what they can to provide them. And when, as must often happen, full meetings are not possible, those ringing friends who meet together as often as they can to talk about old times over a glass of beer, are doing more than they think to keep alive the spirit of the Exercise. We got over the difficulties created by the last war. This time it will be a harder task, but it can be done, and it will be done, if we have faith in ourselves, in our fellows and in our art.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BURGESS HILL, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, June 14, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

AT RESTORMEL, JAMES LANE,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

MRS. E. K. FLETCHER ...	1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ...	5-6
GEORGE W. FLETCHER ...	3-4	FRANK I. HAIRS ...	7-8
EDWIN BARNETT ...	9-10		

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

Rung in honour of the wedding of Edwin A. Barnett and Olive D. Hairs, solemnised on the day before at St. John's, Burgess Hill.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, June 15, 1942, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT GLYN GARTH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13 in E.

MRS. R. RICHARDSON ...	1-2	*ALBERT WALKER ...	5-6
RUPERT RICHARDSON ...	3-4	F/CAD. A. J. BRIAN WAYMAN	7-8

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.

* First peal of Bob Major 'in hand.' Rung in honour of the wedding of Mr. E. A. Barnett and Miss O. D. Hairs.

THE LATE MR. A. GILL.

LIST OF PEALS.

The following is a list of the peals rung by the late Mr. A. Gill, of Wath-on-Dearne, Yorkshire:—

Grandsire Caters 2, Treble Bob Major 22, Spliced Treble Bob Major 3, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 14, Bob Major 11, Little Bob Major 1, College Single Major 1, Stedman Triples 7, Grandsire Triples 7.

Surprise Major in the following methods: Cambridge 2, London 2, Yorkshire 6, Bristol 1, Rutland 1, Superlative 2, Killamarsh 1, Norfolk 1.

Surprise Minor in seven or more methods 20, Treble Bob Minor in seven methods 81, Treble Bob Minor in three and four methods 2, Plain Bob Minor 1.

Spliced Treble Bob Minor in various numbers of methods from fourteen to thirty-five, 9.

On handbells, one of Bob Major.

The peals of Surprise Minor included a 7,200 containing ten extents, and a 10,800 containing 15 extents. The Treble Bob Minor included one non-conducted peal. Of the total of 198 peals, 194 were rung for the Yorkshire Association. One was conducted by Mr. Gill.

NATIONAL POLICE GUILD.

MEETING AT LEICESTER.

On Saturday, June 13th, a meeting of the National Guild of Police Ringers was held at Leicester. Visitors arrived during the morning and assembled at the Hotel Belgrave, Loughborough Road, where handbells were soon set to a useful purpose. The luncheon was at 1 p.m., at which 52 members and friends sat down. The company was honoured by the presence of Mr. O. J. B. Cole, Chief Constable of Leicester; Mr. J. Gabbitts, Deputy Chief Constable; Alderman W. E. Wilford, chairman of the Leicester City Watch Committee, and the Rev. Malcolm Melville, of Lichfield, formerly of the Warwickshire Guild. There were also present Mr. J. W. Jones, secretary of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association, Mr. J. F. Milner, Ringing Master of Southwell Minster, and members of the Leicester Cathedral band. Guild members were present from Birmingham City, Cardiff City, Leicestershire County, Surrey, Bolton Borough, Manchester City, Reigate Borough, the Metropolitan and Leicester City Forces.

Apologies for absence were received from the Very Rev. H. A. Jones, Provost of Leicester; ex-Supt. Deputy Chief Constable A. Wiggins, Berkshire; ex-Supt. W. Green, Oxfordshire; ex-Chief Inspector W. Bottrill, Metropolitan; Inspector J. Partington, Carlisle City; Inspector C. A. Smith, High Wycombe; Sergt. F. Crossley, Bradford; ex-Sergts. G. Schluter and G. Shipp, Metropolitan; P.C. A. E. Hunt, Northants County; ex-P.C. W. Fear, Bristol City; P.C. H. R. Woods, Grantham Borough; ex-P.C. F. Page, Manchester City; P.C. W. Robinson, Manchester City (absent through sudden bereavement); ex-Sgt. A. Lawrence, St. Albans; P.C.'s R. G. Bentham, J. Daniels, C. Wren and W. Peberdy, Leicester City.

THE CHIEF CONSTABLE'S ENQUIRY.

After luncheon, the president, Supt. C. P. Hilton, welcomed the guests and visitors and reminded them that Leicester was the birthplace of the Guild, it being formed there in 1931 since when Mr. O. J. B. Cole, the Chief Constable, had been an honorary member.

A course of Grandsire Triples was rung on the handbells by Jill Poole 1-2, H. J. Poole 3-4, A. Ballard 5-6, and F. E. Wilson 7-8, after which Mr. O. J. B. Cole replied to the president's welcome on behalf of the guests. He said he was pleased to have the opportunity once again of meeting the Guild members. He had noticed that the Cathedral bells were going to be rung during the afternoon and had made enquiries of Inspector Poole as to how this could be done in view of the Control of Noise Order. 'I was promptly informed,' said Mr. Cole, 'that although the bells would be rung, there would be no sound. I had heard of bats in the belfry and I thought they must have come down to the ground floor. However, I do understand that the bells can be rung silently and the ringers do obtain some satisfaction in this.' Mr. Cole also referred to the meeting held in 1938 which he attended when ex-Supt. F. R. Williams was president of the Guild. He wished the Guild success and hoped to have the pleasure of attending future functions in Leicester. The 'Merioptimist' handbell band then rang two tunes on the full set of 37 handbells, much to the enjoyment of those present.

A business meeting followed, Supt. C. P. Hilton taking the chair. A resolution was passed thanking Sergt. Jenney, Leicester City, for deputising as hon. secretary during the illness of Inspector Poole, and ex-Supt. Williams spoke of the satisfaction felt by all members that Inspector Poole had recovered and was able to carry on once again. The secretary reported that there had been little activity in Guild affairs since the meeting in 1939 on account of war conditions, and referred to the difficulty of keeping in touch with the members. Particular difficulty was experienced with regard to Metropolitan members, and he suggested that some further effort should be made in this respect. Later on in the meeting an additional Metropolitan member was elected to the committee in the hope that it might help.

The balance sheet showed a balance in hand at the end of 1941 of £11 8s. 1½d. Thanks were extended to the secretary for the kind thought in sending in each member a Christmas-New Year greeting card, and several members voiced their appreciation.

OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

Supt. C. P. Hilton was re-elected president, Inspector H. J. Poole re-elected hon. secretary and treasurer, and Sergt. Jenney auditor. The following committee were re-elected, with the addition of Sgt. C. Wilmington, Metropolitan; Sergt. H. Jenney, ex-Sergt. W. Dowding, ex-Sergt. Lawrence, P.C. Bagworth, P.C. Brown, P.C. Birkett, ex-P.C. Page and ex-P.C. Claydon.

The members stood in silence as a token of respect to the passing of ex-Chief Inspector Meldrum, of Liverpool City, who had recently died, and as a tribute to the memory of P.C. A. Trevor, of Liverpool City, and P.C. E. Trump, Leicester City, both of whom lost their lives by enemy action. Reference was also made to the great loss to the ringing Exercise in general by the death of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith.

The following new members were elected: P.C.'s Daniels, Bentham, Peberdy, Wren, Jelley, Newberry, Bradshaw, Chell, James and War Reserve P.C. Daniels, of Leicester City. The secretary reported that with the exception of the last named all had been taught to ring at Leicester Cathedral on clapperless bells.

(Continued in next column.)

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have rather wondered why no one has replied to the letter from Mr. Thomas H. Reeves in your issue of June 5th. It seems that Holt's Original had been rung on handbells in which the conductor, instead of leaving the two singles to the end of the peal, had called them somewhere in the middle without, of course, affecting the truth of the changes. To this Mr. Reeves objected. He suggested that the composition was wrongly described as Holt's Original and was not an interesting variation. He would call it an innovation, and one which ought not to be allowed in a composition of this sort.

I think I know what is at the back of Mr. Reeves' mind. He feels that this is a case of tampering with a classic, and he resents it much in the same way as we do when people alter Shakespeare's plays or 'improve' great musical works, like Handel's 'Messiah,' or when parsons edit the collects in the Prayer Book and add their own poor stuff. We can sympathise to some extent with Mr. Reeves' views.

All the same, they are wrong. Holt's Original is a work not of art but of mathematics. There is nothing particularly sacrosanct about the exact form Holt gave it. It can be varied in a number of ways and still remain essentially the same thing, and the more it is varied the better. Other people have called it in different ways, such as beginning with the singles instead of leaving them until the end.

Similarly Thurstans' peal of Stedman Triples has been much varied and to the good of the Exercise.

'NOVICE.'

NATIONAL POLICE GUILD

(Continued from previous column.)

Mr. John W. Jones, secretary of the Llandaff and Monmouth Association, paid a glowing tribute to the hon. secretary and said that during his travels he had heard of nowhere else where persons had been taught the art since the bells were silenced. War Reserve P.C. A. Beamish, Warwickshire Constabulary, stationed at Nuneaton, was also elected a member of the Guild, bringing the present membership of the Guild to 94 members and creating a record.

Ex-Supt. Williams proposed that the first meeting after the war should be held at Leicester and painted a colourful picture of what he thought it should be. It was obvious that one day would not be long enough for this meeting, as suggested—indeed, it would appear doubtful whether a week-end would be sufficient. It was, however, agreed that this suggestion should be borne in mind.

A visit was then made to the Leicester Cathedral, where various efforts were made on the peal of twelve. Some ringers obviously experienced great difficulty in the silent ringing, but there was no complaint of bad striking.

THE BISHOP'S ADDRESS.

Tea had been arranged at the Cathedral Church House, and during tea time the company was honoured with the presence of Dr. Vernon Smith, Bishop of Leicester. He was at the Cathedral in connection with another function and expressed a wish to meet the Police Guild Ringers and say a few words to them. He spoke of the good work done by ringers and police and thought what a happy combination it was for the two to be combined. He referred to his association with the police in his capacity as Bishop of Willesden, and made a comparison between the police of this country, who were, he said, the best in the world, and those he had met when abroad. He wished the Guild every success and hoped that the time would not be long when the bells could be put to their proper use of calling people to worship. He was thanked on behalf of the Guild by the president, who said that this was the first time it had been honoured at its meetings by the presence of such a church dignitary.

Handbell ringing was indulged in after tea, including a touch of Stedman Caters by the Leicester band and Grandsire Triples by the Manchester City members, as well as some tunes 'four-in-hand' by Mr. and Mrs. Beamish, assisted by the Guild secretary. The president expressed the thanks of the Guild and of all those present, to Mrs. H. J. Poole and other helpers who had carried out the arrangements for such an excellent tea.

A visit was then made to the Hotel Victory for a social evening. The entertainment included selections on the handbells by the 'Merioptimist' handbell band; Mr. L. Styles, vice-president of the Leicester Magic Circle Conjurers; Sergt. L. Vines, violin solos; War Reserve P.C. Kenney and Mr. J. Clay (Leicester City), songs; and last, but not least, P.C. Wightman and Mr. G. Bromley with their 'funny stuff.' Amongst these was the inimitable 'Professor Moo Cow,' the Chinese illusionist, which concluded with the room in darkness and a shadowgraph operation being performed. Two unsuccessful attempts were made to ring a course of Stedman Cinques on the handbells, which proved once again the necessity for continual practice in this side of the art.

Ex-Supt. Williams, of Manchester City, vice-president, expressed thanks and appreciation to the artistes. The evening closed all too soon with everyone well satisfied with this meeting, which had added one more page to the successful history of the Guild. Those members who were unable to attend the meeting and have not paid their subscriptions should forward them as soon as possible to the secretary.

JOHN HOLT.

(Continued from page 281.)

HOLT AND ANNABLE.

* The composition of the Original was a brilliant achievement, but it was far surpassed by that of the Ten-part. The one could have been got by a long series of patient hit-or-miss experiments; the other must have been planned as a whole from the beginning, even though experimental working entered largely into putting the plan into execution. The very simplicity and obviousness of the peal tend to obscure its excellence, but it is safe to say that, except for one thing, it is the best peal the method is capable of. It is unfortunately the case that the common single, which seems so natural and so right in actual practice, is really foreign to the nature of the method and can only be used in restricted circumstances. To put the matter technically the common single can only be used if the basis of the composition is not the plain course, but the three-lead course produced by calling successive bobs, the course which is termed the B Block.

When the plain course is taken as the basis of composition, as it is in practically every method, in-course singles must be used. In those conditions the Ten-part is the best peal possible, and Holt's distinction is that he obtained the best at the very start. But the Exercise does not like in-course singles and with very good reason. Parker's Twelve-part supplies what is needed for practical purposes, and the Ten-part has fallen into disuse and is rapidly becoming obsolete.

The oldest extant copy of the ten-part is in the College Youths' manuscript in the British Museum. A page or two earlier the peal records are written up to 1745 and no further. That almost looks as if the composition dates from soon after that year, but the book is so mutilated that it is not safe to speculate.

The ten-part is one of the finest peals we possess, and at one time was the most popular of all. It shared the unique position held by Thurstans' peal of Stedman Triples and Middleton's peal of Cambridge, but unlike the other two it has had its day.

The peal book of the Society of Cumberland Youths states that on Saturday, October 12th, 1754, at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, the society rang Mr. John Holt's celebrated peal of 5,040 Grandsire Triples with a single at the half-way, and 'the peal was composed in five parts by Mr. John Holt and was called by Mr. George Partrick (1st time).'

Although this is generally reckoned as the first performance of the ten-part, I do not think it was. Five months earlier, on May 12th, at Romford, the Eastern Scholars rang 5,040 Grandsire Triples, and on June 9th, at St. George's-in-the-East, another peal in the same method 'with two singles.' William Underwood called both peals and it is difficult to see what they can have been other than the ten-part.

On December 18th, 1757, at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields the Union Scholars 'rang compleatly a true peal of 5,040 Grandsire Trebles with two Singles one at each half and each half divided into five courses as it was composed by John Holt.'

John Holt's six-part peal of Grandsire Triples as a composition is worthy to rank with the Ten-part, but for some reason or other it has never been popular. When it was first rung cannot be said, and there seems to be no trace of it having ever been rung in early days,

though it is possible it may have been the composition called by Underwood, in which case George Partrick's claim would be a valid one.

During the second quarter of the eighteenth century, from the year 1725 until 1756, the most prominent member of the Exercise in England was Benjamin Annable. As ringer, conductor, composer, and leader, he stood high above his fellows, and his pre-eminence was freely acknowledged, not only in London among the College Youths, but also throughout the country. He came to the fore at the crucial period in the history of the art when the Exercise was beginning to take the form it was to bear for nearly a couple of centuries, and when peal ringing was becoming to be looked upon as the standard of a ringer's career. No man did more than he to influence the development of change ringing.

As early as the year 1733 Thomas Hearne, a discerning and critical observer, noted that Annable 'is judged to understand ringing as well as, if not better than, any man in the world,' and now in 1750 he had earned and gained a position of unchallenged superiority as the greatest authority on all matters, practical and theoretical, connected with change ringing. When he died a contemporary newspaper referred to him as 'the best ringer that ever was known in the world.'

But Annable was of a denouncing and masterful disposition. He knew his worth and fully intended to be leader and have his own way with his fellows. To a great degree he succeeded, but in the process he was certain to cause friction and to make enemies, and so throughout his career there are unmistakable signs of opposition to him, varying in intensity from time to time, within the Society of College Youths.

The man who led the opposition was John Cundell. His standing within the society was scarcely less than that of Annable, and he had pretensions to be his equal as a conductor and a ringer of heavy bells. Included in his party were several of the most prominent of the College Youths, such as Robert Cutlin, the bell founder, and John Hardham, the celebrated tobacconist, of Fleet Street. If a hint in the 'Clavis' is worth anything (which is doubtful) Cundell had ambitions to rank as a composer.

The rivalry between the two men was an old standing one, going back to the beginning of both of their careers. At times it seems to have died down; at other times it flared up into what amounted to an open quarrel. The two parties were so evenly balanced that, though both men were such leading members of the Society, neither could secure election to the office of Master until long after he had served the normal number of years. It was not until 1747, long after Annable had proved himself the most accomplished ringer and conductor in the company, that he was made Master; and not until 1753 that John Cundell received the like honour.

We may be sure that Annable looked to his term of office as an opportunity of doing great things. If so he was disappointed. A couple of months before his election he called a peal at Mortlake, and then silence follows. Neither during the year he was Master, nor for two years after, was there a peal rung. We do not know what happened, but it is not difficult to guess. There were quarrels; men went elsewhere, and no new members came to take their places. During the whole of the years 1746, 1747, and 1748, perhaps two, but not more than two, London men were elected.

When Annable's time was up, John Hardham took his place, and evidently he was selected, not only because he belonged to the Cundell party, but because he was loved and trusted by all, and so most likely to make peace and heal the breaches.

In 1750 Annable got together a peal ringing band again, and shortly afterwards his enemies made their last and biggest effort to oust him from the Society. They knew they could not hope finally to supplant him unless they had someone to take his place who was his equal as conductor and leader, and among themselves they had no such a one. Once Cundell had essayed the role, but had failed, and he was now nearly fifty years old. In all England there was but one man who, as ringer, conductor and composer, might hope to rival Annable—the rising genius of the Union Scholars, young John Holt. If he could be induced to join them they would be independent of Annable.

But would Holt join them? It was no doubt a fine thing to be conductor to the premier society of England, but Holt had already behind him a better and more active band of peal ringers than he was likely to find for a long time among the College Youths. In the Society of Union Scholars he was without a rival. The only man who had tried to share the conducting with him, Thomas Ward, was gone; and the visitors who came from other companies, men like Meakins and Prior, though they were skilled and ambitious conductors, were content to leave the bob-calling to him.

True, it was nothing much at the time for a man to leave one society and go to another, but in such cases personal pique or thwarted ambition was seldom absent, and neither motive was present with Holt. Osborn,

indeed, suggested that he resented the exclusion of the record of the Original from the peal book, and for that reason resigned from the society. But that cannot be, apart from the doubt as to whether the record actually was excluded. The Union Scholars were sharers in the credit of the performance along with Holt, and in any case he rang five more peals with them after that one.

There is, I think, one thing which, without reflecting any discredit upon Holt, will satisfactorily explain why he left his old friends. He had now composed his Ten-part and his Six-part peals of Grandsire Triples, besides his peals of Union and Plain Bob Triples. He had done what Annable and the older authorities had failed to do, and indeed had thought to be impossible. If only he could get the figures into the hands of ringers, his lasting fame was assured. But how to do that? There were no journals that would print the compositions, nothing of the class of 'The Era' or 'Bell's Life,' and, of course, nothing like our modern ringing newspapers. Of printing and the making of books, he knew nothing, and we may doubt if he were capable of writing a letter. That is where John Cundell came in. He invited Holt to join the College Youths, and, in return, promised to collect subscriptions to have the peals printed and to publish them.

We cannot wonder that Holt consented; we should have been surprised if he had not. No doubt he hoped to take his old friends along with him, but they did not see the matter with his eyes. Samuel Killican alone went with him. The others — Newby, Albion, Titchbourne, Davis, Vickers, and the rest—stayed on to ring some more peals before the Union Scholars finally broke up and disappeared.

(To be continued.)

John Taylor & Co.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

It is customary when attending a wedding to alight at the station nearest to the church, but some of the guests, eight in fact, at a ringer's wedding recently, departed from the usual custom and landed five miles beyond their destination in order to enjoy the beautiful Sussex countryside. At any rate, that is what they said when they did eventually arrive. Who was responsible? Nobody; but 'Bill' got most of the blame, because he said he had been there before. Moral: Trust nobody but a railwayman, and then don't be too sure.

The latest of the many recruits who have rung their first peal of Bob Major 'in hand' at Surfleet is Mr. Albert Walker, a very promising youth from Birmingham. Great credit is due to him for the way he handled his bells throughout the peal.

Sixty years ago last Tuesday Holt's Ten-Part peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at St. Alkmund's, Derby. It was the first peal by the Midland Counties Association, which had been founded on the previous Easter Monday under the title of the Derby and District Association.

A unique peal was performed by the St. Martin's, Birmingham, ringers on June 24th, 1922, when they rang on handbells 5,055 changes of Stedman Sextuples. Mr. Albert Walker conducted from 34. No other peal has ever been rung on more than twelve bells.

Samuel Thomas, for some years a leading man among the Sheffield ringers, died on June 24th, 1924, at the age of 53. Among his performances he called the first peals of Yorkshire Surprise Major and Royal, of Peterborough Surprise Major and Original Major.

The first peal of Wigston Surprise Major was rung by the Midland Counties Association at Wigston Magna on June 24th, 1933. Mr. F. W. Perrens conducted.

On June 25th, 1885, the ring of ten bells at St. Mary's, Taunton, was opened by a mixed band, which included F. E. Robinson, J. W. Washbrook and other Oxford men. A peal of Stedman Caters was attempted and the length rung, but the peal was afterwards withdrawn. An account of the incident was given a few months ago in the pages of 'The Ringing World.'

Fifty years ago yesterday the late William T. Cockerill called Holt's Original at St. Mary's, Mortlake, his first attempt as conductor.

On June 22nd, 1881, in the old Lord Justices' Court at Westminster, an action was begun in which Mr. Robert Stainbank, at the time the proprietor of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, sought damages for libel against Sir Edmund Beckett, afterwards Lord Grimthorpe. It concerned Big Ben, which Beckett had designed and the Whitechapel Foundry cast. The verdict was for the plaintiff, who was awarded £200 damages.

THE FUTURE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—One does not like to contemplate the Exercise being left without a ringing journal, for both historical and current interests will be sadly affected. The debt of gratitude we owe to the late J. S. Goldsmith amounts to the inexpressible, and I feel sure our leaders are already making the utmost efforts to arrange for the continued publication of 'The Ringing World.' Your recent leading article justifiably calls every ringer to realise his personal responsibility in the matter for the sake of the Exercise at large, and one does hope that all will view the question whole and without selfishness.

But it will be found true, I think, that a large majority of the ringers of the country are ignorant of the conditions under which 'The Ringing World' has been published for their benefit all these years. Might it not, therefore, be wise and helpful if the Exercise could be informed of the circumstances; of the proprietary interests attached to the paper; of the present circulation; and, also, if an estimate might be given of the minimum circulation required to enable it to pay its way?

For the sake of future permanence it would seem (1) that the ownership of the paper should be vested in the Exercise generally and in no case be dependent upon private enterprise; (2) that the appointment of the Editor should be in the hands of the Central Council; and (3) that a Finance Committee of the Central Council should be set up to be responsible for the paper's affairs.

Further, the strain of producing a weekly paper in these days of increasing war restrictions must be very great, and I am wondering whether for the duration we might be content with a monthly and, perhaps in that case, a slightly larger publication.

All this may savour of the impracticable, but I offer my remarks in all humility and in my deep concern that everything possible may be done to ensure the Exercise a journal of its own.

The Vicarage, Lyme Regis, Dorset.

C. CAREW COX.

GRAMOPHONE RECORDS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Is there any ringer or reader of your paper who can give me any information as to whether there are any more gramophone records of peals of bells which can be obtained? I already have two records, one of a peal of York Minster bells and one of St. Margaret's, Westminster, a peal of Stedman Caters, from His Master's Voice Company. Also are there any records of hymns chimed or played on bells?

FRED FOWLER, Jun.

9, High Street, Stourton, Warminster, Wilts.

WELL-KNOWN RINGERS' WEDDING.

MR. E. A. BARNETT AND MISS O. D. HAIRS

By the wedding on Saturday, June 13th, at St. John's Church, Burgess Hill, Sussex, of Mr. Edwin A. Barnett and Miss Olive D. Hairs, two of the best known ringing families were united. Mr. Barnett is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Barnett, of Crayford, and grandson of the late Mr. Edwin Barnett, sen., and Miss Hairs the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. I. Hairs, of Burgess Hill, and granddaughter of Mr. Frank Bennett, of Brighton.

Mr. Barnett is at present serving in the R.A.F., and among the large company who witnessed the ceremony were Squadron Leader and Mrs. Daly, and Sergt. and Mrs. Bayfield. The ringers present were Mr. G. W. Fletcher (hon. secretary of the Central Council) and Mrs. Fletcher, Mr. S. E. Armstrong (hon. secretary of the Sussex County Association) and Mrs. Armstrong, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Davis, of Balham, Inst.-Lieut. R. G. Cross, Messrs. H. E. Audsley (Crayford), W. H. Hewett (St. Margaret's, Westminster), A. H. Pulling (Guildford), B. Wayment (Kingston) and E. C. S. Turner (Ealing).



THE BRIDAL PARTY.

[By kind permission of 'The Sussex Daily News.'

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attired in a gown of white satin with net overdress embroidered with sequins. She carried a sheaf of madonna lilies. Her attendants were Miss Enid Richardson, of Surfleet, and Miss Janet Hall, of Hove, who wore dresses of pale green organdie over emerald green satin, with Juliet caps to tone. Master Derek Durnford, of Morden, as page, was in emerald green. The best man was Mr. Philip A. Corby, and the ushers Mr. S. E. Armstrong and Inst.-Lieut. R. G. Cross.

The Vicar, the Rev. E. H. March, officiated at the service, which was fully choral. At the conclusion of the ceremony an excellent course of Grandsire Caters was rung by Mrs. G. W. Fletcher, A. H. Pulling, R. G. Cross, E. C. S. Turner and G. W. Fletcher, who, with the addition of Mr. S. E. Armstrong, formed a guard of honour as the bridal party left the church.

The guests were afterwards entertained by the bride's parents at the Parish Hall, when upwards of 60 were present. The wedding cake, made by Mrs. Hairs and decorated by Mr. Hairs, was a masterpiece of war-time cookery, and was greatly admired.

Owing to unavoidable circumstances the date of the wedding was put forward a fortnight, and in consequence some of the ringers invited were unable to be present, and apologies were received from Mr. and Mrs. R. Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Botham, Mrs. R. F. Deal, Mr. R. Overy and Mr. A. E. Bond. In this connection a letter was read from the late Mr. Goldsmith acknowledging the invitation and expressing a hope that he would be able to be present. During the reception a course of Grandsire Caters was rung by the bride and bridegroom, Mr. and Mrs. Hairs and Mr. E. Barnett.

Several of the guests were entertained during the week-end, and on Sunday a peal of Bob Royal was rung in honour of the wedding. A peal of Stedman Caters was also attempted, but unfortunately was lost after ringing nearly half-way.

THE IMPORTANT THING.—The one great aim of every beginner should be to become an accurate striker.—Jasper W. Snowden.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

ELLOE DEANERIES BRANCH.

The quarterly meeting of the Elloe Deaneries Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild was held at Moulton on Saturday, June 13th. On this occasion thirteen proved to be an unlucky number, for it rained the whole day, but in spite of it all over 30 members turned up representing the towers of Spalding, Pinchbeck, Surfleet, Gosberton, Donington, Deeping St. Nicholas, Whaplode, Moulton, Long Sutton, as well as Mr. F. Pervin, of Coventry, and Mr. A. Walker, of Birmingham.

A service in the church was conducted by the Rev. E. C. Gee, president of the branch, the address being given by the Rev. A. H. Partridge, Vicar of Moulton, who also officiated at the organ owing to the fact that the organist had some business on in Libya.

In the course of his address the Vicar said how much he regretted having missed some excellent opportunities of learning to ring. Many years ago he lived next door to and was a very close friend of Canon Helmore at Canterbury, and the two parishes he had had since were equipped with very good bands of ringers.

After service the company made its way to the Vicarage, where an excellent tea was laid in the very large hall (the size of the hall can be judged by the fact that over thirty sat down at once and they are not all lightweights in the Lincoln Guild). The tea was provided by the Moulton ringers and their wives, and much credit is due to them.

A business meeting followed under the chairmanship of the Rev. E. C. Gee, president, at which the Rev. A. H. Partridge was elected an honorary member. Gosberton was proposed as the place of the next meeting, but if, in the meantime, the memorial to the late Mr. George Ladd is completed it will be held at Pinchbeck and a dedication service will be held on the same day.

Mr. Rupert Richardson spoke of the great loss the Exercise had sustained in the death of Mr. Goldsmith, and told the members how very important it is that 'The Ringing World' should receive every possible ounce of support.

Mr. Pervin gave an account of how the blitz had affected ringing in Coventry. He said it is much the same there as in other parts of the country, people are far too busy to do more than meet occasionally for handbell ringing. Mr. Walker followed with an account of Birmingham and strongly supported Mr. Richardson's remarks about 'The Ringing World'.

Mr. J. G. Ames, the branch Ringing Master, proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar of Moulton for the reception he had given the ringers, and to the Moulton ringers and their wives for providing such an excellent tea. Mr. T. H. Charlton, secretary of the Moulton ringers, replied. Afterwards most of the ringers went to the tower, where silent touches were 'rung.'

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT PULBOROUGH.

A meeting of the Western Division of the Sussex County Association, held at Pulborough on Sunday, June 14th, attracted ringers from Arundel, Chichester, Lyminster, Storrington, West Grinstead and a large percentage of the local band, together with two visitors from Slough and the West Country serving with the Forces in the district. It resulted in a very pleasant reunion, and a feature was the family atmosphere prevailing, made possible by a fine Sunday afternoon, in which wives and families in some cases took advantage of an afternoon out.

Handbell ringing in the recreation ground adjoining the churchyard commenced activities, followed by silent ringing in the tower on six bells. Methods to Grandsire Caters on handbells and Cambridge Minor on the tower bells were rung.

The Rector received thanks for the use of the bells and belfry, and all present were enthusiastic in voicing their appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Stilwell for their hospitality, which made the meeting so successful.

HANDBELL PEALS IN WALES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was most pleased to notice in to-day's paper that a peal was rung at Gilwern, Breconshire, by my old friends, to whom I offer hearty congratulations. They can, so far as I know, claim the peal as the first handbell peal rung in Wales. Monmouthshire, where the peal of Stedman Caters was rung in 1911, as mentioned in Belfry Gossip, is not in Wales. It is in the Oxford Circuit. The following may be of interest:—

Newport, Mon. The Llandaff Diocesan Association. On Monday, September 11th, 1911, in 2 hours and 57 minutes, in the belfry of All Saints' Church, on handbells, a peal of Stedman Caters, 5,079 changes: Bertram Prewett 1-2, William Pye 3-4, Ernest Pye 5-6, Thomas T. Goffton 7-8, James George 9-10. Composed by James George. Conducted by William Pye. Umpire, Isaac G. Shade. First peal on handbells by the association. All those taking part, including the umpire, excepting Mr. James George, have passed away.

J. W. JONES.

9, Altery View, Newport, Mon.

THE LATE MR. JOHN S. GOLDSMITH.

(Continued from page 284.)

HIS CAREER AS A PEAL RINGER.

At Woking, where Mr. Goldsmith went in 1903 from Lewes, he was out of touch with any local band as far as service and practice ringing were concerned. At the parish church of Old Woking there was then a ring of six with an indifferent band and little or no change ringing. The church is three miles away from the modern town of Woking. At Horsell, which is somewhat nearer, there is another ring of six, but the conditions were no better, if so good. Goldsmith's ringing therefore had to be confined to occasional visits to his home at Lewes, or to Surrey and Sussex towers in attempts for peals. In 1906 Mr. J. T. Rickman gave two new trebles to St. John's, Southover, and on March 10th, Goldsmith called the first peal on the augmented ring, one of Grandsire Caters. In the previous year, on St. Patrick's Day, he had called the first peal by the Irish Association outside Ireland. It was one of Bob Major and was rung at St. Stephen's, Coleman Street, in the City of London, by a band that included John W. Taylor, the bell founder, Isaac G. Shade, W. H. Fussell, John H. B. Hesse, and Ernest Pye.

YEARS WITH FEW PEALS.

The claims of his profession now took up most of Mr. Goldsmith's time and energy, and during the years 1907, 1908 and 1909 he rang only five peals, all of them Stedman Triples, except one of Plain Bob Royal, which he called at Southover on one of his visits to his home town. The year 1910 was rather better and yielded him four peals, but they were all rung in Sussex towers during his summer holiday.

These lean years were no indication that his interest in change ringing had waned, for it was then that he was planning to start 'The Ringing World,' which first appeared in 1911. In that year he took part in fourteen peals. The first was on May 14th, when he rang 7-8 on handbells to Stedman Caters with the very active and skilful band Mr. Alfred Pulling had then got together at Guildford. Later on in the same year, he rang with the same band four more peals of Stedman Caters and one of Triples.

In July, at St. Nicholas', Chiswick, he scored his first peal of Bristol Surprise Major, and in August a week-end in Sussex yielded four peals, Cambridge Royal at Southover, Bristol Surprise Major at Rotherfield, Stedman Caters at St. Nicholas', Brighton, and London Surprise Major at Burgess Hill. Bertram Prewett called the Cambridge, Mr. George R. Pye the Bristol and the London, and Goldsmith himself the Stedman. Mr. Charles T. Coles was one of the band.

ASSOCIATION WITH WILLIAM PYE.

The Cambridge Royal was Goldsmith's first in the method. His second followed quickly at St. Margaret's, Westminster, for now he was a valued and welcomed visitor whenever he could spare the time to join the very fine band that had been got together under the leadership of William Pye. With them in December he rang the fifth at St. Michael's, Cornhill, to Stedman Cinques.

Nineteen hundred and twelve was also a good year. It added to his list twelve peals. One was Bristol Surprise Major, one Cambridge Royal, and three Stedman Cinques; while on handbells he scored four of Stedman Caters and one of Stedman Triples. Two of the Sted-

man Cinques were rung on the same day, August Bank Holiday, at the same church, Great St. Mary's, Cambridge. In the second one the Rev. A. H. F. Boughey and the Rev. H. S. T. Richardson took part. It was the only occasion on which the vicar of a parish and his curate have rung a peal of Stedman Cinques on the bells of their own tower. John H. Cheeseman called one and William Pye the other. The band included George R. and Ernest Pye, Bertram Prewett, Reuben Sanders, Charles T. Coles, Isaac G. Shade, Keith Hart, and Edwin Barnett, junior.

DOUBLES TO MAXIMUS.

In the early part of the next year Goldsmith rang his first peal of Maximus—Kent Treble Bob at St. Saviour's, Southwark, with the Middlesex County Association and William Pye as conductor. He had now scored a five-thousand on all numbers from six to twelve. He was to add one on five before he died, but that was a long way ahead. When he went North at Whitsuntide for the Central Council, he rang two peals of Stedman, at Whitley Bay and Gateshead, one of which Bert Prewett called and the other Mr. W. H. Barber. During the August Bank Holiday week-end, after a peal of Bristol at Long Stanton on the Saturday, the feat of ringing two twelve-bell peals on the same day was repeated at Cambridge, only this time the first was Cambridge Surprise Maximus.

A peal of Stedman Cinques on Bow bells came in January, 1914, then a couple of peals, Bristol and Superlative at Portsmouth, and soon afterwards the outbreak of the first Great War put a stop to peal ringing for the time. One handbell peal in 1915 and another in 1916 represented his score for war time. Both were Stedman Caters and both conducted by Mr. Pulling.

POST WAR PEALS.

When peace came again ringers everywhere were anxious to get back to the belfries and resume the activities which had been so rudely interrupted, but it took some time before things became normal again. Goldsmith's first peal was in September, 1923, and was one of Stedman Caters at Southover. It was composed by himself and contained the unusual number of changes, 5,729, which he told Mr. Coles to call because it represented some anniversary in his mother's life. She, as we have said, first made a ringer of him and was still living opposite the church. Of the other two peals he rang the same year, that of Stedman Cinques at Winchester Cathedral, on the old ring of bells, recently augmented by two trebles, is the only one of any particular interest.

We need not follow, in any great detail, his peal ringing career in later years, and it will be sufficient to refer to some of the more outstanding performances. In 1924, with the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, of which he had been for long a member, he took part in a peal of Stedman Caters at the Imperial Institute and with the Birmingham men in the first peal of Stedman Cinques at Exeter Cathedral. On June 11th, 1927, at Warnham in Sussex he rang the second to the first performance of Law James' peal of Spliced London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative Major. This was a landmark in the history of peal ringing. Dublin Surprise Major, one of the earliest of the new methods to be introduced in recent years, was rung at Crawley on July 16th.

(Continued on next page.)

THE LATE MR. J. S. GOLDSMITH.

(Continued from previous page.)

On Easter Monday, April 1st, 1929, Mr. Goldsmith rang the sixth at Chelmsford to Spliced Cambridge and Superlative Maximus, the first time more than one method had been included in a twelve-bell peal. In the band were many of his close friends—Bob and Bill Pye, Tom and Bert Coles, Jim Davis, Jim Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher and E. T. Duffield. In January, 1930, the same band repeated the performance at St. Saviour's, Southwark.

MANY NEW METHODS.

A peal of Painswick Surprise Major was rung at Old Windsor in 1933, followed by several in new methods—Chiltern in 1934, Ashted and Melbourne in 1935, Pyrford in 1936, Boveney in 1937, Cranbourne and Painswick Surprise Royal and Isleworth Bob Royal in 1938, and Cassiobury and Warfield Surprise Major and Double Coslany Court Bob Major in 1939.

Meanwhile, he had taken part in many peals of Cinques and Maximus in several twelve-bell towers, among them Surfleet, where on August 4th, 1934, he rang the ninth to Stedman. At Surfleet lived two of his closest friends. There he rang his last peal of Maximus—Little Bob, conducted by Mr. Ernest Turner—and there he afterwards spent his last holiday away from home.

AN INTERESTING FIVE BELL PEAL.

John Goldsmith's only peal of Grandsire Cinques was rung at St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, during the Australian tour, about which we shall have something to say presently. He called the peal and was very proud of the performance, as indeed he had a right to be. His last peal of Stedman Cinques was at Cambridge on the August Bank Holiday before the war broke out. That, too, was his last tower bell peal. A fortnight earlier, at the five-bell tower of Ockham, in Surrey, he arranged and rang in a peal which he thought a great deal of. He had been greatly interested in previous years in the controversies which arose about the proper standards for peals on five and six bells, and he held very definite opinions on the matter. Particularly he condemned the licence some conductors took. Partly to challenge his views Mr. Ernest Turner had called on handbells a five-thousand which did not contain a complete six-score. Goldsmith was prepared to accept any development so long as it did not in his opinion 'tamper with the truth.' He thought the proper way was not to break up the six-scores, but to alter the hunts, and he arranged this peal, in which every 120 was to be different and variety was to be attained by making each of the bells act as the treble in turn. He asked Ernest Turner to call it and the performance was a most interesting one.

Mr. Goldsmith's last three peals were on handbells; Holt's Original at Guildford at Christmas, 1939, with his old friend, Alfred Pulling, in the band, Bob Minor at his own home in 1940, and Bob Major in the crypt of St. Martin's-in-the-Field Church with the Cumberlands on September 20th, 1941. The last was rung in honour of the 80th birthday of Mr. W. H. Fussell.

Many ringers have surpassed Mr. Goldsmith in the number of their peals, but few indeed have equalled him in the quality and variety of their performances.

(To be continued.)

APPRECIATIONS.

FROM MR. ALBERT WALKER.

As a friend and admirer of our late Editor, I, as a member of the Literature Committee of the Central Council, wish to associate myself with the excellent tribute to his memory by the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards in your issue of June 12th.

I well remember Mr. Goldsmith's visit to St. Martin's, Birmingham, on August 23rd, 1904, when he rang his first peal of Stedman Cinques, which, incidentally, was my first peal on twelve bells as conductor. So commenced a friendship extending to the end.

Much has been written already of his great services and qualities as ringer, conductor, founder and Editor of 'The Ringing World,' and many of us who were privileged to know him as a father and husband can appreciate his other many great qualities. For many years he gave devotion and care to his wife, who was stricken in early married life with an illness necessitating constant attention, night and day, year in year out. All through he never faltered, and he was the admiration of all for his undying love. Her death some few years ago must have been a very severe blow, from which he never really recovered.

Now with his passing, also a very severe blow to ringers and the art of ringing, what memorial can we set up to his memory? I would suggest, firstly, by every means in our power secure for all time the continuity and success of his life's work, the regular weekly publication of 'The Ringing World,' to which he devoted over 30 years' service. We owe a very deep debt of gratitude and thankfulness that he overcame the early difficulties and prejudices of those who at the time were not prepared to give it that wholehearted support it deserved.

Secondly, I would suggest that his memory be perpetuated by an annual commemorative service and pilgrimage to his grave at Pyrford on a Saturday in June each year, as near as possible to the date of his passing, and so keep alive the memory of John Sparkes Goldsmith.

ALBERT WALKER.

Birmingham.

FROM THE REV. C. CAREW COX.

I would be very grateful if you would convey to the relatives of John S. Goldsmith the very deep sympathy of the Lyme Regis ringers, as well as that of all members of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, and the great sense of loss we all feel by his death. He has carried on a noble work in maintaining a weekly paper for the Exercise unbrokenly for 31 years, and many of us have especially appreciated the leading articles from his pen. These alone must have done much in guiding the progress of ringing, besides his own personal qualities as a ringer and friend.

The best memorial we can build for him will undoubtedly be to take steps to secure the continuance of the paper to which he devoted so much of his life and means.

C. CAREW COX.

Master of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild and Vicar of Lyme Regis.

FROM MAJOR J. H. B. HESSE.

I feel the passing of Mr. John Goldsmith leaves a blank to ringers generally that will not be easy to fill. I have personally known him for over 35 years, and worked with him in close touch since the formation of the Guildford Guild. He was most helpful to me while I had the honour of being Master. At that time he was hon. secretary and in that capacity he put in a lot of very hard work. To me he was always a friend, and some of his ringing talks were a joy to listen to. I am sure there are many who mourn for him as I do, and I deeply regret that it was impossible for me to pay my last respects by being present at his funeral.

I sincerely hope ringers generally will do all they can to keep alive 'The Ringing World,' which would never have existed if it had not been for John Goldsmith, firstly for the memory of the late Editor, who worked at it very hard at a loss to himself for the sake of the Exercise, and, secondly, for the sake of ringing.

The last peal I rang with him was Stedman Caters at his old home tower, Southover, Lewes, called by himself on July 12th, 1939. May he rest in peace.

JOHN H. B. HESSE.

Pierce Hay, Wrington, near Bristol, Somerset.

FROM MR. T. F. EARNSHAW.

We, the York Minster Society of Change Ringers, desire to express our sympathy with the relatives and friends of the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith in their great loss.

The Ringing Exercise as a whole has also suffered a severe blow by the death of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith as Editor of 'The Ringing World.' During his 31 years of editorship, all the older ringers will know, ringing has taken some big strides forward, and that result is undoubtedly due in a large measure to his leadership and guidance throughout the columns of his paper.

I think I'm right in saying (with perhaps one exception) he has attended all the Yorkshire Association's commemorative dinners held in York, and his presence always gave tone to the proceedings.

His book on the Australian tour will now have an added value to those ringers who are fortunate enough to possess a copy, as it gives a good insight into his character as a ringer.

T. F. EARNSHAW, President.

59, Nun Mill Street, York.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HUXTON.

A very enjoyable meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at Huxton on Saturday, June 13th. Members were present from Halewood, Sefton, Poolstock, Bebington, Walton-on-the-Hill, West Derby, Liverpool (St. Nicholas'), Everton, Prescot and the local company. Notable visitors were Messrs. Edgar Rapley and C. Longhurst, of West Grinstead, and Mr. C. K. Lewis, of Marple, Cheshire.

A service was held in the Parish Church, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. W. H. Lewis, and before the service the bells, which were without clappers, were made good use of. Handbells were rung in church, a course of Grandsire Caters forming a suitable preliminary to the service. The Rev. J. A. Briggs presided at the organ and accompanied the singing.

An excellent tea was provided by the Vicar and Mrs. Lewis, which everyone fully enjoyed.

The meeting was presided over by the Vicar. Mr. T. Eric Gore, of Huxton, was elected a member of the association, and the election of Mr. E. R. Rapley as a non-resident member was ratified. The secretary read the names of those lost by death since the last meeting, and paid tribute to their worth and memory. Their names were James Martin, Claude I. Davies, William Booth, Edward Gittens, Thomas Jennion, James W. Meldrum, all Liverpool Branch members.

The meeting also deplored the sad loss of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, the Editor of 'The Ringing World,' and of Mr. J. H. Ridyard, of Worsley, the Manchester Branch secretary. The members stood in silence for a short space of time, during which the Vicar offered an appropriate short prayer. Reference was made to the loss the Liverpool Guild had sustained by the departure from the city of the Rev. D. Railton, formerly Rector of Liverpool and Warden of the Guild.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Christ Church, Bootle, on Saturday, July 11th, if suitable arrangements can be made. Nominations for association officers were as follows: President, Mr. P. W. Cave; general secretary, Mr. W. H. Shuker. No name was submitted for auditor, as Liverpool is already represented by Mr. E. C. Birkett. Nominations for branch officers were: Bell adviser, Mr. T. S. Horridge; Ringing Master, Mr. L. L. Gray; representative on General Committee, the Rev. J. A. Briggs; branch secretary, Mr. G. R. Newton.

Mr. Cave gave notice that he intended to bring before the next meeting a motion which had reference to the period of time which certain officers of the association should be allowed to remain in office.

The Rev. J. A. Briggs voiced the thanks of all present to the Vicar of Huxton and Mrs. Lewis and also Mr. and Mrs. Burchall for their kindness and assistance in making the meeting so successful and enjoyable.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, May 30th, in accordance with Emergency Rule 3, the Management Committee of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association met at the Spreadeagle Hotel, Gloucester. Bristol Rural, Tewkesbury, North Forest, Chippenham and Wotton Branches were not represented. It was decided that the general secretary should write to the Bristol City Branch concerning their non-observance of Rule 3 Branch Rules. Of £2 13s. income, £2 10s. 10d expenses had been incurred, leaving a balance of only 2s. 2d. The Rev. E. S. Saleby had resigned his membership, and the secretary was requested to write thanking him for services rendered in the past, especially while he was in office as Master. Owing to decrease in expenditure the funds had increased by £16.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. F. J. Lewis, Mr. F. W. Merrett, Mr. W. Harris, Mr. C. J. Hathway, Mr. Scott, Mr. Pouting and Mr. A. Burcombe. It was agreed that efforts should be made to create interest in Tewkesbury, Stow and North Forest Branches. It was also agreed that the following emergency rule should be applied from now: 'That any member unable to pay his subscription fee shall be allowed to continue his membership (at the discretion of the branch officials) by paying a nominal fee. Such nominal fee must not be less than 6d. per annum.' Careful consideration was given to the question of bells, frames, ropes, etc., during the ban on ringing, and it was decided that instructions should be sent to all incumbents. It was agreed that £5 5s. should be sent to the J. S. Goldsmith fund.

Since the last meeting the deaths of the following members had been announced: Mrs. Hope, associate member; C. H. Gordon, auditor; ex-Sergt. J. Williams, performing member; Sir Audrey Neald, hon. member.

The meeting lasted 2 hours and 45 minutes, and 19 members attended.

CANON COLERIDGE'S REMINISCENCES.

WASHBROOK'S GREAT QUALITIES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have read with great interest the letter written by Canon Coleridge in your issue of 19th inst., in which he gives us such interesting reminiscences concerning the past, and the thought springs to my mind how interesting it would be if he let himself go in your columns and told us more of those interesting times, giving us more details of the doings and achievements of Washbrook.

This has already been suggested by my old friend, Mr. George Williams, and I am sure it would be welcomed by the Exercise at large. The Canon could also tell us much about Squire Proctor's famous Bennington band, and the high standard that they set in striking and ringing, which would be eagerly read. I personally much appreciated his reference to the Rev. W. S. Willett, whom I had the privilege of meeting and knowing on West of England ringing tours, for he always struck me as a typical English gentleman, whom one could never think of as being guilty of a mean act.

Coming back to the man Washbrook, how delightfully simple and concise his explanation is of the composition of Stedman Triples as given in the same issue of your paper. Mr. W. W. Gifford used to remark on this faculty of Washbrook's, and he was unquestionably a very clever man. As to his qualities as a ringer, it will, I think, be agreed that these are demonstrated in those that we know who were his contemporaries. Such ringers as Tom Hibbert, Arthur Peglar, and may I add Canon Coleridge himself, for none of us have met better ringers, and may they long be spared to us.

G. N. PRICE.

45, Thurby Road, West Norwood.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

J. W. WASHBROOK'S PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—This peal was rung at Abingdon on Saturday, February 1st, 1890. The only survivor is the 7th man, who asked the conductor (J. W. Washbrook) for the figures. He replied that it was the same he conducted at Braughing on November 22nd, 1889, and the figures were to be found in Volume 8 of 'The Bell News,' page 423. He furthermore stated that he considered a similar peal composed by J. J. Parker, and published in the same volume on page 468, was a better composition.

J. H. SHEPHERD.

10, Gloucester Street, Swindon, Wilts.

THE CHIMES OF WINDSOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The letters about the chimes of Windsor remind me that I often wondered why someone has not written an account of the different clock chimes to be heard in different parts of the country. It ought to be a good subject for a man who knows something about music.

The most familiar by far are, of course, the Westminster chimes, which I believe were copied from St. Mary's, Cambridge. They are very good, but have been done to death, and they want ten bells really. When they are put to a set of eight bells the chimes are in one key and the hour bell in another, which is musically bad.

The chimes at St. Paul's Cathedral are only a 'ting-tang,' but to my mind they are most impressive. I once heard a set of chimes at one of the churches at Guildford which struck me as very fine, and those at Norwich Cathedral are well spoken of.

A leading musician, Dr. Stanford, was employed to write a set for Bow Bells, but I could not make head or tail of them.

Perhaps some of your readers will tell us where there are good chimes.

F. M. TAYLOR.

DEATH OF MR. A. O. WRINTMORE.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Albert Owen Wrintmore, which took place at the Royal Hospital, Bath, following an accident.

The funeral was at Calne on June 16th and was of a military character, Mr. Wrintmore having been a sergeant in the Home Guard, large numbers of whom attended as well as of the Air Force. The little church was filled to its capacity with friends and neighbours. The Calne Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Association was represented by the hon. secretary, Mr. Louis A. Wilson, and the local ringers by Messrs. Bury and Sage.

Ringers of the district will miss him very much, as he was a good churchman and a keen ringer and conductor. As he was only 34 years of age he would have been a pillar of strength in building up the ringing in the district when peace comes.

His former friends and colleagues extend their sympathy to his wife and small daughter in their loss.

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All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held at Hagley on Saturday, June 27th, by the kind invitation of the Worcestershire and Districts Association. Bells (8) available for silent practice from 3 p.m. Tea in Hagley Park at 5 p.m., followed by short business meeting. Handbell ringing afterwards.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 27th, at 3.30 p.m., at the Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, by kind invitation of the Hertford County Association.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—A meeting will be held at Writtle on Saturday, June 27th. Service at 4.30, tea and business meeting to follow.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—The annual meeting will be held at Penn on Saturday, June 27th. Bells (silent) from 3 o'clock. Service, with an address by Preb. Hartill, Vicar, at 4.45. Cups of tea will be provided at the Rose and Crown at 5.30, followed by general meeting. Good bus service from Railway Street, Wolverhampton.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—The annual meeting of the Grimsby District will be held at Barton-on-Humber on Saturday, June 27th. St. Peter's. eight will be available for silent ringing during afternoon and evening. Service will be held about 4.15 (exact time not yet fixed). The business meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Election of officers, etc. Will members please make own arrangements for tea. Please try to attend.—H. T. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec., 394, Wellington Street, Grimsby.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Sileby on June 27th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting in Pochin Hall, near church, at 5.15 p.m.—H. W. Perkins, Dis. Hon. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Stone on Saturday, July

4th, at 3 p.m. Tea will be provided for all who notify T. W. A. Rowley, 120a, Church Street, Stone, Staffs, not later than June 30th. All ringers and ladies welcome.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec., 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn District.—A meeting will be held at Rishton on Saturday, July 4th. Tower bells (8) ready at 3 p.m. Handbells provided. Bring food. Cups of tea served in school.—R. Leigh, R. Blakey, C. Sharples.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—The summer meeting will be held at Shiplake on Saturday, July 4th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea at Plowden Arms at 4.30 at 1s. per head. Service in Parish Church at 6 p.m. Please let me know how many for tea by July 1st.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec., 401, London Road, Reading.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Woodford on Saturday, July 11th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service at 4.15 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Those requiring tea kindly let me know by July 8th. All are welcome.—J. H. Crampin, Hon. Dis. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The summer meeting will be held at Queensbury on Saturday, July 11th. An attractive ramble will start from the schools at 3 o'clock. Tea (1s. 6d.) in Schools at 5 o'clock, followed by business meeting. Names for tea to Mr. C. Ellison, 9, Hazeldene, Queensbury, by Tuesday, July 7th. All welcome.—Frank Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual business meeting will be held at Oxford on Saturday, July 18th, at 3.15 p.m., in the Rectory Room, Pembroke Street, St. Aldate's. Tea will be provided at 1s. 6d. each for all members who apply for ticket, accompanied by remittance, by Saturday, July 11th. This is essential, owing to difficulties in catering. A collection will be taken at tea for Guild Restoration Fund. Service in St. Aldate's Church at 5 p.m. A good attendance is earnestly requested.—R. T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Tonbridge on Saturday, July 11th. Committee meeting in the Parish Room at 3 o'clock. Service in church at 4.30, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. F. Childs. Tea at Carlton Cafe at 5, followed by business meeting in the Parish Room. Those requiring tea must notify me on or before Tuesday, July 7th.—Fred M. Mitchell, Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

WEDDING BELLS.—There is a fairly general belief in Hertfordshire that it is unwise to have the bells rung at a wedding, for should a rope break there would be no luck afterwards for the married pair. Misfortune would dog them all the rest of their married days.—A writer in 'Notes and Queries,' A.D. 1909.

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FRIDAY, JULY 3rd, 1942.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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These famous bell-founding firms have kindly consented to this adaptation of their advertisements to meet the pressure on our space, due to the compulsory reduction in the number of our pages this week.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

The Ringers' Conference has had bad luck. For it to be completely successful it was necessary not only that ringers should take a great interest in it at the start, but also that nothing should happen to lessen that interest, or create anything in the nature of an anti-climax.

The first condition was obtained readily enough and the Conference started on its way with the best of prospects. But then came the unfortunate death of its chairman, Mr. John Goldsmith, and at the same time when the item on the agenda was reached which everybody was expecting to provide the greatest amount of interest and excitement, it turned out to be very much of a damp squib. There had been quite a lot of hinting at the need for drastic alterations in the organisation of the Exercise and the great advantages to be derived from a National Association, but when it came to the point, no one came forward with any definite proposals, or even expressed whole-hearted belief in the necessity for change. It is a rather dull job to defend things as they are, especially when they are not seriously attacked, and so the debate turned out to be rather disappointing, and interest sensibly waned.

In these circumstances we have decided that it is advisable to publish what remain of the 'speeches' sent to us and to bring the Conference to an end, rather than run the risk of it fizzling out. That does not mean, in any way, that we intend to closure discussion on any of the subjects which have been mentioned. Quite the contrary. Our columns are just as freely open for the expression of opinion and we shall welcome it. The only difference will be that it will be published in the normal form of letters to the Editor, and without the restrictions of the 'rules of debate.'

There remain some items on the agenda which have not been reached. It may seem rather discourteous to the men who gave notice of them, if we do not let them be discussed before winding up the Conference, but we hope they will not take it so. We have no trace of any of their 'speeches,' and if they were sent they have unfortunately been lost. But any views these gentlemen would like to express we will gladly publish. One of the resolutions concerned the future of 'The Ringing World,' but that is a matter which has now passed from the realms of academic conjecture to stern reality, and the fact has been recognised by the mover and seconder.

The Conference has not been a complete success, but it certainly has not been a failure. It was always an experiment in which there was risk of a fiasco, but with better luck it would, we think, have pulled through

(Continued on page 302.)

triumphantly. As it was, it did something to elicit opinion and maintain interest, and to do that is worth, in these days, running risks. We may now say that the whole idea, both in its inception and its execution, was largely Mr. Goldsmith's. He did not sign the letter which first suggested the scheme, but the thought was conceived in his sick room, and he worked out the details himself. It was the last thing connected with change ringing in which he took an interest. Even after he had entirely turned the leader writing of 'The Ringing World' and the editing of the paper over to other hands, he still controlled this, for he felt that it had great possibilities of good for change ringing and the Exercise at large.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, June 20, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,
At 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5021 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16½.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 1-2	† JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6
* MRS. E. K. FLETCHER ... 3-4	GEORGE W. FLETCHER ... 7-8
† KENNETH S. B. CROFT ... 9-10	

Composed by HENRY JOHNSON. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER
* 100th handbell peal. † 50th peal. ‡ First peal of Grandsire Caters on handbells.

DAGENHAM, ESSEX.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Sunday, June 21, 1942, in One Hour and Fifty Minutes,

At 106, GAY GARDENS,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

LEONARD W. BULLOCK ... 1-2	JAMES A. BULLOCK ... 3-4
THOMAS H. BULLOCK ... 5-6	

Conducted by THOMAS H. BULLOCK.

First peal as conductor. A birthday compliment to James A. Bullock.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, June 24, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

At 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 16½.

* MRS. E. K. FLETCHER ... 1-2	JOHN THOMAS ... 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4	THOMAS W. LEWIS ... 7-8

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* 350th peal.

WITNESHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

(ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY.)

On Sunday, June 28, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

At UPPER STREET.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16.

GEORGE A. FLEMING ... 1-2	CHARLES J. SEDGELEY ... 5-6
HOBART E. SMITH ... 3-4	WILLIAM J. G. BROWN ... 7-8

Composed by DAN PAENTICE. Conducted by CHAS. J. SEDGELEY

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have a considerable amount of data on chimes and chime tunes, originally collected with object of producing a book on the subject. Part has already been published in other journals, but I never submitted any to 'The Ringing World' as being a subject rather outside the scope of this paper. I should be pleased to write on this matter if the Editor thinks fit. In the meantime, if Mr. F. M. Taylor cares to write to me direct, I shall be happy to help in any way I can with this subject.

ERNEST MORRIS.

24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

[Anything from Mr. Morris is always welcome. A discussion on chimes would be very interesting, but must not be technical, and we cannot print musical notation.—Editor 'The Ringing World.']

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

VISIT TO HERTFORDSHIRE.

Last Saturday, by kind invitation of the local ringers, the Ancient Society of College Youths held its meeting at Bushey in Hertfordshire, and the experiment of paying a visit to an outlying district turned out to be a brilliant success. Besides those members who regularly go to the meetings at Whitechapel, there were many from widely separated parts of the country and some most welcome guests. These included Mr. George Fletcher, Mrs. Fletcher and Mr. W. J. Nudds, of the Society of Cumberlands, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin A. Barnett, Mrs. Deal, Mrs. Cashmore, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Jennings, Mrs. Mayne and Mrs. Strickland. The Oxford University Society was well represented by Miss Patricia Scaddan, Messrs. J. E. Spice and W. L. B. Leese and Lieut. Gibbons.

The Master presided at the business meeting and was supported by the hon. secretary, Mr. A. B. Peck, and the hon. treasurer, Mr. A. A. Hughes. Among members present were Messrs. J. H. Shepherd, H. Hoskins, C. W. Roberts, E. C. S. Turner, F. Collins, G. N. Price, C. H. Kippin, J. E. L. Cockey, J. A. Trollope, R. F. Deal, H. Cashmore, E. Jennings, C. Mayne, H. Hodgetts, F. Smith, J. Strickland, K. Arthur, W. Whitehead, T. Fox, W. Williams, A. Bennett, J. Prior, J. Thomas, W. H. Passmore, S. H. Hoare, C. George and I. Attwater.

The Rector of Bushey welcomed the society and congratulated the members on their efforts to keep alive interest in the art of change ringing. He had heard a lot about the College Youths and was pleased to meet them. He mentioned the good work his own band were doing on handbells.

The Master mentioned the recent deaths of two members, Mr. C. Gordon and Mr. Ernest Brett, and the society paid tribute to their memory.

Mr. Trollope read part of a letter which had reached him that morning. It was written by the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith to be delivered after his death. In it the writer asked that his last greetings and farewell should be given to all his ringing friends, and he expressed the hope that ringing would soon come back to its own.

A report was received from Mr. D. G. Clift of the handbell peal in Wales, and the Master congratulated the band through Mr. Wilfrid Williams.

Mr. F. E. A. Young referred to the leading article in 'The Ringing World' on the ban. The late Editor had set a high standard and one difficult to follow. He would like to congratulate the writer of this article and asked the Master's permission to read the concluding paragraph. An excellent finish to a fine article.

The secretary was asked to send congratulations to Mr. G. R. Pye, who reached his 70th birthday on Tuesday.

The Master proposed a vote of thanks to the Bushey company, especially Mr. Cashmore and Mr. Jennings, for their invitation and great welcome. It was very nice to feel they had such friends. Mr. Young seconded the resolution and it was carried unanimously.

After the tea the Master thanked Mrs. Cashmore, Mrs. Jennings and their lady helpers.

During the afternoon and evening there was much handbell ringing, most of it of good quality. It included Grandsire Triples, Bob Major and Royal, Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques, Double Norwich Major and London and Cambridge Surprise Major.

GRAMOPHONE RECORDS FROM CHURCH TOWERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Can you or any of your readers please tell me if there is a loophole in the present restrictions governing the use of church bells which permits a church to play records of bellringing from its tower? Holy Trinity Church in this town regularly puts on these records before Sunday services, and I have been asked why is this allowed and why cannot I get permission to ring our Parish Church bells and so give the real stuff. I know the answer to the latter, but what is the answer to the former?

I should also be interested to hear if such records are being 'broadcast' from other churches about the country where they have the necessary apparatus.

WILLIAM DYER, Ringing Master, St. Mary's, Cheltenham.
69, Gloucester Road, Cheltenham, Glos.

SOME CORRECTIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The first handbell peal in Wales was rung at Welslupol, Montgomeryshire, in February, 1897. The peal at Gilwern was the first Major on handbells in the Principality.

A. P. Goddard was alive and well on the far side of British Columbia when I last heard from Vancouver. He rang in the Abingdon peal.

The personal statements made by the late James W. Washbrook to Canon Coleridge in 1889 and to James H. Shepherd in 1890 require consideration with Washbrook's letter to 'The Bell News' early in 1890.

There is no doubt that an entirely new composition was rung at Braughing. See Robinson's book, 'Among the Bells,' and William Willet's report of the Herta tour in 'The Bell News.'

W. H. FUSSELL.

19, Farnburn Avenue, Slough.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

As explained in our leading article, we find it advisable to close the Ringers' Conference, and we print below the remainder of the 'speeches' that have reached us. They are in continuance of Mr. C. T. Coles' resolution.

'That this Conference is of the opinion that the present basis of the organisation of ringing societies has resulted in great advancement in the art of change ringing; has stimulated interest in ringing matters generally; and has caused very considerable additions to the number of ringing peals of bells in the country. It further registers its belief that with the loyal help of all ringers, the present associations and the Central Council are capable of overcoming post-war difficulties.'

DUTY TO THE CHURCH.

Mr. T. H. REEVES, Birmingham: As regards a National Association, at the moment I am opposed to it, and for the very obvious reason that up to the present nothing has been advanced in its favour that could not be obtained through our present diocesan guilds and associations and the Central Council, except perhaps the very doubtful benefit of a unified subscription. A National Association could only function according to the authority given to it by the members, and that is what our present Central Council does to-day. I cannot agree with Mr. Trollope's remarks that ringers have flatly refused to submit themselves to any authority. After all, every association has its rules, and all its members must submit to and obey them. A National Association must have an efficient central organisation which would have to be paid for out of members' subscriptions, and I am afraid that even a modest 5s. per annum subscription would prove very difficult to collect. Personally, I am of the opinion that 50 per cent. of the ringers of the country are not interested in any association, and 75 per cent. are not interested in any association outside their own diocesan association, and so I feel sure that the remaining 25 per cent. would not be able to run and finance a national organisation.

As regards the future, most things connected with ringing can be left to take care of themselves until after the war. The most urgent matter I would suggest is the continuance of 'The Ringing World.' We are all agreed that we must have a journal, and so arrangements should be made now to keep it going during the war period, and should be the immediate business of the Central Council after the war to arrange for its continuance on a sound financial basis.

Another thing which should receive our serious thought now is our present attitude to church matters. I would commend the speech made by Mr. R. Richardson when seconding the motion. Ringers like to be considered as Church workers and an integral part of Church organisations, yet I wonder how many ringers attend the Sunday services to-day that they regularly used to ring for prior to the war. How can we expect to receive the help and sympathy of the clergy and church officials after the war when they see so few of us at the services now? The Church itself is passing through difficult times and we should do all we can by our presence and support to keep it going. Then after the war we may reasonably expect, and I feel sure will receive, the assistance of the clergy in finding new recruits for the befrieries, which I think might be obtained from the various youth clubs connected with the Church.

In conclusion, it is my opinion that the present ringers' organisations will accomplish far more by their local interests to revive change ringing after the war than could any National Association.

WORK OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

Miss BRENDA M. RICHARDSON, Sundridge: In considering how far the present organisations meet the needs of the day let us consider what we would wish them to do. It is no good for ringers to sit back and say that the Central Council is no good because it has not met since the beginning of the war. What would we as individual ringers have wished it to do at meetings which it has not done without them? We all know of Mr. Fletcher's work in trying to get the ban lifted; he could have done no more if the Council had met, he could have done no more as representative of a National Association. The analysis of peals rung in 1940 has shown us that the Central Council does not depend solely on its meetings to get its work done. There is at the present one outstanding question for the Council to settle, namely, the future of 'The Ringing World,' and we know that this matter has been and is under consideration, for have we not recently received a letter signed by many Council members asking for the support of the associations? We would not wish the Central Council to put ringing before the war effort. Even a National Association would not be justified in doing that.

There are doubtless other things which need consideration. The question of subscriptions for peals might well find a place on the first post-war agenda, but this is not the time to upset the organisation which has served us so well for the last fifty years. Let us by all means repair our house, but let us leave rebuilding till we are once more at peace.

Mr. EDWIN BARNETT, Crayford: Mr. A. H. Smith makes a very rash statement when he refers to the balances held by some associations, and then goes on to say they are tied up doing nothing.

Like many other people who have said the same thing at various times, he has apparently looked no farther on the balance sheets than the total worth of the associations concerned, taking no account of the interest those balances have earned and how they have been expended.

For example, my own association, whose assets for a number of years have been just over or under, as the case may be, £1,000.

How does he (and they) think our Benevolent Fund and our Belfry Repair Fund could exist and do what they do but for the interest that balance earns? (And no one has ever appealed to either of these funds in vain.)

We have five districts, and in each of these we provide a free tea at one meeting and half travelling expenses at another. If we were unable to do this, how many members, and youthful ones in particular, would be prevented from attending? It is our extra income again which makes this possible.

Also at our annual general meeting we provide a free lunch, or, as at the last one, a free tea and 2s. 6d. travelling expenses.

I venture to submit that no one can say with truth a large balance does nothing towards the advancement of ringing.

A SECULAR BODY?

Mr. A. BIGLEY: In the arguments for a National Society, it is said, 'Surely it lies with its members whether it becomes a secular body or not.' It lies with the members, the success or otherwise, of any organisation.

Then with regard to finance it is said, 'If the many balances, large and small, of the various societies were pooled under one fund a good deal could be done, etc., etc.' Now many of the good balances have been built up by the untiring work of branch secretaries and real live members, working together for years, for the good of their guild. Also much has been invested with the Government to help finance the war. After following on the heels of a real good branch secretary, I have found, or learned, that for complete success the personal touch is needed. How is a National Society to get in subscriptions if the local secretaries find it difficult to gather them all in? Besides, most guilds are made up of many free members.

In my opinion, any funds which could be disposed of could be used in a benevolent fund to help local members who have subscribed and now need a little assistance.

Instead of a National Society, we might call the Central Council a National Ringers' Council, and if all pull their weight in the present guilds we should have all we want to hold us together.

A DIOCESAN ORGANISATION.

Mr. W. W. WOLSTENCROFT: I should like to give my opinion on the question under discussion re a National Association. The title, to my mind, savours too much of the commercial and trade union aspect. The advantages and benefits we have received during the lifetime of the existing organisations are great and manifold and are greatly appreciated by all enthusiastic ringers and cannot lightly be put aside, while at the same time I believe much could be done to improve our present position as a living organisation.

It is my candid opinion that if any alteration should take place in our present system, it should be of a wholly diocesan character and void of any sporty, club or pothouse element. The towers, churches and bells—as was very forcibly put in the leading article of June 5th—are the sole property of the Church, and their use is vested in and is at the absolute discretion of the incumbent in whose care they are placed.

I would make it a point that all ringers be members of the Church, just as we find choirmen, organists, wardens, etc., joint workers together in a common cause.

Where dioceses are found too large to be worked by one secretary they could be sub-divided similarly to our existing county associations. A Central Council (till a better title could be found) could be appointed from the various dioceses, with a much smaller and more effective power than the present altogether too large one. This would reduce the financial burden of the various dioceses.

The objectionable system of paying for a ring on any given peal of bells would be done away with, as all would be rung under the Church's auspices and not under any one geographical area or society.

Whether the Exercise should take over the publication of 'The Ringing World' should not be done without careful thought, and only then if it was found impossible to carry on by the present owners. If I am not digressing too much I would suggest a charge be made for the entry of every peal rung, similar to the charges for advertisements of meetings. This would largely meet the taunt so often levelled at peal ringers, who occupy much valuable space in 'The Ringing World.' Peal reports could then be abolished from diocesan annual reports, which would free the secretaries from much time expended on their preparation.

I am fully conscious that to bring about any radical change seems insurmountable—like the decree on the ban on ringing by the Government; once made, it would take all the powers that be to alter it, even though it were shown to be defective in administration.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

It may interest Service ringers in Ripon to know that there is a weekly practice at the Black Bull, Market Square, on Mondays, 7.30 to 9 p.m.

In an air raid on Norwich last week three churches were destroyed and others damaged. In an East Coast town a twelfth century church was burned out and only the reredos now stands undamaged. The spire collapsed 15 minutes after incendiaries were showered on the building. Some of the bells crashed from the tower, and others were melted by the heat of the flames. It is not permissible to publish further details at present.

Although Canterbury Cathedral escaped a direct hit by high explosives in the raid on May 31st, many of its windows were blown out. The damage is estimated at thousands of pounds.

Incendiaries fell on the roof, but these were dealt with before they could set the Cathedral alight.

Two young ringers took part in a handbell peal recorded this week. Leonard W. Bullock is twelve years of age, and Thomas H. Bullock, the conductor, fifteen and a half.

Will Mr. Charles Turner, of Dover, kindly send his address to the editorial office?

At a Yorkshire meeting last week, when subscriptions were asked for, two members of a band unknown to each other each handed over the subscriptions of the whole company. A sign of a good team spirit.

Col. Sir Robert Williams, vice-president of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, and the oldest Freemason in the United Kingdom, celebrated his 94th birthday on June 16th.

The first peal of Northampton Surprise Major was rung at Oswaldtwistle on June 28th, 1921.

On June 30th, 1833, Mr. Elijah Roberts, of the St. Martin's Company, Birmingham, tapped 'on a Musical set of Hand Bells, fixed in a frame and remained so for the whole performance, a complete Peal of that admired system, Steadman's Cinques, comprising 5,016 changes, composed by himself and conducted by Mr. Henry Cooper, and was accurately rung in a most masterly style in three hours and twenty-four minutes.'

On July 1st, 1931, the Middlesex County Association rang at St. Mary's, Ealing, a peal in twelve Spliced Surprise Major methods. This, which for the time being is the highest point to which method ringing has reached, was conducted by William Pye.

The ringers present at the funeral of the late Mr. W. E. White wish to express their thanks to Mr. Walter White and daughter for their kind hospitality afterwards.

'THE BELLRINGER.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was surprised to read your comments on 'The Bellringer' and the late Mr. W. Willson in the current issue of 'The Ringing World.' 'The Bellringer' was owned by W. E. Hunt and Marshall Bros., the printers. Mr. Willson was a contributor in addition to writing the various leaders from time to time. The paper was brought out in Manchester, where I resided for some considerable time.

I have previously dealt in the pros and cons as to the ceasing of the publication. Honorary fees were passed on to Mr. Willson for his work when funds permitted, but were not insisted upon, in order to foster the paper's progression. I have by me still all editorial letters, blocks and business correspondence at that period and general material for such a publication transacted by me and which advertisers can verify.

I have no axe to grind, but I should like to remove that wrong impression that is so general.

W. C. HUNT, late Editor of 'The Bellringer.'

Beeston, Notts.

[We very much regret our inaccurate statement, and hope Mr. Hunt will accept our apology. Our excuse must be that we were writing from memory after the lapse of many years, and were repeating what certainly was very generally believed at the time and since.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World.']

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT PRESTWICH.

The committee of the Lancashire Association met at Prestwich on June 20th, and at the same time a meeting of the Manchester Branch was held. The tower bells were started soon after 3 p.m. and kept going until train time with intervals on the handbells.

About 25 members sat down to tea and others came along after. In addition to the committee there were members from Ashton, Didsbury, Town Hall, Prestwich, Accrington, Cheshire, and several unattached.

Mr. F. Reynolds offered to take over the office of the branch secretary vacant by the lamented death of Mr. F. Reynolds.

The Rector (the Rev. Canon Paton Williams) met the members in the churchyard and gave a welcome. During the afternoon touches in the four standard methods were rung.

Brookfield, Gorton, was selected for the next meeting on July 18th.

MR. GEORGE R. PYE.

SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY.

Mr. George R. Pye, known to his intimates as Bob, was 70 years of age last Tuesday, June 30th.

Bob is now sole survivor of the famous band of brothers who made much ringing history over a period of many years. His own peal list, whilst not as imposing as that of his brother William, contains several novel features. There are 1,701 peals on tower bells and 177 on handbells, a grand total of 1,878; which includes 360 conducted (25 on handbells).

A total of 288 twelve-bell peals includes 98 peals of Maximus (two on handbells) and 190 of Cinques (44 on handbells). The peals of Maximus include 86 of Surprise, which is, we believe, a record. These Surprise Maximus peals were rung in 40 towers. This is certainly a record.

Many other interesting details could be stated, but the main features are 239 peals of London Surprise Major, including five on handbells, 213 of Superlative Surprise Major (8 on handbells), 202 of Bristol Surprise Major, (3 on handbells), 195 of Cambridge Surprise Major, 97 of Cambridge Surprise Royal, and 44 of Spliced Surprise Major, Royal and Maximus. The peals have been rung in 562 towers, in 57 counties and with 1,080 ringers.

Among the many famous performances in which Bob Pye has taken part are the following: 15,312 Cambridge Surprise Maximus

at Ashton-under-Lyne, 7,392 in the same method at St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, and 5,280 at Exeter Cathedral; 10,440 Cambridge Surprise Royal at St. Mary's, Walthamstow; 11,111 Stedman Cinques at St. Martin's, Birmingham; 18,027 Stedman Caters at All Saints', Loughborough; 15,264 Bristol Surprise Major at Hornchurch; 14,112 London Surprise Major at King's Norton; 15,072 Double Norwich at Erith; and 5,760 Spliced Surprise Major in nine methods at Willesden. Bob was also the conductor of the existing record of 6,063 Stedman Cinques on handbells; and has rung in non-conducted peals of Superlative Surprise Major and Stedman Triples on handbells. He was also one of the band who rang peals in all numbers of Spliced Surprise Major methods from three to twelve.

For some time past Bob has not enjoyed his former good health, but he is still alert in mind and takes a keen interest in ringing matters. He is always glad of a chat about the past palmy days of ringing before the war and the ban with any of his friends who call upon him. We wish him many happy returns of the day, and trust that his health will soon permit him to take a more active part in those ringing matters which have been almost his whole interest in life.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN A. BURFORD.

PROMINENT BRISTOL RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. John A. Burford, which occurred last Friday at his residence, 7, Ryde Road, Bristol, at the age of 69.

He had been suffering for many months from cancer, but bore his illness with the same cheerful spirit as he showed among his friends during his long ringing career.

He learnt to ring at an early age at Stoke Bishop, and about the year 1900 became a member of the St. Stephen's Guild, Bristol. He had rung nearly 300 peals, of which he conducted a large number, including the first peal of Clifton Surprise Royal. He took a great interest in Cambridge Surprise Royal composition and several of his peals have been rung. He also composed several peals of Stedman Caters, one of which, a 5,019, has become extremely popular. He was conductor of the St. Stephen's Guild for many years, succeeding the late James Hinton.

Those who knew him will remember him as a solidly built ringer always to be found at the heavy end, but his complaint reduced him to a very thin and tired out man. Nevertheless, he bore his illness with fortitude and always much appreciated the visits of his friends. He leaves a widow and sons and daughters, and among Bristol ringers a memory of comradeship and work well done.



MR. GEORGE R. PYE.

THE LATE MR. J. S. GOLDSMITH.

(Continued from page 297.)

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

'The Ringing World' first appeared on March 24th, 1911. Four days later, on March 28th, died Harvey Reeves, who in February, 1881, had founded 'The Bell News.' Thus the new journal came at almost the exact moment necessary to ensure that the Exercise should not lack an organ even for a single week; for though 'The Bell News' was carried on for three or four years more, the new proprietors were completely out of touch with ringing and the Exercise. Even more so than in previous years, the paper printed just what was sent it, and as it was sent. During sixty full years only two men controlled the ringers' weekly paper; Harvey Reeves was editor of 'The Bell News' for thirty years, and John Goldsmith editor of 'The Ringing World' for thirty-one years.

The first issue of 'The Ringing World' contained sixteen pages, in contrast with the twelve which was usual with 'The Bell News,' and in general style and make-up was very similar to what it is to-day. Just about that time more peals were being rung than at any other period in the history of the art, and no fewer than 43 were recorded in the first issue. In 'The Bell News,' which appeared the next day, 39 were recorded, every one earlier than those in 'The Ringing World.' It was one of the complaints against the older paper that it never was up-to-date with its news.

THE LEADING ARTICLES.

William Willson contributed an article, 'In Lighter Vein,' in his characteristic style; and a series on leading ringers with their portraits, was begun with an account of Mr. Alfred B. Peck, then Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths. Composition was represented by an article by Mr. E. Bankes James, giving a new Bristol Surprise Royal.

To-day the most interesting feature in the paper is the leading article, which set forth at length the aims Goldsmith had in view. 'We intend,' he said, 'to use our columns for the information, the instruction, and, we hope, the elevation of all who take an interest in the Art of Change Ringing and in the business and social side of the organisations which promote that art. There are two things in the conduct of a ringing journal which ringers rightly demand, and which it is our determination to carry out. One is that the journal shall be punctually in the hands of its readers week by week, and the other that passing events shall be recorded promptly.'

THE OBJECT OF THE PAPER.

'The furtherance of the art is the first object of this paper, and all that relates to its progress will find in it the warmest support. "The Ringing World" will be open for the fair and impartial discussion of all matters appertaining to the interests of ringers. We intend to spare no pains to keep the pages of "The Ringing World" interesting to beginners, as well as to the ringers of riper experience.'

These words accurately represent the aim Goldsmith had in view, and when in after years he looked back, he could quite fairly congratulate himself on not having been false to his ideal. When he reached his thousandth number he could write: "'The Ringing World'" has from the outset had, as its principal aim, the elevation of

the art of ringing, the promotion of the interests of the Exercise, and the drawing together, through its columns, all the varied interests which are open to ringers in pursuit of both the art and the science of campanology. From first to last we have never deviated from that course.'

He especially valued the opportunity the leading article gave him of influencing opinion in the Exercise, and he was proud of the fact that no one but himself ever wrote it. Until he went on the tour to Australia in September, 1934, the series was absolutely unbroken. Then for four months the column had to be filled by another pen, but the regular leading articles were suspended and temporarily replaced by a series under another name and signed by the writer of them.

HIS LAST ARTICLES.

When he returned home Goldsmith at once resumed his leader writing; indeed, the first was written before his ship reached England, and there was no further break until, in February last year, he was suddenly taken ill and had to go into hospital for an operation. For four months the task was discharged by another, but when Goldsmith came out of hospital in June, he at once resumed writing the articles, and during the rest of the year, with two exceptions, all that appeared were from his pen. His last was the one for December 26th, and immediately after writing it he took to his bed, from which he practically never got up again.

To have written such an unbroken series of articles during so long a period was no mean feat. Many of them were written in circumstances of great difficulty and in times of trouble and anxiety. Some were dictated from a sick bed. It is not an easy job to find week by week, year in and year out, something fresh to say about ringing and worth saying. Necessarily what he wrote varied in quality, but all through he maintained a high standard and seldom was short of one idea for his readers to think about. As he wrote himself on the eve of his journey to Australia, 'few people connected with the art of ringing have had such an opportunity of directing thought and moulding opinion in the Exercise as the Editor of "The Ringing World," and the responsibility has not been lost upon him. Without egotism it may be said that the object always kept in view has been the elevation of the art and practice of change ringing, as well as the status of the ringers themselves. We hope and believe that the Art and the Exercise have on the whole benefited, as a result of what, since the year 1911, has appeared in print in this column.'

HUMOROUS SKETCHES.

Apart from the leading articles, Goldsmith's policy was to publish as many articles as space would allow, written by men who were authorities on the various subjects. He preferred for the sake of variety not to take part himself in this work, but he wrote the useful set of articles for beginners which appeared some years ago, and after the war started, and the problem of finding sufficient good stuff to fill the paper began to be acute, he contributed some excellent humorous sketches, notably those signed O.P.Q. One of the latest, a parody of the B.B.C. Brains Trust, was especially good.

We have mentioned that Mr. Goldsmith was a very fine reporter, and this gift he naturally used to the full in the service of 'The Ringing World.' He made a point of attending as many ringing meetings as possible,

(Continued on next page.)

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM E. WHITE.

WELL-KNOWN MIDLAND RINGER.

We much regret to announce the death of Mr. William E. White, of Cotgrave, Nottinghamshire, which occurred on Wednesday, June 17th, at the age of 77.

The funeral took place on June 20th, and was attended by members of the Midland Counties Association and the North Notts and Old East Derbyshire Association. As the cortege approached the church Grandsire Doubles was rung at the base of the tower on a set of five handbells in a minor key, symbolic of the tower peal in Mr. White's younger days. A course of Grandsire Triples was rung at the graveside. The committal office was read by the Rev. R. F. Wilkinson, president of the Midland Counties Association, after which sprigs of acacia were dropped on the coffin by representatives of the Masonic lodge to which deceased belonged.

Mr. White joined the Midland Counties Association in 1887 and had rung 56 peals for it. A keen and loyal member, he had been the association's secretary from 1898 to 1918, treasurer from 1931 to 1941 and for several years representative on the Central Council. He took his duties as treasurer very seriously, and it is due in no small measure to him that the association's funds are in so healthy a state as they are to-day.

Earlier in the month, as recorded in our pages, he had celebrated his golden wedding. He will be greatly missed by a large circle of friends, and especially by those who really knew him.

ALL SAINTS' BAND, ISLEWORTH.

For the third war-time annual outing of the All Saints', Isleworth, band, held on Sunday, June 14th, the band went to the picturesque Thames-side parish of Shepperton. A most enjoyable afternoon was spent on the river in skiffs and a canoe, obtained from a local boat-house, and tea was greatly appreciated after the strenuous exercise of rowing. A welcome was given to the band by the Rev. and Mrs. Shepherd-Smith at the Rectory.

Handbells were rung for the evening service at the Parish Church, the methods being Grandsire Triples and Caters and Bob Major. After attending service the band was invited to the Rectory for refreshments, and the journey back to Isleworth then completed the outing.

MR. J. S. GOLDSMITH.

(Continued from previous page.)

CENTRAL COUNCIL REPORTS.

and whenever he went to one, there was sure to be a good report of it next week. This was especially true of the big social events like the College Youths' dinner and the Henry Johnson Commemoration.

For the Central Council he rendered invaluable service. It is essential to the usefulness of that body that its debates should be published, but it is no easy matter to get a good report of the speeches. For the first meeting of all nothing could be published except the minutes. Outside reporters were tried, but they made a sad hash of things, and for some years the published reports were written by Sir Arthur Heywood from notes made by Benjamin Keeble, a ringer, but an indifferent shorthand writer.

With the advent of 'The Ringing World' the Exercise had a full and surprisingly accurate report of the speeches. For Goldsmith a Council meeting was a very hard and strenuous time. During the day-long session he sat taking down the speeches and now and then getting up to make a speech himself (he was an honorary member of the Council). He would then attend the tea and take down more speeches, and immediately rush off to his hotel to write a summary of the day's proceedings, big enough to fill a full page of 'The Ringing World,' and get it off by post to Guildford in time for the paper which was printed the next morning.

This is one of the instances where it will be hard indeed to fill his place. The Council will have to face the problem of the reporting of the debates, and 'The Ringing World' is not likely again to have an account of the Council's meeting in the next Friday's issue.

(To be continued.)

MR. J. S. GOLDSMITH'S PEALS.

A 'JOHN' PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am very interested in your account of our dear friend, the late Mr. Goldsmith, particularly his peal record for 1912, for as far as I can remember the only peals I rang with him were in that year.

Two of the peals he rang that year were of more than passing interest. One, his third peal of Stedman Cinques, was a 'John' peal. It was his own idea, and I well remember how it was arranged. We were returning from Cambridge, and Mr. Goldsmith, Cheesman and I were having a 'final one' in London before catching our respective trains home when he said to Cheesman, 'You know, Jack, there are enough Johns about to ring a peal of Stedman Cinques.' Jack Cheesman, in his quiet way, replied, 'Is there?' and between us we jotted down the names. The peal was rung a month or two later at St. Giles', Cripplegate, and was, I imagine, the last peal rung for the old Waterloo Society. Of the band, Messrs. Hesse, Thomas, Sharman, Armstrong and Neal are still living. The other 'Johns', Goldsmith, Cheesman, Carter, Oxborrow, Golding, Matthews and Truss, have passed away.

The second was his peal of Cambridge Royal. This was at St. Clement Danes' on February 29th, and was probably the only one he rang on that date.

Coming down after this peal I remarked to Bert Prewett that I was rather pleased to have rung one on that date when he replied, 'So am I, as I have now rung a peal on every date in the year.' I don't think Bert ever mentioned this to anyone else, and certainly not to Mr. Goldsmith, as it has never appeared in print as far as I can remember.

E. BARNETT.

Crayford.

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The war-time report of the General Committee of the Devonshire Guild has been issued and naturally is a small one.

'The wholehearted sympathy of the Guild,' says the committee, 'goes out to the South-West Branch in the terrible destruction wrought by enemy action in its midst last spring and particularly to the incumbents, congregations and members of the Guild at St. Andrew's, St. Charles' and other churches. As soon as the opportunity is offered, the Guild will have a great chance to extend its sympathy in the most practical way and thus show it less fortunate members in Plymouth and elsewhere the meaning of fellowship.'

We regret to record the deaths of the Rev. H. P. F. Scott, chairman of the N.D. Branch, and Mr. J. Woodley, of Emmanuel, Plymouth, a member of the General Committee and a staunch supporter of the Guild.

'The Exeter Branch have held four meetings, and the Aylesbeare Deanery and North-East one each with encouraging results. A certain amount of useful work has been done with handbells and the spirit of comradeship has been kept alive. Mr. C. R. Lilley has now rung a peal on every day of the year. We heartily congratulate him.'

Forty-seven members of the Guild are in the Forces.'

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT DEREHAM.

A very successful meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held at Dereham on Saturday, June 20th. The eight bells, deftly tied by Mr. Secker, were soon going to Bob Major, Kent and Double Norwich, and so good was the ringing that it did not worry folk outside the tower in the least when the tenors got parted. Handbells were also much in demand.

Twenty-nine members attended from Attleborough, Aylsham, Bergh Apton, Buxton, Caston, Dereham, Gorleston, Gressenhall, King's Lynn, Long Stratton, Norwich, Mulbarton and Wymondham. The Vicar, Canon Baumer, preached at the service, at which the president, the Rev. A. St. J. Heard, assisted.

Despite all difficulties, a splendid tea was provided by Mrs. Ames, helped by a willing band of ladies, in the Church House. At the business meeting which followed, a letter was read from Mr. Nolan Golden, whom his friends soon hope to see in the flesh again. A most helpful discussion followed about the financial state of 'The Ringing World,' which showed that the association is most anxious to do all it can to help to ease the situation; the desirability of working towards this in conjunction with all the associations was stressed.

Members stood in silence as a tribute of respect to the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith.

Mr. Corby was elected a non-resident life member of the association. It was arranged to hold the next meeting at Attleborough on October 3rd if possible. The president thanked the Vicar, Canon Baumer, for the use of the bells and for preaching at the service; the curate for playing the organ, Mrs. Ames and her helpers for the splendid tea, and Mr. Secker for tying the clappers. Through the kindness of the Vicar, members were able to play bowls, as well as ring, after the business meeting.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-. For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

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All communications should be sent to **THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.**

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn District.—A meeting will be held at Rishton on Saturday, July 4th. Tower bells (8) ready at 3 p.m. Handbells provided. Bring food. Cups of tea served in school.—R. Leigh, R. Blakey, C. Sharples.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 4th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual meeting will be held in the Clergy House, Doncaster, on Saturday, July 4th. Committee meeting 3.30. General meeting 4 o'clock. Handbells available.—E. Cooper, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Woodford on Saturday, July 11th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service at 4.15 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Those requiring tea kindly let me know by July 8th. All are welcome.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The summer meeting will be held at Queensbury on Saturday, July 11th. An attractive ramble will start from the schools at 3 o'clock. Tea (1s. 6d.) in Schools at 5 o'clock, followed by business meeting. Names for tea to Mr. C. Ellison, 9, Hazeldene, Queensbury, by Tuesday, July 7th. All welcome.—Frank Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Tonbridge on Saturday, July 11th. Committee meeting in the Parish Room at 3 o'clock. Service in church at 4.30, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. F. Childs. Tea at Carlton Cafe at 5, followed by business meeting in the Parish Room. Those requiring tea must notify me on or before Tuesday, July 7th.—Fred M. Mitchell, Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Cranford on Saturday, July 11th. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow for those only who notify me previously.—H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell, Northants.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Joint meeting of the Leicester and Hinckley Districts at Earl Shilton on Saturday, July 11th. Silent ringing 3.30 at Church. Tea at 5, but only for those who send their names to Mr. G. Newton, 26, Avenue South, Earl Shilton. Handbells in school after tea.—H. W. Perkins, W. A. Ward, Dis. Secs.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual business meeting will be held at Oxford on Saturday, July 18th, at 3.15 p.m., in the Rectory Room, Pembroke Street, St. Aldate's. Tea will be provided at 1s. 6d. each for all members who apply for ticket, accompanied by remittance, by Saturday, July 11th. This is essential, owing to difficulties in catering. A collection will be taken at tea for Guild Restoration Fund. Service in St. Aldate's Church at 5 p.m. A good attendance is earnestly requested.—R. T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Brookfield Church, Gorton, on Saturday, July 18th. Meeting at 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea at 5 p.m. Those who require tea must send in names not later than July 15th to Mr. E. F. Mawby, 4, Linton Avenue, Thornley Park, Denton, Manchester.—W. H. Shuker, 36, Colwyn Avenue, Fallowfield, Manchester 14.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—A meeting of this division will be held at Shalford on Saturday, July 18th. Handbells available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Please bring own eatables for tea, cups of tea will be provided. Good bus service from Braintree and Deanery Corner, Bocking. Please make every effort to attend.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES PARISH CHURCH.—Arrangements have been made to recommence weekly practices on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m., from July 7th next.—H. W. Barrett, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. T. F. King has removed from Bath to The Beeches, Chilcote, Wells, Somerset.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**VISIT TO IDLE.**

The Leeds and District Society's June meeting was held at Idle on Saturday, and once again a late start was tried to allow those who had been working late to attend. Handbells were soon heard in a touch of Minor.

Tea for drinking was supplied by the local company at 6 p.m., and handbells were again rung until the business meeting at 7 p.m.

Mr. J. F. Harvey presided and members were present from Armley, Bradford, Shipley and the local company. A vote of thanks to the local company was proposed by Mr. F. Rayment and seconded by Mr. L. W. G. Morris. Mr. Rayment referred to his early days in Yorkshire, when he came to live in Idle, and said the local company looked after him and welcomed him in a manner which spoke well for the future of ringing in the neighbourhood. Mr. Morris said the Idle ringers always gave a hearty welcome to any visitors. Mr. T. Hill, replying, said that he and his colleagues did what they could, and if the visitors were happy they were amply repaid.

The next meeting will be held at Drighlington on July 25th.

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COMMEMORATION.

In a recent letter published in our columns Mr. Albert Walker referred to the great services Mr. Goldsmith had rendered to the Exercise, and he went on to ask the question, What memorial can we set up to his memory?

It is a question which, we do not doubt, has been in the minds of many ringers during the past few weeks, and to answer it Mr. Walker made two suggestions which are worthy of consideration.

The first thing to do, he said, is to secure for all time, by every means in our power, the continuity and success of 'The Ringing World,' which Goldsmith had founded and to which he devoted over thirty years' service. With that, we feel sure, all our readers will cordially agree. In recent years there have been few ringers, who when they passed away left names comparable to Mr. Goldsmith's, that have not had a memorial raised to them by the Exercise, sometimes involving the expenditure of hundreds of pounds. What the Exercise has done for them it surely will be anxious to do for him, especially as by so doing it will benefit itself. Support therefore should be given to the committee of the Central Council which has the matter in hand; financial support, if and when it is asked for, and moral support, which must take the form of backing them up in any scheme which they may bring forward either for temporary or for permanent operation. No memorial would have given greater satisfaction to Goldsmith himself than the preservation of 'The Ringing World.'

But Mr. Walker went on to make a second suggestion, and he proposes that an annual commemoration service and a pilgrimage to the grave in Pyrford churchyard should be held each year in June. It is an interesting suggestion, and how far it would be practicable we cannot say. Obviously it would have to wait until the end of the war before it could fully materialise. Though at first sight it may seem a novel one, the idea is universal and deep seated in human nature. For untold centuries people have been making pilgrimages to the last resting places of great men, and no small amount of history and legend centres round these pilgrimages. There are shrines and holy places scattered all over the world, and not only saints are so honoured. In peace time every year thousands go to Stratford-on-Avon to gaze on the plain slab of stone before the high altar in the church, beneath which lies the body of Shakespeare; and to no small proportion of those who visit Westminster, the Abbey is not so much a glorious church as the sepulchre of the mighty dead.

(Continued on page 310.)

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Already we have in the Exercise something of the same idea. Yearly at Birmingham and in Yorkshire the memories of Henry Johnson and Jasper Snowdon are honoured. To the majority of ringers both men are but names, for those who knew either in the flesh are few and are getting fewer every year. But they are names that signify much in the story of the Exercise. In their day they did good work which has lasted, and change ringing would not have been what it is without them. It is well, then, that they should be had in remembrance, nor is John Goldsmith less worthy, and we hope it may be found possible to carry out in some form or other Mr. Walker's suggestion.

Let us now praise famous men and our fathers that begat us.

The Lord hath wrought great glory by them, through his power, from the beginning.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The decision to end the Conference (as such) is to be deplored, but without a full knowledge of the circumstances which led you to make such a decision it would not only be futile, it would be foolish to challenge the wisdom of such an action. At the same time, it is to be hoped that ringers will take full advantage of the opportunity, still open, of discussing the many interesting subjects placed on the Conference agenda. One in particular I would like to see fully discussed, that proposed by Mr. Turner and seconded by Mr. Barnett.

The resolution which was under discussion at the time the Conference was closed through the lamented death of Mr. John Goldsmith is one which, I think, should have stimulated a great deal of interest. In actual fact, it gave to the advocates of a National Association a fine opportunity of pushing their ideas, but it says little for their enthusiasm that they have so far failed to take advantage of the Conference discussion, and we are still awaiting some real proposals to work upon or to attack.

If the Conference (as such) must end, the discussion can still go on, and I ask those who are inclined to support the proposal to form a National Association to make up their minds what they want, let us know what they want, and perhaps we shall get somewhere. In any case, Mr. Editor, as the proposer of the resolution I still hope to reply.

C. T. COLES.

21, Vincent Road, Highams Park, E.4.

THOUGHTS ON FUTURE PROBLEMS.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE CLERGY.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The letter published in a recent issue under the above heading certainly provokes a great deal of thought. The future of the Exercise will not be guaranteed by making it attractive to recruits in the ways mentioned; bellringing is and must remain a service to the Church, and will not flourish if allowed to lapse into a sport and pastime for those whose only aim is to ring for their own pleasure. The foundation of post-war ringing must be built upon local bands whose first aim is to ring their own bells well for their own Sunday services. The standard of ringing must not be lowered for the sake of procuring recruits, for young people who are really interested will put up with quite a lot of correction even if it is given in the customary noisy manner. To rush beginners into the belfry to ring without adequate instruction will do more harm than good.

The solution of the problems that lie before us will only be found if we create an interest in ringing among the clergy, many of whom know nothing of our art and whose bells are now silent, and whose ringers have been called away. It is common knowledge that most persons do not appreciate the difficulties that lie ahead; they say that the bells have been rung regularly in the past and they will be so rung again. And there are others who are not concerned about the bells being rung at all.

Some of our parishes are fortunate enough to have a young and energetic curate who has a large following among the younger people. It is very seldom that he is a ringer, and, apart from wanting to take the youngsters to the top of the tower to have a look round, goes no further to make them ringing-minded. It is to these younger clergymen that we should direct our appeals, and, sir, could not the columns of your contemporaries, the church newspapers, be sometimes used for this purpose? By this means future ringers will be found more easily and there will be a much greater chance of retaining them in the tower.

To ensure the continuation of our art we must seek greater co-operation between ringers and the clergy. The latter should recognise ringers to be church workers as much as they do sidesmen and choir-men, and, in return, ringers must be prepared to play their part by putting service before pleasure.

C. W. MUNDAY.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

*On Friday, June 26, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
At BRAYSTONES, SOUTHBOURNE,*

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 15 in D.

* HERBERT A. MITCHELL ... 1-2 | ARTHUR V. DAVIS ... 5-6
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4 | † JOSCELIN M. TURNER ... 7-8

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* First peal 'in hand.' † First peal of Triples on handbells.

PRESTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

*On Monday, June 29, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,
In THE BELFRY OF THE PARISH CHURCH,*

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

WILLIAM TAYLOR... 1-2 | C. KENNETH LEWIS ... 5-5
CYRIL CROSSTHWAITE... 3-4 | E. ROGER MARTIN ... 7-8

Composed and Conducted by C. K. LEWIS.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

*On Tuesday, June 30, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,
In THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,*

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

HAROLD J. POOLE... 1-2 | PERCY L. HARRISON ... 5-6
G. STEDMAN MORRIS ... 3-4 | ERNEST MORRIS ... 7-8

JOSIAH MORRIS ... 9-10

Composed by JOHN CARTER (No. 220 BROADSHEET).

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Specially rung to mark the 75th birthday of Mr. Josiah Morris (father of E. and G. S. Morris). He is to be congratulated on the way he rang his bells throughout the peal.

RADLEY, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

*On Wednesday, July 1, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirteen Minutes,
At THE SCHOOL HOUSE,*

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in D.

* WILLIAM C. PORTER... 1-2 | WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 5-6
JOHN E. SPICE ... 3-4 | MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by WILLIAM L. B. LEESE.

* First peal of Major 'in hand' away from the tenors. First attempt to conduct a peal of Major.

HAVERCROFT, WAKEFIELD, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

*On Thursday, July 2, 1942, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,
At 36, BRIAR LANE,*

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 1-2 | PETER WOODWARD ... 5-6
HAROLD CHANT ... 3-4 | RAYMOND FORD ... 7-8

Conducted by CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

*On Thursday, July 2, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Nine Minutes,
In ST. PETER'S HALL,*

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 15 in C.

* GERALD BROMLEY ... 1-2 | ARTHUR V. DAVIS ... 5-6
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4 | FRANCIS S. WILSON ... 7-8

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* First peal in the method and of Triples. Mr. Bromley was proposed a member of the Guild before starting the peal.

AN OLD RULE.—For the better regulation of this our fraternity, we do hereby agree that we remain in the belfry during pleasure; and then for the further pleasure and benefit of conversation adjourn to any house the company shall choose, and tarry there till the hour of ten, and no longer.—From Pelwehe's 'History of Devon,' 1742.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.**JOINT MEETING AT HAGLEY PARK.**

The decision of the St. Martin's Guild to accept the invitation of the Worcester and Districts Association to hold a joint quarterly meeting with them at Hagley Park, Worcestershire, on Saturday, June 27th, proved an unequalled success, the weather being ideal for the occasion. Hagley Hall is the seat of Viscount Cobham, Lord Lieutenant for the City and County of Worcester, and is ideally situated in Hagley Park. The family name is Lyttelton, and it is said that on one occasion eleven members of the family challenged all England at cricket and the match was played on the cricket pitch in Hagley Park. There was a cricket match in progress on the occasion of our visit, and the only reminder of war conditions was the absence of the sound of the church bells. The church is situated in the park, and while some indulged in silent practice on the tower bells, some rang handbells and others wandered over the park or watched the cricket match. In all 88 members of the two societies attended, together with a number of ladies.

The tea arrangements were in the hands of Mr. B. C. Ashford, secretary of the Northern Branch of the Worcester Association, and right well he did his job. This was served al fresco fashion by the local company of Boy Scouts, and their motto was prompt and smiling service.

The Guild's short business meeting followed, presided over by the Master, Councillor Paddon Smith, J.P., the secretary's table being a fallen elm tree with a girth of about 3ft. 6in. The first business was to refer to the death of John S. Goldsmith. In his tribute the Master remarked that in the passing of Mr. Goldsmith the Exercise in general had sustained a serious loss and the St. Martin's Guild a valued member and a sincere friend. He was always happy to visit Birmingham, for he had many friends in the Guild. His great services to the Exercise in carrying on 'The Ringing World' for so many years would never be appreciated at their full value. It had never been a financial success, yet week by week it had been published through his enthusiasm and self-sacrificing efforts. He asked all to stand for a moment in silence as a last mark of respect.

Mr. Smith stated that everyone knew it was essential that the Exercise should have a periodical. For the next few weeks the publication of 'The Ringing World' had been guaranteed by members of the Central Council, but in due course a scheme would be put before the Exercise to put it on a sound financial basis, which he hoped they would all support.

Mr. K. Salter, of Kidderminster, and Mr. D. Watson, of Stourbridge, were duly elected life members of the Guild.

When the place of next meeting was considered there was some competition, three places being proposed. It was decided to hold it at Erdington on Saturday, September 28th, instead of the first Saturday in October, which is the usual date.

Mr. Albert Walker, proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the entertaining association, said how pleasant it was to hold a meeting under such ideal conditions and surroundings. Their thanks were due to Mr. Ashford, who had so ably provided the food, and to the local company of Boy Scouts for their energy and enthusiasm in serving it, and to Mr. Fred Molineaux, of the Hagley tower, for having the bells ready. All had contributed in making the meeting so successful.

Mr. William Short referred to the old associations the St. Martin's Guild had with Hagley, stating that the Guild rang the first peal on the bells some 54 years ago.

Among the many visitors who were present were Mr. W. H. Barber, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, an old and highly respected member of the Guild, Mr. W. J. Davidson, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, now serving in the Royal Corps of Signals, and Mr. and Mrs. Beamish, of the Warwickshire Guild.

THE LATE MR. WILLIAM E. WHITE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The passing of Mr. William E. White, of Cotgrave, is a severe blow to the Midland Counties Association. In its 60 years' existence it is safe to say that no individual ringer in this area did more for the management and welfare of the society.

Mr. White was not a brilliant ringer, had not many peals to his credit, but his interest in the art and especially so far as his association was concerned was unbounded. During his long connection he filled many offices. He joined the association in 1887, served eight years on Nottingham District Committee. For six years he was local secretary and seven years chairman of the district. He was auditor for six years and Central Council representative nine years. For no less than 21 years he was general hon. secretary, and hon. treasurer for the last 10 years. During all this long period he seldom if ever missed a meeting, truly a remarkable record. Right up to the last he never lost his interest in the association's welfare, and was one of the trustees of the association's invested funds.

During my own service as general hon. secretary I found in Mr. White a source of great help, and his advice on all matters was always willingly given. He will be greatly missed by all, and I am quite certain I am voicing the wishes of every member in conveying to his wife and daughter, his brother (Mr. Walter White) and other relatives our deepest sympathy and condolence in their great loss.

ERNEST MORRIS.

Leicester.

JOHN HOLT.

(Continued from page 293.)

THE BROADSHEET OF PEALS.

John Holt parted from his old company with friendly feelings. After he had called a peal of Grandsire Caters for the College Youths at St. Dionis', Backchurch, on August 5th, 1752, he went back to the Union Scholars, and on September 25th he called a peal of Bob Triples for them at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields. On the last day of the year he called 6,390 changes of Grandsire Caters at St. Sepulchre's for the College Youths.

The band at St. Dionis' included the younger William Underwood, Samuel Killican, Thomas Bennett, John Trenell and John Ward. It was Ward's last peal. He had remained an active peal ringer longer than any other of the Cinques band of 1725 except only Annable, and Annable had but two more peals to ring.

John Cundell was as good as his word. Besides canvassing the London College Youths, he wrote to the leading bands in the country and to such prominent ringers as would be likely to assist. What apparently is a copy of his letter was printed in 'The Ipswich Journal' of September 1st, 1753. Why the advertisement should have appeared in that paper, and not in, say, 'The Norwich Gazette,' is not clear, but we remember that Samuel Jacomb, Theodore Ecclestone's father-in-law, and himself a College Youth, was an Ipswich man. There was then a good band of ringers at St. Mary-le-Tower, as there almost always has been, but no name of any note is associated with the town.

The advertisement is addressed 'To all Artists in Ringing.' 'Mr. John Holt, of London,' so it reads, 'having at length discovered a method of ringing 5,040 Grandsire Triples without changes over again, or ye use of any other means than plain leads, bobs, and only two singles, which hath hitherto been looked upon as impossible; he has also made improvements in Plain Bob and Union Triples, all of which he is willing to communicate to ye world; but as his circumstances are low, and he can expect no reward for his labour, nor assistance towards the expenses of publishing them but from his brethren in ye art, he proposes to have neatly printed two whole peals of Grandsire Triples, divided into halves, one containing three regular courses, the other 5, with two singles—one at ye half peal, the other at ye end, the bobs being so regularly disposed as to be easily called. One complete peal of Plain Bob Triples in 3 regular courses without any single or alteration, but only leads and bobs as usually rung. Also a complete peal of Union Triples, each half in 3 regular courses, ye singles made at ye middle and end of peals; and to deliver copys of these four peals by Xmas next, to any single person or any set of 8 bell ringers who shall subscribe not less than 5s. 3d., notify their subscriptions post paid to Mr. John Cundell in Salisbury Court, Fleet Street; who engages to deliver ye same with a list of subscribers, or return ye subscriptions if there should not be enough to diffray ye expense of printing.

'Those who have not an opportunity to subscribe in London, and are willing to encourage ye design to send their subscriptions to ye printer of this paper.'

Among those who helped to obtain subscriptions was Dr. Charles Mason, of Cambridge. He wrote to the Norwich ringers about it, and, in reply, received a letter

from John Webster, which was a polite, but decided, refusal. 'Reverd. Sir, I desire you'll excuse my not Subscribing to a Work which I have some Reason to fear will not answer to Expectation. I must Confess our Company seem intirely to slight it, though I must own it is not a Generous Way of treating Mr. Holt's performance; but I believe they are induc'd to this by that Ingenious Ringer, Mr. Annable's not Encouraging of it; his Influence on the College Youths, I presume, would have been sufficient to have sent it to the Press without further Subscription.'

It is a little strange that the Norwich men should have 'intirely slighted' Holt's peals, for only twelve months before, the Original had twice been rung in the city. It is likely, however, that the men who rang that peal were not the Norwich Scholars, but a band of young ringers who practised at the eight bell towers—St. Giles' and St. Miles'. There was always a great tendency among the leading Norwich men to consider that they were the equals of anyone, and had no need to go elsewhere for methods or peals.

Webster's letter is evidence of the great reputation Annable enjoyed in the country and of the influence and authority he exercised. He did not approve of Holt's broadsheet. Of course he did not, and in the circumstances it could hardly be expected. But the reason has been misunderstood. He was not a generous critic of other people's work; he spoke of Prior's new method, Eastern Bob, with derision, and he had for so long been considered the oracle on all things connected with composition, that he could not easily brook an equal, let alone a superior. But there is no evidence that he had anything to say against the peals themselves. What he did object to, was the encouragement of John Holt, since it was a part of the scheme to turn himself out of the Society of College Youths. Had he approved of Cundell's action he would have shown a generosity and a greatness of mind altogether beyond what one has a right to expect. •

Whether Annable approved or not, the publication of the broadsheet was a success. Cundell sold by subscription seventy-five copies, which at 5s. 3d. a copy, realised nearly twenty pounds before printing.

The names of the subscribers are interesting. Eight copies went to Cambridge—four to the company, two to Dr. Mason, one to Mr. Windle, a parson who had composed some peals, and one to Joseph West, an innkeeper. The Oxford company took a copy, and so did the bands at Nottingham and Stroud. The St. Neots company had four copies. Samuel Anderson, of Stonham Aspal, Theodore Ecclestone's friend, took two copies, but Ecclestone's own name is absent from the list, for he died in that same year. Other country subscribers included Henry Cowley, of Twickenham, John Swaine, of Stanwell, Joseph Levens and John Short, of Croydon, and William Fortrey, of Galby, in Leicestershire. The latter was a country gentleman, a lover of ringing, and a giver of bells to the churches of his neighbourhood. He subscribed for four copies of the broadsheet.

The largest subscriber among the London ringers was Samuel Killican, who took seven copies. He appears to have been a fairly well-to-do man and a great admirer of John Holt.

The bell-founders, Robert Randall, of the Fleet Ditch, and Thomas Lester, of Whitechapel, each took four copies. So did Cundell, William Oram, Thomas Lowe

and William Skelton. Oram was a past master of the Society of College Youths, Skelton was the ecclesiastical lawyer, who was the most important man in the Fulham company. John Hardham took two copies.

There were others besides Annable who did not subscribe. The price may have frightened some, for 5s. 3d. was a lot for a single sheet of printed paper; and there may have been some who, like Annable, did not 'encourage it,' Trenell, and Prior, and John Blake; Ward, and Spicer, and Jeacock; and the older members of the Society of College Youths like Robert Catlin and William Gardiner.

None of Holt's old friends of the Union Scholars subscribed (perhaps most of Killican's copies went to them), nor did the leaders of the Eastern Scholars, nor any member of the Society of Cumberland Youths, which was taking its place as one of the leading companies.

John Cundell's circular was sent out early in 1753; the broadsheet appeared before the end of the year, and by that time John Holt was dead. Exactly when he died and where he was buried I cannot say. So far, I have not traced his burial in any of the London parish registers. One thing is fairly certain. He was carried to the churchyard in the parish coffin that had served the same office for many others of his class, and he was buried in the common grave where his ashes mingled with many more like himself except for this thing, that while their names are utterly forgotten, his is still remembered and is likely to be so.

A broadsheet is a very perishable thing, much more so than a bound book, and I believe at present only one copy of Holt's exists. It was Dr. Mason's and is now among the Bowtell manuscripts in the library of Downing College, Cambridge. It is headed 'Mr. John Holt's

four peals of Tripple changes, of London, College Youth, lately deceased.' It gives the treble leads of the first parts of the six and ten-part peals of Grandsire, the six-part of Union and the three-part peal of Plain Bob. The Original is not given; probably it was thought too difficult to be of much value to ordinary ringers. There is a list of subscribers and a notice that these peals were to be had of Mr. Cundell, at ye Golden Eagle in Duke's Court, Bow Street, Covent Garden. That no doubt was Cundell's own address, for he was in charge of the box office at Covent Garden theatre, or it may have been a tavern near his house which he used as an accommodation address. The site is now covered by the Bow Street Police Court. The address in Salisbury Court, from which the first circular was sent out, was the Barley Mow, the headquarters of the College Youths.

When Holt died he was only twenty-seven years old and his ringing career had lasted but eight years. In that time, however, he had made a name which is scarcely second to any in the annals of change ringing. What he could have done, had he lived as long as Annable, or John Reeves, or Shipway, or Henry Johnson, it is interesting but futile to speculate; and still more so to speculate what he could have done had he the advantages of training and education in addition to his natural ability.

Holt's peals of Bob Major and Triples have long since been superseded; his Six-part peal of Grandsire Triples, for some reason not very clear, has never been popular; even the Ten-part, which for a century and a half was the one indispensable composition, is now almost entirely supplanted by J. J. Parker's Twelve-part; but the Original still maintains its supremacy, and Holt's name is never likely to drop out of the list of composers.

John Taylor & Co.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Hearty congratulations and 'many happy returns' to Mr. Alfred Lawrence, of 4, Little London, Swindon, Wilts, who is 87 next Sunday, July 12th. Until the ban was imposed Mr. Lawrence had never missed ringing for morning and evening service (except through illness) for over 50 years. It is sincerely hoped he may now be spared to be found in his usual place in the belfry when Peace is declared. Mr. Lawrence has rung many peals in all the standard methods, but we do not know the number.

We are happy to say that the three churches destroyed in the air raid on Norwich do not include any of those which bore such a prominent part in the early history of change ringing. The glorious ring of twelve bells is, so far, safe, but the Whitechapel twelve at Great Yarmouth have been completely destroyed.

Congratulations to Mr. Tom Miller, who reached his 84th birthday last Monday. He is at present in Western Road Hospital, but not, we are happy to say, seriously ill.

Mr. James George is also in Western Road Hospital owing to an attack of bronchitis, but his many friends will be glad to know that he has improved during the last few days.

Mr. T. H. Bullock writes that the handbell peal at Dagenham on June 21st was Plain Bob Minor, not Treble Bob as reported, and that the ringer of 3-4 was J. Bullock, not J. A. Bullock.

The first peal of Double Oxford Bob Major, one of 6,000 changes, was rung by the Norwich Scholars at St. Giles', Norwich, on July 6th, 1832.

Holt's Original was rung for the first time by the Union Scholars at St. Margaret's, Westminster, on July 7th, 1751.

On the same date in 1932 the first peal of Beddington Surprise Major was rung at Beddington by the Surrey Association, and in 1934 the first peal of Whitminster Surprise Major was rung at Bolsover by the Yorkshire Association.

John Pennington, the Devon bellfounder, died on July 9th, 1824. On the same date in 1800, William Sottanastall, of Sowerby, composer and author of a book on change ringing, was born.

Twenty-five years ago to-day a band of College Youths rang Carter's Odd-bob peal of Stedman Triples, silent.

The first peal of Erin Caters was rung at North Shields on July 12th, 1909. Mr. W. H. Barber conducted.

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am most interested in the letters of Mr. T. H. Reeves and 'Novice' re the varying of Holt's Original, and am also surprised that more correspondence has not come forward on this subject. As one who has for some years been interested in this composition, I should like at this stage to add my views and to support the view of Mr. Reeves that the peal should be recorded as a variation. In doing so I have no desire to criticise Mr. Turner for calling the peal in this form, and I am sure he has his own good reason for doing so.

In calling the peal in the varied form the lead end 753624 is produced by a single at the 88th call, whereas in the original composition this lead end is produced by a bob at the 148th call. I also see two other lead ends which are brought up in like manner. To take an example, we have Parker's famous Twelve-Part. In its original form with the 6th as observation all the part ends come up at a plain lead end, but call it from the 7th and the part ends are brought up with a call, and only half of them are the same as in the original composition; furthermore, calling it in this latter manner, it was, in the past, recorded as 'Groves' Variation'; therefore, why not 'Turner's Variation of Holt's Original,' or whoever thought of it first? 'Novice' says that Thurstan's peal of Stedman Triples has been much varied, and for the better. No doubt he is right, but do we not see 'Brooks' Variation' or 'Heywood's Transposition'?

In good-natured banter, I venture to suggest that the peal was published as 'Holt's Original' to test the reaction of those people who, like myself, may hold Holt's Original as something really sacred. To quote another famous Birmingham ringer, I like 'cake,' but I prefer it plain, and I would much rather 'a cut off the joint and two veg.' without the pudding.

DONALD G. CLIFT.

21, Wathen Road, Bristol 6.

[The so-called 'Groves' Variation' was not a variation of Parker's Twelve-Part peal, but the original form in which the peal was composed.—Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

TAMPERING WITH THE CLASSICS.

Dear Sir,—In reply to the letter from 'Novice' in your issue of June 26th, I would point out that the people who tamper with the classics usually advertise the fact, whereas in the case in question the 'innovation,' this introduction of a novelty, for that is all it is, was not advertised where it should have been—in the peal report.

THOMAS H. REEVES.

136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham.

GRANDSIRE DOUBLES.—Grandsire is the best and most ingenious Peal that ever was composed to be rang on five bells.—'Tintinnalogia,' A.D. 1668.

THE LATE MR. J. S. GOLDSMITH.

(Continued from page 306.)

POST WAR ACTIVITY.

When it first appeared in 1911 'The Ringing World' was welcomed by many with enthusiasm and by others with cordial goodwill, tempered by the fear that ringers would not support two weekly journals. The two might kill each other, and the Exercise be left without a paper at all.

This feeling was largely at the bottom of the curious and unfortunate incident which happened that year at the meeting of the Central Council at Leicester. The full story was told in our columns on July 25th, 1941, and we need do no more now than just refer to it. There is not the slightest reason to suppose that Sir Arthur Heywood's action, regrettable though it was, arose from any feeling against the new paper or its owner. He suffered from a misunderstanding, and he afterwards did his best to put himself right again. The chief result of the incident was to give 'The Ringing World' a good advertisement, and to create among ringers a strong feeling that they would not be dictated to by anyone, however eminent, as to which journal they should support. This feeling was greatly strengthened as Goldsmith went among ringers and became more widely known personally. After a very short time there was no doubt which of the two papers would survive, and though the owners of 'The Bell News' still kept the paper going (they printed it themselves), it was largely in the hope that they could sell the copyright.

'The Ringing World' had scarcely got itself established on a sound basis when the first World War broke out. It was the first time for a hundred years that England had been engaged in a continental war, and the country was slow to realise what it meant. Everywhere shops were displaying the slogan 'Business as usual,' and the very attempt to carry on as if nothing unusual was happening, in the end made the changes in ordinary life the more severe. The steep rise in prices and the shortage of material and labour hit concerns like 'The Ringing World' very severely. It passed through a critical period, but it survived. John Goldsmith had a very anxious time, and was only able to carry on by doing other work. He had a typing office, gave lessons in typing and shorthand, and later on held a position in the Woking Food Office. After the war he was for a time employed by the Inland Revenue Commissioners.

The war did not stop ringing entirely, though towards the end there were restrictions, and necessarily many bands were broken up or depleted. When peace came the work of rehabilitation was quickly taken in hand, but the process was at first a slow one. In it 'The Ringing World' played a major part.

During the years between the two wars Mr. Goldsmith definitely established his position as one of the best known and most influential leaders of the Exercise. He made a point of attending as many of the more important meetings as possible, and there were few activities among ringers in which he did not take a part. In 1931, the reputed tercentenary of the birth of Fabian Stedman, he promoted a memorial which took the form of the restoration of the bells at St. Benet's, Cambridge, at the cost of over five hundred pounds collected through 'The Ringing World.'

In the previous August he was one of a party who made a pilgrimage to the War Memorial at the Menin Gate of Ypres in Belgium, and during the visit he took part at Ostend in the first handbell peal of Stedman Caters rung on the Continent.

In 1934 came the tour to Australia, the full story of which Mr. Goldsmith has told in his book, 'A Great Adventure,' of which the first edition of more than a thousand copies was quickly sold out and another printed. The party numbered a dozen, including three ladies—Mrs. Rupert Richardson, Miss Enid Richardson and Mrs. Sharples. A large and representative company assembled at Liverpool Street Station to see the party off and many accompanied them to the docks and waited until the ship left.

The tour was a complete success, and thirteen peals were rung, six of them on handbells on the sea. Mr. Goldsmith rang in five of the latter, all conducted by Mr. Rupert Richardson. Mrs. Richardson rang in three. Of the seven tower bell peals, Mr. Goldsmith missed the two at Holy Trinity, Hobart, Tasmania, for he had a rather bad attack of influenza and had barely recovered when he was called upon to conduct the first twelve-bell peal outside the British Isles, one of Grand-sire Cinques, at St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne. It was rung by six of the tourists and six of the local band, and was successful at the third attempt. Goldsmith always reckoned that as one of his outstanding performances. On the same bells the party had previously rung the first peal of Royal outside the British Isles.

Mr. Goldsmith was passionately fond of the sea, and the voyage was one of the chief attractions that induced him to join the party; but at the time he was greatly in need of a thorough rest and change for his health's sake. Various things, including his wife's long illness, had put a strain on him that brought him nearly to the breaking point.

He had previously made several sea trips, none, of course, so long as this one, but as far as Marseilles and Madeira, and his last was in 1933, when he went to Egypt. He was away when the Munich crisis came to a head. The steamer he was on was due to visit Messina; but, instead, a wireless message ordered her home at full speed with all lights out.

When the present war broke out he was put in charge of the Woking Food Office. It was a full time job, which meant that he had to do most of the editing of 'The Ringing World' by deputy, though he still continued to write the leading articles and 'make up' the paper. We made a mistake last week when we said his last leader was that for December 26th. He wrote the two on the Conference which appeared on February 6th and 13th. Both were written in bed.

In February last year he was suddenly taken ill and had to go into hospital for a serious operation. The operation was completely successful, though recovery was rather slow, and when he came out of hospital all his friends hoped that he had many years of active life and usefulness before him. In the following November he was selected to propose the principal toast at the College Youths' luncheon, and he made a splendid speech. But he complained of not feeling well, and when he got home, he had to take to his bed for some days. He afterwards resumed his work at the Food Office, but he

(Continued on next page.)

THE LATE MR. J. S. GOLDSMITH.

(Continued from previous page.)

was never again quite the same, and the last stage definitely began in the closing days of the year.

When he resigned from the Food Office a large number of inhabitants of Woking subscribed to present him with some savings certificates and an album with the names of the subscribers. What the ringers of England thought of him is shown by the response to the appeal that was made. More than five hundred pounds were raised in a very few weeks.

When he was in hospital before his major operation he had a strong feeling he would not come through it, and he wrote a letter to the friend who had been helping him with 'The Ringing World' to be delivered if anything happened. It actually was delivered after his death, and since it contains a message to all his ringing friends, and shows the man's generosity and kindness of heart, we give it as a fitting conclusion of this account of him.

'My dear Jim,—In case anything unexpected happens to me I am leaving this note to tell you how deeply grateful I am to you for all you have done for the "R.W." at all times, but particularly since the war and especially during my illness. I know you will say you do not need thanks, but without you at this moment there would not have been a "R.W.," so that not only my thanks but the thanks of all ringers are your due. I can now tell you that the paper has never really been a financial success, and I am afraid there will be a fairly heavy call on what little I have left to square it up. If you can do anything . . . it may save the paper for the future of ringing.'

'If you have the chance give my greetings and farewell to all my ringing friends with whom I have spent many happy hours. I hope they will all have the opportunity of returning soon to the belfries and that ringing will once more come back into its own.'

'Once more, old man, a thousand thanks for all your kindness and for your long friendship.—Sincerely yours, Jack.'

APPRECIATIONS.

FROM MR. J. F. SMALLWOOD.

I, also, would like to add my tribute to the memory of John S. Goldsmith.

Those of us who were privileged to know him were all the richer for that experience. His forthrightness, sincerity and quiet dignity won the respect of all with whom he came into contact. The quality which seemed to me to stand out most was, however, his patient and loving care of his wife for many years when she was a helpless invalid—I have heard many expressions of admiration for his wonderful patience, cheerfulness and understanding.

Therefore, I thank Mr. Albert Walker for his suggestion of an annual pilgrimage to the grave, and support the idea strongly. We shall do well to keep green the memory of one who served us so well.

J. FRANK SMALLWOOD.

2, Oakford Avenue, Weston-super-Mare.

FROM THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.

I write on behalf of the Irish Association of Change Ringers to express our sincere regret on the death of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith.

Mr. Goldsmith has rendered invaluable service, both by personal contact and through the medium of his paper, which resulted in the formation of many friendships and in great progress for the Exercise. It is hoped that, due to his death, 'The Ringing World' will not be permitted to lapse.

Will you please convey to his relatives the deepest sympathy of the members of the Irish Association of Change Ringers (of which he was many years a non-resident member) on the great loss both they and ringing circles have sustained.

FRED E. DUKES.

23, Skreen Road, Dublin.

CLOCK CHIMES.

A BOOK IN PREPARATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—We were interested in a letter in 'The Ringing World' of June 26th from Mr. F. M. Taylor, in which he suggests that someone might compile an account of the various clock chimes to be heard in various parts of the country.

Our work in visiting many churches to repair old clocks and tune-playing machines has permitted us to collect a great deal of information, as yet by no means complete, concerning old clock chimes, their origin and so on. New clocks are also occasionally installed which have chimes of original composition, but these, of course, are not as yet of historic value, although they would have to be included in a complete list.

It is our intention, at some time after the war, to prepare a complete book which will give all the information on this subject which we have then been able to collect, but for the time being, mainly through pressure of other business, the matter will have to wait, although we are still making notes of anything likely to be of interest.

If Mr. Taylor should have any particular enquiry to make concerning any chime we shall be pleased to look through our records and help him as far as possible. For his immediate information we enclose a copy of our booklet, 'Time and Chime,' which gives the music of several chimes, including that as used at Guildford, but which appears in our booklet as the 'Chard' chimes, this being the church where the chime was first installed by this firm.

In connection with this same subject, may we say that we shall be more than pleased to receive any scraps of information giving news of old or unusual quarter chimes, tunes, etc., from any readers of 'The Ringing World,' as this would be of great assistance to us in completing our proposed task.

The choice of tunes on the older tune-playing machines is often of great interest. As an example of this we would mention that the tune known as 'Silken Garter' formerly used on the machine at Derby Cathedral—made circa 1715—is, as far as we know, otherwise extinct! The Rev. W. Pitchford, in preparing his broadcasts on clock chimes a few years ago, arranged this tune for a small orchestra and it was really quite pleasing. The tune 'Malbrook' (Marlborough) is occasionally found on machines which were apparently installed at a time when the memory of the famous Duke was still popular.

This is a large subject and we could give many more such interesting notes, but we hesitate to take up space at a time when paper is scarce.

Strangely enough—and we hesitate to say it—the members of this firm are some of the very few readers of this excellent little paper who are not actually ringers!

JOHN SMITH AND SONS, MIDLAND CLOCK WORKS, DERBY LIMITED.

SURFLEET AND BROMLEY.

Dear Sir,—Here are the chimes of Surfleet Parish Church as arranged by the late Rev. H. Law James, on 10 bells: 135246; 456213, 531246; 573213; 10 (tenor) hour.

St. Luke's, Bromley Common, Kent, has these, on eight bells: 6457; 6576; 4657; 5674; 8 hour.

I am giving these chimes from memory, but believe they are correct.

W. H. HEWETT.

119, Coleman Road, S.E.5.

GRAMOPHONE RECORDS FROM CHURCH TOWERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With regard to Mr. Dyer's query on gramophone records being played from church towers, Littlehampton Parish Church has this apparatus, but it has not been allowed since the ban was enforced. It is very strange that such a thing is allowed anywhere.

E. LEE.

Lansdowne Road, Wick, Littlehampton.

MR. G. V. MURPHY REPORTED MISSING.

News has been received that Geoffrey V. Murphy, of Crayford tower, has been reported missing in the Middle East since June 1st, where he was a driver mechanic in the R.A.

He started to ring about ten years ago, and rang his first peal at the age of 14. He was a safe ringer and an excellent striker and had rung in all about 120 peals, from Minor to Cinques on tower bells, and from Doubles to Maximus (except Cinques) in hand. It can safely be said that he was one of the 'coming men.' He was a member of the Kent, Middlesex and London County Associations and the Ancient Society of College Youths.

A BIRMINGHAM BELLFOUNDER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I ask if the firm of W. Blows, Bell Founders, Birmingham, is still in existence? The second bell of a peal at Cheriton Bishop, cast by Penningtons in 1770, was recast by the firm in 1887.

FREDK. C. SMALE.

MR. EDWIN SHEPHERD.**EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY.**

To-morrow Mr. Edwin Shepherd, who is so well known as a ringer in the West of England, will reach his eightieth birthday, and his many friends will congratulate him on the event.

Mr. Shepherd was the youngest of four ringing brothers and was born in the parish of St. Sidwell, Exeter, on July 11th, 1862. He took up ringing at an early age and joined the Devonshire Guild on June 6th, 1879. In 1880 he rang his first peal and was elected a member of the College Youths on September 21st in the same year.

As a young man he found change ringing uphill work in Devon, and great opposition was encountered, chiefly because most bands were content with rounds and call changes. Difficulties and handicaps were many and disappointments often caused enthusiastic ringers to become discouraged and to give up the task of extending change ringing in the county. He and his late brother, Ferris, found themselves faced with much hard work if half-pull ringing was to flourish and the Devon Guild go forward towards success. A few could ring Grandsire in Exeter, and, armed with the spirit of perseverance, the struggle against many odds continued to be waged, often with little or no reward. At last came the turning point and others became keen on method ringing and wanted to take part in its advantages. Instruction had to be given in town and village, advice was needed regarding new bells, tuning, augmentation, rehangings and other matters, and Mr. Shepherd proved capable of undertaking and carrying out all such requests and requirements, thus considerably helping his Guild in the advancement of the art.

When the fine eight at St. Sidwell's was increased to ten Mr. Shepherd followed up all previous efforts and in due course a high standard was set up and maintained. Peals were a luxury in those days, but Mr. Shepherd helped with a steady flow of useful peals which encouraged the keen and growing number of ringers in the county. In 1902 the Cathedral bells, a very fine heavy ten, were rehung and he conducted the first peal of Caters on them by Devonshire men.

During his 63 years' membership Mr. Shepherd has given unstinted service to the Devon Guild and has served them as Central Council representative. For many years he was chairman of the Exeter District and at the present time he is a vice-president of the Guild. His peals in various methods number 120, and of these 116 were rung for the Devon Guild. He has conducted 48, and, considering the difficulties encountered over many years, this record is indeed very creditable.

Mr. Shepherd was a builder and has been a lifelong parishioner of St. Sidwell's. In addition to his work for ringing, his church work is also interesting. He was a sidesman from 1890 to 1904, churchwarden from 1904 to 1911, from 1919 to 1922 and from 1935 to 1942. He is also chairman of the Feoffeees.

He is proud of his city and his parish, and feels deeply that Exeter suffered severely in air raids a few weeks ago. St. Sidwell's tower was cut in half by a bomb, and the remaining portion, in spite of efforts by the Vicar and Mr. Shepherd, has now been blasted down.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE JENKINS.

Mr. George Jenkins, who had been one of the ringers at Canterbury Cathedral for more than 40 years, met his death during a recent air raid on the city. At the funeral service in the Cathedral the Dean officiated, and, in addition to family mourners, there were many representatives of local Co-operative Societies and the Southern Railway, by which he was employed. The Cathedral ringers were fully represented.

Mr. Charles Turner, of Dover, writes to us as follows: 'I have rung with him on many occasions, but there is one outstanding event that shows how keen he was. On November 10th, 1920, the body of the "Unknown Warrior" was landed at Dover. It was intended to arrange a local peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, but owing to the uncertainty of the arrival of H.M. Destroyer "Verdon," certain reshuffles took place and we ended up with two vacant ropes. At short notice Messrs. F. Fairbeard and G. Jenkins, who were both employed by the Southern Railway, came down and allowed us to start, although a local was ruled out. Unfortunately, after two hours' good ringing, the attempt failed owing to a shift course. The band was: H. J. Saunders 1, R. H. Stevens 2, C. R. Millway 3, F. W. Elliott 4, C. R. Walker 5, F. Fairbeard 6, C. Turner (conductor) 7, G. Jenkins 8.

I feel indebted to such ringers as George Jenkins and appreciate his ready spirit to support the church bells.'

STAFFORD ARCHDEACONRY SOCIETY.**ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual meeting of the Stafford Archdeaconry Society was held at St. Bartholomew's Church, Penn, Wolverhampton, on Saturday, June 27th, in favourable weather. The clappers had been removed and good use was made of the bells during the afternoon and evening. A welcome visitor was the Rev. M. Melville, of Lichfield, whose presence in the Archdeaconry is likely to prove beneficial to the society, particularly in fostering handbell ringing.

The Vicar, Preb. Hartill, conducted the service and delivered a helpful address. The Rev. C. Holroyd Barker presided at the organ.

At the general meeting Mr. C. Wallater occupied the chair, supported by the Revs. M. Melville and A. F. Sargent, the Rev. C. H. Barker (clerical secretary and treasurer) and the hon. lay secretary, Mr. H. Knight. The lay secretary presented the committee's report and the hon. treasurer the statement of accounts. Both were accepted and it was decided that they should not be printed this year.

In their report the committee stated that meetings had been held at Wolverhampton, Codsall and Walsall, and all were fairly well attended. The dedication of a memorial tablet to the late Thomas J. Elton took place in St. Matthew's Church belfry on Sunday, November 23rd. A course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells previous to evensong by four members. Two more members have reached their golden jubilee of membership, viz., Messrs. T. Benton, of Cannock (1891), and J. W. Walker, of Christ Church, West Bromwich (1892). So now there are five members who have been substantial supporters of the society for half a century. The statement of accounts shows a balance on the right side of £35 19s. 4d., an increase of £2 10s. on the year. The committee regret to record the loss, through death of the following members: William Griffin, of Walsall, John S. Goldsmith, of Woking, Thomas R. Hensher, of Finedon, Northants, and Gabriel Lindoff, of Dublin.

The officers were all re-elected, except that the Rev. A. F. Sargent takes the place of Mr. B. Horton as Central Council representative.

On a motion by Mr. F. Colclough, it was unanimously agreed that a letter of sympathy should be sent to the relatives of the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith.

The next meeting was provisionally arranged to take place at Cannock on September 12th.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar for his address and conducting the service, to the local ringers for getting the bells ready and making arrangements for tea, was received with applause.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

Compared with the excellent attendance of the summer meeting, when 60 members and friends turned up, last Saturday's meeting was small but very enjoyable for all that.

One new member was elected, Mr. Stanley T. A. Russell, of Rotherfield, Sussex, now serving as a driver in the R.A.S.C. News was received from Mr. E. Barnett that Mr. Geoffrey V. Murphy had been reported missing in Libya. Mr. Trollope gave news of East Anglian churches, some good and some bad.

Business was soon over and handbell ringing and reminiscences followed.

Supporting the Master were the secretary, treasurer, Messrs. H. G. Miles, J. A. Trollope, G. N. Price, C. W. Roberts, J. H. Shepherd, H. Hoskins, C. C. Mayne, E. Jennings, R. F. Deal, S. Fussell and Pte. Tom Fox.

The visitors were Mr. C. T. Coles, general secretary of the Middlesex Association, and Mr. C. A. Burgess, of Burnham, Bucks.

The next meeting will be held at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, on July 18th at 3 p.m.

CHRIST CHURCH, FRIEZLAND, LANCs.**A NEW SILENT APPARATUS.**

At Christ Church, Friezland, near Oldham, an electric silent apparatus has been installed by Mr. Harry Nutt, the tower secretary, and the party who went there on June 28th to test it were loud in their praises. The bells can be raised in peal and the striking is all that can be desired. If every belfry were equipped in like manner the ban on ringing would not be nearly so disappointing.

The following band rang 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: John Smith 1, Harry Nutt 2, Cyril R. Parker 3, John Clayton 4, Walter W. Wolstencroft (conductor) 5 ex-P.C. John Carter 6.

Any band who would like to visit the tower on any Saturday or Sunday afternoon (the first Sunday in each month excepted) would be welcomed, and should write to Mr. H. Nutt, Royal George, Friezland, near Oldham, Lancs.

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WEDDING OF MISS G. A. CROOK.**POLICE RING HANDBELLS IN CHURCH.**

On Wednesday, June 24th, at Holy Trinity Church, Bolton, the marriage took place of Pte. F. J. Paine, of London, now serving in the R.A.O.C., to Miss G. Annie Crook, of Bolton.

The bride has an unusual connection with the police and ringers. Her grandfather was a retired police inspector, her father a retired police sergeant, now serving with the First Police Reserve, her brother a serving constable, and she herself was an auxiliary policewoman before joining the Civil Nursing Reserve and taking up duties at a military hospital. Her father, brother and herself are all members of the band of ringers at Holy Trinity Church, Bolton.

Five members of the National Guild of Police Ringers attended the service. They stood in the inner porch, and instead of the organist playing the wedding march for the bride's entry, they rang a course of Grandairs Caters as she passed up the church. After the ceremony the bridal party waited and watched them ring another course, and then they formed a guard of honour.

The Vicar, the Rev. H. A. Norton, officiated and the service was choral. The bride was given away by her father and her brother was best man.

At the reception in the local dance hall the bride, her father and brother rang a course of Grandairs Doubles and, assisted by Mr. Cutsforth, a course of Triples.

The bride and bridegroom left for North Wales for their honeymoon.

The handbell ringing in church was by P.C. G. Pye 1-2, P.C. W. Robinson 3-4, P.C. J. Carter 5-6, P.C. W. Pye 7-8, ex-Supt. F. R. Williams 9-10. All are members or former members of the Manchester City Police.

JOINT MEETING AT WATH-ON-DEARNE.**YORKSHIRE SOCIETIES COMBINE.**

A joint meeting of the Southern Division of the Yorkshire Association, the Barnsley and District Society and the Sheffield District Society was held at Wath-on-Deerne on Saturday, June 20th.

The towers represented were Arksey, Doncaster, Eastwood, Eckington, Felkirk, Rawmarsh, Rotherham Parish Church, Sandal, Sheffield (Cathedral and St. Marie's) and Sprotborough. A very welcome visitor was Mr. C. W. Woolley, of the famous Bushey band.

The Church House was placed at the disposal of the ringers during the afternoon and evening for handbell practice, and tea was served at 5 p.m. at Warburton's Cafe.

The business meetings of all three societies were held in the Church House, the Vicar, the Rev. E. V. Evans, presiding. One item of great interest to all was discussed, the future of 'The Ringing World.' Mr. S. F. Palmer stressed its value, for without it ringers would be isolated and the whole Exercise would feel lost. He appealed to all to buy a copy every week and so help to keep it in being, and he expressed the hope that the Central Council would be able to find a plan by which the paper would be able to carry on successfully.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Barnsley and District Society at Sandal on Saturday, July 11th.

The next meetings of the Sheffield District Society and the Southern Division of the Yorkshire Association are to be held jointly at Rawmarsh on August 8th.

Best thanks were given to the Vicar for the use of the Church House and for presiding, and to Mr. Nash for making all arrangements, including tea. Further handbell ringing followed in a variety of methods ranging from Triples to a course of Bob Maximus.

CHURCH BELLS IN SCOTLAND.

The following appears in the Farington Diary under date 'Edinburgh, September 20th, 1801.' Joseph Farington wrote:—

'I was much surprised this morning at hearing a peal of bells ringing at St. Andrew's Church in George Street as though I had previously been some weeks in Edinburgh and in many other parts of Scotland, I never heard a peal of bells in any part of the country.'

'On enquiry I was told there is no other peal of bells in Scotland and these bells were hung since the year 1788 when I was much in this town. It is a proof how prejudices are by degrees weakened. I have always understood that bells, except what were necessary to give notice of the time of service by simply tolling, were esteemed a remnant of popery.'

According to Messrs. Mears and Stainbank's list, the bells at St. Andrew's are a ring of eight with a tenor of 15 cwt., cast at White-chapel in 1788.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-. For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received **NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to **THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.**

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division. —A meeting will be held at Woodford on Saturday, July 11th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service at 4.15 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. All are welcome.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division. —The summer meeting will be held at Queensbury on Saturday, July 11th. An attractive ramble will start from the schools at 3 o'clock. Tea (1s. 6d.) in Schools at 5 o'clock, followed by business meeting. All welcome.—Frank Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Tonbridge on Saturday, July 11th. Committee meeting in the Parish Room at 3 o'clock. Service in church at 4.30, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. F. Childs. Tea at Carlton Cafe at 5, followed by business meeting in the Parish Room. — Fred M. Mitchell, Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Joint meeting of the Leicester and Hinckley Districts at Earl Shilton on Saturday, July 11th. Silent ringing 3.30 at Church. Tea at 5, but only for those who send their names to Mr. G. Newton, 26, Avenue South, Earl Shilton. Handbells in school after tea.—H. W. Perkins, W. A. Ward, Dis. Secs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—The branch annual meeting will be held at St. Mary's Parish Church, Ulverston, on Saturday, July 11th. Six bells, with clappers removed, available at 2.30 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea at 4.30. Will those attending please let me know not later than July 8th?—N. M. Newby, 19, Union Place, Ulverston.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual business meeting will be held at Oxford on Saturday, July 18th, at 3.15 p.m., in the Rectory Room, Pembroke Street, St. Aldate's. Tea will be provided at 1s. 6d. each for all members who apply for ticket, accompanied by remittance, by Saturday, July 11th. This is essential, owing to difficulties in catering. A collection will be taken at tea for Guild Restoration Fund. Service in St. Aldate's Church at 5 p.m. A good attendance is earnestly requested. — R. T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

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LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch. —There will be a meeting at St. Peter's Church, Woolton, on Saturday, July 11th, instead of Christ Church, Bootle, as intended. Tower will be open from 2.30. The tower bells will be tied and handbells will be available. Service at 5, followed by a cup of tea and meeting. A good attendance is hoped for. — George R. Newton.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 18th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. — A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch. — The next meeting will be held at Brookfield Church, Gorton, on Saturday, July 18th. Meeting at 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea at 5 p.m. Those who require tea must send in names not later than July 15th to Mr. E. F. Mawby, 4, Linton Avenue, Thornley Park, Denton, Manchester. — W. H. Shuker, 36, Colwyn Avenue, Fallowfield, Manchester 14.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — Northern Division. — A meeting of this division will be held at Shalford on Saturday, July 18th. Handbells available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Please bring own eatables for tea, cups of tea will be provided. Good bus service from Braintree and Deanery Corner, Bocking. Please make every effort to attend. — Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District. —A meeting will be held at Worplesdon on Saturday, July 18th. Handbells available in the afternoon. Service in the Parish Church at 4.15, followed by tea. Please send names for tea by July 13th to Mr. S. Petter, Fox Corner, Worplesdon. All are welcome. — A. C. Hazelden, Dis. Sec., 109, Grange Road, Guildford.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — The next meeting will be held at Sandal, near Wakefield, on Saturday, July 18th. Handbells available at Duke of York Hotel, Agbrigg Road, 3 p.m. Tea, 1s. 6d. each, 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. All requiring teas must notify Mr. H. Spencer, 425, Barnsley Road, Milnthorpe, near Wakefield, not later than July 15th. All are welcome. — D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District. — Meeting at St. Peter's, Nottingham, Saturday, July 18th, at 3 p.m. Nearby district members welcomed. Postcard for tea by July 16th to Ida B. Thompson, 52, Lace Street, Dunkirk, Nottingham.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The quarterly meeting will be held on July 18th at the headquarters of No. 1 Branch, British Legion, 7, Ford Street, Coventry, one minute from Pool Meadow Bus Station. Room available from 3.30-7.30. Cups of tea will be provided, but please bring own food. Business meeting will follow tea. — Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — St. Albans District. —A meeting will be held at N. Mimms on July 18th. Tower open for handbell ringing from 3.30 p.m. Tea at the Corner Cafe at 5.30 p.m., followed by meeting and further handbell ringing to suit all tastes. Please notify for tea. — R. Darvill, Dis. Sec., 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION (Biggleswade District) and **HERTS ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting will be held at Henlow on Saturday, July 18th, at 3 p.m. Tower and handbells. Tea at 5. Please notify Mr. L. Bywaters, 12, Newtown, Henlow, Beds, not later than Wednesday, July 15th. Meet old friends. — C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

BOURNEMOUTH AND DISTRICT.—A meeting will be held in the garden of 36, Dean Park Road, by kind invitation of Rev. C. A. Phillipson, Saturday, July 18th, from 2.30 p.m. All ringers heartily invited to attend. Do not stay away, even if wet. Details will be arranged later. — Arthur V. Davis, 116, Alma Road, Bournemouth.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Banbury and District Branch. —The annual meeting will be held at Deddington on Saturday, July 25th. Six bells (silent) from 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea and meeting to follow. For tea please notify E. Pearson, Adderbury West, Banbury, Oxon.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD. — A meeting will be held at Balcombe on Saturday, July 25th. Handbells and silent tower bells from 3 p.m. Tea for those who inform Mr. A. Laker, 4, Barnfield Cottages, Balcombe, Sussex, by Wednesday, July 22nd. A good train service, so no excuses, please. — C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—The hon. secretary, Mr. E. G. Talbot, has now joined H.M. Forces and any communications should be sent to Mr. C. H. Parks, 44, Torridge Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

THE REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE, formerly of Swindon, Wiltshire, has now taken up residence at The Knowle, Lichfield, Staffs.

FOR SALE.

SET of ten musical handbells, by Mears, of London. Tenor No. 20 size in E flat, and four semitones. Parts of fittings missing; bells sound. Price £2 2s. — Mrs. Truss, Weir House, Marlow, Bucks.

DEATH OF MISS IRENE L. HASTIE.

We regret to announce the death of Miss Irene Lucilla Hastie, which took place very suddenly at Ealing on Wednesday, July 1st. The funeral was last Saturday at Ealing Cemetery and was conducted by the Rev. — Ford, Vicar of St. John's, Ealing Dean. In addition to the family mourners, the Middlesex County Association was represented by the Rev. W. Paton (Vicar of Brentford), Mr. J. A. Trollope (vice-president), Mr. J. E. L. Cockey (hon. district secretary) and Mr. P. E. Clark. Mrs. Cockey was also present. A course of Grand-sire Doubles was rung over the open grave.

Miss Hastie learnt to ring at St. Mary's, Acton, under the late Robert Holloway, and she was later connected with bands in Surrey and the West of England. She had rung several peals, including at least one of London Surprise Major.

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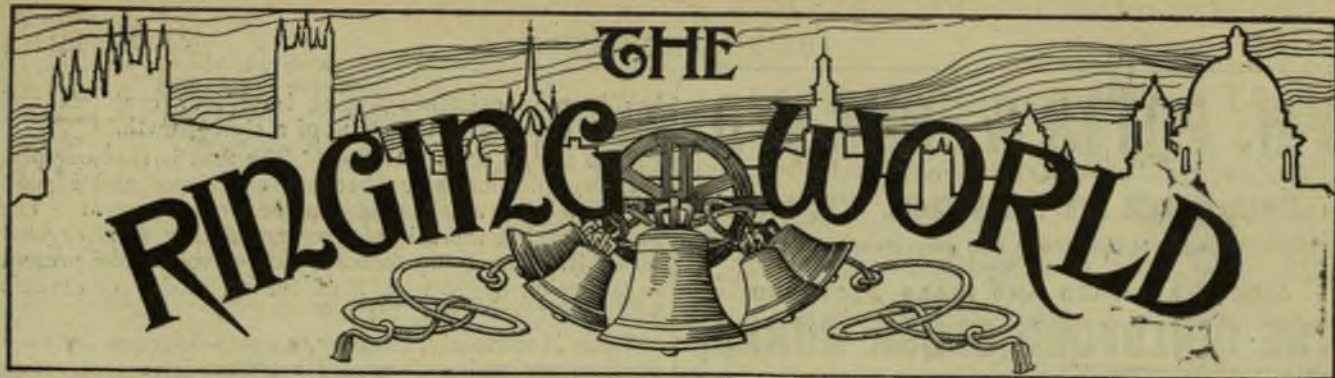
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FRIDAY, JULY 17th, 1942.

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A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

There are, we feel sure, among our readers many besides Mr. C. T. Coles who are somewhat disappointed that the advocates of a National Association did not take advantage of the Conference to explain what they thought would be the benefits to be gained from such an organisation and how it could be formed and worked.

Undoubtedly the idea attracted quite a number of people, some of them men whose opinion is fully worthy of respect, and that in itself forbids us to dismiss it as merely futile and absurd. We may be reasonably satisfied with things as they are, we may feel that the risks involved in any change would be too great, but it does not necessarily follow that we think nothing can be improved, or that the possibilities of improvement should not be fully explored.

Two thoughts seem to lie behind the wish for a National Association. One is to stress to the uttermost the essential unity of the Exercise, and not only give individual ringers all the advantages which come of co-operation one with another, but also to enable them as a body to make their influence felt when they come in contact with outsiders. The other is to utilise to the best advantage all the man power and all the financial resources available by avoiding overlapping and by eliminating unnecessary expenses.

These are worthy ideas, and there are few who will not be in sympathy with them. Where the issue will be joined is not in the main principles, but on the best way of putting them into practice. Granted that the unity of the Exercise is a highly desirable and valuable thing, would that unity be better attained by one centralised body, than, as at present, by a federation of local societies under the Central Council? Would the average ringer have the same feeling of loyalty to a national body as he has to his own local body? Would there be the same inducement for men to give their services voluntarily as cogs in a general machine, as there is now to act as secretaries and officers among their immediate fellows? Would not the expenses of running a centralised body be very large and where would they come from?

In short, would a National Association work? And if it would what would it be expected to do? These are the questions that need to be answered and answered not vaguely, but in definite terms. And before we attempt to answer them, we ought to try and understand something of our present organisation and how it came into being. The Exercise is not a thing of yesterday. It

(Continued on page 322.)

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has been in existence for at least four centuries and what it is to-day is the result of a slow growth.

Two things seem to follow. The first is that our present organisation arose because experience and expediency proved it was the best in the circumstances. The second is that there is nothing necessarily fixed or final about it. The same forces which gave us our present organisation might well, if necessary, modify or develop it.

There is obviously, however, a great difference between development and such a root and branch reconstruction as some appear to advocate; and many ringers who would be repelled by the very thought of the second would favourably consider the first. Here, at any rate, we think, is room for discussion. How can we, within the framework of our present organisation, remove those defects that men complain of? Certainly something can be done. The problems of overlapping are not insoluble, and the benefits to be derived from co-operation are many. Already much has been done in this way by joint meetings, and in one instance we believe there is a permanent joint committee of two associations charged with dealing with any questions which may arise between them.

The best solution of the question will probably be found not by amalgamating the present guilds into one centralised National Association, but by greater co-operation between them, while retaining to the full their complete independence and autonomy.

THE NAMES OF THINGS.

'Can you tell me,' asked my old friend Johnson the other day when we were having a mild and bitter in the bar parlour of the Six Bells, 'Can you tell me why you call that wool on your bell ropes the sally?' 'Why, yes,' I replied. 'We call it the sally because that's the name of it.'

'You're a fool,' he retorted rudely. 'What I mean is—Why is it the name? What's the reason?'

'Well,' I said, 'the reason why it's the name is because that's what people call it.'

He snorted and did not reply directly, but went on, 'There must be some reason why it got that name. All names have some reason, if you can only find it out. For instance, do you know why that dog is called a plum pudding dog?' and he pointed to a black and white spotted tripe hound that had just gone up to the counter with its master to order another pint. 'You don't? Well, I'll tell you. It was like this.

'Many years ago in the time of Julius Caesar and William the Conqueror there was a very holy man who lived in the country down Weymouth way. He lived all by himself except for a beautiful snow white hound, who loved its master. The saint was writing a very learned book, and one day he sat working at his table and by his side lay the faithful dog. On the table was a big pot of ink, and ever and anon the saint dipped his pen into it. When he did so he flicked his pen to one side, not noticing that the blobs of ink were falling on to the glistening coat of the faithful hound, who, knowing how important was the task on which the saint was engaged, lay still and said nothing.

'At last the holy man finished his work. With a sigh of thankfulness he laid down his pen, took a deep draught from the quart pot which stood handy, and looked round. Then he saw his faithful dog and what he had done to him; and "Dalmatian!" said the holy man.

'That's why the hound is called a plum pudding dog. Now can you give me a similar reason why you call that wool a sally?'

'No, I can't,' I replied. 'I thought not,' he said, 'you're an ignorant ass, and a blighted idiot.'

We left it at that.

FROM THE MIDDLE EAST.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I say how interesting 'The Ringing World' is to us singers in the Middle East? And we do appreciate all ringers at home who are doing all they can to keep the art at its very best. I am sure I would be right in saying that the death of Mr. F. Woodiss of Banstead, was read with very deep regret by all those he associated with.

Wimbledon.

L. F. HOPGOOD.

EIGHT BELL PEAL.

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On Tuesday, June 30, 1942, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. SAVIOUR,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

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JOHN W. NOZUM	Treble	JAMES FLIGHT	5
SAMUEL J. EVANS	2	MISS MARGARET ALEXANDER ...	6
WILLIAM T. SHAW	3	& HENRY H. ANNESLEY ...	7
FREDERICK E. DUKES	4	THOMAS F. NOZUM	7
		CAPT. JOHN KINCH	Tenor

Conducted by FREDERICK E. DUKES.

First peal at first attempt by all the band, who are all local ringers (except the conductor). Rung on front five with 7, 6, 8 covering.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, July 5, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT 21, WATHEEN ROAD, ST. ANDREW'S,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

WILFRED WILLIAMS	1-2	ROYSTON G. BRYANT	5-6
JOHN THOMAS	3-4	DONALD G. CLIFT	7-8

Composed by F. BENNETT.

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

OLEEVE, SOMERSET.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Sunday, July 5, 1942, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT WOOLMERS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 15 in C.

HERBERT W. KNIGHT	1-2	WILFRED WILLIAMS	5-6
JOHN THOMAS	3-4	DONALD G. CLIFT	7-8

Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.

Umpire—Mrs. H. W. Knight.

Rung to commemorate the 191st anniversary of the first performance of this composition at St. Margaret's, Westminster, on Sunday, July 7th, 1751. The ringer of 1-2 was elected a member of the society before commencing.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, July 8, 1942, in Two Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

EDWIN JENNINGS	1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE	5-6
* ERNEST C. S. TURNER	3-4	FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW	7-8

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by HAROLD G. CASHMORE

* 300th peal. The first handbell peal in the method for the association. The start and the last half-hour were heard by A. Tomlinson, of Blackpool, a former secretary of the Lancashire County Association.

DEVON BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am trying to discover if detailed records of the bells cast by the Penningtons in Devon still exist. It has struck me that these may have passed into the keeping of some ringing society—the Devon Guild of Ringers have not got them—or they have passed into the possession of some firm who took over the Penningtons' business, which ceased, I believe, early in the 19th century. I have endeavoured to trace whether there is still a Pennington living in Exeter or its neighbourhood, but have had no success.

THOMAS H. SIMS.

The Old Thatch Cottage, Cheriton Bishop, near Exeter.

SURFLEET CHIMES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Hewett's figures with one exception are correct, but are for the hour only, whereas Surfleet has a different chime for each quarter, as follows:—

Quarter: 451236. Half-hour: 135246; 456213. Three-quarters: 331246; 574213; 451236. Hour: 135246; 456213; 531246; 574213. 10.

Burgess Hill.

F. I. HAIRS.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY GUILD.

THE PAST TERM.

Before reviewing the work of the society over the whole of the academic year just finished, here is a brief account of the doings of the past term.

Membership has again remained about the same, recruits making up for losses, but efforts have always been made, wherever possible, to interest outsiders. Mainly because of the shadow of final examinations, which overhung several members, few peal attempts were made: nevertheless, two peals of Bob Minor were rung, being first peals for Peter C. Gibbs and Miss Peggy Kinipple.

Examinations were not allowed to interfere with practices, however, and attendances were good, except for a certain tendency to prefer the delights of the river in the brief spells of hot weather. The main methods practised have been Kent Treble Bob (Major and Royal) and Double Norwich, and half a dozen members—five of whom will be up next term—attained a considerable degree of confidence in these methods. Other methods rung included Oxford Treble Bob, Cambridge Court, Double Oxford and Isleworth Bob Royal.

Mr. Wilfred Williams came over twice from Cheltenham, bringing with him on one occasion Messrs. G. Smith and D. G. Clift. Attempts for Holt's Original came to grief on each occasion—one about 300 changes from the end. Also, Kenneth S. B. Croft, Master of the C.U.G., spent the last ten days of term in Oxford, and joined the society in practices and in several peal attempts, all of which, unfortunately, proved unsuccessful.

A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT.

The past academic year has been without doubt the most successful ever enjoyed by the O.U.S.C.R. The feature most worthy of note is the way in which handbell ringing has flourished, but the great enthusiasm displayed by most members has also been decidedly encouraging.

Only three competent ringers were left at the beginning of the year, but the success of the system of teaching employed (which has been explained in these pages at various times) may be judged from the fact that at the end there were more than a dozen. When the usual proportion of failures to successes in teaching beginners is considered, it will be realised what a large number of recruits must have been handled. The accent has been on even-bell methods, and the society can now manage most methods up to the level of Kent and Double Norwich.

Ten handbell peals (the first ever recorded for the society) have been rung during the year, comprising Grandsire Doubles 1, Bob Minor 5, Minor in more than one method 2, Bob Major 2. This list is far from imposing as regards quality, but the fact that no less than seven members scored their first peals (six of these did not begin ringing until last October) and three their first in hand throws it into a better perspective.

PROMISING BEGINNERS.

Three of the beginners of last October have made especial progress, all reaching the standard of double-handed Kent and Double Norwich, which must surely be a record for only six months of actual ringing. They are all ladies—Misses Buckley, Houldsworth and Scaddan, with two, four and four peals respectively to their credit.

Practice in the tower has not been forsaken, but has been confined merely to teaching the handling of a bell.

It was an agreeable surprise to witness the reawakening of the sister society at Cambridge, and a pleasure to meet and ring with several of their members, notably the present Master, Mr. K. S. B. Croft. The joint peal of Bob Major rung after the annual lunch is the first such peal on record.

No Sunday evening in term time has passed without the society providing a band to ring before evensong at St. Mary's, the University Church, the method usually being Grandsire Caters.

The year has also been notable for the number of visitors who have come to Oxford to ring with the society. Besides those already referred to, the Rev. M. C. C. Melville and Mr. W. Dobbie should be mentioned. It is to be hoped that such visits will continue as far as is possible in these days. If any ringer finds himself at any time in a position to come to Oxford, let him but give warning of his coming and he will be made welcome.

LADY MEMBERS.

In conclusion, a few words on future prospects will be opportune. The destiny of the O.U.S.C.R. rests largely in the hands of the fair sex. While some may regret their preponderance, the ladies have certainly taken their full part in the successes of the past year, and it is mainly to them that one must look, as long as the war lasts. With every year of the war conditions become more difficult for a university change ringing society. Less and less time is allowed for academic courses, and part-time war work makes ever greater demands on leisure time. Nevertheless, the O.U.S.C.R. intends to go on to better things, despite all difficulties. Fortunately, most of the present members—including five who can ring Double Norwich—will be up for the whole of next year, so the immediate future, at least, seems assured, and it is to be hoped that the coming year will be as kind in providing likely recruits as the last has been.

THE SURPRISE METHODS.

THEIR HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT.

(From the new and unpublished book on the Surprise Major Methods prepared by the Methods Committee of the Central Council.)

A Surprise Method is a method on the Treble Bob Principle in which at least one internal place is made at every Cross Section. That has been the official definition since 1906 when the report of the Methods Committee on classification was adopted by the Central Council, and it has been loyally and universally accepted by the Exercise at large.

But the term is much older; it goes back to the early days of the eighteenth century and probably to the end of the seventeenth century. The earliest extant notice of it is in William Laughton's manuscript, where he relates that the Rambling Ringers on more than one occasion rang a 720 of Cambridge Surprise Minor.

About the same time (A.D. 1734) Annable was writing his notebook now in the British Museum. In it he gives five Minor methods which he calls Surprise, viz., Cambridge, London, York, Lincoln, and Oxford. Cambridge he also gives on eight bells, but incorrectly, for in the second section the only places made are those in 1-2, fifths and eighths being omitted. In Oxford Surprise Minor, the treble makes thirds and fourths on its way out and fourths and thirds on its way down. With such a method a true 720 is not possible.

The first part of this manuscript is very carefully written out. It consists mainly of six-bell methods, and Annable has marked the composers of these by putting an initial letter underneath the leads. London, York and Lincoln are marked A, showing they were composed by Annable himself. Oxford is marked I, but to whom that refers we are unable to say. Beneath Cambridge no initial is given, so Annable evidently did not know who first composed it. It was already a well-known standard method, and very likely was first rung in the town of Cambridge some time after Fabian Stedman published his 'Campanalogia' in 1677.

In 1737 a man named Samuel Stuart presented to the Society of London Youths a manuscript report of a peal he and five others had rung at St. Mary, Matfelon, Whitechapel. It consisted of 'seven compleat Surprise Six Bell Peals,' and the figures of the methods are given. They are Oxford Tripple Bob, Cambridge Surprize, London Surprize, Morning Exercise, Bristol Surprize, Worcester Surprize, and York Surprize. Some of them would not now be classed as Surprise, and even then a distinction was made in the individual titles.

Cambridge Surprise appears in print for the first time in the 1753 edition of the 'J.D. and C.M. Campanalogia.' It does not appear in the 1733 edition.

In 1780 the Society of London Youths had a band of young and very clever ringers, all of whom afterwards took part in many outstanding peals, and under John Reeves' conductorship they rang the first peal of Surprise Major ever accomplished, 5088 of Cambridge at St. Giles' in-the-Fields, Bloomsbury. Oxford Treble Bob for many years had been a widely practised method and many peals of it had been rung, but it had not occurred to anyone that a composition might have false changes which did not show at the lead ends. Christopher Wells, one of the London Youths (although for some reason or other he did not take part in the Cam-

bridge), was the first to find out that Treble Bob might be internally false with the treble in 1-2, but even then the full extent of the liability to repetition was not realised, and it was not until just after the Cambridge was rung that the matter was properly understood. Almost inevitably therefore the peal turned out to be false.

At the time William Jones was preparing to write the 'Clavis Campanalogia,' and he enlisted the services of Reeves as chief composer and expert in peal composition. Reeves was a very clever composer, and between then and 1788 he produced many peals of great merit, some of which in their classes have never been superseded; but though he fully understood the composition of Treble Bob with the tenors together, he did not realise that if they are parted, though the scope is much larger, the liability to falseness is greatly increased. Consequently, when the band (who had now joined the ancient Society of College Youths) again rang the peal of Cambridge, he thought he could get a true composition by parting the tenors, but again it was false.

The performance, however, was looked upon at the time, and justly, as the 'greatest performance ever achieved in the Campanistanean Art, as so intricate a method was never practised by any other set of men whatever.' It was the same men who first tried to ring London Major, but either because they found it too difficult, or for want of a true peal, they did not persevere.

In the 'Clavis' (1788) are given sixteen Surprise Minor methods, five of which have irregular lead ends, and three others which do not comply with the modern definition. London Major and Cambridge Major appear in print for the first time, as well as Superlative, which was a new method by Reeves. The authors of the book had a very high opinion of it, and induced the Exercise to take the same view, but it was not until many years later that it was first practised in London.

During the closing years of the century the two leading metropolitan societies absorbed practically all the skilful ringers, and their interest chiefly centred in ten and twelve bell ringing, especially in Stedman Cinques, which was a recent discovery. The early years of the nineteenth century saw a great decline in ringing, and especially so in London. The conditions under which the art had flourished during the eighteenth century were passing away, and the class of men which had formed the backbone of the leading societies, like the Eastern Scholars and the College Youths, was no longer attracted to the belfry. As the members got older and less energetic there were none to take their places, and the time came, when death had thinned their ranks, that the societies were faced with the alternatives, either drastically to lower their social standards or cease to be. Reluctantly and with much misgiving, the College Youths chose the first, and for many years ringing was in the hands of men of the lowest classes and without the leaven of people of superior education. Much the same thing was going on all over the country, with the result that the Exercise lost any initiative in method ringing.

In addition, the 'Clavis' had largely standardised ringing. In earlier days, beside Grandsire and Plain Bob, which were common property, each district where there were expert bands had its own favourite methods, but now Plain Bob, Treble Bob, Grandsire and Stedman supplied all that ringers needed, and beyond them their

ambition did not reach. There were one or two exceptions. Shipway introduced a little variety into the Cumberlands' records and at Norwich the old strong traditions still survived. In Yorkshire, ringing was carried on under conditions we should now consider deplorable, but keen competition and prize ringing, with all their evils, did produce some good results; and it was there that Surprise ringing was first practised to any extent.

As far back as 1787 the Sheffield men rang 6,048 changes of Cambridge. The composition is lost, but, short of a miracle, it cannot have been true, though that hardly lessens the merits of the peal as a practical performance.

Benjamin Thackrah, of Dewsbury, was one of the leading ringers and composers of the North, and he seems to have been one of the first to realise how very liable Cambridge is to internal falseness. Despairing of getting a true peal by ordinary means he, as he tells us, 'introduced singles when the treble was dodging in 3-4 to take away the false changes when liable.' The device is still occasionally used and rung as New Cambridge. It reduces the false course-ends of the method from five to three, and, as those which remain are easily manageable, it is possible to get 6,720 changes with the tenors together. This length was rung at Huddersfield in 1822 by seven of the local band, and Thackrah, who conducted, but it is very doubtful if the peal was true. He does not give the figures in his book, and a 6,048 which he does give is, either from ignorance or carelessness, very false.

Eleven years previously at Keighley the local band had scored a 5,376 of the same method, the composition of Joseph Tebbs, which was claimed to be the first true peal of Cambridge in the North of England. The claim

is good evidence that the Sheffield peal of 1787 had been found to be false, but though Tebbs was a skilful ringer and not without considerable ability as a composer, it is not likely that his peal was true.

Thackrah has the distinction of calling the first peal of Superlative. It was rung three months before the Cambridge, in the same tower, and by the same band. In the previous August they had rung 5,600 changes, but the peal turned out to be false. Thackrah's composition is one of those elementary peals which will serve in many ways for many methods. It usually appears in standard books as a three-part 6,048 over the name of John Cox. In Thackrah's book the composition is given with twenty-one courses only, two short of a peal. As rung the peal contained 5,152 changes and was accomplished immediately after a 5,040 of Treble Bob Triples which 'was gone through in a most magnificent style.'

There were many skilful ringers at this time in Yorkshire, and it is not unlikely that other peals of Cambridge and Superlative Major were rung; for we must remember that only a small proportion of peals were recorded on boards, and those that were not, have, for the most part, been forgotten.

William Shipway published his 'Campanalogia' in 1814. In many respects it is a great improvement on the 'Clavis,' but good as it is, it had little effect on method ringing. The new systems given in it were stillborn, for, as we have said, the Exercise had already as many methods as it wanted, and no extension of method ringing followed on the publication except that in 1826 the Wakefield company (who in 1822 had rung the first peal of Cambridge Royal) scored 5,400 changes of Superlative Royal. In the previous year they had rung a peal in the same method which turned out to be false.

(To be continued.)

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The peal of Grandsire Doubles reported in this issue was the first by the Arklow Guild for many years, and they are very proud of having been successful at the first attempt. A young beginner, Miss Alexander rang one of the covering bells (the sixth) for half the peal and then gave over the rope to another.

The hon. secretary of the Guild would like to know whether, seeing that the peal was rung on the front five of eight bells with 7, 6, 8 covering, the ringers of the sixth and tenor can claim a peal.

To-morrow is the 144th anniversary of the opening peal on the old ring of twelve at St. Chad's, Shrewsbury. It was rung by a visiting band of London College Youths, assisted by James Dovey, of Stourbridge, and his friend Samuel Laurence, of Shifnal. The method was Grandsire Cinques and the conductor was Thomas Blakemore.

Isaac George Shade, one of the earliest ringers to score over a thousand peals, was knocked down and killed in the street on July 19th, 1926. He was 76 years old.

Last Wednesday was the 87th anniversary of the first peal rung on the Continent. It was rung by the Society of Cumberland Youths on Sunday, July 15th, 1855, at the Boulevard Bonne Neuville, Paris, and was Holt's Ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples. John Cox rang 34 and conducted.

On July 15th, 1933, Mr. J. D. Johnson called the first peal of Hinton Surprise Major at Hinton-on-the-Green for the Worcester and Districts Association.

ARCHDEACON BLACKWOOD.

OF HOBART, TASMANIA.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I think the enclosed cutting taken from 'The Sun,' Melbourne, Australia, of April 27th, will be of interest to many ringers, especially those who were privileged to take part in the great Australian tour of 1934.

Archdeacon Blackwood will long be remembered by those taking part in the tour for the great welcome he gave to the touring party. Nothing was too much trouble for him to make our visit to Hobart as enjoyable as possible, and I am sure the rest of the band will join me in offering him our heartiest congratulations on his appointment.

R. RICHARDSON.

Glyn Garth, Surfleet.

Archdeacon D. B. Blackwood, Rector of Holy Trinity Church, Hobart, has been appointed Bishop of Gippsland in succession to Bishop Cranswick, who has been appointed chairman of the Australian Board of Missions.

Archdeacon Blackwood served as a chaplain with the A.I.F. in the last war, and was awarded the Military Cross. He has been Rector of Holy Trinity, Hobart, since 1924.

He has two daughters, one of whom is in the mission field and the other engaged in youth welfare work in West Australia. His two sons are in the services.

No date has yet been fixed for enthroning the bishop-elect, but it will probably take place in St. Paul's Cathedral, Sale, in July.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM SEELEY.

BUSHEY COMPANY'S LOSS.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. William Seeley, who passed away in Shrodells Hospital, Watford, on Saturday, July 4th.

Mr. Seeley had received treatment at the University College Hospital, London, during last autumn, for cancer of the tongue, after which he resumed work until three weeks before his death. He was born at Cheriton, Kent, in 1870, and spent his early ringing years chiefly in Dover and Folkestone. Of the latter tower he was for some time Master.

He removed to Watford in 1909 on taking up employment with the Standard Range and Foundry Co. as fitter-smith, in which employment he continued until his death. He joined the Bushey Society and remained one of its most loyal and useful members, and he will be sadly missed in days to come.

He had taken part in just over 100 peals in the standard methods as well as in Caters, and had rung the treble to numerous Surprise methods old and new. In the latter capacity he was particularly efficient and valued. His favourite method was Stedman, and he had a keen desire to call a peal of Stedman Triples. He was unsuccessful at Folkestone, and the late Bertram Prewett arranged an attempt at Aldenham on December 7th, 1912, for him to call. This he did well and truly, the peal going with clockwork precision, no word spoken except bobs. Mr. Seeley was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths and the Middlesex Association, as well as the Hertford County Association. He had also officiated as Master of the Bushey Society for one or two periods. His wife predeceased him some years ago.

The interment took place at Rickmansworth Cemetery on July 8th. Among those present were Mr. A. K. Seeley (son), Mrs. Roberts (daughter) and Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Lambert (sisters). The Bushey Society was represented by Messrs. F. A. Smith, P. Parelou and M. Hibbert, and the society also sent a wreath.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

GENERAL MEETING AT SELBY.

A general meeting of the Yorkshire Association was held at Selby on Saturday, June 20th, but owing to the lack of adequate travelling facilities the attendance was not as representative as had been hoped for. Members in the Northern and Southern Districts were particularly handicapped by the fact that they could not possibly have got back home the same day. It was the first occasion the association had visited Selby since the induction of Canon A. E. M. Glover, by whose kind permission the back eight bells at the Abbey were available for 'silent' ringing. The General Committee met at 3 p.m. and a brief service in the Abbey followed, conducted by Canon Glover, who welcomed the association, and regretted that the ban prevented the glorious tones of the Abbey bells being heard that afternoon. He hoped they would be able to come again in the near future, and by then happier conditions would prevail.

It had not been possible to arrange a tea, but members and friends were able to find accommodation at the several cafes nearby. The business meeting took place in the Abbey Sacristy at 6 p.m., when the chair was taken by the president, Canon C. C. Marshall, supported by the general secretary (Mr. L. W. G. Morris), the peal secretary (Mr. W. Barton), the vice-presidents of the Western and Eastern Districts (Messrs. P. J. Johnson and F. Cryer), and the Eastern District secretary (Mr. H. S. Morley). Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. S. F. Palmer (hon. treasurer), G. Lewis (vice-president, Southern District), D. Smith, H. Chant, W. H. Senior, E. Hudson, J. Broadley, J. Ambler and A. B. Cook.

VOTE OF THANKS.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar, churchwardens and local company was proposed by Mr. P. J. Johnson, who spoke of the cordial relations that had always existed between the association and their friends at Selby. They would long remember the many kindnesses rendered by Canon Solloway during the 36 years he had been Vicar of Selby, and he could assure Canon Glover that he had no doubt those good relations would continue. Mr. A. E. Sellers seconded, and the proposition was carried with applause.

Canon Marshall said he had known Canon Glover many years and could tell many stories about him. He was sure that both the association and the people of Selby had in Canon Glover a staunch friend. In reply, Canon Glover said he was grateful for the vote of thanks and would be pleased to receive the association again. Canon Marshall dare not tell the stories he had mentioned because he (Canon Glover) could also tell stories, probably worse, about Canon Marshall (laughter).

The president read a circular from the Central Council relating to 'The Ringing World,' and said that the committee had considered the matter and had agreed in principle to a grant being made from association funds if an appeal was made. After discussion, Mr. P. J. Johnson moved that the matter be brought up again at the next meeting, but in the event of an urgent appeal being made, the president, general secretary and treasurer be empowered to make a grant of not exceeding £10. Mr. J. F. Harvey seconded and it was carried.

SUGGESTED CHANGE OF DATES.

The general secretary (Mr. L. W. G. Morris) said that the present financial year commenced on October 1st and terminated on September 30th of the year following. This caused the annual meeting of the General Committee to take place in December and the annual general meeting to take place in January. He felt that it was undesirable to hold the two most important meetings of the year at such times. In addition, the work of compiling the annual report took place at a time when the principal officers had other pressing business commitments. His notice of motion was concerned with changing the financial year so as to commence on January 1st and terminate on December 31st. This would cause the General Committee meeting to take place in, say, March, and the annual general meeting in, say, April or May. The present period of inactivity was the most opportune time to make such a change. To do so during normal times would considerably increase the size of the first report following the change-over, and much more work would be involved. After giving notice of the amendment to the rules involved (which will be printed in full on the circular notice of the next general meeting), Mr. Morris proposed: 'That the official association year shall commence on January 1st and terminate on December 31st of each year, and that the necessary amendment to rules, consequent thereon, be made.'

Mr. W. Barton, seconding, said that nothing but good could arise from the change and he felt it was a step in the right direction. He agreed that if the change was to be made it could be done with far less difficulty, and certainly much more economically, during the present period. Several members spoke and the general trend of feeling was in favour of the change. The matter will come before the next general meeting for discussion and settlement.

The President announced that the next meeting was due to be held on the third Saturday in September. Some considerable discussion ensued, the difficulties of travel and catering being pointed out. Mr. P. J. Johnson said that some time had elapsed since a general meeting had been held in the Southern District, and as no invitations had been received, he proposed that if suitable arrangements could be made the next meeting be held in the Southern District, the place being

(Continued in next column.)

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

PLEASANT MEETING AT UPPER HARTFIELD.

A lovely summer afternoon, a shady garden and plenty of comfortable chairs. Such was the setting for a meeting of the East Grinstead and District Guild on Saturday, June 27th, at Shaldon, Upper Hartfield, made possible through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Oliver.

Members attended from Coleman's Hatch, East Grinstead, Hartfield, Paddock Wood, Tunbridge Wells and Wadhurst.

The handbells were soon set going in various methods. Some touches vanished in thin air, some came round, but it was all good practice and good fun.

At the business meeting a circular letter on the future of 'The Ringing World' was read, but after some discussion a decision was deferred.

The next meeting was fixed for July 25th at Balcombe, and it was made known that East Grinstead bells would be available for a meeting in September.

Mr. A. Batten voiced the appreciation of all to Mr. and Mrs. Oliver, thanking them both for a most enjoyable time.

After more refreshments, the meeting broke up about 8 p.m., everyone feeling that life was still worth living.

A FAMILY OF BELLHANGERS.

All ringers know that Bilbie was a very well-known Somerset bell founder, who cast many noble bells. Can any reader of 'The Ringing World' tell us if he ever cast a heavier bell than the noble tenor at Yeovil, a little over 40 cwt.? Bilbie's bellhangers were a family called Bush, who were descended from Bishop Bush, of Bristol, I think, in 1600 and something. The family still exist to-day and live in Wrington. They carry on a successful building business, father and two sons, all excellent craftsmen, and they still have in possession two jacks that were used by their ancestors, the bellhangers. I asked Peter Bush, the father, if he would sell them. 'No,' he said, 'they are far too useful.' The last time they were used on bell work was at Congresbury very many years ago, which I am informed was the last bellhanging job the Bush family carried out for the Bilbie family. I think this was about 1800.

Would some reader of 'The Ringing World' tell us the latest date that Bilbie cast any bells? The latest I know of is the 7th at Wedmore in 1801.

JOHN H. B. HESSE.

Wrington.

'The Western Flying Post' for July 14th, 1760, has an advertisement which states that John Bush, bellhanger, of Chew Stoke, had lately 'hung to sally' the large peal of six bells in the Town of Yeovil, the tenor consisting of near 50 cwt.; and whereas before it took 22 or 23 men to ring them, 'the same has been rung four several hours by 7 men only' to Grandsire Doubles.

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following is the composition of the peal of Bob Royal which I called at Burgess Hill on June 14th. It seems to be as good a peal in the method as can be obtained.

	5,040.
23456 W M B	
46235 — — S	
23465 — — —	
42365 — — —	
34265 — — —	
52346 — — —	
35248 — — —	
23548 — — —	

Three times repeated with a single instead of the first bob in alternate parts, or at the half-way and end.

Ealing. ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

left in the hands of the principal officers to decide. This was seconded by Mr. W. Pearson and carried.

A discussion took place on the subject of ringing members who had become permanently afflicted by illness. The general secretary said he had received a letter concerning a specific case, but there was nothing in the rules at present which dealt with such cases. The President announced that the committee had considered the matter, and while they had every sympathy with such cases, the rules did not empower them to make any concession. They felt, however, that the matter was an important one and worthy of further consideration.

Mr. W. Barton gave notice of motion to add a new rule empowering the General Committee to consider such cases, and to recommend that they become honorary members of the association.—Mr. J. F. Harvey seconded, and the motion will come before the next meeting for further discussion and final decision. The full text of the motion will be printed on the circular notice relating to the next meeting.

This concluded the business, bringing to a close a meeting which, judged from the interest displayed in the proceedings, reminded one of pre-war days and normal activities.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

The origin of the word 'chime' is somewhat obscure, but is undoubtedly connected with the Latin 'cymbalum'—old German 'Zimbel'—meaning 'a bell struck by a hammer.' The definitions of the words are:—

- (1) A diatonic set of bells in a tower, sometimes including a minor 7th and the augmented 4th, giving the possibilities of modulation to the dominant and sub-dominant of the key.
- (2) A series of musical sounds or tune, played mechanically or otherwise, on such a set of bells.

There is very little information as to when chimes were first used, the only records being found in ancient churchwardens' accounts and similar documents, in which mention is occasionally made of repairs to chiming apparatus. These—of which examples will be quoted later—show that chimes were common in the middle of the fifteenth, and in general use in the sixteenth centuries. There seems to be no doubt that chimes were first played by hand, and the different hours of the day were originally announced in the same way. Many years B.C. a mechanism was used in connection with the clepsydra, by which a weight was released at the hours and struck a bell. An example of this is given in *Magnus Tintinnabulum*. This is the earliest record of what may be termed a 'striking clock,' although it was many centuries afterwards ere a device was invented to play quarter-chimes, and, later, chime tunes as we are accustomed to hear them.

St. Dunstan, who died in 988, we are told, excelled in the psalter, lyre, and in 'touching the cymbals.' He is said to have made a set of chimes for Canterbury. These ancient chimes were frequently used with the organ, and Ælred, Abbot of Ruvaulx in the twelfth century, strongly denounces not only the groaning of the bellows, and the roaring of the organ pipes, but 'the noise of the cymbals.' Probably the stop known as the cimbell (Zimbel) found in later days on the organ, was an attempt to reproduce the brilliancy of the bell chimes. A treatise by Theophilus, a monk of the eleventh century is printed by Rimbault in his 'History of the Pianoforte,' which minutely describes the casting and tuning of these little bells. Probably, owing to its bell-like effect, the name cymbal was in later times applied to the psaltery and then to the dulcimer: from the psaltery it passed to the keyed psaltery, the clavicymbal or harpsichord.

One of the earliest known mention of chimes on the church bells is in 1432, when 'Richard Roper was paid 20d. for mending the chymes of Norwich Cathedral.' Later—in 1463—we read of John Baret, of Bury, Suffolk, leaving money in his will for the repair of the chimes there.

In England, at this date, there is no doubt that chimes were played on a small number of bells, as mentioned at Durham, where before 1593 we read that Bishop Sparke caused to be 'maide a goodly chyme to be sett on iij (three) bells.'

On the Continent, however, a large number of bells were used for this purpose. Dunkirk had a carillon of extensive compass in 1437, and Alost in 1487. Chime mechanism was invented soon after the advent of weight clocks, and with their introduction many devices were introduced to indicate the flight of time, such as perform-

ing figures, crowing cocks, etc. Peter Lightfoot, the ingenious Abbot of Glastonbury, was one of the earliest—if not the earliest—maker of such clocks (1335). Soon after this they were made on the Continent, and we read of great clocks being erected at Middleburg (1371), Mechlin (1372) and Ghent (1376). There are many reasons for believing that, even at this early period, the striking of the hour was preceded by a short chime on the little bells, called then in Flemish 'Appeelkens.' Records of Mons (1382), Tournai (1392) and Ghent (1412) mention such bells.

In all probability the quarters were first indicated by a 'jack' on a single bell, and later by two 'jacks' on two bells, the notes of which were a 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th apart. Such quarters would be known as 'ding-dong' or 'ting-tang' quarters, and from their introduction to the present time have been more extensively used than others in this country.

It should be noted that quarter chimes and chime-tunes in England consist of melody only, whereas on the Continent the bells are used a great deal in combination, being frequently heard in chords of three, four or five notes. Many of these sounds are redundant, as in most cases bells cannot be heard to better advantage than when played in two or three parts. Great uncertainty prevails as to the dates of the water-clock, and the wheel-and-weight clock, nor can we assign the appearance of the second train of wheels for striking purposes to any definite time. Hour striking, no doubt, had to suffice for the use of bells in clocks for many years. Then, as clock-mechanism improved, the pleasure of hearing familiar pieces of music, or others likely to win their way and so become familiar, was gratified by the invention or introduction of a third train of wheels. Doubtless many a time before this invention came into being, ingenious sextons or their deputies 'clocked' the bells, and played such tunes as the numbers and notes allowed: doubtless also, many are the ancient bells which thus 'perished in the using,' for such clocking is a dangerous practice.

That the mediæval method was mainly identical with that of the present day is shown by the will of that substantial citizen of Bury St. Edmunds, John Baret, who died in 1463, and was buried in St. Mary's Church there. It is printed *in extenso* in Tymm's 'Wills and Inventories,' from the Registers of the Commissary of Bury St. Edmunds, and Archdeacons of Sudbury [p. 17 *et seq.*].

After giving instructions to his executors for his burial, etc., for his 'anniversary,' he states:—

Item. I wil that the belle man have iiijd to go yeerly aboute the town at my yeerday for my soule and for my faderis and modys.

Item. I wil that the Sexteyn of Seynt Marie chirche have at my yeerday xijd so he ryng wil and fynde bread and ale to his fflashippe, and eche yeer what tyme my yeerday fallyth that at twelve of the klokke at noon next beform my dirige he do the chymes smythe *Requiem eternam*, and so to contynue sevene nyght after til the vtas (octaves) of my yeerday be passyd, and eue (the short requiem) al lenten *Requiem eternam*, and in lykvyse such day as God disposith for me to passe I wil the seid chymes smyth forthwith *Requiem eternum*, and so day and nyth to cotynue with the

(Continued on next page.)

CLOCK CHIMES.

TIVERTON QUARTERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—An interesting chime was in use at Tiverton, Devon, in 1924, and may be worth mentioning for those who have not heard them. With several other ringers I was impressed very favourably by them on the occasion of a visit by the Wolverhampton ringers when on tour during a very hot August. I give these as my memory serves me:—

First quarter: Rounds. Half-hour: Rounds and Queens. Three-quarters: Rounds, Queens and Whittingtons. Hour: Rounds, Queens, Whittingtons and Tittums.

The Tittums may be on the third quarter and Whittington on the hour.

This arrangement of chimes was done very slowly and on such a fine peal of bells was to me very beautiful, striking and impressive. As these details are given from memory, the order may not be correct. I am open to correction.

ALBERT J. HUGHES.

14, Robert Street, Hiraal, Bangor, N.W.

MR. W. W. STARMER'S BOOKLET.

Dear Sir,—I would inform Mr. F. M. Taylor that a booklet, entitled 'Quarter Chimes and Chime Tunes,' by the late Mr. W. W. Starmer, was issued by Messrs. Taylor, of Loughborough. Although this is some time ago, they may still have a copy left.

But if Mr. E. Morris is able to fulfil his suggestion to submit some articles on this very interesting subject through the columns of 'The Ringing World,' I am sure these would be most welcome.

7, Grove Avenue, Wadsley, Sheffield. S. L. MARSHALL.

THE LATE BERTRAM PREWETT.

A PEAL ON EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I refer to the last paragraph of Mr. E. Barnett's letter in your last issue?

During the last war I was stationed for a few months, in 1916, in the vicinity of Warminster, Wiltshire. Sergt. Dowding and myself had some notices typed out, and these we posted up in all the camp canteens inviting ringers to a meeting at Warminster Parish Church. Amongst those that turned up was the late Bertram Prewett, and eventually we attempted a khaki peal of Grandsire Triples, which was spoilt by the conductor (myself) calling the bobs when the treble was up behind. Incidentally Bertram took over the conducting and we rang a few nice touches. When we were leaving the tower Bertram remarked that 'he had rung a peal on every date in the year.'

A year or so ago the names of the few ringers who have accomplished this feat were published in 'The Ringing World,' and I wrote suggesting that the late Bertram Prewett's name should be added. Anyway, no notice was taken of my letter, so I let the matter drop. Mr. Barnett's remark in his letter seems to confirm that this feat was accomplished by Mr. Prewett. May I, in conclusion, send my best wishes to those ringers who were at Warminster with the 58th London Division?

T. E. SONE.

Warrington House, Paddock Wood, Kent.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

(Continued from previous page.)

same song tyl my xxxn day be past for me and my friends that holpe thereto with any goods of here.

Item. I wil yeve and givethe yeerly to the Sexteyn of Seint Marie chirche viijs to kepe the klokke, take hede to the chymes, wynde up the pegs and the plummys as ofte as nede is, so that the seid chymes fayle not to goo through the defeaute of the seid Sexteyn whoso be for the tyme: and yif he wil not take it vpon hym the owner of my hefd place, the parysh preest and the Seynt Marie preest to chese oon of the parysh such as wil do it for the same money, tyl such a sexteyn be in the office that will undertake to do it to cotynue, for I wolde the sexteyn hadde it be fore a nothir, for his wages be but small, so he wil vndirtake to do it and not fayle.

And much more to the same effect, showing that chimes were by no means uncommon in England at the beginning of the fifteenth century.

Many chimes of the type provided by John Baret's will disappeared at the Reformation, though quarter-chimes, and perhaps more elaborate ones, survived in a few places, and the revival of tunes may be traced to the reaction after the dull days of the Commonwealth.

(To be continued.)

COMMEMORATION.

SIMULTANEOUS MEETINGS?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Many ideas exist as to a suitable memorial to our late Editor, and the one most popular is that 'The Ringing World' should possess an assured future.

An increased circulation will be necessary, and I venture to suggest all the ringing guilds and societies in the country decide to make an annual subscription, according to their abilities, as a financial backing, thus avoiding temporary embarrassments in years to come.

I think a small space on the title page of 'The Ringing World,' giving the name of its founder and date of first production, would assist in keeping fresh the memory of the man who did so much for the art of change ringing. Would a small picture of his face be considered too ostentatious?

With regard to Mr. Albert Walker's suggestion of an annual pilgrimage, I think this would gradually fade out; some of Mr. Goldsmith's personal friends would be able to make the journey, many would not. In course of time the number of those able to do so would decrease naturally until finally all will have crossed over.

All ringing guilds and societies hold meetings about mid-summer, and I think it would be a good idea if all could combine to hold these meetings on the same day in June, the Saturday nearest the anniversary of Mr. Goldsmith's death, in honour of that esteemed man. References in speeches could be made at all the gatherings by ringers who knew him personally, thus introducing him to those who did not and these in time will add their tributes to the rising generations. Proceedings need not last more than ten minutes or so, afterwards the ordinary business affairs of the guild can go on. It may even be possible for guilds to hold joint meetings for the occasion, thus adding to its dignity.

GEORGE H. WILLIAMS.

173, Balden Road, Harborne, Birmingham 32.

ST. MARTIN'S, YORK.

A RUINED RING.

In a recent air raid on the city of York, the Church of St. Martin, Coney Street, was damaged and the ring of eight bells ruined.

The bells were cast in Jubbergate by Edward Sellar II. in the years 1729 and 1730. This York bell founder was Sheriff in 1731 and 1732.

In 1729 a Mr. William Thompson gave five new bells, making, with the existing bell as tenor, a ring of six.

On Thursday, May 15th, 1729 (being Ascension Day), the bells were rung, and were judged by most competent gentlemen of music in the city and hereabout, and approved of them to be tuneable and very fine notes.

The following year, Mr. Sellar was again employed by add two new treble bells to complete the octave, and to recast the old tenor, at the cost of the Minster ringers and a few friends, the cost being £59 10s.

The treble bears the inscription: 'E Dono Amicorum Societatis Campanistarum Ebor 1730.' (Given by the friends of the Society of Bellringers.) The second: 'E Dono Societatis Campanistarum Ebor 1730.' (Given by the Society of Bellringers.) The tenor bears: 'Sonitu Rescipiscite Mæsto Ante Jacetis Humo 1730.' (All men who hear my mournful sound repent before you lie in ground.)

On October 9th, 1888, eight members of the Yorkshire Association rang on the bells 5,024 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major. George Breed rang the tenor and conducted. Mr. A. C. Fearnley, who rang the third, is the sole survivor of the band. The tenor is 15 cwt.

GRAMOPHONE RECORDS.

ST. MARGARET'S BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In about 1927 and at later intervals I had the privilege, in conjunction with Mr. Stanley Roper, organist at St. Margaret's, Westminster, in making the following records for H.M.V. Company:—

No. B2398.—'Impressions of London.' Big Ben, St. Margaret's x bells (8) and organ and traffic noises.

B3120.—'Wedding at St. Margaret's.' Eight bells, choir and organ.

B3126.—'Christmas at St. Margaret's.' Eight bells, choir and organ. x

B2970.—'Easter at St. Margaret's.' Eight bells, choir and organ.

C2098.—Ten bells, Stedman Caters and Grandsire Caters.

B2853.—A composite record and nightingale and bells.

B3345.—'In a village churchyard.' Birds, bells, organ and choir. x

The H.M.V. Company also made records of a course of Stedman Triples and a course of Grandsire Triples, but these were never, to my knowledge, published.

The Columbia Company made a record of St. Paul's Cathedral bells, but I have not got the number. They also made a record of the carillon of Ottawa at the Croydon Foundry, played by Mons. Kamil Lefevre; No. 4580 ('O come, all ye faithful'; 'Abide with me').

WILLIAM H. HEWETT.

119, Coleman Road, S.E.5.

P.S.—There is also a record of old Bow Bells by, I believe, the Columbia Company: On 10 bells, call changes, rounds to Whittington's and back, and rounds to Queen's and back, conducted by H. Langdon.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT QUEENSBURY.

The Western Division of the Yorkshire Association held a very successful meeting at Queensbury on Saturday, July 11th, when members attended from twelve towers. Queensbury is situated on the heights overlooking Bradford and is reputed to be one of the highest places in the district.

A ramble over Swale Hill had been arranged, and, headed by Mr. Whiteley of the local company, a party of about thirty enjoyed an interesting walk. With an exceptionally clear sky a marvellous view was seen of the whole countryside, and after a very enjoyable two hours the party arrived back at the schools in time for tea.

This was arranged by the local company, and all were able to do full justice to a table which would have been considered remarkable even in times of peace. As one ringer remarked, 'If Queensbury people can feed us like this in war time, what will they do when times are normal?'

At the business meeting which followed, the vice-president (Mr. F. J. Johnson) occupied the chair, and the proceedings were kept as brief as possible. It was suggested that an endeavour be made to hold the September meeting in the Liversedge area, as owing to difficulties of travelling it would not be possible to go far afield.

AN ENTHUSIASTIC COMPANY.

Mr. W. Barton, in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar, wardens and local company for making such splendid arrangements, said that whenever he came to Queensbury (and he had been visiting there a very long time) he had known nothing but kindness. There was always an enthusiastic welcome for the association, and it was a real pleasure to see such a progressive spirit existing amongst the ringers and the Church. He knew something of the hard work which had been put in, especially by Mr. Ambler in training a team, and of the many difficulties which had to be overcome. Although members had left the district, they had trained others, and it was one of the few places which could be said to be really progressive. He felt sure that when times were normal they would once again be ready to carry on the good work where they were such a tower of strength to the association.

This was seconded by Mr. F. G. Sherwood. The Vice-President also spoke of the happy times he had had at Queensbury. He also found an enthusiasm and heartiness which was never surpassed, and even that day they prepared them for tea by taking them a ten-mile walk over the moors, and then finished off with a tea which they would long remember. He hoped that the company would continue to flourish for a very long time.

The Rev. G. E. G. Cragg, replying, said that it was a very great pleasure for them to welcome the association to Queensbury. Although the Vicar was at present doing duty with the Navy, he was sure that he would wish them to do everything possible to make the meeting a success. He sincerely hoped that all enjoyed their tea and the long walk. He was sorry that they were not allowed to ring the bells, and looked forward to the day when they would all be ringing the bells of victory.

A collection for the association's Belfry Repairs Fund realised the sum of 13s. 0d. After the meeting the handbells were once again in evidence, whilst some of the younger members enjoyed a little more of the fresh air from the top of the tower. Thus a very enjoyable day was concluded.

The various towers represented during the day were as follows: Almondbury, Armley, Bradford Cathedral, Bramley, Earlsheaton, Halifax, Headingley (St. Michael's and St. Chad's), Kirkburton, Pudsey, Shipley and the local company.

DEATH OF MR. H. F. COOPER.

WELL-KNOWN ESSEX RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. H. F. Cooper, which occurred on July 7th in hospital at Braintree, Essex, following a street accident.

For many years before the last war Mr. Cooper lived at Chelmsford, where he was captain of the Cathedral band, and where he called the first peal on the new ring of twelve. In 1917 he moved to Stisted, where he was licensee of the Red Lion Inn and village postman. He took a leading part in most of the local social activities, especially those connected with the church. He had been churchwarden and helped in the restoration of the bells and the extension of the churchyard. From 1905 to 1914 he was the hon. secretary of the South-Eastern Division of the Essex Association.

Mr. Cooper had taken part in 100 peals, including Grandsire and Stedman Cinques; Grandsire and Stedman Caters; Superlative, Double Norwich, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and Plain Bob Major; Grandsire, Stedman and Oxford Bob Triples; and Cambridge and other minor methods.

The funeral was attended by many people and there were numerous floral tributes. The Rector, the Rev. J. H. A. Charles, officiated, and the hymn, 'The King of Love,' was sung.

Mr. Cooper was 70 years old and leaves a widow, a son and two daughters.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

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All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual business meeting will be held at Oxford on Saturday, July 18th, at 3.15 p.m., in the Rectory Room, Pembroke Street, St. Aldate's. A collection will be taken at tea for Guild Restoration Fund. Service in St. Aldate's Church at 5 p.m. A good attendance is earnestly requested. — R. T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 18th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch. — The next meeting will be held at Brookfield Church, Gorton, on Saturday, July 18th. Meeting at 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea at 5 p.m.—W. H. Shaker, 36, Colwyn Avenue, Fallowfield, Manchester 14.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — Northern Division. — A meeting of this division will be held at Shalford on Saturday, July 18th. Handbells available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Please bring own eatables for tea, cups of tea will be provided. Good bus service from Braintree and Deanery Corner, Bocking. Please make every effort to attend.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District.—A meeting will be held at Worplesdon on Saturday, July 18th. Handbells available in the afternoon. Service in the Parish Church at 4.15, followed by tea. All are welcome. — A. C. Hazelden, Dis. Sec., 109, Grange Road, Guildford.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — The next meeting will be held at Sandal, near Wakefield, on Saturday, July 18th. Handbells available at Duke of York Hotel, Agbrigg Road, 3 p.m. Tea, 1s. 6d. each, 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. All are welcome. —D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District. — Meeting at St. Peter's, Nottingham, Saturday, July 18th, at 3 p.m. Nearby district members welcomed.—Ida B. Thompson, 52, Lace Street, Dunkirk, Nottingham.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The quarterly meeting will be held on July 18th at the headquarters of No. 1 Branch, British Legion, 7, Ford Street, Coventry, one minute from Pool Meadow Bus Station. Room available from 3.30-7.30. Cups of tea will be provided, but please bring own food. Business meeting will follow tea.—Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — St. Albans District.—A meeting will be held at N. Mimms on July 18th. Tower open for handbell ringing from 3.30 p.m. Tea at the Corner Cafe at 5.30 p.m., followed by meeting and further handbell ringing to suit all tastes. Please notify for tea.—R. Darvill, Dis. Sec., 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION (Biggleswade District) and **HERTS ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting will be held at Henlow on Saturday, July 18th, at 3 p.m. Tower and handbells. Tea at 5. Meet old friends.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Banbury and District Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Deddington on Saturday, July 25th. Six bells (silent) from 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea and meeting to follow. For tea please notify E. Pearson, Adderbury West, Banbury, Oxon.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD. — A meeting will be held at Balcombe on Saturday, July 25th. Handbells and silent tower bells from 3 p.m. Tea for those who inform Mr. A. Laker, 4, Barnfield Cottages, Balcombe, Sussex, by Wednesday, July 22nd. A good train service, so no excuses, please. — C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 25th, at Arksey. Handbells available in the Church Hall from 3 p.m. Will those intending to be present please bring what tea they require as nothing can be guaranteed.—E. Cooper, 6, Grosvenor Crescent, Arksey.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Sonning Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at Crowthorne on Saturday, July 25th. Handbells in Vestry 3 p.m. Service 4, followed by tea and handbells at Vicarage. Visitors welcome. Numbers for tea by July 21st to B. C. Castle, Hon. Sec., The Briars, Westfields Road, Winkersham, Wokingham.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Reigate on Saturday, July 25th. Members and friends meet at Reigate S.R. Station at 3 p.m., to walk through the Castle grounds and Reigate Park. Service at 5 p.m. Mr. M. A. Northover has kindly offered to provide tea, and his house and gardens will be at the disposal of members for the purpose of the meeting. All those requiring tea please notify me by Tuesday, July 21st. Members from both districts are asked to make a special effort to attend.—G. W. Massey, North-Western Dis. Sec., 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, Esher, Surrey.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Chew Deanery. — A quarterly meeting will be held at Long Ashton on Saturday, July 25th. Bells (with silent apparatus) available from 3 o'clock. Tea at 5 o'clock, with business meeting to follow. Those requiring tea please notify me by Thursday, July 23rd.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Monthly meeting at Kinver (D.V.), Saturday, July 25th. Eight bells (silent). Tea 5.30 p.m. Handbells and social evening to follow.—Bernard C. Ashford, Branch Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

LEEDS & DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Drighlington on Saturday, July 25th. Handbells in the Schools from 3 p.m. Business meeting 4.30 p.m. A good attendance requested.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—A district meeting will be held at Lawford on Saturday, August 1st. Handbells available from 2.30 p.m. in the church. Service at 4.15 p.m., followed by tea, business meeting and more handbell ringing in the Ogilvie Hall. There is a good bus service from Colchester. Manningtree Station is $\frac{3}{4}$ mile away.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., Lower Barn Farm, Dedham.

SURREY ASSOCIATION (North-Western District) and **GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD** (Leatherhead District).—A joint rally will be held at Leatherhead on Monday, Aug. 3rd. Meet at Boxhill S.R. Station at 3 p.m. to ramble through Norbury Park to Leatherhead. Service at Leatherhead Parish Church at 4.30. Tea at the Duke's Head at 5 p.m. Eight silent tower bells and handbells available during the afternoon and evening. Notifications for tea should reach Mr. G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, by Tuesday, July 28th. All ringers heartily welcome. — G. W. Massey and A. H. Smith, Dis. Hon. Sec.

BIRTH.

TAYLOR. — On July 8th, to Joan, wife of E. J. Taylor, 17, Moorhead Crescent, Shipley, Yorks, a son, Philip James.

MARRIAGE.

MOORE—DITCHAM.—On July 5th, at Holy Trinity Church, Norwich, the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow officiating, Sergt. W. (Pat) Moore, R.A.M.C., to Dorothy Ditcham, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ditcham, both of Norwich.

A LETTER FROM CAPE TOWN.

On his way out to the East, Mr. D. H. Parham called at Capetown, and this is an extract from an airgraph letter to his friends at home:—
'My cabin-mate knows someone at Newlands who is a staunch Anglican and who attends the Church of St. Mary, Woodstock (a 2d. bus fare away). They have a ring of eight, and last night I went up into the belfry, where is commemorated a peal of Grandsire Triples rung on December 15th, 1904, in 3 hours 7 minutes. The peal was Taylor's six-part, was the first rung in South Africa, and was conducted by F. P. Powell, who seems to have been the prime mover of all ringing in those days. I don't know if he is any relation to the Powell on the Central Council. I had a spot of practice on the treble (the tenor is only 11 cwt.), and if I am here on Sunday I shall have another go.'

THE NEED OF LASHING BELLS.—While well-struck rounds and changes are a joy to the listener, few can tolerate complacently the interminable ringing of single bells or the clang and clatter that are caused by the first efforts of a band of learners on open bells.—E. S. and M. Powell.

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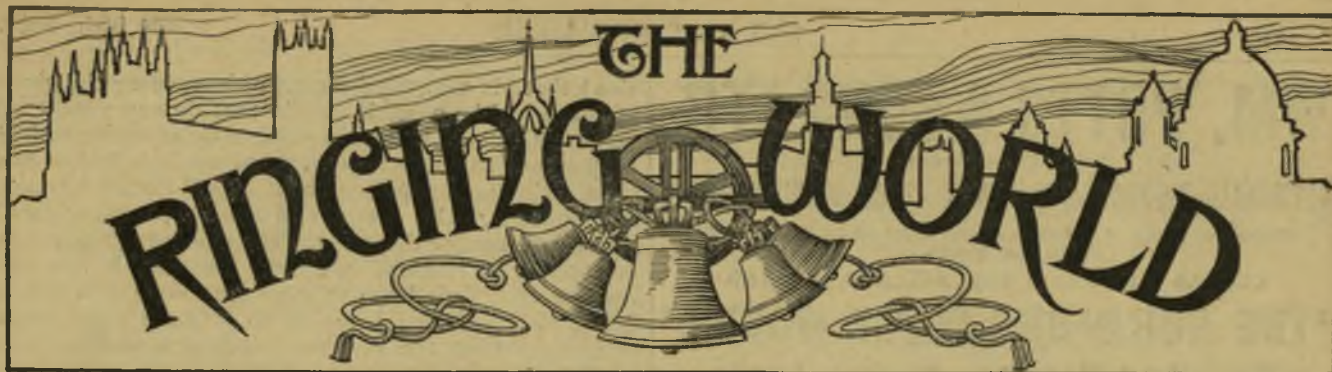
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FRIDAY, JULY 24th, 1942.

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WHEN PEACE COMES.

Our readers will remember that during the Ringers' Conference a representative and influential committee was appointed 'to consider and report on the best means of rehabilitating ringing after the war.' In due time, we hope, their report will be published, and it cannot fail to contain many valuable suggestions, which will be certain to receive full consideration.

Meanwhile, in these days of suspended activity, when there is little else to do but hope and plan for the future, the more ringers consider and discuss the ways and means of meeting and surmounting coming difficulties, the better it will be; and many will read with interest, if not perhaps with complete approval, the letter we print on another page.

There is one point which, we think, everyone should keep clearly in his mind. Men think and talk quite naturally as if there will be a general problem of the re-starting of bellringing, but there will be no such general problem. The Church of England and the people of England will want the bells rung again immediately peace comes. The Exercise will be willing and anxious to do its part and once more man the ropes. The difficulties will be in the individual belfries. There will be not one general problem, but hundreds of separate problems, each independent of the others, and each needing its own separate and independent solution. From the lowest to the highest, from the humblest and remotest five-bell tower to St. Paul's Cathedral, every band will need restoration as a unit.

Success in one instance will do little immediately to help other cases, and inevitably the measure of success will vary to a very great extent. There will be towers (we hope they will be many) where, when peace comes, the ringers will be able to resume their office and carry on their work with no greater disability than the lack of practice caused by the long enforced silence. But there will also be towers where no immediate restoration is possible and which unfortunately will lapse into the number of silent belfries. Between these extremes there will be every degree of success and failure.

What will decide between success and failure will be local conditions and local efforts; and it is to those that attention must be directed. Something can be done by the Exercise as a whole by co-operation and sympathy, but the main work must fall on local shoulders.

For this reason we very much mistrust the efficacy of any heroic schemes such as are advocated by our correspondent. Even if we assume (and it is a big assumption

(Continued on page 334.)

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tion) that his suggested means of interesting the general public would be possible, would they do any good? We do not think so. If it were possible by advertisement and propaganda to create a general interest in bells and make change ringing a popular pursuit, would that be a benefit? We doubt it. Our art is, and must be, a thing for the select few, not for the many. The number of ringers that is possible in England is strictly limited. It has never reached that limit because expansion must be slow and deliberate. If it were possible to obtain a large number of recruits after the war the Exercise would not know what to do with them, and their presence would create more difficulties than it would remove.

No universal rules can be laid down as to how ringers should set about the task of restoring ringing in the various belfries, because the conditions in no two places will be alike, and in the same place will vary from time to time. What is best to do in one parish may be impracticable or inadvisable in another. Leaders will need to keep open and flexible minds and not to approach their immediate problems with their opinions and intentions already fixed and settled. For that reason the more the various aspects of the question are ventilated and discussed the better it will be for the Exercise.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, July 15, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT 11, EXTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor size 15 in C.

MISS JESSIE C. CHICK ... 1-2 | MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4
JOSEPH M. TURNER ... 5-6.

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

BOURNEMOUTH, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, July 19, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-five Minutes,

AT ST. PETER'S HALL.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 15 in C.

* MISS JESSIE C. CHICK ... 1-2 | ARTHUR V. DAVIS ... 5-6
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4 | MISS FAITH M. CHILD ... 7-8
Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* First peal of Grandsire Triples and first attempt.

NEWS OF MR. A. R. PINK.

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—It will probably interest many of your readers to know that I received a letter on July 7th from Mr. Alan R. Pink, who is now serving with the Royal Navy. The letter was written from St. John's Auxiliary Hospital, Muizenberg, South Africa, on May 14th. When Mr. Pink's ship arrived at Cape Town he was given 48 hours' leave, and he tells me that he made an immediate dive for the suburb of Woodstock to find St. Mary's Church with its ring of eight bells. He says that the Rector was very helpful and hospitable, entertained him and got the ringers together, with the result that they were able to ring some Grandsire Doubles both morning and evening on the second Sunday after Easter. He says he got a photograph for his collection. This interested me because last year, when Mr. A. P. Cannon wrote to your paper to say that he had rung at Woodstock, I happened to mention the fact to a man who I was then preparing for Confirmation, and the next time he came to me he brought and gave me a photograph of the church, which he took himself in 1903.

When Mr. Pink returned to his ship he developed malaria and was taken off and sent to a naval hospital and then on to the place from which he was writing to recuperate. This gave an opportunity to find and inspect other bells. He has seen the carillon of 37 bells at the City Hall, Cape Town. These bells are by Taylors, 1925, with a 47 cwt. tenor. Mr. Pink was able to tap these bells round. He was also able to look at the eight bells by Thomas Mears (1830), which are hung dead in the tower of St. George's Cathedral, Cape Town.

The Parsonage, Carbis Bay.

A. S. ROBERTS.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**NORTHERN BRANCH.**

The annual meeting of the Grimsby District of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild was held at Barton-on-Humber on Saturday, June 27th, and members attended from Uleby, Goxhill, Sountorpe, North Kelsey, Bigby, Grimsby, Burton-on-Stather and the local band. After a short service, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Canon Varah, the business meeting was held in the Assembly Rooms. As the president, Canon E. Lisle Marsden, of Grimsby, was unable to be present, Canon Varah took the chair. The secretary reported that subscriptions had fallen greatly and he urged the members to keep their subscriptions up so that after the war is over there will be enough funds to build up the Exercise again. Secretaries should not be expected to write to every member, and if tower correspondents would send all the subscriptions along, things would be easier.

Mr. J. Bray, the Ringing Master, in his report, said that the going in the Northern Branch was not too good. The Sleaford District seemed to have closed down altogether, but he was hoping for better times to come. He spoke of Mr. Goldsmith's death and the great loss to the Exercise, and he urged the members to give their full support to 'The Ringing World.'

Mr. A. W. Hoodless proposed that the secretary send a letter of sympathy to the parents of the late Sergt. J. W. Goddard, R.A.F., a valued member of the Barton-on-Humber band of ringers, who was killed in action. To show their deep respect members stood in silence whilst the chairman offered a short prayer.

Mr. E. Brittain proposed and Mr. F. Lord seconded the re-election of the officers en bloc, and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. E. Brittain proposed that £50 worth of Savings Certificates be bought in the names of the trustees of the Bell Fund, Mr. M. Walker and Mr. W. Bramwell. It was seconded by Mr. Bramwell and carried.

The half-yearly meeting is to be held at Brigg in September.

Mr. Brittain proposed and Mr. G. Fearn seconded a vote of thanks to the officers for their services during the past year. Mr. Bray proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, Canon Varah, for conducting the service and presiding over the meeting and for the use of the bells. It was seconded by Mr. W. Bramwell and carried.

The Chairman replied and said it was a great pleasure to him to be amongst them and to see so many old faces again.

TUNES ON CHURCH BELLS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I have been very much interested in the correspondence on chimes, but I do not understand Mr. Taylor on the Westminster chimes. On any octave of eight bells the chimes can be played on 234 and 7 or 345 and 8, the tenor being the hour bell. How can this bell be in a different key? We have ten bells, two above the octave C, the chimes being played on 123 and 6. This, of course, gives a much heavier bell for the hour.

I think tune playing very interesting for service, and quite a lot of good tunes can be played on eight or ten bells. I have more than fifty. But a lot of our most popular hymn tunes are unplayable correctly by one note. 'Abide with me,' 'O God, our help,' 'While shepherds watched' all have one accidental in the second line and many others. But there is still a lot that can be played perfectly. Christmas is not well provided for, 'The First Nowell' being about the only popular tune; Palm Sunday, 'All glory, laud and honour'; Easter, 'Ye choirs,' 'Jesus Christ is risen to-day' and 'The strife is o'er'; Trinity Sunday, 'Holy, Holy'; harvest, 'Praise, O praise.' 'We love the place,' 'Watch and pray' and several others can be played at either end of ten bells, yet a simple tune like 'Glory be to Jesus' is ruled out.

F. SMITH.

161, Sherborne Road, Yeovil.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**LEICESTER DISTRICT.**

On Saturday, June 27th, a most successful meeting was held at Sileby, in the tower of whose church hangs the heaviest ring of six bells in the county. Good use of them was made (with clappers tied) during the afternoon and evening, when members attended from Belgrave, Billesdon, Leicester Cathedral and St. Margaret's, Syston and elsewhere, as well as Mr. and Mrs. Baker, of Gainsborough, and Pte. R. Davison, of West Hartlepool.

A good tea was provided by the local ringers' wives, and 23 sat down. At the subsequent meeting the chair was taken by Mr. G. T. H. Walker, supported by the local secretary, Mr. H. W. Perkins. It was decided to hold a joint meeting with Hinckley District at Earl Shilton on July 11th, and a local meeting at Kibworth on August 22nd.

The Rector of Sileby, the Rev. C. C. Harcourt, welcoming the members to his church, said he had the unique experience of never hearing any English church bells rung, as when he arrived from Canada the ban was on. He had been most interested and intrigued by ascending to the belfry and bell chamber to see how the ringers manipulated the ropes and how the bells looked when ringing was in full swing. He was pleased to become an honorary member of the association. He very kindly invited those present to go round the Rectory gardens, and almost all present availed themselves of the opportunity. Further ringing and a convivial concluded a very happy and successful meeting.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE A. HAYES.

The death occurred recently of Mr. G. A. Hayes, of Swanscombe, Kent, after a long and painful illness.

He had been a member of the Kent Association for nearly 60 years and was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths. Owing to his affliction he had been unable to ring for many years, but he followed with keenest interest all that took place in 'The Ringing World.' He did much in his younger days to further the art and was a member of the Swanscombe band that rang the first peal of Surprise Minor for the Kent Association. He had been a member of the Swanscombe band all his ringing career, and before he became afflicted was regular in his attendance at Sunday ringing.

He was buried quietly and without ceremony in the Swanscombe Cemetery. Two of his old colleagues, Messrs. F. Ring, sen., and W. Lane were present, as was also Mrs. F. M. Mitchell, wife of the hon. secretary of the Kent County Association, who was unable to attend.

THE BILBIE FAMILY.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In 'The Ringing World' last week Mr. J. H. B. Hesse asked for the latest date that Bilbie, of Chew Stoke, cast any bells. The latest one that I know of is the third at Chew Magna, which was cast in 1810.

In 1735 John Bilbie recast the five original bells in the tower and a small 'ting-tang' into a peal of six. This 'ting-tang' I presume to be a sanctus bell, and apparently it was not hung in the tower, although I am not sure of its position in the church.

In 1810 Thomas Bilbie agreed to recast the treble (now the third). This should have been completed in six months, but it was not finished for three years, and the bell was put back in the tower in 1810. The inscription on it reads: 'The Revd. John Hall, Vicar. Richard Mullins and Charles Weaver, Church Wardens 1810'11. The latter resigned the office and Wm. Bush was chosen in his stead. My treble voice make all hearts rejoice. Thos. & James Bilbie fecit.'

The fourth, the only one left of the 1735 ring of six, bears the inscription: '1735 T. Bilbie cast all wee. William Jones and William Hall Esqs Church Wardens.'

I have never heard of any Bilbie bell of over two tons, and as far as I know the tenor at Yeovil is the heaviest that was ever cast at Chew Stoke foundry.

CHRISTOPHER BROWN, Pilot-Officer.

Chew Court Farm, Chew Magna, Somerset.

HANDBELL PEALS AND UMPIRES.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—May I remind members of the Ancient Society of College Youths that, in accordance with rule 7, handbell peals rung without an umpire cannot be booked in the society's peal book.

A. B. PECK, Hon. Sec.

Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT WORPLESDON.**

At Worpleston on Saturday, a goodly company from Leatherhead, Aldershot, Haslemere, Pirbright, Bagshot and Guildford assembled to share the traditional local hospitality and to repay the effort which Mr. S. Petter had made on their behalf.

The Guild service was held in the Parish Church and an address given by the Rector (Canon Cornell), who made his first acquaintance with ringers, he having only recently come from St. Saviour's, Guildford, where there are no bells. He based his remarks on the character of St. Paul and especially on the thoroughness in all he did. If he waited, if he suffered shipwreck, if he was imprisoned or if he was flogged he used all for the furtherance of his great mission. The Rector was probably by his words a great deal nearer than he knew to the present need of ringers, who are waiting.

The ringers afterwards enjoyed tea and each other's company, handled a small amount of Guild business under the guidance of the Master, Mr. A. Harman, and after some handbell ringing dispersed to their homes, satisfied that even under the shadow of war meetings can be held and can be enjoyable.

GRAMOPHONE RECORDS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In 'The Ringing World' of July 17th I notice that Mr. William H. Hewett mentions two records made by the Columbia Company, one of the bells of St. Paul's, and the other of Bow Bells. I have both these records in my collection. The numbers are: Bow Bells (12), Call Changes, Rounds, Queens and Whittingtons, Columbia D.B. 1637. St. Paul's, half-muffled Stedman Cinques, Columbia 4660. Stillington, York.

J. B. HUTCHINSON.

THE CURFEW.—Time out of mind has the curfew sounded from the height of our church tower. Years ago the first stroke of the bell was a welcome sound to many a hard working man. Many of our tradesmen, the tailor and the shoemaker toiled until the curfew sounded the knell of parting day.—Thomas Geering (born A.D. 1813) in 'Our Sussex Parish.'

THE SURPRISE METHODS.

(Continued from page 325.)

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

Shipway gives the three standard Surprise Major Methods. On six he gives Cambridge, and London, and one which he calls Superlative, but which is really Cambridge reversed. He had an orderly mind and his object was to reduce each method to a system with its different variations on all numbers. In carrying out this idea he extended Superlative to Royal. The extension is a clever one, but the good qualities of the method exist on eight bells only. Cambridge is a method which readily adapts itself to any even number. Superlative is not; and neither Shipway's Royal nor the Maximus which in recent years was rung at Ipswich and elsewhere; nor any of the other ten-bell versions which have appeared from time to time, is worth practising.

Shipway was an industrious and competent composer. He, as he tells us, 'devoted the most strenuous exertions and steady perseverance' to the task of getting true peals in the Surprise methods. He succeeded in producing the extent of Superlative with the tenors together, and a peal of each Cambridge and London in which he had to part those bells. Rather disingenuously he omitted in his book all reference to the peal of London with the tenors together which John Reeves had composed and printed in the 'Clavis,' and indeed says that the problem had, till his time, baffled the skill of every composer. He made free use of the 'Clavis' in writing his book.

After the Wakefield peal no more five-thousands in the standard Surprise Methods were rung in Yorkshire, and it was not until 1891 that the long silence was broken by a 5,056 of Superlative at Sheffield. There was, however, in the early days of the century, an excellent band at Liversedge, who rang several methods and two of them they called Surprise, although the Exercise generally has not recognised them as belonging to that class.

The first was Albion, rung on May 24th, 1837, conducted by J. Firth. The method is Plain Bob turned into a Treble Bob Method, and repetition avoided by making Kent places in 5-6 above the treble and in 3-4 below the treble. It was composed by Hugh Wright, and, intentionally or unintentionally, is a simplified and regularised variation of Imperial the Third, at one time a popular method in the Eastern Counties.

Albion has a clear proof scale and several good features, but in practice has not proved to be so good as it is in theory. The other method, Liversedge, is a very poor affair. Having regard to the long and hotly debated controversy on Bob Major Lead Ends, it is interesting to note the opinion expressed by Henry Hubbard in the first edition of his 'Elements of Campanalogia,' published in 1845. 'Imperial,' he says, 'was much practised in the City of Norwich in the latter part of the last century. Although full of work, its formation is not such as to excite admiration, owing to the tenors being so much apart; and the changes of the treble leads not being legitimate, as will be observed by comparing it with other methods.' Although the method itself appeared in all the later editions, this comment, for some reason or another, was omitted.

As early as 1788 the Wakefield men rang 5,040 changes of Wakefield Delight, followed (without setting

the bells) by 5,040 Wakefield Surprise; but evidently they were seven-bell methods, and most probably simple variations of Plain Bob or Grandsire. Thackrah, in his book, gives Huddersfield Surprise, Leeds Surprise and Dewsbury Surprise. These methods, if ever practised, are now irregular and obsolete.

The Norwich Scholars had a long succession of eminent ringers, and not the least among them was Samuel Thurston. Under his conductorship two peals were rung in 1835; 5,376 of Superlative at St. Giles', and 5,280 London at St. Andrew's, each being claimed as the first in the method, but rightly so only in the case of the London. As with most of their peals, the Norwich men claimed that the striking was 'bold and regular,' and indeed good striking was always traditional in the city.

Following these peals, at an interval of fourteen years, two were rung at Woolwich, also Superlative and London, conducted by William Banister; then in 1850 one of Superlative by the St. James' Society at Bethnal Green, conducted by Henry W. Haley; and then for more than a quarter of a century there were no more Surprise peals rung, save for four by Squire Proctor's band at Benington in Hertfordshire. These men, most of whom could neither read nor write, were the first to ring all three standard Surprise methods—5,376 and 6,048 Superlative in 1855, 6,048 London in 1870, and 5,600 Cambridge in 1873.

Samuel Thurston died in 1841, and soon afterwards the Society of Norwich Scholars began to decline, at first slowly, but after a few years decisively. About this time (1839) they were joined by a man whose name will always be closely associated with Surprise ringing. This was Charles Middleton. He was born in 1813 at Marsham, a village about ten miles from Norwich, where he learnt to ring, and he died in 1886 and was buried in Norwich cemetery. It is, of course, on account of his peal of Cambridge that he is famous, for it is the one composition of which we can say that it is indispensable. Not only is it the only possible peal of Cambridge Major with the tenors together, but it is equally necessary to many other methods.

One naturally asks the question; how was it that Middleton was able to solve the problem which, up till then, had baffled the best brains in the Exercise? Was it genius? Or hard work? Or the good fortune that sometimes attends those who earn it by their industry? Or was it sheer luck?

We may, we think, rule out the first two. Such memory of him as lasted in Norwich gave him as quite an ordinary average man. Of education he had none, but that would not necessarily have prevented him from being a first rate composer, provided he had the right sort of brains. Such a man will educate himself in the things that are essential. We remember John Holt. He, too, was illiterate, but he produced peals of which any mathematician might be proud. But here is the difference. Holt's Ten-part does not stand alone; he had other peals which show that what he did was the result of knowledge and real understanding of his subject. Nor is it very well possible that his masterpiece could have been produced by blind experimenting. But Middleton's easily could. To work out all the possibilities that the composition of Cambridge is capable of and so arrive at Middleton's peal—that would be a task of no small difficulty. But the peal is just the sort of thing that a man

might write out, who simply set down a few course ends experimentally and then tested the result. The chances against success might be a hundred to one, but the hundred to one chance does come off sometimes.

Middleton never produced another peal to show that his knowledge of composition was more than rudimentary. He was friendly with Henry Hubbard, and if he had had any good peals Hubbard would have printed them in his book. He did include four, and they are quite ordinary. Middleton has gained a lasting name in the history of ringing, but we can hardly place him among the old composers of the first rank, alongside Holt, and Reeves, and Johnson.

It is often said that Henry Johnson composed the peal independently, but that is not likely. He was one of the subscribers to the first edition of Hubbard's book in which the composition appears, and so must have been in communication with the Norwich people. What he did was to point out how it can be reduced to 5,056 by introducing a bob Before.

The Norwich men tried many times to ring the peal, but were never successful.

In the middle of the nineteenth century the Exercise reached its nadir, but before 1870 the first signs appeared of that reform movement which was to change and improve everything connected with bells and ringing. Primarily it aimed at raising the status of ringers, doing away with prize-ringing and other scandals associated with the belfry, and seeing that the bells were used properly for the service of the Church; but a not less notable result has been the spread and development of change ringing. In the seventies, territorial associations were founded all over the country, a better class of men was coming to the belfries, and it resulted later on

in an improvement in method ringing. The Norwich Diocesan Association was founded in 1876 and its first peal was one of Superlative at Redenhall, a worthy send-off to a guild which in after years was for long the most prolific peal ringing association in the country.

But it was the band at St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, which may be said to have started modern peal ringing history. With the exception of Squire Proctor's men, they were the first who practised the Surprise methods as a regular thing. The older men had got together a band, made a special effort, rung a peal, and then dropped the method. The Burton men rang Superlative in 1884, and Cambridge and London in 1887; and during the following years they rang many peals in all three methods. In 1886 they broke fresh ground by scoring a peal of New Cumberland. This was composed by Henry Earle Bulwer. He had been given a verbal description of Hugh Wright's Albion and, sitting down to write out that method, he produced the new one. It is an excellent method, musical, not very difficult, with a clear proof scale, and practically unlimited scope for composition. A few peals of it have been rung since, some at Burton, the rest in the South of England; but as it does not now rank as Surprise it has dropped into disuse.

Two bands followed the example of the Burton men—one at Oxford under James W. Washbrook and Francis E. Robinson, the other at Brighton; and presently Superlative was rung in many parts of the country. Long lengths were attempted. In 1894, at Loughborough, 8,800 changes of Superlative were rung, followed seven months later by 9,312 at Crawley. Only want of true compositions hindered attempts at record breaking.

(To be continued.)

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. Alfred Lawrence, of Swindon, wishes to thank all who have sent him good wishes on the occasion of his 87th birthday. He tells us he started ringing at the age of 13 and has been a ringer at Swindon Parish Church for over 73 years. He has taken part in 104 peals.

To mark the 58th anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. W. Kemp's wedding day, members of the Halesworth Society rang on July 28th several touches on handbells, including 720 changes of Grandsire Doubles, and two courses of Grandsire Triples by Messrs. E. Codling 1-2, G. Gowing 3-4, F. C. Lambert (conductor) 5-6, W. Barber 7-8. Mr. Kemp was for many years verger clerk and sexton of St. Andrew's Church, Wissett, and is a member of the Halesworth Society, Norwich Diocesan and Suffolk Guild of Ringers.

Congratulations to Mr. Arthur L. Coleman, who will reach his 80th birthday to-morrow. He was secretary of the Warwickshire Guild from 1907 to 1911, and general secretary and treasurer of the Norwich Diocesan Association from 1918 to 1937.

Last Monday was the 30th anniversary of a peal which may fairly be said to have been a definite and important landmark in the history of the Exercise. On July 20th, 1912, at Christ Church, Cubitt Town, among the London docks, eight ladies rang a peal for the first time. The method was Grandsire Triples and the conductor Miss Edith Parker, who had already made a name as a ringer. The Ladies Guild was formed shortly afterwards.

What is still the record for Kent Treble Bob Major was rung on July 21st, 1923, at Over in Cheshire. The conductor was Mr. Robert Sperring, Mr. J. H. Riding rang the tenor, and the composition, 17,280 changes, was by Mr. Joseph W. Parker. The time was 10 hours.

The Helmingham band rang the first peal of Edmundsbury Surprise Major on July 22nd, 1932, Mr. Wightman conducting.

To-day is the twelfth anniversary of the first and only peal of Surprise Major in eleven spliced methods. It was rung at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields by the Middlesex Association, with William Pye as conductor. A previous attempt on the same bells was lost just before the end through one of the band mistaking the right method to ring. The striking was first class throughout.

COMMEMORATION.

THE SUGGESTED PYRFORD PILGRIMAGE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should like to support very strongly Mr. Albert Walker's suggestion in your issue of June 26th that our late Editor's memory be perpetuated by an annual pilgrimage to his grave at Pyrford.

I feel sure that if such a pilgrimage could be arranged it would be widely supported, and even if only a few could attend the actual ceremony, the fact that it was being held would be known throughout the Exercise and every ringer in the land could stand for a few moments and offer up a short prayer for the soul of one of the finest characterised men that ever lived.

I think his suggestion of a short service in Pyrford Church an admirable one, to which might be added a course on the handbells round the grave. It wants something quite simple, for Jack Goldsmith loved the simple things in life, and although he could not be with us in the flesh, I feel he would be with us in the spirit. It may not be possible to hold such a service during the war, but I see no reason why it should not be inaugurated as soon as hostilities cease.

Mr. Goldsmith's death came as a great blow to me. I have known him for a good many years, and during the Australian tour was in close companionship with him for four months, and I can fully endorse everything that has been written about his unselfish devotion to anything he set his hand to do.

He was a man who, if it was humanly possible, would never let anyone down. To illustrate this I should like to relate an incident of the Australian tour. When the party were due to leave Tasmania we had to leave him behind in bed suffering from a severe attack of flu. The peal attempt for Grandsire Cinques at Melbourne had been arranged for three days later. Jack Goldsmith was the only one of the party who could call it, and we were wondering what was going to happen. We need not have worried. Jack got up from that sick bed, left Hobart about 8 a.m., travelled all day across Tasmania by train and all night by boat across the Bass Straits, arriving at Melbourne at 6 a.m. with the peal due to start at 12.30. Before starting for the peal he came to me and said, 'Will you just keep your eye on the coursing order. I think I can manage to call the hobs but I am afraid I cannot do anything else.'

Fortunately there was no need for anyone to do any correcting, for the ringing went without incident throughout the peal, except for a very slight hitch at the beginning of the last course, for which I myself must take the blame. What he must have suffered during that peal no one knows, but when we had finished he was completely exhausted, and I am quite certain it was only his indomitable pluck and determination that had carried him through.

We must also see to it that the paper he started and built with such patience and, I am afraid, at great financial loss to himself is kept in existence. If we fail in that the Exercise will have let down a man who would never have let the Exercise down.

RUPERT RICHARDSON.

Glyn Garth, Surfleet.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

At the 62nd annual general meeting of the Kent County Association, held at Tonbridge on Saturday, July 11th, over 50 members attended, every district being represented, and several lady members being present.

At the committee meeting, Mr. E. Barnett was elected a member of the Benevolent Committee in place of Mr. T. Groombridge, jun., who has removed to Nottingham.

The association service in the Parish Church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. F. Childs, Mrs. G. H. Spice, of Sittingbourne, being at the organ. The Vicar welcomed the members and gave a short, helpful address.

A collection for the Benevolent Fund realised 18s. 7d.

Tea was at the Carlton Cafe, and the business meeting followed at the Parish Hall, when Mr. F. White, of Tunbridge Wells, presided in the absence of Mr. E. H. Lewis, who sent a telegram regretting his absence and wishing the meeting success.

The hon. secretary read a letter he had received from Sir Irving J. Albery, M.P. for the Gravesend Division of Kent, who had brought the resolution passed at the last meeting before the Financial Secretary to the Treasury. The answer was that no funds were available for the replacement of bells, which would have to be done through insurance by the Church authorities.

The hon. secretary (Mr. F. M. Mitchell) read the annual report, which was adopted on the proposition of Mr. H. Hoskins, seconded by Mr. F. Macey.

It was stated in the report that owing to the ban, interest in ringing and the association has fallen considerably. In some districts a faithful few are striving to keep the members together with meetings and handbell ringing, but in others the enthusiasm seems to have died out completely, and it will need a deal of reviving when peace does come.

Owing to so very few returns having been sent in, it was difficult to even estimate the number of members for the past year. All were asked, even if they did no ringing, to pass on their subscriptions to their district secretaries, as the work of the association must go on.

LOSS BY DEATH.

Meetings had been held in the Lewisham and Tonbridge District, with a fair amount of success, and all credit is due to those who keep the interest alive, and to those who try and are not successful.

'The hardest blow that has fallen on the ringing fraternity for many years,' said the report, 'occurred recently by the death of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, the Editor of "The Ringing World." His passing means a great loss to the Exercise and he will be greatly missed. It is early yet to say what will happen as regards the publication of "The Ringing World," but the question is being considered by a committee appointed to go into the matter. Two other well-known ringers have also passed on—Mr. Gabriel Lindoff, a great composer and one who can be considered as one of the pioneers of our association; also Mr. A. G. Driver, who, although not a ringer, did such good work as a composer, and six-bell ringers have to thank him for his wonderful work in arranging the spliced peals of Minor. Amongst others taken from our midst is the Rev. F. L. Schrieber, for many years a member of the committee; Mr. Horace Whitehead, one of the Canterbury District representatives; Mr. W. A. Tanton, Lymington; Mr. W. C. Good, Charing; Mr. H. Poulter, Gillingham; Mr. George Jenkins, Canterbury (enemy action); Mr. G. A. Hayes, Swanscombe. Among the non-resident life members were Messrs. Cornelius Charge, New Zealand; E. Brett, London; F. G. Woodiss, Banstead; W. Bibby, Cheshire; A. B. Bennett, London; J. Holman, Sheffield; A. Pye, Ilford; J. C. Truss, Marlow.'

Nine peals had been rung during the year, all in hand, one of Royal, four of Major, two of Triples, one of Minor and one Doubles. The peal at Tunstall in August by the Spice family is worthy of mention, more especially as Mr. W. Spice rang his first handbell peal at the age of 80 years.

OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

The whole of the officers were unanimously re-elected, and the Rev. Canon G. C. E. Ryley was elected a vice-president, an honour, to put it in the words of the proposer, Mr. E. Barnett, long overdue.

The Central Council representatives, Messrs. F. J. Cullum, F. M. Mitchell, T. E. Sone and G. H. Spice, were re-elected on the proposition of Mr. E. Barnett, seconded by Mr. P. Corby.

An alteration to Benevolent Fund rule, giving power to the district secretaries and representatives to bring forward application on behalf of deserving members who might otherwise be overlooked, was carried unanimously on the proposition of Mr. E. Barnett, seconded by Mr. A. J. Batten.

Mr. P. Corby spoke on the news of Mr. Geoffrey V. Murphy being reported as missing in the Middle East. He said as one who knew him intimately he had a great future in front of him as a ringer, and hoped that at the least he might be a prisoner of war. On Mr. Corby's proposition, the hon. secretary was asked to write to his parents on behalf of the association and condole with them in their anxiety.

The Chairman referred to the appeal on behalf of the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith and the action of the trustees was endorsed. He said it was up to them all to support 'The Ringing World' to ensure

(Continued in next column.)

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

DORCHESTER BRANCH.

A meeting of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Wool on Saturday, June 27th, and proved very successful. The members met at the Farm House lawn, by the kindness of Mrs. Hyde, and during the afternoon enjoyed handbells and good fellowship. The Guild Office in church was conducted by the Vicar, assisted by the chairman of the branch, the Rev. Canon A. W. Markby. The service was very bright and the singing was led by the choir. The Vicar gave a very interested address on his experience of bells and bellringing in a parish during his boyhood days.

The members were invited to tea by the ringers and friends in the Parish Hall, and 36 were present.

At the business meeting the hon. secretary read apologies for absence, including one from the general secretary, the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards.

The members heard with regret of the death of a member of the Wyke Regis band, Brian Swaffield, Sergeant-Observed, R.A.F., who was killed by enemy action on St. Barnabas' Day while on active service. The chairman and hon. secretary paid a tribute to this gallant lad. Regret was expressed at the passing of the late Editor of 'The Ringing World,' and members stood in silence as a mark of respect.

During a discussion on the future of 'The Ringing World,' the chairman read the letter in the current issue of 'The Ringing World' by their Guild Master, the Rev. C. C. Cox, and the letter received by their hon. secretary from Mr. G. Fletcher, the Central Council hon. secretary. No resolution was passed, but all agreed with their Guild Master, 'That the ownership of the paper should be vested in the Exercise generally and in no case be dependent upon private enterprise.' The hon. secretary made an appeal for a larger circulation.

It was decided to hold a branch practice on the silent apparatus of the bells of St. Peter's, Dorchester, on Saturday, August 8th, starting at 6 p.m. It was also resolved to hold the next meeting at Stratton at the end of August, by kind permission of the Rector of Stratton.

The Chairman proposed votes of thanks to the Vicar and all those that provided such a tea, to Mrs. Hyde for her kindness during the afternoon and evening, also to the organist and choir. This was seconded by the Rev. R. P. Farrow, who also spoke of the good work of their chairman and their energetic secretary in carrying on, and was carried with acclamation.

Handbell practice was again enjoyed until train time. It was a very happy gathering.

The following towers were represented: Bere Regis, Bradford Peverell, Dorchester (St. Peter's), Stratton, Upwey, Wool, East Lulworth and Wyke Regis.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WOOLTON.

A meeting of the Lancashire Association was held at Woolton on Saturday, July 11th, when members were present from Bebington, Childwall, Farnworth, Hington, Walton, St. Nicholas', Liverpool, and the local company. The tower bells with clappers tied were made good use of until tea was served, and the handbells were also rung both before and after the meeting, which was presided over by the Rev. D. P. Roberts. The members were given a very cordial welcome by the new Rector, the Rev. M. Pryce Jones.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at Halewood on Saturday, August 29th, if suitable arrangements can be made, and a further meeting at St. Francis Xavier's on Saturday, October 10th.

Messrs. Horridge, Gray and Newton were elected respectively to the offices of bell adviser, Ringing Master and branch secretary, and the Rev. D. P. Roberts was elected a committee representative.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

its publication. It was too early yet to say what would happen, but it would be a calamity if the paper ceased to exist.

Mr. E. Barnett advised them to order 'The Ringing World' by post weekly, thus ensuring early delivery and saving intermediate expense.

On the proposition of Mr. H. Hoskins, it was agreed to send a letter of sympathy to the relatives of the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith.

Mr. G. H. Spice said he would try to arrange a meeting at Tunstall in August so as to revive interest in the Rochester District. Did the member who asked for the meeting earlier have memories of the happy pre-war meetings in that delightful village when the cherries were ripe?

Mr. Tom Groombridge, sen., informed the meeting that it was just 50 years ago that he called his first peal at Tunbridge Wells. This was greeted with acclamation.

Hearty thanks were accorded the Vicar, Mrs. G. H. Spice, the organist and to all who helped to make such a happy and successful meeting. The youth who were so noticeable in pre-war days were sadly missed. They have 'a job to do.' All wished them all a glorious and safe return, and God grant it may be soon.

The handbells were brought out and made good use of.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

(Continued from page 329.)

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

At St. Peter's, Nottingham, in 1553, we read there were 'fyve bells in one accorde a Saunce bell all hangynge in the steple of the same church with a clock,' and at St. Mary's in the same town there were also fyve bells, a Sanctus bell, a clock and a chime. At the latter church, too, in 1577, eleven shillings was 'Pd. to Toms loke-smethe ffor the cloke,' while in 1640 this agreement was made:—

'Memorandum, it was agreed the day and yeere above written that William Nussie shall have of this p'ish 6 shillings and eight pence for keeping the clock and chimes with all ye iron workes thereunto belonging that is to say, hee is to receive his wages in yeare 3 shillings 4 pence at a payment, and hee is agreed for the summe of 6 shillings 8 pence whilst hee lives and is able to performe the worke. William Nussie + his mark.'

There were chimes at Grantham in 1646, for the Corporation in that year issued an order for their protection. The belfry door was to be locked on Shrove Tuesday because 'an innumerable concourse of old and young,' under the influence of pancakes, used to 'jangle the bells and break the chime wires.'

Mention has already been made of the frequent notices found in church accounts in reference to chimes, and here are a few examples which will serve to show how much attention was paid to these in earlier times. At St. Martin's, Leicester (now the Cathedral), as early as 1546/7, we read:—

'Itm p^d for medynge of the barrell that the chyme goyth wth to the smyth at the West brydge . . . xij^d.'

At this period St. Martin's had five bells. In 1585/6 a new 'foor' (treble) bell was added, and among the charges is this item: 'Payd to Christopher Needham for braddes to hange the for bell in his frame and for setinge the chimes in order . . . xij^d,' while in 1604-5 'ijs' was pay^d for mendinge the chime when the great bell fell downe.'

At All Saints', Northampton, in 1623, the churchwarden paid eleven shillings for repairing the clock and chimes. These chimes had been presented by the Corporation in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Five years later (April 15th, 1928) £12 was voted 'to be employed in making a new pair of chimes.' The work was put in the hands of John Ley, of Lutterworth, who undertook to 'make a new pair of chimes in all things compleat and amend the clock to go orderlie with them, and sett the clock hamer to strike upon the great bell, and to keep the chimes and clock in reparaire for one wholl yeare at his own charge, and keep them in repair during his lyf for ijs vjd a quarter.' In 1651, 1680 and 1829, the Corporation presented new chimes to All Saints', Northampton.

An old chime barrel, alas! now disused and in a sad state of repair, is to be seen at King's Norton-by-Galby, Leicestershire. It has fixed studs, but unfortunately one is not able to say what tunes it played. It was given by Squire William Fortrey at the same time that he rebuilt the church, and placed in the tower a ring of 10 bells (later reduced to eight on account of the strain on the building), together with a clock. The latter, still going well, is inscribed:—

'Joseph Eayre,
St. Neots,
1765.'

The Eayres of St. Neots were clock makers, as well as bellfounders of repute. When Richard Sanders, of Bromsgrove, cast the bells at Kettering in 1714, the clock was put in order by T. Eayre, and one of the bells is inscribed, 'T. Eayre Horo 1714.' In 1732, this Thomas Eayre recast other faulty bells, and in the next year he was employed to set up the chimes. The vestry book records: 'Agreed at a Vestry, November 13th, 1733, that there shall be a new set of chimes made on the eight bells in the steple of Kettering: agreed by us whose hands are here set.' A 'case of chimes' was ordered the next year, and it is noted that these chimes, not having been in working order for many years, were on February 28th, 1891, sold by auction, the items consisting of the old wooden cylinder and old machinery.

Thomas Eayre made a curious chime for Lord Mahon, of Harrowden House, Northants. These chimes were unfortunately destroyed by a fire in March, 1791. Mr. Taylor, of Northampton, had this note about them:—

'They (the chimes) was suppos'd the best in England, and they play'd on 12 bells, the sashes of the room flying upon the clock striking, and shut down on their leaving off playing. They were taken from Italy at £1,500 expense, but the person who erected them was ruin'd, having three journeys before he could accomplish them.'

The Rev. J. Ludlam, of Trinity College, Cambridge, says they consisted of 'thirteen dish bells, the biggest (for the clock) about two hundredweight.' Eayre died in 1757. Thomas Eayre—the second—carried on bell-founding for a few years after his father's death, and Mr. Ludlam says he was 'a good bellfounder,' and that 'he cast a dish bell of 5 or 6 cwt. for the church of Boston, Lincs, the tone of which was very deep and wild.' At the present time there is one of Eayre's 'dish' bells in the Rectory grounds at Glaston, Rutland, reversed and serving as a flower pot! Formerly it hung on a beam outside the church spire, and was used as a clock bell.

Early churchwarden's references to chimes are to be found at Ludlow, Shropshire. Thus, in 1540:—

'Item pay^d to Lokear the Smythe for reparacion of the chymes xiiij^s iiij^d.'

'Item pay^d for lecor (liquor or oil) to lecur them withe . . . ijd.'

In 1541 are payments of a similar nature and in 1542:—

'Item payde to Thomas Seasson for mendynge the chymes and for wyre and to nootes to the barelle . . . xiiij^d.'

'Item for di a li of wyre for the chimes iij^d.'

'Item to Thomas Season for pessynge of the bawdryke for the chymes and mendynge the chymes vjd.'

Many similar items occur in years following, all in their quaint old English style of phrasing, down to 1624 when they bought 'a payer of clippers to twiste wiers of the clocke and chymes.'

(To be continued.)

NORWICH CATHEDRAL CHIMES.

The bells are a ring of five tuned to the minor scale, i.e., like the front five of a ring of six.

Quarter: 12345.

Half-hour: 54123; 25345.

Three-quarters: 54315; 31243; 54235.

Hour: 14325; 43241; 51234; 23451; 5.

AFTER THE WAR.

SUGGESTIONS FOR REHABILITATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—We have read from time to time suggestions and advice as to how we can get ringing on a sound footing after the war, but nothing very convincing has yet appeared, and I venture to state that while we think on old-fashioned lines we shall be as far from a constructive plan when the war is over as we are to-day.

We live in modern times and we must introduce modern ideas if we are to get the young people to take up change ringing.

As I see it, the future of our art is more or less entirely up to ourselves, the ringers who are anxious to get the bells of every city, town and village ringing once again, and we shall make a great mistake if we leave it to the Central Council or our local association or to one another. Every shoulder must be put to the wheel and every ringer must be prepared to bear his own share first of all by putting his hand deep into his pocket and bring it out full, and giving with a good heart.

The time has come when we must pay up, and pay heavy and regularly for a period of a few years at least. For a long while we have got away with it and we have enjoyed our pleasures while the public have paid. Let us, therefore, accept the fact cheerfully that first of all we must do our share by paying liberally if we are to re-establish our art as soundly and successfully as we wish it to be.

Now let us ask ourselves, 'What do we require in the future for our Exercise?' I suppose I am right in saying that in the first place we require the public to want the bells rung again: in fact, we would welcome a greater public interest than what we enjoyed before the war. Well now, the point is, 'Do the public want the bells again?' Let us not deceive ourselves, but rather let us face the hard facts as we know them to-day and which will be in greater evidence after the war. Certainly there are a lot of people, excluding ringers, who will hope to hear the bells once again, but are they not in the minority rather than in the majority? Even if bell lovers are in the majority, will they care whether the bells are rung, chimed or canned? I think not.

A CAMPANOLOGICAL FILM.

We change ringers want the public to be interested not only in bells, but in the real thing; how then are we to get them interested? What is wrong in financing a film for the public? There are short films of 30-40 minutes of almost every known sport being shown to-day, and only yesterday I had the pleasure of seeing a remarkably interesting one on angling. A campanological film could be produced at very little cost. We have ample history and romance of bells for the story, and we have the towers to photograph and belfries large enough to photograph the bells and ringers at their work. The ringers all over the country would cheerfully volunteer their services, and who better than some of our leading men like J. A. Trollope, E. Lewis, E. Morris, C. Roberts, C. Sedgley, W. Barton and Co. as commentators. Or we could commission Dorothy Sayers to write another book similar to 'The Nine Tailors.' Or, again, each association or guild could arrange for regular lectures to be given all over the country.

We have the men in all counties capable in putting over interesting and instructive lectures introducing the history of bells and change ringing, their various weights, sizes and keys and founders, together with a simple explanation of the action of bells and construction of a method such as Plain Bob. I have often thought of giving a practical demonstration of ringing in villages after the war in order to create public interest and primarily to recruit young ringers.

ADVERTISED DEMONSTRATIONS.

For example, I would choose three villages joining each other where there are bells, and I would cause notices to be put up in conspicuous places announcing that 'a band of ringers will perform at Northsea Church on Sunday at 10 a.m. and again at Eastsea Church at 2.30 p.m. and at Westsea Church at 5.30 p.m. All people who are interested in bellringing are invited to attend, when the bells and ringing will be explained.' I should hope for a few keen beginners and if unsuccessful I would have another shot at the same thing the following week. Well, now, I have given four suggestions on how the interest of the public may be aroused and a few recruits netted, and we must now turn our ideas as to how we can teach the youngsters, and, having taught them, how best to hold them.

The next difficulty confronting us will be the certainty of complaints likely to be raised from local residents and our friends of the Anti-Noise League when teaching is in progress. I beg to suggest that

every church tower (where practices are held and peals are rung) should be fitted with portable louvre shutters, which can be brought into use during the period of practice and peals.

These shutters can be made by the ringers themselves or become the gift of the ringers and need not be very costly. They can be regulated on the hinge system, such as single or double doors, or, better still, they could be mounted on the sliding system, such as the doors of a warehouse. In some towers, due to the shape of the fabric and lack of space, these two ideas would not be possible and the sound shutters would have to be permanent, but better that than having the bells prohibited due to their excessive noise.

BEGINNERS AND INSTRUCTORS.

Now we will assume we have the interest of the public and a goodly and promising number of would-be ringers and the towers and bells to make use of. What is our next move? In our travels we have seen the results of good training, and the sad results of bad training, and naturally, we desire our young blood to receive the best advice and instruction in the handling of a bell and later the correct application towards change ringing and future progress into the higher methods in order to sustain his interest and retain his membership. How often have we seen the hard work put in by some instructors in teaching young ringers and their pleasure and satisfaction when their pupils have rung their first method later turned to bitter disappointment when the youngsters suddenly fail to turn up at further practices or service ringing and nothing more is seen of them? Surely there is some reason for this sudden and sad turn of events, and we examine the case often to find the answer due to the fact that there was no further interest to hold the young ringer solely because one method only was, and had been for many years past, practised in that tower, tower.

We must, therefore, see that the right men who will teach on the right plans may be chosen as instructors, and in this connection may I suggest that Plain Bob be the first method introduced to the young ringers for the reason it can be rung on all numbers of bells from three up to twelve, and whenever possible that it may be practised on an even number of bells and so eliminate tenor covering. It is not too early during the short stage of handling a bell for a plain course of Plain Singles or Minor to be handed to the pupil, together with an explanation showing the course of a bell and the coursing order. The pupil can study the method thoroughly until he is able to ask or answer questions on the matter, and in the meantime he can commence hunting on the treble through Singles or Minor. The inside work does not prove to be a very great step after the treble can be successfully hunted, and ringing the treble to Treble Bob is again another easy step, followed by the inside work, later followed by methods such as Double Court or Double Norwich.

Then, and certainly not before Treble Bob has been mastered, such methods as Grandsire and Stedman could be introduced. By this time the young ringer shows all the signs of promise and success and could then—in fact he definitely should—be given every encouragement in the art of composing and conducting.

THE SOCIAL SIDE.

The social side, too, is one which must not be lost sight of, and I recommend the arranging of socials or even little suppers when the opportunity of meeting other ringers and practising on handbells presents itself. Upon the achievement of 720 of Minor 'inside' or a quarter of Major 'inside,' the ringer should be eligible for admission to the local association and his first year's subscription should be free.

Well, well. I have written a rather long skit: I will not call it an article in case my friends Tom, Leslie or Percy jump on me. However, I am willing to take the raps that my suggestions will cost money, but will it not prove worth while if we can extend our Exercise? The matter of the film and the book can be private affairs between those who care to put them on a philanthropic or a business basis, and I am willing to be the first to plonk down a fair donation to either plan.

I will conclude with one final brick by suggesting that a yearly subscription of 2s. 6d. be the minimum amount paid to our associations, when in return we would receive better service and better meetings and socials, and a peal fee of 3d. or 6d. paid to either the association or 'The Ringing World' would not hurt any ardent peal ringer.

Now, Mr. Editor, I hope you will not consider my suggestions too revolutionary. After all they are only suggestions, put forward in a humble way with the hope that someone may find an idea here or there, in order to save and revive our beloved art.

C. W. P.

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TWO DEPARTED FRIENDS.

J. S. GOLDSMITH AND J. F. GOACHER.

By GEORGE L. GROVER.

Only a few short weeks ago it was my sad lot to attend the funeral of the man known to a great number of ringers as the Editor of their weekly ringing paper, a man who many of us had the privilege of claiming as a personal friend and a man who we in the Guildford Diocesan Guild, at any rate, looked upon the leading light—the guiding star of our ringing lives.

Tributes to Jack Goldsmith have already been written by abler pens than mine—tributes that we, who knew the man as a man as well as a ringer, know full well he deserved and more than earned.

We who had the honour of addressing him as 'Jack' know what a life of ungrudging service his was, not merely to the Guild he founded and served, not only to the Exercise as a whole, but also to the community in general in everything he undertook.

From what we saw throughout the years we were in contact with him of the self-sacrificing care and devotion which he lavished on the helpless invalid who was his wife, the enthusiasm and energy he put into all the various affairs of the Exercise and our Guild, and the wholeheartedness with which he laboured in his war-time administrative duties, not one of us has any doubt that Jack Goldsmith's one desire was to be of service to others without one thought of the profit or reward accruing to him.

Jack Goldsmith as a ringer was a national figure known not only in this country but, one might truly say, throughout the world, and it is hard to realise that the Exercise must face a ringing future without his material presence and that we in his own Guild will no longer be able to look to him for a personal lead. We are left, however, with the example of his service, the light of his influence will continue to shine through generations of us, and we owe it to him to pledge ourselves to rebuild the Exercise after this war to the standard that he would have desired us to reach had he been spared to take part in the rebuilding.

Within a week or two of Jack Goldsmith's death it was my sorrowful task to help lower to its last resting place the earthly remains of another ringer and personal friend. Not a national figure this time, for Joseph Frederick Goacher, of West Clandon, who died on Wednesday, July 1st, had not aspired to reach great heights in the world of ringers, but for all that a figure whose loss is as great a blow parochially as was Mr. Goldsmith's nationally.

Joe Goacher, like my other friend, had worn himself out at a comparatively early age by a life of that same quality of ungrudging service which he too gave without a thought of material reward.

In his ringing Joe Goacher could be depended upon to be there when required. He hated the thought of letting the rest of us down. A good method ringer who had several peals of Surprise Minor to his credit, a man to whom London Major had no terrors when it came to standing in with visitors for a touch, Joe never complained, never stopped away, never flagged in his enthusiasm through the many months and years that we were forced by circumstances to plod the somewhat weary path of Grandire Doubles for service ringing.

And in his work-a-day life as village storekeeper and latterly as sub-postmaster, Joe Goacher served the public with the same desire to assist, the same willingness to serve others, the same quiet helpfulness as he showed in his ringing activities.

We buried his mortal remains on Saturday, July 4th, four of us his fellow ringers and fellow members of the British Legion acting as bearers. The funeral service, conducted by the Rector (the Rev. E. Curry), was attended by a large congregation from the parish and neighbourhood. Messrs. A. H. Pulling, W. J. Robinson and A. C. Hazelden represented the Guildford Diocesan Guild. The standard of the West Clandon branch of the British Legion, of which Joe was vice-chairman, was carried in the funeral cortege escorted by fellow members.

In an address during the course of the service the Rector paid tribute to the sterling qualities, the Christian principles and exemplary life of Joseph Goacher in words which to a stranger might have seemed a too extravagant eulogy, but which we his friends knew were only the simple unexaggerated truth.

And now the earthly labours of both my friends, John S. Goldsmith and Joseph F. Goacher, have been concluded, and what a wealth of pleasant memories of the past, what hopes of a joyful ringing future we might allow to lie buried in those two flower-strewn graves, but I know that neither of them would have us leave it at that. We must not, we cannot give up hope. We owe it to both of them to keep green their memories, to work the harder when opportunity presents itself to reinstate the Exercise both nationally and parochially (not merely in this one parish of West Clandon, but throughout every parish in the land), and as our inspiration to keep ever before us the vision of their unselfish lives.

IN PRAISE OF CHANGE RINGING.—When the first difficulties of the art are overcome, a new and glorious field for recreation, and also for scientific research, is opened, which will amply repay the student for any expenditure of trouble at the outset.—Jasper W. Snowden, 1872.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-. For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—A meeting will be held at Balcombe on Saturday, July 25th. Handbells and silent tower bells from 3 p.m. A good train service, so no excuses, please.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 25th, at Arksey. Handbells available in the Church Hall from 3 p.m. Silent bells will also be available if required. Tea will be provided at moderate charge for all who attend.—E. Cooper, 6, Grosvenor Crescent, Arksey.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at Crowthorne on Saturday, July 25th. Handbells in Vestry 3 p.m. Service 4, followed by tea and handbells at Vicarage. Visitors welcome. Numbers for tea by July 21st to B. C. Castle, Hon. Sec., The Briars, Westfields Road, Winkersham, Wokingham.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Reigate on Saturday, July 25th. Members and friends meet at Reigate S.R. Station at 3 p.m., to walk through the Castle grounds and Reigate Park. Service at Reigate Parish Church at 5 p.m. Mr. M. A. Northover has kindly offered to provide tea, and his house and gardens will be at the disposal of members from 5.30 for the purpose of the meeting. Members from both districts are asked to make a special effort to attend.—G. W. Massey, North-Western Dis. Sec., 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, Esher, Surrey.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Monthly meeting at Kinver (D.V.), Saturday, July 25th. Eight bells (silent). Tea 5.30 p.m. Handbells and social evening to follow.—Bernard C. Ashford, Branch Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

LEEDS & DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Drighlington on Saturday, July 25th. Handbells in the Schools from 3 p.m. Business meeting 4.30 p.m. A good attendance requested.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, to-morrow, Saturday, July 25th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Bushey.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, August 1st, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—A district meeting will be held at Lawford on Saturday, August 1st. Handbells available from 2.30 p.m. in the church. Service at 4.15 p.m., followed by tea, business

meeting and more handbell ringing in the Ogilvie Hall. There is a good bus service from Colchester. Manningtree Station is $\frac{3}{4}$ mile away.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., Lower Barn Farm, Dedham.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Bishop's Stortford on August 1st. Tower open for silent bellringing, also handbells, from 3 p.m. Short service at 4.45. Tea at 5.30, followed by short business meeting. Those requiring tea please notify me by Wednesday, July 29th. All ringers welcome.—G. Radley, 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon, Herts.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton and Loughborough joint meeting.—A meeting at Copt Oak on Saturday, August 1st. Silent tower bells from 3 p.m. Handbells in Vicarage grounds. Cups of tea provided, but bring own eatables. Buses from Coalville or Leicester every 15 minutes. Connection there at 2.46. Bus from Whitwick approximately 3 p.m.—J. W. Cotton and A. E. Rowley, Hon. Secs.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—A meeting of the above will be held at Algarkirk on Saturday, August 1st. Bells (6) available for silent ringing at 5 p.m. Service 6.30 p.m. Business meeting afterwards. All ringers welcome.—W. E. Clarke, 99, Norfolk Street, Boston.

SURREY ASSOCIATION (North-Western District) and **GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD** (Leatherhead District).—A joint rally will be held at Leatherhead on Monday, Aug. 3rd. Meet at Boxhill S.R. Station at 3 p.m. to ramble through Norbury Park to Leatherhead. Service at Leatherhead Parish Church at 4.30. Tea at the Duke's Head at 5 p.m. Eight silent tower bells and handbells available during the afternoon and evening. Notifications for tea should reach Mr. G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, by Tuesday, July 28th. All ringers heartily welcome. — G. W. Massey and A. H. Smith, Dis. Hon. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Sundridge on Saturday, August 8th. Tower open from 2 p.m. with six silent bells. Service in church at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, followed by business meeting. All requiring tea must let Miss B. M. Richardson, Beechcroft, Sundridge, Sevenoaks, know by Wednesday, the 5th. London Transport buses run every half-hour from Tonbridge via Sevenoaks, and from Croydon via Westerham, No. 403. Half travelling expenses up to 2s. will be paid to members who have paid their subscriptions.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting at St. Thomas' Church, Moorside, on Saturday, August 8th. Tower bells from 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided for those who bring own food. Please make a special effort to attend. All are welcome.—Ivan Kay, Branch Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—A combined meeting with the Barnsley and District Society, the Doncaster and District Society, and the Sheffield and District Society will be held at Rawmarsh on Saturday, August 8th. Handbells available at the Church House from 2.30 p.m. A short service at 4.30 p.m. Tea at the Church House at 5 p.m. for all those who notify Mr. F. C. Wilson, 131, Wheatcroft Road, Sandhills, Rawmarsh, near Rotherham, not later than Wednesday, August 5th. Owing to catering difficulties, this is important. Business meeting after tea, followed by handbells and friendly discussions. All are welcome, and a good attendance is desired, this being our last summer gathering.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Quarry Road, Totley, near Sheffield.

PUBLICATION.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE, Part IV, reprinted from the Journal of the Berkshire Archaeological Society. To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire. Price: 6d.

BIRTH.

WIGG.—On July 20th, at the Royal Bucks Hospital, to Florence, wife of the Rev. C. E. Wigg, a son, Martin Charles Elliot.

HANDBELL PRACTICE AT LISS.

On Saturday, July 11th, a very happy gathering took place, by the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Munday, at Station Road, Liss, Hants.

The company included Messrs. A. H. Pulling and C. Hazelden (Guildford), E. J. Ayliffe (Haslemere), J. R. Mackman (Bramley) and Pte. Cox (Aldershot), representing the Guildford Diocesan Guild, the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild being represented by the Master (Mr. G. Williams), the hon. general secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers) and Mrs. Rogers and Mr. and Mrs. Tower R. Taylor.

After a hearty welcome had been extended to the visitors, Mr. Mackman brought out his fine set of ten handbells, which were much appreciated and made full use of till tea was called, at which a lot of chatter took place on things past, present and future in the matter of ringing.

More handbells followed till train time for those who were leaving early, and most of the standard methods were rung or attempted, not without trips and corrections.

The best joke of all near the close was when Alfred said, 'Let's try a course of London single-handed,' the result being 'that it be not reported.'

This brought to an end one of the most enjoyable little social gatherings it could have been possible to arrange. Some of the party remained for supper, and, notwithstanding rationing conditions, everyone had sufficient and yet fragments were left. Before the final goodnight Mr. and Mrs. Munday were thanked for their most kind and generous hospitality.

This is the second gathering at Mr. and Mrs. Munday's this year and no doubt is the outcome of weekly handbell practices arranged by Mr. A. H. Pulling, of Guildford. The previous meeting was in January last, when a very heavy fall of snow prevented some from attending.

A FOREIGN OPINION.—The people of England are vastly fond of great noises that fill the ear, such as the firing of cannon, beating of drums and ringing of bells; so that it is common for a number of them that have got a glass in their heads to get up into the belfry and ring the bells for hours together for the sake of exercise.—Paul Hentzner, A.D. 1560.

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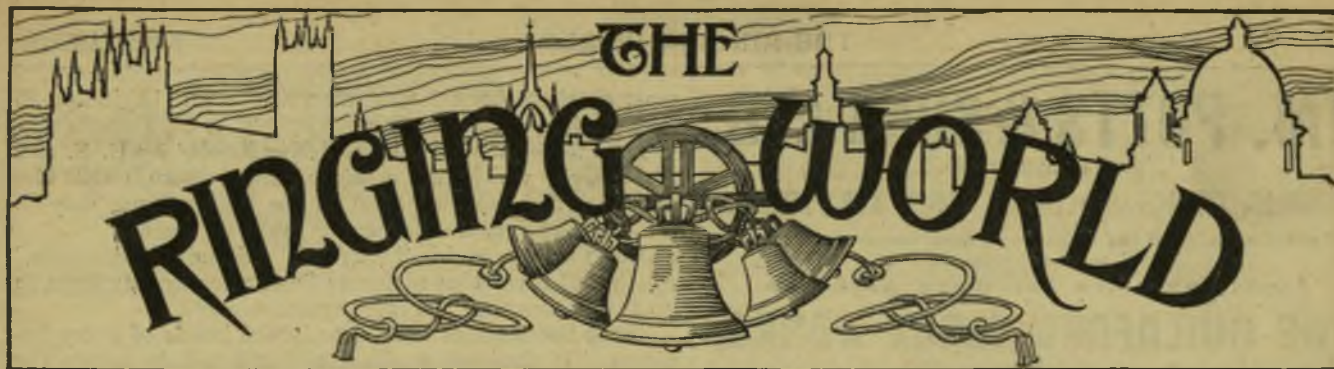
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FRIDAY, JULY 31st, 1942.

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TEXT BOOKS.

The policy of 'The Ringing World' has always been to print, not merely reports of peals and the current news of the Exercise, but also special articles which may help readers to learn and understand the art and science of change ringing.

We believe these articles have done a considerable amount of good, but obviously there are limits to their usefulness, especially those which are designed for the beginner who is just learning the practical rudiments. To be any good to him, the article must be very simple and elementary, and it must fit the exact stage of development he has reached. To anyone else, and to the beginner himself, once he has passed that stage, such an article is of very little interest. The utility of the more elementary articles is therefore questionable. Nevertheless, the value of the printed word in the instruction of beginners is very great and is not used nearly so much as it might be, and should be.

A distinctive feature about change ringing is that, more than almost anything comparable to it, it calls for much study and a long period of probation. The opportunities and the time that can be devoted in any tower to teaching are very small. They must usually be deducted from those available to the experienced ringers, and be at the expense of the surrounding public. It is to everybody's advantage that these difficulties should be lessened as much as possible, yet it is notorious that the best way of so doing is seldom taken.

There is much in change ringing that a beginner can only be taught by actual practice in the belfry, but there is much more that must be explained apart from the rope and, without which, practice is largely futile. Yet it is too often the habit to try to give both kinds of instruction at the same time, with the result that progress is slow and unsatisfactory.

The beginner (and there are many of them) who expects to learn to ring in the few minutes each week that he actually has a rope in his hand is not likely to go very far or very fast. If he is to make progress he must study the art outside the tower as well as inside, and if he is the right sort he can teach himself as much as others can teach him. But he must have help, and here is where the value of the printed page comes in. 'The Ringing World' cannot do a lot for him at this stage, but fortunately the Exercise possesses more than one text book which can be of the utmost assistance.

Three of them call for special mention. First there is Snowdon's "Rope Sight." It is more than sixty years old, but it carries its years remarkably well, and is a

(Continued on page 346.)

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most excellent book for the man who is just beginning to take an interest in ringing.

Then there is 'The Ringers' Handbook,' by E. S. and M. Powell, which has a wider range, though still elementary, and will be useful to the beginner not only in the early stages, but for many years to come.

And then there is Snowdon's 'Standard Methods,' which will carry him as far as he can reasonably hope to go in his practical ringing career.

These three books should be in the hands of every beginner. If they are studied they will greatly reduce the difficulties and the tedium of the early stages, and they will create and stimulate an interest in those wider branches of the art which make it so fascinating for the best ringers.

Whenever a person begins to take an interest in bells and looks like becoming a recruit, he should be induced to get hold of these books. He can buy them himself, or it may be good policy to give him one. After all, the price is not more than the cost of an ounce of tobacco. And when he has mastered them, there are others he may study with both profit and enjoyment.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE.

Paper restrictions have reduced the size of the sixth part of Mr. Frederick Sharpe's book on the 'Church Bells of Berkshire,' which, as will be seen from the advertisement in another column, can now be had from the author at the price of sixpence, but in no other way does it fall short of the standard set by the earlier numbers.

None of the rings dealt with is very familiar to the average ringer, but all are interesting archaeologically, and the excellent illustrations of the bells and their lettering will appeal to members of the Exercise everywhere and do much to enable them to appreciate and understand the bells in their own districts.

The founders represented are Abraham Rudhall, of Gloucester, William and Robert Corr, and James Wells, of Aldbourne, John Sanders, Joseph Carter, and Henry and Ellis Knight, of Reading, William Taylor, of Oxford, Thomas Mears, of Whitechapel, as well as the modern founders, Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, and John Taylor and Co. There is also an early mediæval bell from Wokingham without an inscription. This is the fifth at East Ilsley, the former home of Mr. Richard T. Hibbert, where he learnt to ring, and where he was largely responsible for increasing the bells to eight in 1921.

Mr. Sharpe gives some references to eighteenth century ringing matches, at which, it appears, the Hurst Youths were very successful. On August 15th, 1774, at Wokingham, they won the hats 'in their usual style.' Reading were second, Mortimer third, and Binfield fourth.

In 'The Reading Mercury' for Monday, May 29th, 1786, the following advertisement appeared: 'This is to give Notice that Stephen Herring at the Jack of Newbury at Binfield will give Six Very Good Hats to be Rung for on Whit Tuesday, viz.—Five for the men that ring the best round peal of 15 minutes long, and one for the winning umpire. No less than three sets will be allowed to ring. No ringing the day before the Hats are rung for—There will be an ordinary at one o'clock, and to begin ringing at three. No Binfield man to ring, or to be an umpire for either set. Every set to bring an umpire with them.'

As with the other sporting events these matches were arranged by the village innkeeper, who made a good thing out of the dinner (the 'ordinary') and the beer that the spectators and the partisans of the various bands would find it necessary to consume. Other times, other manners; and there does not seem to have been anything objectionable about these village matches.

Archæologically, a most interesting bell is the second of the ring of three at Hurley, cast about the year 1510 by John Sanders, of Reading, or his predecessor. An illustration of the lettering and crest on this bell is given. The headstock is said to be probably as old as the bell and the wheel obviously a sixteenth century half-wheel, to which a second half has subsequently been added.

Other illustrations show ornamental borders and lettering used by Ellis Knight, of Reading, about 1630, sixteenth century fittings, and the lettering used by James Wells and Joseph Carter.

FRIEZLAND.—At Christ Church on Sunday, August 19th, 720 Woodbine Treble Bob Minor: J. Smith 1, *V. Bottomley 2, H. Nutt 3, J. Clayton 4, W. W. Wolstencroft (conductor) 5, *J. Carter 6. * First in the method. Rung on the recently installed silent apparatus

HANDBELL PEALS.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

*On Saturday, July 18, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,***AT THE WAYSIDE, 150, NARBOROUGH ROAD SOUTH,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5043 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

ALFRED BALLARD... ..	1-2	PERCY L. HARRISON... ..	5-6
HAROLD J. POOLE... ..	3-4	*FRANK K. MEASURES... ..	7-8

FREDERICK E. WILSON ... 9-10

Composed by JOHN CARTER (No. 13 Broadsheet),

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Witness—Mrs. H. J. Poole.

* First peal on ten handbells and first attempt.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, July 19, 1942, in One Hour and Forty-Seven Minutes,

AT 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 6040 CHANGES;

Being one extent each of Single Court, Single Oxford, Reverse and Double Bob, and three of Plain Bob. Tenor size 17 in B flat.

*BRENDA M. RICHARDSON ... 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE 3-4

†BETTY SPICE 5-6

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal in more than one method. † First peal of Minor. The first handbell peal in five methods for the association.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, July 22, 1942, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

ALFRED BALLARD... ..	1-2	ERNEST MORRIS	7-8
HAROLD J. POOLE... ..	3-4	FREDERICK E. WILSON	9-10
GEO. STEDMAN MORRIS	5-6	JOSIAH MORRIS	11-12

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

A birthday compliment to Mrs. E. Morris.

HEADINGLEY, LEEDS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(OFFICERS' PEAL).

On Saturday, July 25, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes,

AT BLACKMOOR, ANCASTER ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

CAPT. MISS L. K. BOWLING, M.T.C. (Committee)	1-2
PERCY J. JOHNSON (Vice-President)	3-4
WILLIAM BARTON (Peal Secretary)	5-6
CANON C. C. MARSHALL (President)	7-8

Composed by GEORGE WILLIAMS. Conducted by WILLIAM BARTON

ECKINGTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 25, 1942, in Three Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes;

AT 48, HIGH STREET,

A PEAL OF BOB MAXIMUS, 5016 CHANCES;

Tenor size 13½ in E flat.

G. EDMUND DRABBLE... ..	1-2	NORMAN W. FOX	7-8
G. GORDON GRAHAM	3-4	GORDON C. BUNIGGS	9-10
A. ROY FOX	5-6	*PERCY J. JERVIS... ..	11-12

Composed and Conducted by G. G. GRAHAM.

* 50th peal.

THE TOWERS OF SOMERSET.(WRINGTON, GLASTONBURY, ST. CUTHBERT'S, WELLS,
CHEWTON MENDIP.)

Oh! Wrington tower's a splendid sight,
And Glaston tower is fine,
And there's few in merry England
Our Cuthbert's to outshine,
And Chewton Mendip, oh! so grand—
Of these shall be my song,
And merrily swing the breezy bells,
Ding-a-dong dong, ding dong.

From a book by Alan C. Tarbat, called 'Flickerings from Somerset.'

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION.

THE NEED FOR PROPAGANDA.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Most writers recently on the subject of 'Post-war Reconstruction' have dwelt mainly on the difficulties facing the Exercise. Whilst I fully appreciate that there are difficulties, I feel that there is very definitely another side to the picture. Is it not a fact that when the ban is lifted the great majority of the general public will welcome the sound of the bells? It will be a sign for rejoicing that the war is over. People will feel tremendously relieved, and I believe that there will certainly be a wave of religious fervour and thankfulness sweeping over the country. Without appearing to be over-optimistic, this strikes me as an opportunity for ringers to get busy and make an appeal for recruits, who will be needed to fill the inevitable gaps.

How is this to be done? Certainly not by sitting down and bemoaning our difficulties. Ringing must be made attractive. If people's interest can be sufficiently roused, I think it is only reasonable to assume that recruits will be forthcoming. Generally speaking, I do not suppose that one person in a thousand has the faintest idea what ringing is, and I feel that it is this ignorance which is the main obstacle to be overcome. So we must devise ways and means to stimulate people's interest and attract them.

If I may make a few suggestions, I can think of a few ways of tackling the problem, subject, of course, to varying local conditions, which will always need considering. Get hold of the parson, ask him to call a parish meeting, then the ringers can put the case over. A demonstration of handbell ringing will help if it can be arranged.

Another idea, why keep the belfry door closed at all times? Why not extend an invitation to anyone interested to come and see for themselves how it is done—say on Sunday mornings? By all means, of course, the door must be locked when peal attempts are being made, but on other occasions I see no necessity for it. People will obviously not come unless they are asked, and the invitation must come from the ringers themselves.

In a nutshell, we have got to do a little propaganda work—an unpleasant word—but it covers the case as I see it better than any other. The time will be ripe after the war, and we must not miss the opportunity which will be presented. It is a call to action.

R. W. DANIELS, Capt., R.A.S.C.

A BOURNEMOUTH MEETING.

Although a garden meeting was planned to take place at the Rev. C. A. Phillips' house at Bournemouth on July 18th, it was decidedly more comfortable indoors, and so a very grateful company of 25 ringers occupied the large drawing room during the afternoon.

It was a pleasure to see Mr. George Williams, the Master of the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild, looking so well and full of energy despite the fact that he is (as he himself puts it) 'nearer 90 than 80.' His presence was evidence of his continued keen interest in everything pertaining to the Exercise. Very welcome, too, was a visitor from Lincolnshire, Pilot Officer J. T. Newington. Messages regretting inability to attend were sent by Messrs. E. T. Griffin and A. Rose, whilst Mr. A. V. Dent, formerly of St. Peter's band, and Mr. John Jagger, of Birmingham, sent good wishes.

Plenty of handbells were available and they were kept going to Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob Major and Grandsire Caters until tea time. Stedman Caters proved somewhat elusive, especially as the 'silence during ringing' rule was not strictly enforced.

Tea was taken at Parsons' Restaurant and was followed by a short informal meeting, at which a unanimous vote of thanks was passed to the Rev. C. A. Phillips for his hospitality. Mr. Phillips replied and congratulated the local ringers on the progress made with the handbells. Since the first peal, on January 6th this year, eleven others had been rung. Six ringers had scored their first peal in hand and the conducting had been shared by Mrs. F. J. Marshallsay and Mr. A. V. Davis. Mr. Phillips was sure the ringers were not unmindful of the great help received from Mr. F. W. Townsend during the early stages of local handbell ringing.

The Vicar of Bournemouth, Canon Hedley Burrows, was able to spare a few minutes to visit the meeting, although too late for tea, and the opportunity was taken to thank him for all his helpful kindness to the Exercise in the district. In reply, he said how grateful he felt for the continuance of the fellowship of the belfry under such adverse conditions.

It was decided to arrange another meeting soon, September 5th being mentioned as a likely date, and Mr. George Preston spoke of the likelihood of some dumb practice on the bells at Christchurch.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MANCHESTER BRANCH.

A pleasant meeting of the Manchester Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at Brookfield, Gorton, on Saturday, July 18th, at which the local record for hospitality was well maintained, and the few, though representative, ringers present sat down to a very enjoyable tea after a short service, during which the Rev. F. Cottier spoke very ably.

Standard methods were 'rung' on the silenced tower bells and on the handbells. There were present some old friends from Stockport, Disley, Macclesfield, and some new friends from Accrington.

THE SURPRISE METHODS. TWENTIETH CENTURY DEVELOPMENT.

(Continued from page 337.)

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, composers began to turn their attention to the possibilities of getting longer lengths in the standard Surprise methods.

Six thousand seven hundred and twenty changes had been the longest composition of London, but Mr. Frederick Dench discovered that if bobs at In and Fifths are used, the method has a clear proof scale with the tenors practically together. Washbrook turned this discovery to account by composing and conducting a peal of 11,328, which was rung at Drayton in 1896. He also published a new method which he claimed as superior to Superlative, and which he called Oxford Surprise. It is not symmetrical, and does not confirm to present-day standards. A peal of it was rung at Brighton in 1897.

In the next year the Brighton men rang the first peals of Norfolk and Westminster. The latter was produced by Mr. Dench. It does not now rank as Surprise and, in any case, has little to recommend it. Another, and better method, also by Mr. Dench, called St. Stephen's, was rung at Rochester Row, Westminster, by the Ancient Society of College Youths. In 1897 the Gloucester men rang a peal of Gloucester Surprise at St. Michael's in that city. It has not been practised since.

Thus, when the nineteenth century closed, the development of Surprise ringing had begun, but as yet peals had been scored in only five methods, which now rank as Surprise—Cambridge, Superlative, London, Gloucester and Norfolk—and in six which were then called Surprise, but are now relegated to other classes—Albion, Liversedge, New Cumberland, Oxford, Westminster and St. Stephen's.

The new century opened with the Exercise ready for a big development in Surprise ringing, and its early days saw the exact definition of what was to be considered as a Surprise method. The Central Council had been founded in 1891, and one of the first tasks it undertook was to draw up definitions, to set up standards, and generally to tidy up all matters connected with ringing. Among other things was the classification of methods, and the present definition was finally adopted in 1906. It has the advantages of being clear, definite and easily understood and applied, though we may doubt in the light of experience whether it was an unmixed blessing.

In March, 1901, the first peal of Bristol was rung at St. Peter's, Brighton. It was the greatest acquisition in methods which the Exercise had had since Reeves published Superlative in 1788. Taken up and made popular a few years later by the very industrious peal-ringing band belonging to the Middlesex County Association, which Arthur T. King had got together under the conductorship of William Pye, it soon ranked among the select number of standard methods.

The same band did much to spread peal ringing in Superlative and London, and they were not alone. Many other companies in other parts of the country were ringing those methods. In 1902, as many as fifty peals of Superlative were rung; in 1907, 83; in 1910, 79; and in 1913, 82. Peals of London numbered 12 in 1902; 26 in 1906; 37 in 1909; 24 in 1911; and 22 in 1930.

Cambridge for long was somewhat under a cloud. The older authorities, and especially Sir Arthur Heywood

and C. D. P. Davies, had no good word to say about it, mainly on account of its supposed faults in construction, for twice in every lead it has four places made in one change; but it received a steady amount of support, eleven peals being rung in 1902, and 14 in 1906; and when it was discovered that, alone among the then known Surprise methods, it could be extended to any even number as easily and as correctly as Plain Bob or Kent Treble Bob, it at once increased in popularity. Thirty-four peals were rung in 1909; 26 in 1910; 32 in 1911; and 49 in 1913, besides an increasing number of Royal and Maximus. Gradually it took the place of Superlative as the most popular of the Surprise methods, and before the present war was one of the most practised methods wherever there were bands of more than average skill.

The Wakefield men in 1822 had discovered the ability of the method to extend, and it is rather surprising that it escaped the notice of other and later authorities, and especially men like Shipway and Heywood, who were keenly interested in the problem of the extension of methods.

As soon as composers were able to produce greater lengths, bands were ready to attempt to ring them. In 1903, 14,112 changes of London by Gabriel Lindoff were rung at King's Norton, and the peal still remains the record, although Law James later composed what was practically the same composition but one lead longer. This has been attempted several times, but so far without success. Law James produced 12,160 changes of Bristol without parting the tenors, and the peal was rung in 1912 by the Hertford County Association at Knebworth, conducted by Mr. George Price, but it remained the record for little over a month. The Middlesex Association beat it at Hornchurch by ringing 15,264 changes, composed by Gabriel Lindoff and conducted by William Pye. In 1910 a new record was set up for Superlative, when 9,728 changes were rung at Clent in Worcestershire.

The first peal of Yorkshire was rung at Ranmoor, Sheffield, in 1903. The method, although a pretty close variation of Cambridge, is an excellent one. An occasional peal continued to be rung; in recent years it has much increased in popularity, and now can fairly take its place as a standard method.

The band, having rung Yorkshire, and having a peal of London as their ultimate objective, then practised another method and, having rung it, they called it Peterborough because that city was half-way on the road to the Metropolis. Peterborough is constructionally one of the most obvious of methods. It is double, and it has a clear proof scale, but its merits in actual practice are not very great. Since, however, it is the typical method of a very large class, no collection would be complete without it.

In 1913 a London band rang for the Norwich Diocesan Association at St. John's, Waterloo Road, a peal of Brighton. It is a very good method, and was revived and rung to another peal in 1936 under the name of Burton in the mistaken impression that it had not previously been rung. The earlier peal was rung with a fourth's place bob, the latter with a sixth's. Inferior variations, Ashtead and Boveney, have been rung to peals, the former several times.

Later in the year 1913 the Guildford men began a long series of new methods by scoring Guildford Surprise. It

(Continued on next page.)

THE NAMES OF THINGS.**THE MEANING OF THE WORD SALLY.**

The Oxford English Dictionary gives (among others) the following meaning of the word 'Sally' or 'Sallie': 'The first movement of a bell when set for ringing, a "handstroke" as distinguished from the reverse movement of "backstroke." Also the position of a bell when it is rung up to a "set" position. The doubt is expressed whether this meaning is now only local. The two earlier illustrations quoted are:—

(1) From the 'Tintinnalogia,' 1668: 'Whole pulls is to be rung two Rounds in one change so that every time you pull down the bells at Sally you make a new change.'

(2) From the 'Campanalogia': 'The falling of the bells from a Sett pull must be gradually done by checking them only at Sally, until the low compass renders the Sally useless.'

The dictionary gives the derivation of the word as perhaps from an obsolete use of the word 'Sally,' which meant a leaping movement.

Another meaning of Sally is given as 'the woolly grip for the hands near the lower end of a bell-rope composed of tufts of wool woven into the rope.'

The earliest quotation giving the word with this meaning is dated 1809.

THE SURPRISE METHODS

(Continued from previous page.)

was the second five-thousand of it that they rang, the first unfortunately turning out false in the composition. The method was revived in later years, and several more peals rung, all, or nearly all, conducted by Mr. Alfred Pulling.

So that in August, 1914, Surprise ringing had been definitely established as an important branch of ringing. In London and Bristol Major, what was thought to be practically the extent, had been rung; the standard methods were being practised by many bands; and the number of methods in which a peal had been scored had been doubled since the century opened.

And then came the first world war.

(To be continued.)

COMMEMORATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am in complete agreement with Mr. Albert Walker's suggestion to have an annual pilgrimage to the grave of our late Editor. There is also no reason why Mr. George H. Williams' suggestion should not be carried out. I would myself like to suggest that a brass or carved oak tablet should be erected in the church, and for it an appeal be made either to individual ringers or to the associations.

The various suggestions that have been made could be brought before the Central Council, and it could decide.

One sentence in Mr. Rupert Richardson's letter I greatly appreciate, 'If we fail in keeping "The Ringing World" in existence, the Exercise will have let down a man who would never have let the Exercise down.' I have been in hospital six years to-morrow, and J. S. Goldsmith, with his generous nature, always kept me supplied with a copy of the paper free of charge.

WILLIAM KEEBLE.

Colchester.

THE LATE MISS I. HASTIE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was with sincere regret that many Taunton ringers learnt of the death of Miss Irene Hastie. During her stay in Somerset in pre-war days she was a regular visitor to meetings in the deanery, and she had also attended a number of practices at the three Taunton towers. She took part in several peals arranged from Taunton and had been a welcome guest on a number of outings.

Her ringing ability, her readiness to take part in anything from rounds to Surprise, and her good-humoured interest in those about her, created a happy impression.

In expressing our sympathy for her relatives we can only add that we were glad to have had her with us for a while.

On behalf of Taunton Deanery ringers,

W. H. LLOYD.

THE NOTATION OF PEALS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—It has always been a mystery to me why, in the setting out of compositions, the course ends are placed in front of the calling by which they are produced. There may be an explanation, but to me it is so obvious that M W H produces 65432, and must, therefore, come first, that I can conceive of no reason for putting it otherwise. Perhaps somebody can explain.

CHARLES J. SEDGLEY.

61, Belvedere Road, Ipswich.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The meeting at Sundridge on August 8th should prove a very pleasant gathering. Miss Brenda Richardson and her sisters, worthy daughters of a man who did much for the Exercise, are doing a great work for the Exercise in that quarter of Kent, and deserve all help and encouragement.

Mr. H. Nutt, of Friezland, has received many enquiries about the silent apparatus referred to in our issue of July 10th, but finds it impossible to reply to all in detail. He will be glad to show and explain the apparatus to visitors and give explanation as far as possible, but correspondents should enclose stamped envelope for reply.

On July 26th, 1832, the Norwich Scholars rang at St. Giles' in that city 6,000 changes of Oxford Bob Major, the first peal in the method.

The College Youths rang the first peal in Ireland, one of Grandsire Triples, at Waterford Cathedral on July 27th, 1872.

On the same date in 1935, Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner conducted a peal of six spliced Surprise Major methods, his own composition, at Hillingdon in Middlesex.

James William Washbrook was born in Oxford on July 27th, 1864, and William Cooter, for many years one of the most prominent members of the London Exercise, died on July 28th, 1912, at the age of 87.

On July 29th, 1785, William Shipway arrived in London from Bath and began a ringing career which was not without great effect on the fortunes of the Exercise.

The Birmingham men rang 7,552 Grandsire Major at Ashton on July 30th, 1792.

Ten years ago to-morrow John S. Goldsmith called a peal of Stedman Cinques at St. Laurence's, Reading. It was arranged as a 'secretaries' peal,' but the full band of secretaries could not be made up, and the performance had to wait until a later date.

To-morrow is the fiftieth anniversary of the first peal at St. Mary's, Willesden. It consisted of seven 720's in seven different Minor methods and was rung by the old Middlesex Association, conducted by Charles W. Tucker. The bells, a Whitechapel ring with a tenor of 9 cwt., were opened in 1793 by a band from Kensington. Of late years a good deal of ringing history has been made in the belfry.

Fifty years ago yesterday five peals were rung. They consisted of Stedman Triples 1, Caters 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Double Norwich Major 1, and Minor 1.

Fifty years ago to-morrow (August Bank Holiday) eight peals were rung—Grandsire Triples 2, Stedman Triples 2, Canterbury Pleasure Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 2, and Minor 1. One of the Kent was 7,008.

CHIMES AND CHURCH TUNES.

THE CAMBRIDGE QUARTERS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Mr. Taylor was quite right about the so-called Westminster chimes. Their right name is 'Cambridge,' as that is where they were composed and first set up. When the clock was set up at Westminster, Sir Edmund Beckett (later Lord Grimthorpe), being a Cambridge man, chose the chimes from Great St. Mary's, and they have spread all over the British world.

Possibly it is the fact of the crack in Big Ben's making the note so indefinite that few people know the right relation between the last note of the fourth quarter and the hour note, so that they think the chimes can be used on eight bells. But they cannot. At Cambridge (as at Yeovil and St. Mary Abbot's) the hour strikes on the key note, an octave below the last note of the fourth quarter. If you have only eight bells, the tenor is only a fifth below. Let anyone try on a piano the effect (given in the key of C for simplicity) and he will notice how much better and more finished the correct form sounds.

Wrong —	D	A	B	G	C
	7	3	2	4	— 8
Right —	G	D	E	C	C
	6	2	1	3	— 10

The chimes were arranged by Crotch, then a pupil of Dr. Randall, Regius Professor of Music, from the well-known four notes in the fifth bar of the opening symphony of 'I know that my Redeemer liveth.'

W. C. B.

MR. TAYLOR REPLIES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am glad my letter has brought out such a response, and I thank those who have written, especially Messrs. John Smith and Sons.

I am rather surprised that Mr. F. Smith, of Yeovil, missed my point. If the Westminster chimes are on a ring of eight with the tenor say C, then the quarters will be on 2347 and will be in the key of G, or on 3458 and be in the key of F, while in either case the hour bell is C. If there are ten bells the quarters can be on 1236 and the key will be the same as the hour. I believe Worcester Cathedral was the first place where the quarters and the hour were in different keys.

F. M. TAYLOR.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual business meeting of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Oxford on July 18th, and, considering the abnormal times, was well attended. Eighty-one members were present.

The Master, Canon G. F. Coleridge, presided and was supported by the Rev. C. E. Wigg (Deputy Master), Mr. R. T. Hibbert (general secretary) and Mr. A. D. Barker (the hon. treasurer). Apologies from several members were received.

All the officers were re-elected, and the Master assured the members that their confidence would not be misplaced; all the officers would do their best for the Guild.

On the recommendation of the General Committee, it was decided that the arrangements for the annual festival of 1943 should be left to the General Committee meeting at Easter next. All branch secretaries and tower foremen were asked to keep a list of members serving with H.M. Forces, so that a correct list can be printed when peace comes.

It was decided to print a skeleton report and balance sheet at the end of this year.

The grant of £50 made by the committee for a special and urgent need was ratified, but one or two members expressed the hope that the committee would not often take upon themselves this great responsibility. The rearrangement of the Guild's accounts and the closing of the reserve fund were agreed to.

The election of nine new members was confirmed.

Capt. A. R. Poyntz proposed that, as there would be a great many calls on the restoration fund after the war, the Guild should ask all parochial church councils of towers affiliated to the Guild to subscribe annually two shillings (or at least one shilling) per bell to the restoration fund. This was warmly supported by Mr. A. H. Webb who seconded, and was debated by several members. Canon Coleridge asked Capt. Poyntz to draft an appeal and send it to him for approval. The motion was carried.

After the meeting a good tea was served by the Oxford Co-operative Society. Thanks were given to the Rev. F. S. Cragg, of St. Aldate's, for the use of the rectory room and the church for the service, at which the preacher was the Rev. F. B. Girling, Rector of Brightwell. Miss Cross and Mr. W. L. B. Leese each brought a set of handbells, and this contributed to the pleasure of all.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT NORTH MIMMS.**

The first meeting of the St. Albans District of the Hertford County Association held outside the city since 1940 was at North Mimms on July 18th, and despite unfavourable circumstances proved a success, 16 members sitting down to tea.

Handbell ringing began at 3.30 in the belfry of the Parish Church, the bands being made up alternately of 'old hands' and mixed beginners and experienced ringers.

Tea was at the Corner Cafe and was followed by a short business meeting, at which Mrs. Fergusson took the chair. No fewer than seven probationary members from St. Peter's, St. Albans, were elected. They had joined as the result of the recent 'bell week' at St. Albans. Mrs. Fergusson, who proposed them, and Miss K. West, who seconded, had themselves learnt to ring since the war started, their teacher being Mr. H. V. Frost, now in the Middle East.

It was announced that an attempt will be made to hold a meeting at Wheathampstead or Hatfield, in September.

The Hon. Secretary referred to the death of two life members of the association, John S. Goldsmith and Ernest Brett, and stressed the loss the Exercise had sustained. Three members of the Hatfield band had been killed in action.

The duty and necessity of paying subscriptions were pointed out by the secretary. Although activities are restricted, the association was still carrying on, and it was hoped that members would do what they could so that when the ban is lifted there will be something to work on.

The meeting concluded with more handbell ringing, in which the St. Peter's probationers took a hand.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT WOODFORD.**

A very enjoyable meeting of the South-Western Division of the Essex Association was held at Woodford on July 11th, when there were about 15 members present from Loughton, Walthamstow, Wanstead, Chigwell Row, Leytonstone and Woodford. The service at St. Mary's Church was conducted by the Rev. — Ison, who welcomed the members and gave a very interesting address. The meeting was presided over by the Master, Mr. J. Chalk, who expressed regret at the passing of the late Editor of 'The Ringing World,' and all stood in silence as a mark of respect.

The next meeting, which will be the annual district meeting, will be at Leytonstone. A vote of thanks was passed to the Rev. — Ison, to the organist and to the ladies for providing a most excellent tea. During the evening a few touches were rung on the handbells.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**MEETING AT SANDAL.**

At the meeting of the Barnsley and District Society, held at Sandal on July 18th, members were present from Eastwood, Earlsheaton, Felkirk, Handsworth and Sheffield Cathedral, and there was a good muster of the local company. The visitors were Mr. Christopher W. Woolley and Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Hodgson, of Farnborough, who were spending a holiday in the district.

A room was reserved at the Duke of York Hotel, and after handbell ringing during the afternoon, tea was served at 5 p.m.

The Vicar, the Rev. A. Walls, presided at the short business meeting, at which an invitation was received from Mr. S. F. Palmer, the acting secretary of the Southern Division of the Yorkshire Association, to hold a joint meeting in August. This was accepted and the meeting fixed for Rawmarsh on the 8th.

The Vicar was thanked for his presence during the evening and for taking the chair, and the local company for making the arrangements.

Replying, the Vicar assured the society of a hearty welcome at any time and hoped it would not be long before the tower bells were heard again.

Further handbell ringing followed until 8.50 p.m. The methods rung during the afternoon and evening were Plain Bob Minor, Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Treble Bob Major, Little Bob Major, Plain, Little, Double and Gainsborough Major Spiced, Grandsire and Stedman Caters, Bob Royal and Plain, Little, Double and Gainsborough Royal Spiced.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

One of the most pleasant and useful features of the fortnightly meetings of the Ancient Society of College Youths is that they afford a splendid opportunity for members and friends from the provinces to meet London ringers and so help to keep up the general interest in the Exercise which in these days is so essential. At the last meeting, on July 18th, Mr. Charles Sedgley, of Ipswich, turned up with Mrs. Sedgley, and Mr. Burley P. Morris came from Kettering.

The Master was in the chair and was supported by the hon. secretary, the hon. treasurer and the junior steward, Mr. G. W. Cecil. Others present were Messrs. G. Stannard, F. C. Newman, W. H. Pasmore, J. H. Shepherd, R. F. Deal, J. A. Trollope, E. A. Young, J. Chapman, A. Jarvis, E. Hartley, R. Spears, J. Botham, C. W. Roberts, E. Barnett, H. G. Miles and C. C. Mayne, Corpl. K. Arthur (R.A.F.), Pte. Len Fox and Pte. C. W. Munday, of Basingstoke.

Two new members were elected, Mr. Herbert W. Knight, of Bristol, and Mr. Hobart E. Smith, of Ipswich.

The Master commented on the handbell peals lately rung for the society in the provinces and the continued support and interest of country members. Attention was called to the rule requiring an umpire for every handbell peal.

Mr. E. A. Young was very much impressed when copying the name book to find so many provincial names, about two to every one from London. The society should congratulate itself, he said, and not be disheartened.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT SHALFORD.**

A meeting of the Northern Division of the Essex Association was held at Shalford on July 18th, and in spite of a poor attendance did arouse some interest amongst the local band.

A short service in the church was attended by several of the parishioners and the choir, and was conducted by the Rev. R. B. Vaizey. Mr. I. T. Chapman accompanied the singing.

The idea adopted by the North-Eastern Division for tea was copied owing to the difficulty of obtaining food, and worked very well.

At the business meeting which followed, in the absence of the District Master the Rev. R. B. Vaizey took the chair, supported by the secretary, Miss H. G. Snowden. The Vicar was elected an honorary member on the proposition of Mr. L. W. Wiffen, seconded by Mr. A. Saunders. Dunmow was chosen as the next place of meeting, with Halstead as an alternative.

Mr. I. T. Chapman proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. R. B. Vaizey, the choir and all who helped to make the meeting a success. The Vicar said he had always liked bells and taken an interest in ringers. He had not yet heard the bells at Shalford, as he had only been there since the ban; it was said that the tower and bells needed some attention, and he promised to see about it as soon as circumstances permitted.

Handbells were rung, and some of the local ringers were helped through a course of Grandsire Doubles. Other methods included Bob Minor, Bob Major, Grandsire Triples and Kent Treble Bob Minor.

GRAMOPHONE RECORDS.**To the Editor.**

Dear Sir,—It may interest Mr. Hewett and other ringers of St. Margaret's to know that I have heard one of the records of eight bells, choir and organ played in a cafe at Lausanne, Switzerland. I happened to hear it first when they were trying out a number of records, and it was put on again on Christmas Day.

Kington Magna.

F. LI. EDWARDS.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 340.)

In the 'Rites of Durham,' written before 1593, after mentioning the bells and duties of bellringers, is this quotation:—

'Then Tho. Sparke the Bishopes Suffragaine lying at Durh^m & kepinge howse there, at ye same tyme havinge Intellegence what ye Deanes purpose was, dyd sende into Yorkshire wth all speade for a workeman & caused iij of ye said Bells to be tacken downe [ye iiijth Bell Remaynes ther still & was neu^r Rounge synce yt was suspent, ye other did remayne a longe season but yet after removed in ye Lanthorne] & caused them iij to be hong up in ye newe worke called ye Lantren & maide a goodly chyme to be sett on ye said Bells ye wth dyd coste hime in chargs Thirtie or fortie pound^s w^{ch} chyme endureth to this daie, or els ye Bells had bene spoyled & defaced. . . . 'But in ye yeare 1655 ye clocke & chyme was repayred again w^{ch} was taken downe & preserved from ye sd ruine.'

This clock was originally placed behind the rood loft. The case was made by Prior Castell (1494-1519), and contained much of his work, with additions by Dean Hunt, 1632. It was removed to the south end of the transept when the rood loft was destroyed, and in its turn destroyed. The notes accompanying the foregoing state: 'It being on 3 bells could hardly have been for tunes. Perhaps it was a chiming apparatus by means of which 'rounds' or six changes possible on 3 bells could be produced. A large chime barrel which long remained disused in the lantern, was brought down a few years ago and, after lying some time in the workmen's yard, was bought up. This, however, appeared, from the great number of iron pegs that it bore, to have belonged to apparatus more recent and elaborate than that of Bishop Sparke would be.'

We are inclined to disagree with the above remarks as to the chime playing 'rounds and changes,' for at this period the art of change ringing was not sufficiently advanced. In fact, Fabian Stedman, writing in 1668, says: 'For within these Fifty or Sixty years last past changes were not known or thought possible to be Rang. Then were invented the Sixes, being the very ground of a six-score.'

Therefore the chimes must have played some sort of 'tune' or 'air.' Of course, very little can be done on three, four or five bells. Tunes, however, were played even on such a limited number of notes. Thus at North Cotes, Lincs, a tune called 'Village Vespers' was written for the three bells there by the then Rector, the Rev. T. R. Matthews, to the words, 'Through the day Thy love has spared us.' The notation of this tune is given in North's 'Church Bells of Lincolnshire, 1882.'

For the four bells at Tinwell, Rutland, an air—given in Nichols' 'Bells through the Ages'—to the words 'To Thy temple I repair,' was composed by Mr. W. S. Hadson in 1883. The old five bells at Hallaton, Leicestershire, for many years used to play a chime tune, and the following lines to this tune were formerly written up in the belfry:—

'Old Dunmore's dead, that good old man,
We him no more shall see:
He made the chimes to play themselves
At six, nine, twelve and three.'

In many places the clock maker's name was handed down to posterity through the medium of a chime tune such as this. Another five-bell tune sometimes played is 'Eudoxia,' or 'Now the day is over.'

The earliest clocks struck the hours or had alarums for calling the monks to devotions, but no dial or hands. They were usually made throughout of iron and are most interesting. Among other things they demonstrate that in principle the striking train in the 16th century, and even earlier, was almost exactly the same as to-day. They show that not only was the locking plate in use, but that the unlocking and warning arrangements were probably features of the very earliest striking clocks. We also find that musical clocks of the lantern type existed between 1680 and 1700, though such clocks are very rare.

From about 1690, when eight-day long-case clocks and bracket clocks were established, we find makers devoting a good deal of attention to chime and musical movements. Early musical movements are comparatively rare, and tunes played are generally unrecognisable in the present generation. The chief objection to musical clocks is that owners very soon became tired of them, and this has resulted in many being converted into eight-day chime clocks.

From earliest times the tune was changed by moving the barrel lengthways in its pivot holes to expose a fresh set of pins to the hammers. A musical barrel for a clock with seven tunes (one for each day of the week) and, say, 12 or 13 bells, required about a thousand pins. The majority of the old chime clocks were rather deficient in bells, six being a common or average number. There is something rather dull and uninteresting about a six-bell chime, so a very large number have been converted into eight-bell chimes within more recent years. With eight bells it is possible to obtain a pleasing number of tunes.

Ancient chime mechanism is very simple, and consists of a weight-driven barrel (generally made of wood), into which pins are driven, on exactly the same principle as that of a musical box. A primitive substitute for the properly constructed chime barrel was the trunk of a tree into which spikes were driven. The pins in the chime barrel pull down levers, lifting hammers with which they are connected by wires, and finally release them so that in their descent the hammers strike the bell upon the outside.

In mechanical chimes the bell is nearly always struck by hammers which operate outside the surface of the bell, and in this country such chimes usually play the melody only. In such a mechanism the barrel had to do all the work, which was satisfactory so long as the requirements were merely a regular succession of notes of equal length played at a moderate speed—a hymn tune or the like—but there are not so many melodies of real interest which come within these limits, particularly as regards secular tunes. Thus we often find more elaborate airs consisting of mixed long and short note values—groups of short notes in quick succession, etc., gave unequal demands on the barrel and made its speed irregular. This resulted oftentimes in one bar being played quicker than another and producing a most unsatisfactory musical effect, and in many instances producing merely a grotesque performance.

(To be continued.)

THE ORGANISATION OF THE EXERCISE.**A DIOCESAN BASIS.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—If a thorough revision of the organisation of the Exercise was needed, and a committee of wise and learned men was appointed to deal with this matter, I do not think they would recommend a National Association. They would probably point out that the bells are church bells and are intended for use in church services. They would, therefore, suggest that the Exercise should be organised on Church lines, not on National lines.

First, the Exercise would be divided according to the dioceses and each diocesan branch would have its headquarters and officers at the cathedral city. Then each diocese would be sub-divided into archdeaconries and each archdeaconry into rural deaneries or groups of rural deaneries. And finally each tower would have its properly organised band.

Every sub-division would have its appropriate officers with well-defined authority and duties, and there would be officers specially charged to look after finance, arrangement of meetings, peal ringing, and the rest. Each officer would keep to his own sphere and there would be no overlapping. Finally, every ringer would have his own place in a particular band and would receive instructions as to everything he had to do. At the head of all these would be a Central Council composed of the very best brains and ability of the Exercise.

It would be a most efficient system and would provide for every contingency. Would it work any better than the present system? I do not think so.

‘SENEX.’

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

Sir,—If the advocates of the National Association have not put up much of a show, perhaps it is because they are of the younger section of the Exercise and are thus very much preoccupied at present.

This diversion of our youth will last for some period after the war, and so, of necessity, the first stages of the rehabilitation will have to be carried through by the older people. I cannot myself see how any progress can be made in the immediate post-war months unless things are kept going now and unless we keep our ‘Ringing World.’ In my opinion, the whole financial resources of the Exercise should be considered available to preserve the continuity of our paper, and in any case I hope we may hear of a scheme soon which will enable humble folk of small means to assist the work of the journal.

Reverting to the subject of a National Association, surely such an association will have to have its sub-divisions manned by voluntary helpers. I must say I cannot see any better sub-division of our Exercise in general than the Diocesan Guild. Such a Guild is in close touch with the Church (which owns the bells), and, as far as I know, no diocese overlaps.

If the Exercise must be reorganised I plead for such reorganisation to be made on a Diocesan Guild basis, even to the sacrifice of the Counties Associations. The one or two Ancient Societies and the Ladies’ Guild, etc., of course, would remain in being.

116, Alma Road, Bournemouth. ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT CROWTHORNE.**

A meeting of the Sonning Deanery Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held on July 25th at Crowthorne, by kind invitation of Canon G. F. Coleridge, the chairman of the branch.

After about an hour’s handbell ringing in the vestry, service was held in the church, conducted by the Canon, who referred to the sterling qualities of the late John Goldsmith as a ringer, a friend and a churchman.

Tea followed at the Vicarage and more handbell ringing, ranging from Bob Minor to Stedman Caters. Twenty-four members were present, and the following towers were represented. Binfield, Hurst, Sandhurst and Sonning, and visitors from Reading, Guildford, Stoke Poges, Petersfield, Worplesdon and Tilehurst.

DEATH OF A DOVER RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. A. T. K. Goodbourn, who passed away on July 10th at Lyminge, Kent, at the age of 71, after a long illness. He was one of the band at St. Mary’s, Dover, when the bells were restored in 1898. He took a great interest in early morning ringing at Christmas, Easter and Whitsuntide, and specialised in tune playing on the handbells. He and his party kept up the old custom of visiting the houses of churchfolk in the district and playing tunes on the doorstep.

DOVER RINGER MISSING.

News has been received by the relatives of Mr. R. J. Castle, of the Mercantile Navy, that he is reported missing and believed to be drowned. Mr. Castle was one of the ringers at St. James’, Dover. He learnt to ring for the Coronation of King George V., and though he was not able to do much owing to being away at sea, he could manage the treble in Grandire and the tenor. He was invaluable when at home. The Coronation band at St. James’ was a suggestion by the Rector to the Youth Fellowship, eight members being instructed by Mr. C. Turner at St. Mary’s.

A PEAL OF BOB MAXIMUS.**THE USE OF SINGLES.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The following is the composition of the peal of Bob Maximus, called by myself at Swindon on May 26th. In composing it I had in mind the keeping of the pairs 3-4 and 5-6 as close together as possible in coursing order.

	5,016		
	23456	W	M H
42356	—	—	—
34625	—	—	—
53642	—	S	—
63245	—	—	—
23546	—	—	—
42536	—	—	—
34526	—	—	—
63542	—	S	—
53246	—	—	—
23645	—	—	—
42635	—	—	—
56423	—	—	—
35462	—	S	—
45263	—	—	—
25364	—	—	—
62354	—	—	—
56324	—	—	—
45362	—	S	—
23456	—	—	—

Except for the opening and closing courses, and for one lead in the 12th course, the pairs of bells 3-4 and 5-6 are either coursing or have the 2nd coursing between them.

I should like to thank Mr. Turner for his excellent peal of Bob Royal. I notice he uses six singles. A well-known ringer once told me that any peal of Royal or Maximus should not have more than two singles. May I ask Mr. Turner, or anyone else, if there is any reason why more than two singles is undesirable?

M. MELVILLE.

The Knowle, Lichfield, Staffs.

[In fairness to Mr. Turner, we ought to say that he did not publish the Bob Royal as his own composition. He got it in the first place, we believe, from Mr. C. W. Roberts.—Editor, ‘The Ringing World.’]

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Like Mr. E. Turner, I think the arrangement for Bob Royal a very good one, and have used it for years as a variation of H. J. Tucker’s well-known peal.

I usually place the singles half-way and end.

W. AYRE.

Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

OLD CUSTOMS AND MEMORIES.**A LETTER FROM SOUTH AFRICA.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Letters have appeared from time to time in ‘The Ringing World’ in connection with old customs. At Chaddesley Corbett, Worcestershire, an eight-bell tower, it used to be the custom at a funeral to chime each of the bells, beginning with the treble and ending with the tenor, each one chimed twice for a child, three times for a woman, and four for a man. On Shrove Tuesday, the 3rd and 7th were chimed, though I cannot remember for how long, but it may have been for half an hour. In 1898 a man named Giles died, leaving the Chaddesley Corbett ringers an amount of about £2 per annum for ringing on the anniversary of his death. This they did, but one year the ringing was allowed to lapse. The following year they rang and claimed the £2. The executors refused to pay, and alleged that according to the particular clause in the will the legacy would completely lapse if the ringers failed to ring in any year. I understand that the ringers sued the executors and the latter had to pay up, but the Judge stated that he would not uphold the ringers’ claim a second time if they should allow the annual ringing to lapse again. I believe ringing was then continued regularly each year until the ban. I took part myself once or twice (about 1935), and duly received 5s. per occasion.

At Chaddesley Corbett Church the sexton and steeplekeeper is (or at any rate was until a few years ago) a Mr. Jack Hemming—‘Little Jack’ as he was known to the ringers. He is the only man I have met who could make the little bell, or ‘ting-tang,’ at Chaddesley Corbett speak four times each whole pull, which he did for the five minutes preceding each Sunday service. The four notes were perfectly regular, usually equally loud, but occasionally one of the four weaker than the rest. Having been accustomed to hearing the ‘ting-tang’ right from childhood’s days, I used not to notice it particularly, but, looking back, I realise now that it was to me, at any rate, quite unique.

C. CHAMBERS.

16, Merlin Street, Kensington, Johannesburg, South Africa.

ELEMENTARY COMPOSITION.

A SYSTEM OF PROOF.

By HAROLD CHANT.

Having read the articles on 'Elementary Composition' in 'The Ringing World' with the reference to bricks and building, it struck me that a chart that I have compiled at home for use (among other things) of the proof of Bob Major may be of use to 'average readers.'

It consists of the 120 courses that are possible with the tenors together, 60 (in-course) on the left-hand side and 60 (out-of-course) on the right-hand side arranged systematically thus: 23456, 42356, 34256, 32546, 53246, 25346, etc., etc.

As each course is divided into seven leads I have allotted a space for each of these seven leads, together with an insertion in the appropriate place of the course end to which the transference is made if a call is made at that lead. As this may sound more complicated than it actually is I append a facsimile of the course 23456.

Each course is treated in a similar manner and the actual chart is complete. I have now prepared some strips of cardboard sufficient to cover either one, three, four, five, six or seven leads, the latter, of course, being the complete course.

In proving a touch or peal (which is not, incidentally, the primary use of the chart) it is necessary to cover up with the cardboard strips whichever lead in any course is used as the composition proceeds, and to see that there is no overlapping or doubling of cardboard strips. If this condition is fulfilled the composition is true. To the composer and theorist the use of the chart will need no explanation, but to the 'average reader' to whom I am addressing myself some may be required especially in regard to Bobs 'Before' and '5th's and 4th's.'

	23456
W	52436
5th's	
B	35264
4th's	64523
M	43652

THE FIRST RULE.

Start first of all with the Plain Course. If you ring it straight through and call no Bob at 'Home' you will inevitably return to the beginning of the course. Therefore, Rule No. 1 is 'If there is no Bob 'H,' return to the beginning of the course.' This rule may sound rather obvious, but remember it is possible to start in the middle of a course—even at the last lead—and then return to the beginning and ring the course through to that point, thereby utilising the complete course and jumping off as it were to a similar position in another course.

If we do call a Bob at the end of the Plain Course we move—if our courses have been arranged systematically—to the next course on the right. We can then ring this course through and move again to the next course on the right.

THE SECOND RULE.

After this, seeing that we have reached the last course of a 'round block,' we shall have to return to the first one again. So we can formulate Rule No. 2, which is, 'After a Bob "Home," move to the next course on the right in the same "round block,"' always remembering that from the last to the first of a round block is regarded as the 'next on the right.'

Take next, say, the touch 'three times Wrong.' Cover up the first lead of the Plain Course to show that this has been rung, the bob 'W' throws us into another course, the row 52436 informs us which course we have to move into and saves us the trouble of doing any transposition, mental or otherwise.

From the second lead of the course 52436 we can cover up the remainder of that course. As there is no bob at H we move back according to Rule 1 to the beginning of the course and obliterate by means of a strip the remaining lead. We are then informed by the 'W' transposition that we have to move into the course 35426, and this course is then treated in a similar manner to the previous one. The next transposition switches us back into the course 23456, and as there is no bob 'H' we arrive back at the place from which we had commenced (after covering with a cardboard strip the remainder of the course) and the round block is completed.

BOBS BEFORE.

With Bobs 'Before' it is necessary to remember that the 4th lead of the course must be covered both approaching and leaving. An example will perhaps best illustrate this. Take 'B and 3H' not a complete touch in itself. First cover the first four leads to show that they have been used. The B transposition (35264) moves us into the latter course, but we must remember also to cover up the 4th lead of the latter course when we move into it. This means that we use the first four leads of the course 23456 and the last four of the course 35264. A 'H' moves us one to the right and another 'H' one more to the right. We can now see, I think, much clearer than by figures why it would be impossible to follow 'B and 3H' with another 'Before,' for as the last H has moved us back into the course 35264, if we covered the first four leads again we should overlap, and the overlap would show us the lead which was being repeated, viz., the 4th lead (in this case) of the course 35264.

FIFTHS AND FOURTHS.

Where more than one 'Before' follows in succession a single strip laid over the 4th lead of the course we are transferred into will show us what leads have been used and in which courses.

(Continued in next column.)

DEATH OF MR. JOSEPH MADDOCK.

PROMINENT TAUNTON RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Joseph Maddock, of Taunton, which occurred on July 19th after a long illness.

The funeral was at St. Mary's Cemetery on Thursday, and was conducted by the Rev. Walter Green, Vicar of St. James', Taunton. At the end a course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the grave by H. Walker and A. H. Reed, of St. James' band, and W. H. Lloyd and H. P. Merson, of St. Mary's band. Among the floral tributes were wreaths from the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association and from the St. James' company.

Mr. Maddock was a native of Stogumber, and as a young man worked for Mr. John Sulley, a bellhanger. Later he became a master builder and was in business at Taunton for a number of years.

He was one of the original members of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association, and served on the General Committee for 35 years. At first he belonged to the band at St. Mary's, Taunton, and later went to St. James', where he was captain for about 30 years. He took a leading part in the scheme to augment the six bells at St. James' to the full octave. He was the first secretary of the Taunton Deanery branch of the Diocesan Association, and was later elected an honorary life member. He had rung about 85 peals, of which he had conducted 45.

A reliable conductor and an excellent striker, he did much good work teaching ringers, both as bands and individuals, and was a popular and highly esteemed figure in the West Country Exercise. He had many friends outside the diocese. Mr. Maddock was 77 years of age.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN C. NOLAN,

AN AUSTRALIAN PIONEER.

The death occurred on May 1st last at Melbourne, Australia, of Mr. J. C. Nolan, who was captain and for 56 years a member of the St. Patrick's band. He was born in the year 1863, and at an early age was introduced by his father to St. Patrick's belfry, where at the time was the only ring of eight bells in Victoria. The ringing then was stoney, but Mr. Nolan, with the help of Mr. James L. Murray, altered it to change ringing. They possessed a copy of the 'Clavis,' and began to practise Grandsire Doubles on the six bells of St. James' Cathedral and at St. Patrick's. Shortly after the arrival of the late J. M. Guest in Melbourne, about the year 1882, St. James' bells were increased to eight and Grandsire Triples became the order of the day, but since Doubles had been rung regularly at both cathedrals during the previous ten years, the honour of introducing change ringing to Australia belongs to Messrs. Nolan and Murray.

After St. Paul's Cathedral was consecrated, the bells of St. James' were abandoned, but the band at St. Patrick's progressed in spite of the bad musical properties and bad go of their bells. Stedman Doubles and Triples were regularly practised, and a few attempts for a peal of the latter were made.

For some time there was close and regular co-operation between the bands at the two towers, and in 1896 a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples was rung at St. Paul's by four men from each company. It was conducted by Mr. Nolan. The same party also rang in the same year the first peal in Australia, Grandsire Triples, composed and conducted by Arthur E. Beames.

In September, 1941, Mr. Nolan had a heart attack, and though he was about again in a few weeks' time, his ringing days were over. He could no longer climb the belfry stairs, but he regularly listened to the bells from the street below.

Mr. Nolan was respected and honoured by all who knew him, he was a man who never spoke an unkind word about anybody and he never made an enemy. He taught many pupils Grandsire and Stedman, and though he never called a peal, he was quite capable of doing so.

WANDSWORTH RINGER MISSING.

The family of Mr. Leonard F. Hopgood, who was serving in the R.A. in the Middle East, have received news that he has been missing since June 20th. He was a member of the All Saints', Wandsworth, band. His friends will hope for news that he is safe.

A SYSTEM OF PROOF.

(Continued from previous column.)

In 5th's and 4th's we must realise that the 2nd, 3rd and 4th leads are never used, but for them one lead is substituted, which is no concern of the chart at all. Example: take 'W, 5th's and 4th's. M and H,' commonly called a 'Bob Course.' Single strips over the 1st, 2nd, 6th and 7th leads of the respective courses 23456, 52436, 64352, 34256 will illustrate to any thinking person what has actually taken place, always remembering that a lead, during which the tenors have been separated, and that does not appear on the chart, has been rung.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-. For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received **NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to **THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.**

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, August 1st, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—A district meeting will be held at Lawford on Saturday, August 1st. Handbells available from 2.30 p.m. in the church. Service at 4.15 p.m., followed by tea, business meeting and more handbell ringing in the Ogilvie Hall. There is a good bus service from Colchester. Manningtree Station is $\frac{3}{4}$ mile away.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., Lower Barn Farm, Dedham.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Bishop's Stortford on August 1st. Tower open for silent bellringing, also handbells, from 3 p.m. Short service at 4.45. Tea at 5.30, followed by short business meeting.—G. Radley, 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon, Herts.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton and Loughborough joint meeting.—A meeting at Copt Oak on Saturday, August 1st. Silent tower bells from 3 p.m. Handbells in Vicarage grounds. Cups of tea provided, but bring own eatables. Buses from Coalville or Leicester every 15 minutes. Connection there at 2.46. Bus from Whitwick approximately 3 p.m.—J. W. Cotton and A. E. Rowley, Hon. Secs.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—A meeting of the above will be held at Algarkirk on Saturday, August 1st. Bells (6) available for silent ringing at 5 p.m. Service 6.30 p.m. Business meeting afterwards. All ringers welcome.—W. E. Clarke, 99, Norfolk Street, Boston.

SURREY ASSOCIATION (North-Western District) and **GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD** (Leatherhead District).—A joint rally will be held at Leatherhead on Monday, Aug. 3rd. Meet at Boxhill S.R. Station at 3 p.m. to ramble through Norbury Park to Leatherhead. Service at Leatherhead Parish Church at 4.30. Tea at the Duke's Head at 5 p.m. Eight silent tower bells and handbells available during the afternoon and evening. All heartily welcome.—G. W. Massey and A. H. Smith, Dis. Hon. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Sundridge on Saturday, August 8th. Tower open from 2 p.m. with six silent bells. Service in church at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, followed by business meeting. All requiring tea must let Miss B. M. Richardson, Beechcroft, Sundridge, Sevenoaks, know by Wednesday, the 5th. London Transport buses run every half-hour from Tonbridge via Sevenoaks, and from Croydon via Westerham, No. 403. Half travelling expenses up to 2s. will be paid to members who have paid their subscriptions.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting at St. Thomas' Church, Moorside, on Saturday, August 8th. Tower bells from 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided for those who bring own food. Please make a special effort to attend. All are welcome.—Ivan Kay, Branch Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—A combined meeting with the Barnsley and District Society, the Doncaster and District Society, and the Sheffield and District Society will be held at Rawmarsh on Saturday, August 8th. Handbells available at the Church House from 2.30 p.m. A short service at 4.30 p.m. Tea at the Church House at 5 p.m. for all those who notify Mr. F. C. Wilson, 131, Wheatcroft Road, Sandhills, Rawmarsh, near Rotherham, not later than Wednesday, August 5th. Owing to catering difficulties, this is important. Business meeting after tea, followed by handbells and friendly discussions. All are welcome, and a good attendance is desired, this being our last summer gathering.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Quarry Road, Totley, near Sheffield.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—A practice on the silent apparatus of the bells of St. Peter's, Dorchester, will be held on Saturday, August 8th, commencing at 6 p.m. Suitable train service.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

PUBLICATION.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE, Part VI, reprinted from the Journal of the Berkshire Archaeological Society. To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire. Price: 6d.

BIRTH.

BAILEY.—On July 19th, at County Hospital, Dartford, Kent, to Jean Margaret, wife of J. E. Bailey, 20, Swaisland Road, Dartford, the gift of a daughter, Christine Mary.

BOYNE HILL.—On Friday, July 10th, in the belfry of All Saints' Church, on handbells, in 40 minutes, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): *W. Walker 1-2, W. Judd 3-4, G. Martin 5-6, *J. Eldridge (conductor) 7-8. *First quarter-peal on handbells.

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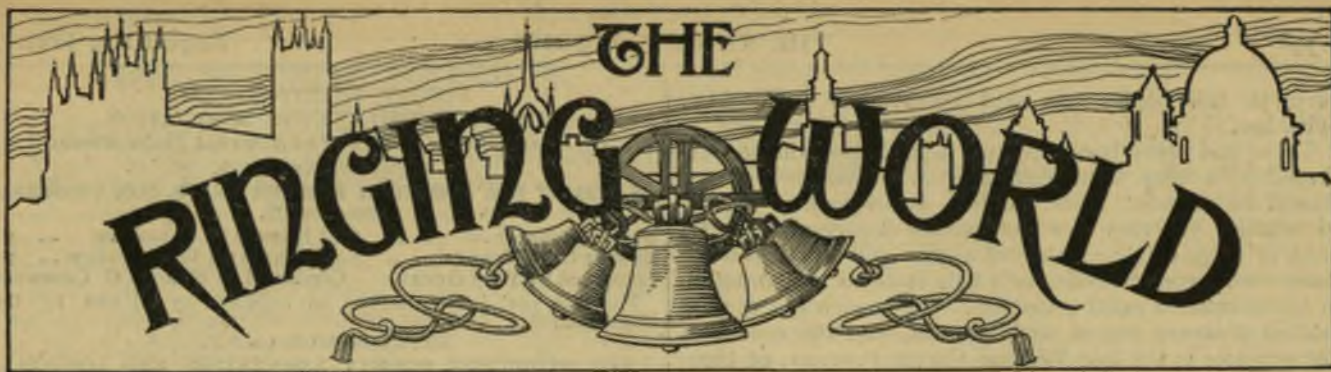
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FRIDAY, AUGUST 7th, 1942.

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These famous bell-founding firms have kindly consented to this adaptation of their advertisements to meet the pressure on our space, due to the compulsory reduction in the number of our pages this week.

BOOKS.

Last week we pointed out the usefulness of elementary text books in the training of recruits and we stressed the desirability of employing them as much as possible. It is a point which has behind it the experience of the Exercise throughout its history and particularly in the last fifty or sixty years, and it would be almost a platitude if it were not that so many people still neglect it.

But the teaching of beginners is only a part, and a comparatively small part, of the role books can play and have played in the life and development of the Exercise. It is the peculiarity and the special glory of our art that it includes so many different interests and offers such great variety to those who follow it. The actual practice of ringing in the steeple with its demands on a man's physical, intellectual, and artistic faculties, make it one of the most absorbing pursuits there is; but that is by no means all. There are the interests of composition, the interests of archæology, and of the study of ringing history which goes back for four hundred years. All these things are worthy and capable of engaging the attention of intelligent persons, and for all of them the use of books is essential.

Fortunately we possess quite a large number of works dealing with the different subjects connected with bells and most of them are books written with learning and authority, and which in the aggregate convey a vast amount of information and knowledge. The man who has but a nodding acquaintance with these books will get a far greater amount of enjoyment out of ringing, than he would if, as so many actually do, he merely relied on picking up what he knows about bells and ringing from personal experience and contact with his fellows.

But few ringers are able to possess even a small proportion of the total number of these published books. Many of them are out of print and are not to be had second hand without considerable cost and then only occasionally. This applies especially to the archæological books and to the earlier books on ringing, but there are still a good many available and they include those which will interest the practical ringer the most. Jasper Snowdon's 'Treatise on Treble Bob,' for instance, is not merely concerned with the rules for ringing one of the simpler methods, but conveys a mass of information on matters important in the general study of ringing. 'Grandsire,' in the same series, too, is a book which can appeal to the most advanced student of composition. The same applies to the first edition of 'Stedman,' which contains the very profound 'Investigations' into Stedman Triples, and of which, we be-

(Continued on page 358.)

lieve, a few copies are still to be had from Miss Snowdon.

These and other books equally useful can still be purchased at a very small cost and no enthusiastic ringer should be without them. Other works cannot be had so readily, yet they are not wholly inaccessible. Of most of them a fair number of copies still exist, and for those who have the collector's flair it is no bad ambition to try to make a good collection. Some men get a good deal of pleasure out of such an aim, and the outstanding example is the late William Carter Pearson, of Henley. Many public libraries possess copies of some of these books, and within the Exercise there are several notable collections. The Central Council library is, in the nature of things, somewhat inaccessible, but some of the associations have done good work in collecting and preserving books for the benefit of the members. The Hertfordshire Association was a pioneer in this, and they have a fine lot of books at St. Albans. Another most excellent library is that belonging to the Guildford Diocesan Guild. It includes almost all the essential works and it lately has been enriched by the many books collected by the late John S. Goldsmith and bequeathed by him to the Guild.

HANDBELL PEALS.

CAMBRIDGE.

THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY GUILD.
AND THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Sunday, July 26, 1942, in One Hour and Forty-Four Minutes,

At St. John's College,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents each of Double and Reverse Bob and three of Plain Bob. Tenor size 13 in E.

*REV. A. C. BLYTH (Selwyn College, Cambridge)	1-2	...	...	...	1-2
JOHN E. SPICE (New College, Oxford) ... ..	...	...	...	...	3-4
*KENNETH S. B. CROFT (St. John's College, Cambridge) ... ..	...	...	...	...	5-6

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Minor in three methods.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, July 26, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16.

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

Composed by J. REEVES.

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First peal of Treble Bob Major 'in hand.'

BURTON-UPON-STATHER, Lincs.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, July 26, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At TRENTWOOD,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14½ in C sharp.

MRS. J. BRAY	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE	5-6
GEORGE E. FEIRN	3-4	*KENNETH S. B. CROFT	7-8

JACK BRAY 9-10

Composed by JOHN REEVES. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Bob Royal. Mrs. J. Bray's 200th peal, and 100th peal together by Messrs. G. E. Feirn and J. Bray.

SURFLEET, Lincs.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD

On Monday, July 27, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

At GLYN GARTH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

MRS. R. RICHARDSON	1-2	KENNETH S. B. CROFT	5-6
JOHN E. SPICE	3-4	ROBERT RICHARDSON	7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by K. S. B. CROFT.

First peal in the method as conductor.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, July 27, 1941, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

At 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF NEW CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
Tenor size 15.

EDWIN JENNINGS	1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE	5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER	3-4	FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW	7-8

Composed by YORK GREEN. Conducted by HAROLD G. CASHMORE

The first peal in the method on handbells by all and by the association.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, July 29, 1942, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes.

At 45, WALSHINGHAM ROAD.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17.

MRS. J. THOMAS	1-2	MRS. G. W. FLETCHER	5-6
JOHN THOMAS	3-4	PATRICIA A. SCADDON	7-8

Composed by F. BENNETT.

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

LINCOLN.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, July 30, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

At 95, SINCIL BANK,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

*P. MICHAEL FREEMAN	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE	5-6
KENNETH S. B. CROFT	3-4	CHARLES MCGUINNESS	7-8

†JOHN WALDEN 9-10

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Bob Royal. † First ten-bell peal 'in hand.'

BOURNEMOUTH, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD

On Thursday, July 30, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

In St. Peter's BELFRY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 15 in C.

MISS FAITH M. CHILD	1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS	5-6
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY	3-4	FRANCIS S. WILSON	7-8

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

First peal of Triples as conductor and first attempt.

ENGLISH CHURCH BELLS.—The country's best music, a music hallowed by all circumstances, which, according equally with social exultation 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.—Robert Southey, Poet Laureate.

THE SURPRISE METHODS

(Continued from next page.)

pher W. Woolley and Frederick W. Bunklow, achieved the really remarkable feat of ringing double-hand handbell peals of Spliced Surprise Major, not only in the four standard methods, but also in five (in which Ealing was added) and six (which included Rutland).

The present record length for Superlative is 11,320 changes rung at Bolton in 1927; and for Cambridge 12,896 changes, rung at Stoney Stanton in 1923. The latter has become the most popular of all the Surprise methods, easily supplanting Superlative.

With the great extension and development of method ringing, the old meaning of the term Surprise, as one which was applied to the most difficult methods practised only by the most advanced bands, has become almost obsolete. The Surprise methods now rung vary very considerably in difficulty, and some of them are quite easy to ring, while some of the plain methods are in practice very difficult indeed.

(Concluded.)

THE SURPRISE METHODS.

(Continued from page 349.)

TWENTIETH CENTURY DEVELOPMENT.

When the first world war was ended and peace returned, the Exercise was faced with the task of re-establishing the art. Bands were dispersed or depleted, many ringers had lost their lives, many had been wounded, and all were older. It took some time, but the task was done, and the Exercise settled down to its normal life much as before the war, although peal ringing, so far as numbers go, never regained the high level of 1913. In almost every phase of life the war altered men's outlook and opinions. Ringing, perhaps, was affected as little as anything, but it was affected. There was in the Exercise a greater readiness to welcome new things, and less of the spirit which made men remain in the old paths just because they were old.

A very noticeable advance was made in six-bell ringing. It was rendered possible by the publication of the Methods Committee's Collection of Minor Methods, which appeared in 1907, but its full influence was not felt until after the war. Out of this advance came the practice of splicing two or more methods into the same composition. In earlier days, when men wanted to ring more than seven methods in a five-thousand, they rang 360's, or lengths even shorter, each beginning and ending with rounds. The practice was not generally approved of in the Exercise, and was disallowed by the Central Council. Law James first utilised the device of joining two 360's of separate plain methods together by singles, though others had preceded him in composing spliced extents, and the idea was as old as the early eighteenth century.

The first peal of Spliced Minor was rung in 1911, and the problem of splicing was investigated so that a very large number could be included in one peal. Having appeared on six bells, the practice was bound to spread sooner or later to eight, ten and twelve; and as early as 1920 the Cambridge University Guild rang Spliced Plain, Double and Little Bob on handbells.

In 1923 a proposal to ring four quarter-peals, one in each of the four standard Surprise methods, was referred to the Central Council and was disallowed, but the debate stimulated interest and led to the production and performance of all sorts of spliced peals. The first Surprise methods to be joined together in this way were Cambridge and Superlative, and the peal was rung at Whitely Bay in 1924. It seemed an impossible task to splice into one true peal all four standard Surprise methods, and so it is if full courses are used. But Law James used a three-lead course—two of London and one of either Cambridge or Superlative, some of the leads being duplicated by Bristol—and so produced what may justly be called his famous peal. At first it seemed rather a curiosity than anything else, but it was rung by a mixed band at Warnham in 1927, Mr. A. H. Pulling being the conductor. In the same year the Middlesex Association rang it at Willesden, and in the following year the College Youths rang it twice. Since then it has been rung many times.

In 1928 the Middlesex Association rang at Willesden a peal in five methods, and followed it next year with one in six. Meanwhile Mr. A. J. Pitman had composed and published a peal in ten methods and, though he said he did not expect any band would attempt it, the same com-

pany succeeded in ringing it during the following August. They then set themselves the task of scoring a peal, including every number from two to twelve. Eleven methods were rung at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields in 1930 and three at Pinner. This was Law James' composition without Superlative. Next year, after one or two failures, a peal in twelve methods was achieved at St. Mary's, Ealing, and that performance is for the time being the highest point to which method ringing has reached.

The other numbers were gradually accomplished, except a peal in two; but, though it was started for, it was not successful, and the subsequent illness and death of the conductor, William Pye, made the achievement of the full record impossible.

The peal in five methods has been rung two or three times, and another, in which Rutland was included instead of Lincolnshire, was rung in 1934, composed and conducted by Ernest C. S. Turner, who in the next year composed and conducted a peal which included Ealing and Rutland besides the four standard methods.

Since the above account was written, there has been a further advance in spliced ringing. Mr. Turner composed and conducted peals in seven and nine methods. The Midland Counties Association in 1937 rang at Wigston Magna one in seven methods, which did not include the standard methods, and the Lincoln men repeated Mr. Pitman's ten-method peal in 1939.

Between the two world wars Surprise ringing greatly increased in all parts of the country, and peals not only in the standard methods but in many new methods were accomplished. Several bands were particularly distinguished in this respect. The Leiston men, who at first belonged to the Norwich Diocesan Association, and after the diocese was divided to the Suffolk Guild, were the first to break new ground. They rang Suffolk in 1921, Dublin in 1922, Edinburgh in 1923, Rochester in 1924, and in 1931-3 they added three more.

The Lancashire Association rang Northampton at Oswaldtwistle in 1921, Lonsdale in 1922, and Palatine in 1923. Rutland was rung in 1923 at Bolsover, and Pudsey in the following year. Both methods, and especially Rutland, have much to recommend them. They have become generally popular since, and are likely to take their places as standard methods.

In 1923, the Chester Diocesan Guild rang Belgrave (an inferior variation of Yorkshire) and Clarendon, and followed them up some years later with several new methods. Other companies were equally active, and until the war suspended peal ringing, few months went by without a new method of some sort or other being rung.

Two companies call for special mention. One is the band at Helmingham, members of the Suffolk Guild. Up to the year 1939 they had rung peals in nearly fifty Surprise methods, many of them for the first time. A pleasing feature of this company is that the conducting has been shared by several of the band.

In the Watford district of Hertfordshire there has been for many years a good ringing tradition, and under the conductorship of Mr. Harold G. Cashmore the band at Bushey especially distinguished themselves in Surprise ringing. In the year 1938 they rang no fewer than thirteen new methods. Four members of this company, Messrs. Henry Hodgetts, Harold G. Cashmore, Christo-

(Continued on previous page.)

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. Albert Walker's many friends will learn with regret that he has had to go into the Homeleigh Nursing Home, 9, Church Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham 15, for an operation. We all trust it will be successful and that he will speedily be restored to health and activity.

Mrs. F. J. Marshall, of Bournemouth, is to be congratulated on calling from 3-4 her first peal of Triples as conductor at the first attempt. It was her 50th peal.

Some older hands also figure this week in the handbell peal records. Mrs. Jack Bray reached her 200th peal, and at the same time Mr. Bray and Mr. George Feirn rang their 100th together.

Mr. John E. Spice, of the Oxford University Society, and Mr. Kenneth S. B. Croft, of the Cambridge University Guild, have just had a successful week handbell peal ringing in Cambridge and Lincolnshire, and they wish to thank all those who made it possible. The peal at Lincoln was rung on bells belonging to Sydney Harrison, of Leicester, who left them in the care of Mr. J. A. Freeman when he went abroad with the forces. Mr. Freeman stood out of the peal to allow Mr. Walden to take part.

Many visitors to London have been impressed by the magnificent view that can now be had of St. Paul's Cathedral made possible by the pulling down of houses destroyed in air raids, and it is hoped that the Cathedral will never be built in again. The Corporation of the City of London has a secret plan for rebuilding the 'square mile.' Details will not be revealed until legislation has been passed.

On August 3rd, 1735, the splendid ring of twelve bells, cast by Samuel Knight for St. Saviour's, Southwark, was opened by the College Youths. The three back bells have since been recast at Whitechapel. The old tenor was always reputed to be 52 cwt. in weight; actually she was under 50.

The twelve bells at the Waterloo tower in Quex Park, near Margate, were opened on August 4th, 1819, and the following day, by bands belonging to the Societies of Cumberland and College Youths. The latter did not attempt a peal, but the others rang 5,213 Grandsire Cinques in 3 hours and 19 minutes, conducted by George Gross the younger. William Shipway rang the third, and Joseph Riley, a well-known ringer from the Midlands, rang the tenth. The bells are rather a queer lot, but Quex Park was a delightful place for a summer week-end and used to be very popular with visiting bands. The late Major Powell Cotton kept them in order, but of late they have become difficult to ring to a peal.

An outstanding performance was the record peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus, 15,312 changes, rung at Ashton-under-Lyne on August 5th, 1929. The band, a mixed one, contained many of the foremost ringers of England. William Pye rang the tenor and conducted, and the composition by Law James is the logical completion of Middleton's peal of Major. It had already been rung to Royal at Walthamstow in 1923.

On August 6th, 1821, Benjamin Thackrah conducted 5,600 changes of Cambridge Surprise Major at Huddersfield. The composition is lost, but can hardly have been true.

The Lancashire Association rang the first peal of Lancashire Surprise Major at Oswaldtwistle on August 7th, 1922.

Fifty years ago to-morrow four peals were rung—Grandsire Triples 1, Bob Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, and Minor 1.

Ten years ago to-morrow Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner rang his first peal of Spliced Surprise Major.

COMMEMORATION.

The following appeared in the North Dorset Church Magazine for July, under the heading of Kington Magna:—

Ringers throughout the Empire have suffered a heavy loss in the recent death of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, founder and editor of 'The Ringing World.' On the day of his funeral the flag flew at half-mast over the Rectory porch, and two Kington and two London boys on the lawn played a funeral chime on handbells and recited with the Rector the ancient prayer 'Requiescat in pace.'

OXFORD SURPRISE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As one of the band who rang in a peal of 'Oxford' Surprise Major at Heene, Worthing, on June 5th, 1901, I was surprised to see your statement that the method is not symmetrical. You are quite mistaken, as you will see by the enclosed lead and diagram of the method.

The lead heads of hunting courses compare with 'Glasgow' and 'Crofton' Surprise as follow:—

	P.B.C.O.	Tenors Together.	Tenors Reversed.	Tenors Parted.
'Oxford' ...	14	54	18	138
'Glasgow' ...	14	52	58	100
'Crofton' ...	14	38	42	130

What is there in arbitrary definitions when it can be proved that irregular methods have better coursing order than regular methods?

2, North Street Quadrant, Brighton. GEORGE BAKER.

[Mr. Baker is correct in saying that Washbrook's Oxford Surprise is not unsymmetrical. It has irregular lead ends.—Editor 'The Ringing World'.]

ST. NICHOLAS, GREAT YARMOUTH.

A LOST TWELVE-BELL RING.

It has often been argued which is the largest parish church in England. There have been more than one claimant for the honour, and the two most favoured were St. Michael's, Coventry, and St. Nicholas', Great Yarmouth, both of which have been destroyed by enemy action.

St. Nicholas' had twelve bells and they were the fourth ring of that number we have lost during the present war, the others being St. Bride's, Fleet Street, St. Giles', Cripplegate, and St. Mary-le-Bow, all in the City of London.

Yarmouth had six bells in 1670, with a tenor about 25 cwt., and two trebles were added in 1726. Two years later the local band rang a peal of Grandsire Triples.

In 1807 Thomas Mears and Son, of Whitechapel, supplied a new ring of ten bells with a tenor of 30 cwt. at a cost of £1,161 3s. 4d., of which £558 2s. 8d. was provided for by the sale of the old metal.

On March 8th, 1809, a peal of Bob Royal was rung, and during the century a few more, including Grandsire Triples, Bob Major, and one of Stedman Caters composed by Henry Hubbard and conducted by James Truman, of Norwich.

About fifty years ago the ring was increased to twelve, and on August 7th, 1899, the first peal on them, one of Kent Treble Bob Maximus, was rung. It was composed and conducted by James Motts, and the band included Henry R. Newton and J. W. Rowbotham, of London, Frederick Day, the bellhanger, William Motts, Robert Hawes and W. L. Catchpole, of Ipswich, F. R. Borrett, of Pulham, and George and Frederick Howchin, C. E. Borrett, A. G. Warnes and George Smith, of Norwich. Since then several other peals have been rung in the steeple, mainly by visiting bands.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

MEETING AT COVENTRY.

The ninety-sixth quarterly meeting of the Warwickshire Guild was held on Saturday, July 18th, at the British Legion Club Room, Coventry. Welcome visitors were Messrs. Chaplin, Morris and Fearn, of Birmingham, and H. Bird, of Broughton Astley, representing the Hinckley District of the Midland Counties Association. Members were present from Allesley, Nuneaton, Keresley, Rugby and Stoke-in-Coventry.

Mr. E. Stone acted as hon. secretary, Mrs. Beamish being away on holiday. Apologies were received from the Master, Mr. J. H. W. White, Mr. F. Pervin and Mr. and Mrs. Beamish. In the absence of the Master Mr. H. Argyle acted as chairman.

Mr. W. Stote proposed and Mr. H. Webb seconded that the amount sent to the Goldsmith Fund from the Guild be left in the hands of the Standing Committee of the Central Council to do with as they thought fit. The meeting expressed full confidence in Messrs. Lewis, Hughes and Fletcher in their efforts to continue the publication of 'The Ringing World,' even if a rise in price was deemed necessary.

The members were very pleased to hear that the Rev. F. W. Moyle, Vicar of Chilvers Coton, had accepted the presidency of the Guild, and that the Rev. M. Knight, Vicar of Nuneaton, had become a vice-president.

Meeting places were decided upon for the next three months, Bulkington for August, Wolvey for September and Rugby for October.

Miss M. Crossley (fiancee of Mr. W. Stote, whose wedding was arranged for Saturday, July 25th) was elected an honorary member, and the name of Pte. A. J. Adams, R.A.O.C., who was elected a member prior to a peal at Birmingham, was ratified.

Mr. W. Stote raised the question of silent ringing so that ringers could keep in practice if only at the monthly meetings. The hon. secretary said he would see what could be done, and asked members to keep together as much as possible and to support 'The Ringing World.'

Mr. H. Webb proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the British Legion for putting their room at the disposal of the members, and to the ladies for preparing cups of tea.

During the afternoon and evening up to 7.30 handbells were rung in Grandsire Doubles, Triples and Caters, Stedman Triples and Treble Bob. After 7.30 the British Legion held their weekly concert, and members of the Warwickshire Guild added their contribution. Courses of Grandsire Triples and Caters and tunes on the handbells were rung to the evident enjoyment of all. Those taking part were Messrs. H. Webb, W. Stote, E. Stone, P. Stone and F. Stone. Thus a very enjoyable meeting was brought to a close.

PROGRESS AT ACCRINGTON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I would like to report the continuation of progress at Accrington. Besides the practices held by the local ringers (in collaboration with neighbouring towers), the Grammar School Society is also making progress. On July 26th a 720 of Bob Minor was rung at 27, Pendle Street, by Stuart Smith 1-2, R. Leigh (conductor) 3-4, C. W. Blakey 5-6. This was Smith's first 720 and is the first in which a pupil of the Grammar School has taken part. Two or three other boys are approaching this standard and others are making good progress.

R. LEIGH.

Newstead, Willows Lane, Accrington.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 352.)

The first important improvement made in the old mechanism was by Messrs. Lund and Blockley, of Pall Mall. The general principles were good, but certain parts were too weak to bear the strain of the heavy driving weight used. Further improvements were made by Messrs. Gillett and Bland, of Croydon (now Messrs. Gillett and Johnston), who installed their first machine of this kind at Boston Parish Church in 1868. Its particular advantage was in the division of the mechanical operations. A separate movement raised the hammer levers into the action position immediately after they had fallen. When raised, they were prevented from falling by a spring trigger which could be released by the slightest pressure. The only work the barrel had to do was to release the triggers, so that demand on it was reduced to a minimum, but the actual power was the same and derived from one source, the driving weight.

Messrs. John Smith and Sons, of Derby, have machines also differing from the above, and in recent years further improvements have been made.

An advantage, too, in these models is that the barrel can be taken out and reset or changed, each barrel holding several tunes which change automatically by endway motion. Chimes on the Gillett and Bland principle were installed at Worcester Cathedral, Boston, Croyland and many other churches; at Bradford, Rochdale, Hove and other town halls, and at Eaton Hall. Messrs. J. Smith and Sons erected such machines at Cheltenham, Leominster, Ledbury, Warwick St. Mary, High Wycombe, Beverley Minster, Selby Abbey and other places too numerous to mention here. No chiming machinery can bring out the full tone of bells, especially large bells, but with the above-mentioned improvements, performances are naturally more accurate and satisfactory.

In selecting tunes for chimes, many repeated notes, long succession of quick notes, or very long notes, should be avoided. No tune should be attempted on a smaller number of bells than it demands for its correct rendering. The mutilation of well-known melodies is to be greatly deprecated, and it is difficult to understand how people will listen a whole lifetime to these distortions without complaint. The National Anthem and Rule Britannia have been burlesqued more than any other well-known tunes on account of requiring a semi-tone which is lacking in a ring of eight bells tuned in the diatonic scale.

Chime mechanism as used on the Continent is exactly the same in principle as that already explained, except that it is constructed on a much larger scale, having much more to do in playing longer pieces of music on greater numbers of bells. The largest chime barrel in the world is that of Bruges, the reputed weight of which is over eight tons. It is made of gunmetal, and is pierced with 30,500 holes, into which studs or catches are fixed. As the barrel is a permanent part of the machinery, the music cannot be altered except by rearrangement of the studs, which takes some three or four days to do. For this season the same tune is often heard for a period of a whole year or more. At Malines and Bruges, according to the music set on the barrel, anything from 60,000 to 80,000 notes are played every 24 hours. The drawing weight is over $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons. In England, the uniform plan of playing quarter chimes is to

increase their length as the hour proceeds, i.e., the Cambridge quarters—4, 8, 12 and 16 notes. This is not followed to any great extent on the Continent, however. At Bruges and Malines, for instance, the hour is divided into eight parts, the quarters being divided into half-quarters. The latter consists of a short, quick flourish of two bars in length. The quarters before and after the hour are comparatively short and of equal length, about four times as long as the half-quarters. The half-hour is four times as long as the previous quarter, the hour twice as long as the half-hour. The hour to come is struck after the half-hour on a smaller bell than is used for the hour strike. The chime barrel of Malines was completed in 1734, is 5ft. 3in. in diameter, and contains 16,200 holes into which studs are fixed. There are 90 chime-hammers connected with the bells, which are operated by this chime-barrel. In this—as in other chime and carillon machines—in order to secure the quick repetition of a single note, some bells are equipped with as many as five or six hammers.

Automatic playing arrangements for carillons are exactly as those already given for chimes, the giant musical box being called the 'carillon à cylindre,' or 'carillon à tambour.' Among the earliest to be erected were those at Lille in Artois, Dunkirk and Tournai in West Flanders, Alost in East Flanders, and Zierikzee in Zeeland. By 1500 A.D. large chiming sets were found in churches, abbeys, and hôtels de ville throughout what is now Northern France, Belgium, the Netherlands and North-West Germany, and—on a much smaller scale—England.

In Abbot Parker's Register at Gloucester Cathedral there is a copy of an agreement made in 1527 between the Abbot and Thomas Loveday, a bellfounder, in which the latter 'hath covenanted and bargained with the Abbot to repayre a chyme going vppon eight bells, and upon two ympnes, that is to say Christe Redempter Omnium and Chorus Novae Hierusalem well tuynable and wokemanly.'

Chimes are mentioned in Corporation accounts of Boston as early as 1614. There were five bells in the famous 'Stump' at this date, and a sixth was added in 1709 in which year a faculty was obtained to recast 'the immense old bell hanging in the tower, which is of little use and imperfectly sound and publishing the holy hours imperfectly, and the metal of the said bell to make three smaller ones. Two of these to be added to the six now in the tower, and the third to be for the clock to strike upon, and to tell the hour to the people loudly and clearly, and to place the same on the lantern or highest part of the tower.' Upon this bell becoming cracked it was recast by Thomas Eayre, of Kettering, and inscribed:—

'We have no note of time but from its loss.'

There were also two bells for 'quarter Jacks' of very rough make, cast locally in 1777. These were struck by two figures—a man and a woman—and it is to be regretted that these were sold in 1853. I hope to refer to other such 'quarter Jacks' in a later article.

(To be continued.)

SINGLES IN ROYAL AND MAXIMUS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. M. Melville asks me if there is any reason why more than two singles is undesirable. The answer, I think, is that it depends on how they are used. If more than two are needed to get a particular result, and that result is worth getting, then the use of the singles is fully justified.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

SPliced SURPRISE MAJOR.

COMPOSITION WITH FULL COURSES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Enclosed is a peal of Spliced Surprise Major, composed only of London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative, with a full course of each method. The drawback is that it contains 29 leads with the tenors parted. This peal is the result of endeavours to solve the problem with the tenors kept together.

From a study of the falseness between these methods, one is forced to the conclusion that it is impossible without a majority of three-lead courses, and these mainly L x L. While this cannot be positively asserted, I worked on the assumption that it is so.

The first object aimed at was a full course each of Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative, which together would leave a sufficient number of the necessary leads of London capable of being united to give a full peal. Experiments failed to achieve this result, the greatest number obtained being 4,256 changes with two full courses, and 4,192 with three full courses of London. Certainly there were sufficient true leads for a full peal, but they cannot be united into one block.

While being unable to set out a proof, the writer ventures the opinion that the results mentioned approximate to the greatest number obtainable. Being short of 5,000, they mean little for ringing purposes, and to put them on record I decided to attempt to complete the peal by moving the seventh. While falseness is extensive when this is done, it admits of some variation. Two leads of Bristol may be added between two successive plain leads by three bobs, but such true leads are limited. As a matter of fact, except for Cambridge and Superlative with the seventh in third's place, mostly only odd leads are available.

If a portion of the peal has the seventh moved, it is likely that conductors will prefer it in one block, and at the beginning of the peal. In the present case it is arranged in this way, and it is difficult to make any improvement by transposing it elsewhere.

Presenting the peal, I have adopted the plan recommended in your issue of August 22nd, 1941, except that where more than one successive lead of a method occurs, the number of them is indicated by the figure preceding the letter. Also, the three-lead courses with London as the first and last lead are shown by the middle lead only. Thus C equals LCL, and S equals LSL. There are two exceptions, where the three-lead course consists of the first lead of Superlative and the 6th and 7th leads of London. These are shown as SLL.

Certain of the middle leads of three-lead courses may be either Cambridge or Superlative. They are, however, divided to equalise the two methods, and to simplify the peal as far as possible.

JOSEPH W. PARKER.

61, Ewesley Road, Sunderland.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT BALCOMBE.

The meeting of the East Grinstead and District Guild at Balcombe on July 25th was yet another proof that meetings in war time are not only keeping ringing alive, but can be very enjoyable social gatherings.

Mr. A. Laker, of the local band, made all the arrangements, and six silent tower bells and handbells were made good use of. Among the enthusiasts was Miss Stella Wickens, aged 11, who was quite at home on the two trebles in Grandsire Triples. Ten minutes' walk gave an appetite for a real pre-war tea at pre-war price.

Twenty-five were present at the short business meeting which followed, and six new members were elected, Mr. Tyler, of Henfield, Miss Wickens, Mr. and Mrs. Hairs and Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Barnett.

Mr. A. J. Battin proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Laker for the excellent arrangements, which was carried with acclamation, and Mr. Laker briefly responded. The next meeting was announced for East Grinstead in September.

More handbell ringing followed, including a well-struck course of Grandsire Caters and some good touches. Some of the members returned to the tower for more silent practice, and everyone agreed it had been a very successful meeting.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Two old and valued friends of mine recently made some remarks about a National Association. One has over 60 years' experience and the other nearly 50, and, like myself, they cannot see any advantage in turning the Exercise upside down.

We do not want to commercialise the Exercise; above all things, let us keep it free from that. We can get every wrong righted through our present Central Council and county associations and diocesan guilds, and if the present members of these do not all come up to expectation (I don't say they all do), for there are exceptions to the rule, it is not the man who talks the most that thinks the most. Thousands of young ringers are away on active service and cannot either take part in the discussion or vote on the subject. Therefore I submit, Mr. Editor, that the question of a National Association at the present time is an absolute farce. Let us not forget that the young generation will be the ones to which the Exercise must look largely for the re-establishment of the art after victory has been won.

Colchester.

W. KEEBLE.

MR. PARKER'S PEAL.

5,088 changes of Spliced London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major, with a full course of each method. The seventh is moved in 29 leads.

234567

574326	M	In	W	W	5L.B.3S
675243	5th's	B			3C.S
273564	5th's	B	5th's	B	2C.LC.2S
672534	M	M			S.2C.B.2C.2S
546327	5th's	B	5th's	5th's	W 3H
					S.CLB.2L.2B

	M	W	H	
64235	—	—	—	7L
53246	—	—	—	S
42635	—	—	—	S
34625	—	—	—	C
52643	—	—	—	S
45623	—	—	—	S
26543	—	2	2	LCBLB
34562	—	—	—	S
25463	—	—	—	L.7B
62453	—	—	—	S
56423	—	—	—	S
42563	—	—	—	S
64523	—	—	—	S
54326	—	—	—	S
62345	—	—	—	S
36245	—	—	—	S
23645	—	—	—	O
63542	—	—	—	C
25346	—	—	—	C
32546	—	—	—	S
43526	—	—	—	7S
53624	—	—	—	S.LL
63425	—	—	—	S
24536	—	—	—	O
35642	—	—	—	O
46253	—	—	—	O
52364	—	—	—	O
43265	—	—	—	O
56234	—	—	—	O
25634	—	—	—	7O
43652	—	—	—	O
63254	—	—	—	O
42356	—	—	—	O
34256	—	—	—	S.LL
23456	—	—	—	S

Contains 2,528 changes of London, 448 of Bristol, and 1,056 each of Cambridge and Superlative. The peal may be reduced to 5,024 by omitting the 3 bobs at H and the two leads of Bristol at the end of the fifth course.

JOSEPH W. PARKER.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

THE WESTMINSTER QUARTERS.

As a correspondent pointed out last week, the Westminster Quarters were copied from Great St. Mary's, Cambridge by E. B. Denison (later Sir Edmund Beckett and Lord Grimthorpe), who designed the clock and bells, and it was largely through his influence that they have become so widely used. Here is what he had himself to say about the matter. He was an extraordinarily clever man with strong, and even arrogant, opinions on many things which often ran contrary to those of other authorities, and on matters of art and music his taste was not too good.

'For some time after I thought of introducing them at Westminster, it was assumed that the hour bell must be an octave below the third quarter and that they were, therefore, impossible with a peal of only eight bells if the quarters were to be struck at the hour. . . . For this (and other) reasons I adopted the plan of omitting the quarters at the hour; but I should not do so again with these quarters because the hour chime is the best of them all, though ding dong or any other mere repetition quarters are neither useful nor pleasing at the hour. The quarter bells are, therefore, 2, 3, 4, 7, of a peal of eight at Doncaster and Scarborough Parish Churches and the Cathedral at Fredericton.

'After a time I came to the conclusion, and other people have gradually adopted it, that it is not at all necessary to have the third quarter bell an octave above the hour bell, and the ear is quite satisfied if the fourth bell is two notes, or even one, above the hour, because the interval between the quarters and the hour ought to be from six to ten seconds with large bells. Accordingly in the great peal at Worcester, the Rev. R. Cattley, the author of it, and I, as the designer of the clock and bells, agreed to take advantage of the tenor of the peal for the fourth quarter bell, though it is only $1\frac{1}{2}$ notes above the great single hour bell of $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons; and thereby we got far more powerful quarters than if we had kept them a note higher.

'At Chester Cathedral, and at St. Chad's, Headingley, near Leeds, and some other places, the 4th quarter bell is only one note below the tenor, as at Doncaster, though they are the full Cambridge quarters; and this is the plan which I always recommend when there are eight bells, or even six with an extra one added above for the first quarter.'

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Sundridge on Saturday, August 8th. Tower open from 2 p.m. with six silent bells. Service in church at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, followed by business meeting. London Transport buses run every half-hour from Tonbridge via Sevenoaks, and from Croydon via Westerham, No. 403. Half travelling expenses up to 2s. will be paid to members who have paid their subscriptions.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting at St. Thomas' Church, Moorside, on Saturday, August 8th. Tower bells from 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided for those who bring own food. Please make a special effort to attend. All are welcome.—Ivan Kay, Branch Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—A combined meeting with the Barnsley and District Society, the Doncaster and District Society, and the Sheffield and District Society will be held at Rawmarsh on Saturday, August 8th. Handbells available at the Church House from 2.30 p.m. A short service at 4.30 p.m. Business meeting after tea, followed by handbells and friendly discussions. All are welcome, and a good attendance is desired, this being our last summer gathering. — Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Quarry Road, Totley, near Sheffield.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, August 15th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Silenced bells (6) will be available at Thurlaston at 4.30 on Saturday, August 15th. Handbells afterwards. No tea. All ringers welcome.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—A practice meeting will be held at Long Ashton on Saturday, August 15th. Bells (with silent apparatus) available 5 o'clock. All ringers welcome.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Sec., Long Ashton.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—A meeting will be held at Leverstock Green on Saturday, August 15th. Tea and meeting in the School, Pancake Lane. Handbells, etc., from 4 p.m. Please let me know by Wednesday morning, 12th, if you require tea. Buses leave St. Albans (St. Peter Street), 314 route, every 1 and 31 minutes past the hour, and Hemel Hempstead (314 route) every 7 and 37 minutes past the hour.—W. Ayre, Old School House, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Cheddleton on Saturday, August 15th, at 3 p.m. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. H. Sutton, 22, The Avenue, Cheddleton, near Leek, Staffs, not later than August 11th? All ringers welcome.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Faringdon on Saturday, August 15th. Service 3.30. Tea 4.15, at Swan Hotel. Please notify for tea not later than Wednesday, August 12th.—R. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Christ Church, West Didsbury, on Saturday, August 15th. Tower open 3.30 p.m. Bring your own tea. — Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The next meeting will be held in the Schoolroom at Bulkington on Saturday, August 15th. Cups of tea provided, but please bring own eatables.—Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—The annual general meeting will be held at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on Saturday, August 29th, at 3 p.m. Further details later. — G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec., 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

PUBLICATION.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE, Part VI, reprinted from the Journal of the Berkshire Archaeological Society. To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire. Price: 6d.

MARRIAGE.

TAYLOR—WINTLE.—On Saturday, July 11th, at Watford Parish Church, Charles William Taylor, of Watford, to Florence Wintle, of Bristol.

READING.—On July 21st at 18, Manchester Road, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1,260 changes: Miss J. V. Stacey (first quarter-peal) 1-2, A. Wiggins 3-4, A. Diserens (conductor) 5-6, T. N. Lanaghan 7-8.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Saturday, July 25th, in the belfry of St. Mary and All Saints' Church, a quarter-peal of Plain Bob Major in 39 minutes: Harry Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, Vera Look 3-4, Dorothy Fletcher 5-6, Kathleen Fletcher 7-8. Rung in honour of the birth of a son to the Rev. C. E. and Mrs. Wigg.

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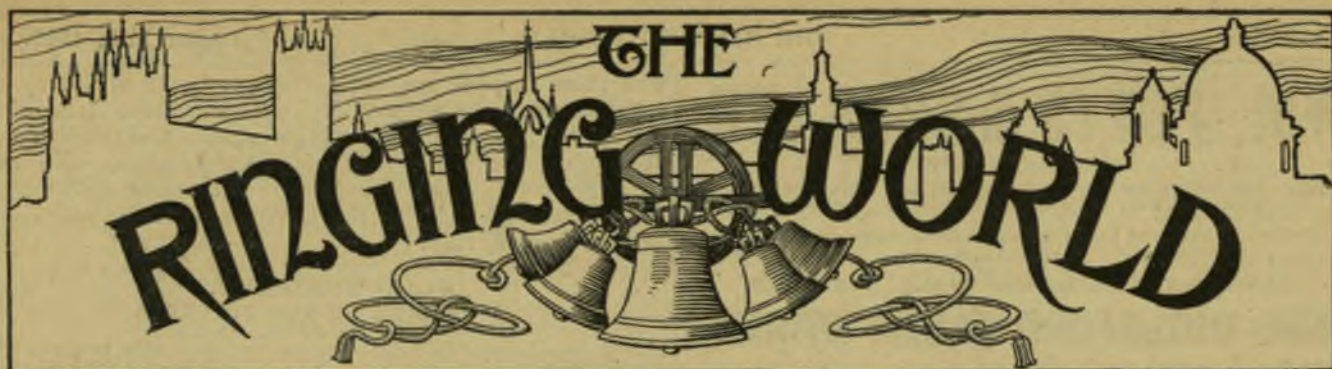
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UMPIRES FOR HANDBELL PEALS.

Should associations insist on the presence of an umpire at every handbell peal? That is a question which has been debated by ringers for many years, and about which so much worth saying can be said on both sides that it is hardly likely any definite answer will ever be given by the Exercise.

As Mr. A. B. Peck's recent letter reminds us, the Ancient Society of College Youths has a rule, by which peals rung on handbells without an umpire cannot be booked, but the College Youths are in a rather different position from one of the territorial associations, who at present are unable to go further than the resolution passed by the Central Council in 1895—that where practicable there should be an umpire to every handbell peal.

The reason why there is no agreement on this question is mainly because men argue it on grounds which have nothing whatever in common. On the one hand people point out that in every other sport, whether it is cricket, or football, or racing, or rowing, or anything else, an umpire is considered necessary. Why, they ask, should peal ringing be an exception? Unless there is some independent and competent person who is willing to attest the truth of the performance, who is to know whether or not the peal has been rung fairly? On the other hand, people point out that competent umpires are not usually to be had, and if they are to be had they are only necessary in exceptional cases.

Everyone is agreed that when attempts are made to set up new records umpires are necessary if only to safeguard the interests of the band; but what applies to them does not necessarily apply to an ordinary average peal.

It should be pointed out that there is no real analogy between an umpire in a handbell peal and an umpire in, say, a game of cricket. An umpire is necessary in the latter case to give an instant decision on a doubtful point because without it the game could not go on. Is a man l.b.w.? The bowler honestly thinks he is. He equally honestly thinks he is not. The umpire decides, and, whether he is right or wrong, that settles it. There is nothing like that in handbell ringing. Practically all an umpire has to do there is to see that there is no cheating in the peal. Is this necessary? Most certainly it is not necessary in the great majority of cases. It would be ridiculous to imagine that those men whose names figure most prominently in the peal records would think it worth their while to claim a false peal. Why should they? The only reward and satisfaction they get out of peal ringing is the knowledge they have rung true peals.

(Continued on page 366.)

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For them umpires are not necessary, but it is not they who can settle the matter. It is the men whose standards are lower, and who are not proof against the temptation to do things in a peal they would hardly like to own up to afterwards. There always have been some such men. Is it to the interests of the Exercise for their sakes to make a general rule?

GOOD STRIKING.

A PROBLEM OF THE FUTURE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I sincerely hope that you have been able to persuade Canon Coleridge to respond to the plea so ably made by Mr. G. N. Price that he should give us more reminiscences of the men he knew and the ringing he did so many years ago.

To those of us just old enough to remember its surviving but fast vanishing customs and habits, the latter half of Queen Victoria's reign seems like a golden age, and we envy those fortunate people whose youth was passed in the English countryside during those peaceful years. There were giants in those days, giants who are little more than names to many of us. Canon Coleridge knew them all (was he not one himself?), and anything he can tell us about them will be eagerly read.

There was one passage in his letter which struck me as being full of significance for young ringers to-day. He was very glad to hand over his rope to someone else, he said, as he was afraid that the striking in a peal attempt would not be first class. When peace (if not plenty) comes again, how many of us, confronted by a similar situation, will follow his example? Shall we not rather be found to be pressing anyone who can handle a rope to make up a band? Ringers of any calibre will be scarce, opportunities for peal attempts legion, and the temptation to include incompetent beginners or indifferent strikers will prove too strong to resist. I suggest that we should resolve now to set our faces against anything of this sort.

I am firmly of the opinion that only a small proportion of the tower peals which in happier times were reported in your columns came up to that standard which ringers owe to the public in general and to themselves in particular. This is a sweeping statement to make, but I am sorry to say that I believe it to be true. What can be done to improve matters? I used to argue that it would be a splendid thing if every guild and society adopted for tower peals a rule something similar to that of the College Youths relating to hand-bell peals. No peal would be booked unless certified to have been well and truly struck by an umpire recognised by the society for which it was rung.

It is easy to see that such a rule would be unworkable, but the quality of striking generally would be greatly improved if the following precepts were everywhere put into practice:—

(1) Every beginner should be trained to use his ears even more than his eyes.

(2) He should not attempt half-pull changes until he can ring rounds and call changes really well.

(3) When he can do this competently he should be allowed to take part in short touches of call changes for Sunday service. No poor striking should ever be tolerated on Sundays.

(4) No beginner should be eligible for guild membership until he has proved himself to be a competent striker to the satisfaction of duly appointed officials of the guild to which his tower is affiliated. Then, and only then, should he be allowed to take part in an attempt for a peal.

Strict regard to these rules would no doubt tend to reduce the number of peals rung, but would greatly increase their average quality, and I submit that the Exercise as a whole would benefit from the change.

E. J. TAYLOR.

17, Moorhead Crescent, Shipley, Yorks.

ANCIENT NORWICH CHURCHES.

DESTROYED BY ENEMY ACTION.

In an air raid on Norwich during the earlier part of the year two of the ancient parish churches, St. Benedict's and St. Bartholomew's, Heigham, were destroyed, and in a later raid two more were ruined. They were St. Julian's and St. Paul's.

St. Julian's was the smallest and possibly the most ancient church in the city. The walls are Norman and the round tower is said to be Saxon. It contained one bell of pre-Reformation date cast by one of the Brazier family.

St. Paul's had little or nothing of interest in it, and the ancient round tower was partly rebuilt of brick in the early years of the last century. There was at that time a ring of three pre-Reformation bells by the same founder as the one at St. Julian's, but two were sold (probably to pay for the rebuilding), and they now hang in village towers in the county of Norfolk.

Both churches were in the poorer parts of the city. Norwich had five churches with round towers, and three of them have been destroyed. The many large and splendid churches of the city and their bells, which are of great interest both archaeologically and for the part they played in the history of change ringing, have, so far, escaped destruction, though not altogether without damage.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BARNEHURST, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, July 31, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,

AT 9, BEVERLEY ROAD,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

'W. L. B. LEESE... .. 1-2	GEORGE H. CROSS 5-6
'JOHN E. SPICE 3-4	EDWIN BARNETT 7-8

Composed and Conducted by G. H. CROSS.

* First peal of Double Norwich 'in hand.'

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 1, 1942, in Three Hours and Six Minutes;

AT THE WAYSIDE, NARBOROUGH ROAD SOUTH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor size 12 in F.

ALFRED BALLARD... .. 1-2	ERNEST MORRIS 7-8
ALFRED H. PULLING 3-4	FREDERICK E. WILSON 9-10
HAROLD J. POOLE 5-6	JOSIAH MORRIS 11-12

Composed by FREDK. H. DEXTER. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE

Witness—Rupert Richardson.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Sunday, August 2, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,*

AT 43, WALSINGHAM ROAD.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16½.

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
JOHN E. SPICE 3-4	ERNEST C. S. TURNER 7-8

*WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 9-10

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal in the method.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, August 2, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE WAYSIDE, NARBOROUGH ROAD SOUTH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

DEXTER'S VARIATION.

Tenor size 12 in F.

HAROLD J. POOLE... .. 1-2	RUPERT RICHARDSON 5-6
ALFRED H. PULLING 3-4	*MRS. H. J. POOLE 7-8

Conducted by ALFRED H. PULLING.

Witness—Mrs. R. Richardson.

* First peal of Stedman 'in hand.'

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 3, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE WAYSIDE, NARBOROUGH ROAD SOUTH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 12 in F.

*MISS ENID M. RICHARDSON 1-2	HAROLD J. POOLE 5-6
RUPERT RICHARDSON... .. 3-4	A. J. BRIAN WAYMAN 7-8

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.

Witness—Miss Jill Poole.

* First peal of Major 'in hand.' Rung as a compliment to the ringer of 7-8 on gaining his pilot's 'wings' in the R.A.F.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 3, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE WAYSIDE, NARBOROUGH ROAD SOUTH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5053 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

ALFRED BALLARD... .. 1-2	ALFRED H. PULLING 5-6
HAROLD J. POOLE 3-4	RUPERT RICHARDSON 7-8

*A. J. BRIAN WAYMAN... .. 9-10

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Witnesses—Mrs. H. J. Poole and Mrs. R. Richardson.

* First peal of Stedman 'in hand' and first on ten bells. Rung as a birthday compliment to Ernest Morris for his 53rd birthday.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 3, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE WAYSIDE, NARBOROUGH ROAD SOUTH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5043 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

HAROLD J. POOLE... .. 1-2	PERCY L. HARRISON 5-6
ALFRED H. PULLING 3-4	ALFRED BALLARD... .. 7-8
JOSIAH MORRIS 9-10	

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by ALFRED H. PULLING.

Witness—Mrs. H. J. Poole.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, August 4, 1942, in Two Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE WAYSIDE, NARBOROUGH ROAD SOUTH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

MRS. R. RICHARDSON 1-2	HAROLD J. POOLE 5-6
RUPERT RICHARDSON 3-4	A. J. BRIAN WAYMAN 7-8

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.

Witness—Miss Enid M. Richardson.

THE NOTATION OF PEALS.

Other men besides Mr. Charles J. Sedgley have wondered why, when the figures of a peal are given, the calling is always put after the course end. In actual practice, they point out, the course end is the result of the calling, which precedes it and logically, therefore, should be shown first. In his book on the Surprise methods, C. D. P. Davies did print the calling first, but his example has not been followed, and the Exercise has stuck to the century old custom.

When we look for the reason we must remember that change ringing with its rules and customs was not invented at one time by some clever person, but grew up and developed spontaneously and to some degree haphazardly, and therefore it has many things that look illogical and even absurd, but had their reasons at the time they were introduced.

At a very early time men found out the convenience of representing changes by pricking figures on paper, and they did so at first so as to show every change, but as the science developed they found it only necessary to write certain distinctive rows. These were usually the bob changes, and that form of pricking compositions is still often the best.

But in Major and Royal ringing the most distinctive rows are the course ends. They to a very large extent represent all the other changes, and so, towards the middle of the eighteenth century, it became the custom often to give them only, and to leave the rest to be understood. Sometimes when economy of space was necessary, as in a peal book, only the more important of the course ends were given.

This was possible in methods like Bob Major, because practically all the peals rung conformed to one general plan, and it was not difficult for a competent man to see from these course ends what bobs were used. For instance, a 5,152 rung in 1755 by the London Youths at Whitechapel is given as follows:—

43526	52436
32546	42356
24536	34256
54326	53246
35426	23456

And another rung in 1758 by the same society at the same church as follows:—

52364	45236
43526	42563
43265	35264
52436	42356

This sort of thing was not possible in Grandsire Caters, which was always given by the bob changes, and in Plain Bob and Treble Bob its limitations were obvious as soon as compositions became more varied and complex. To meet this difficulty the authors of the 'Clavis' employed a plan of using mixed bob changes and course ends, but there was a strong feeling that the course ends were the essential rows, and if possible the calling should be deduced from them. To facilitate this tables of course ends were invented.

Shipway was the first man to employ the modern notation. He inherited the old ideas, and the course end was still for him the essential row; but instead of leaving his reader to find out from the table of course ends how a course end was got from the preceding one, he supplied the information himself by printing the bobs alongside it. They were, so to speak, an explanation of the course end and quite naturally were put after it.

The Exercise followed Shipway's example to its great profit, and the plan has never been misunderstood. It may be a good and logical plan to put the bobs first, but there hardly seems any real necessity for altering an established custom.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 361.)

When chimes were originally introduced in Boston tower is not known, but Jean Ingelow in a fanciful poem called 'The High Tide on the Coast of Lincolnshire,' in 1571, relates how the bells rang out the alarm called, 'The Brides of Enderby':—

Play uppe, play uppe, O Boston bells!

Play all your changes, all your swells.

Play uppe the Brides of Enderby.

In 1732 new chimes were ordered, which, becoming out of order, ceased to play in 1832. In 1867 a set of 36 carillon bells was installed by A. L. I. Van Aerschodt, of Louvain, varying in weight from 17½ lb. to 3½ cwt. A new machine was made by Messrs. Gillett and Bland, of Croydon, and had four musical barrels constructed to play 28 tunes on 44 bells. Andre Van Aerschodt had a brother, Severin, who made the drawings and plan for the bells, and it is said that it was unfortunate in the choice of Andre for the casting of them. Severin said, 'My brother had my designs, but he could not cast my bells.' This carillon, however, proved a failure. Several of them were too small for the great height at which they were placed and, there being too many of them, caused a jangle. The four musical barrels were each pricked with about 3,000 brass pins, one-sixteenth of an inch square. They were arranged to play one tune every hour, and a fresh tune every day. It is said that on one occasion, some hundred years ago, when the nave of the church was discovered to be on fire, the chimes were playing, 'Oh dear! what can the matter be?' Of course, you can believe it or not, equally so with the legend that the chimes of the Royal Exchange, London, when the building caught fire on January 10th, 1838, played, 'There is na luck about the 'ouse.' Boston bells now are a good ring of 10 by Taylor and Co., with four additional clock bells, all new cast and rehung in 1932.

Some new chimes of the old kind were erected at St. Albans Cathedral by Mr. Goodman, a local clockmaker, from his own design. The barrel is 7ft. long of wood on iron rings, and the levers are worked by cams of phosphor bronze screwed on for eight tunes on eight bells. The tunes change mechanically, and Cambridge quarter chimes in connection with these chimes are worked on the same plan in a room above the clock.

At Great Gransden the chimes play on the six bells, and the Rev. T. M. N. Owen ('Church Bells of Hunts') says there is a local story to the effect that the chimes came from Stamford, being rejected thereat because they did not play 'God save the King'! The chime barrel is for five tunes, to play one every three hours. The date and source of the chimes are not known, but they were repaired by Taylor's at the beginning of the 19th century, when the tune 'Marlbrook' (commonly called 'Molbrooke'—Marlborough) was added. Mr. Owen remarks

(Continued in next column.)

ST. BRIDE'S AND ST. SAVIOUR'S.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—While turning over my books recently I came across a volume of Latin poems, dated 1764, by Vincent Bourne, sometime Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and in it I found one headed 'Certamen Musicum.'

Octo trans Tamisin campanis Diva Maria;
Cis Tamisin bis sex Diva Brigetta sonat,
Haec tenues urget modulus properantius Aedes,
Alternat grandes lentius illa modos.
Nec quis in alterutro distinguat littore judex,
An magis haec aurem captet, an illa magis.
Tantae est harmoniae contentio Musica; turris
Altera cum Numeros, altera Pondus habet.

For the following translation I am indebted to my friend, the Rev. A. G. MacDonald, late of Ventnor and now of Lymington:—

Chimes In Rivalry.

'From the farther side of Thames
Peal the eight bells of St. Mary.
From the near St. Bridget answers
With a twelve-voiced chime.
The nearer spire sings softly,
In a ripple, swift and airy,
But the distant tones are solemn
With a slow, strong rhyme.
The anxious ear is doubtful
'Midst the sweet, contending measures
Which to crown for greater beauty
The far song or the near?
Whether praise the light-tongued twelve
That sing of careless, passing pleasures,
Or commend the graver judgment
Of the eight-toned seer?'

Presumably the towers referred to are those of St. Bride's, Fleet Street, and St. Mary Overy, this latter being the previous name of Southwark Cathedral, the change to St. Saviour dating from the dissolution of the monastery to which it was attached, in 1540.

Southcliff, Ventnor, I.W.

J. BRUCE WILLIAMSON.

COLCHESTER.—On Sunday, July 26th, at Severell Hospital, by kind permission of the Medical Superintendent, a quarter-peal of Boh Major (1,264 changes): G. M. Rashbrook 1-2, W. Keeble (composer and conductor) 3-4, A. A. Andrews (first quarter-peal inside) 5-6, W. Chalk 7-8.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

(Continued from previous column.)

that this tune is pariously suggestive of 'We won't go home till morning!' The other tunes are 'Canaan,' 'Nehemiah,' harvest song, 'Nuts are brown,' and a fifth tune at present unauthenticated. The writer has the musical setting of these.

The famous bell tower of Evesham had an ancient clock with two quarter Boys or Jacks outside the tower to strike the quarters on two small bells. It is said they dated from the time of Edward IV., or at least from that of the erection of the present tower. They were taken down about 1860 and transferred to the Abbey Manor, where they still remain. Chimes used to be played regularly on the bells since 1878.

Pershore Abbey has a similar fortnightly rota of tunes, the mechanism being set up in 1879 by Gillett and Co., of Croydon. At Wellingborough there are two chime barrels, one with seven sacred tunes and the other with seven secular ones. A similar double set was set up at St. Paul's, Bedford, each barrel having three sacred and four secular tunes, while at Newport Pagnell, in the same county, a somewhat similar arrangement holds good.

(To be continued.)

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DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM G. CRICKMER.**A PROMINENT SUFFOLK RINGER.**

We regret to announce the death of Mr. William G. Crickmer, of Earl Soham, Suffolk, which took place at the age of 74 years. He was digging a post-hole in his garden and stumbled into it and fractured his thigh. He was at once conveyed to the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital, but nothing could be done, and at the inquest the Coroner returned a verdict of 'Death by misadventure.' The funeral was at Earl Soham Cemetery on Friday, July 31st.

Years ago Mr. Crickmer was a well-known figure in Framlingham. With a horse and cart he was a general carrier of parcels and merchandise between Framlingham and other parishes. He rang 113 tower-bell peals and six on handbells for the Norwich Diocesan Association and six on tower bells for the Suffolk Guild.

Mr. Crickmer was one of the band who rang the then record peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major, 16,608 changes, at Debenham, on June 6th, 1892. Messrs. R. H. Brundle and F. J. Tillett are now the only survivors of that company.

Mr. Crickmer was a first-class striker and an outstanding man in a district where ringing standards were high. He was a frequent visitor to St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, where on December 17th, 1932, he rang what is believed to have been his last peal, one of Double Norwich Court Bob Royal. He was also a member of an excellent band at Framsdon, where many methods were rung up to Bristol Surprise Major.

DEATH OF MR. ALBERT NASH.**WELL-KNOWN YORKSHIRE RINGER.**

We regret to report the death of Mr. Albert Nash, of Wath-on-Deerne, who passed away on August 3rd in Rotherham Hospital following an operation.

The funeral at Wath-on-Deerne was conducted by Canon J. Waring, Vicar of Rotherham, who paid tribute to the work done as a ringer by Mr. Nash for the church. At the graveside a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on his own handbells by Messrs. Sidney F. Palmer, Colin Ryder, George Lewis and Charles R. Wright.

Mr. Nash was an enthusiastic ringer both on handbells and tower bells. He had rung upwards of 200 peals, and had conducted a little less than half of them. For a number of years he was the backbone of two bands, and both Rotherham and Wath will miss him greatly.

For more than 40 years he had belonged to the Yorkshire Association, and during that time was a most active member except for a period of about six years following 1916, in which year he suffered from a most severe accident.

DEATH OF A SURFLEET RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Frank Dobney, of Surfleet, which occurred on Tuesday, August 4th, under rather tragic circumstances, at the early age of 18 years.

Up to the Monday afternoon he was in good health. During the day he had entered wholeheartedly into the sports, races, etc., at a garden fete. Immediately afterwards he collapsed, and died on Tuesday without regaining consciousness.

Deceased had been a ringer at Surfleet since 1937. He rang his first peal on November 10th, 1938, at the age of 14. Since then, owing to the ban, he had only had the chance to ring one more peal.

Frank was of a genial disposition and was liked by all with whom he came into contact. He will be sadly missed by the Surfleet ringers when ringing recomences.

The funeral took place on Saturday, August 8th, at Surfleet. The service was conducted by the Vicar of Surfleet, the Rev. G. H. Clarke, assisted by the Vicar of Pinchbeck, the Rev. E. C. Gee, and was fully choral. The hymns were 'Peace, perfect peace' and 'Abide with me,' and the 23rd Psalm.

A course of Grandsire Triples was rung in the church by Miss Enid M. Richardson 1-2, A. J. Brian Wayman 3-4, Rupert Richardson 5-6, Mrs. R. Richardson 7-8.

DEATH OF A CIRENCESTER RINGER.

The ringers of the Cirencester Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association have just heard the sad news that Private Jack Godwin, of Quenington, one of their most promising members, died from smallpox in Burma on May 24th.

He joined the Gloucestershire Regt. in November, 1939, and was drafted to Burma early in 1940. Although he had taken part in only one peal, he had rung numerous quarter-peals in the four standard methods and was getting on nicely with Double Norwich Major and Cambridge Minor. Whilst in training he rang in several of the Bristol towers. He was a good service ringer, and he and his brother often cycled to Cirencester twice on a Sunday, a distance of eight miles each way. He will be much missed.

THE BELLS OF GREAT YARMOUTH.

Mr. John G. W. Harwood, of Great Yarmouth, writes us that the destruction of the twelve bells of St. Nicholas' is complete. He went to look among the ruins, but all there was to see was half the treble, which was split down the centre. The stock of the tenor, a built-up one of H iron and castings, is lying among the debris intact with the clapper attached, but the bell is gone.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The typescript of the article on Lewes Bells, which we print this week, was found in one of the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith's books after his death, and evidently was written by him in the year 1915 for a Sussex newspaper. Whether it ever was published we do not know. Lewes was, of course, his native town, and St. John's, Southover, the church with which he was associated from his infancy and where he first learnt to ring.

We have had a letter from Mr. Albert Walker, and we are pleased to say he reports that his operation has been completely successful. He is still on his back, but 'it's simply a matter of time.'

Will our correspondent who wrote from Weston Street, Coventry, please send us his name, which he forgot to add?

The first peal of Hertfordshire Surprise Major was rung on August 11th, 1934, at Bushey, by the Hertford County Association, conducted by Mr. H. G. Cashmore.

William Willson, of Leicester, was born on August 12th, 1868.

Edwin Barnett, one of the best known and most loved of the ringers of his generation, died on August 13th, 1932, at the age of 70.

On August 13th, 1883, the Burton-on-Trent band rang the first peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major in Wales, at Rhyl. Two of the band, Messrs. John Jagger and Joseph Griffin, are still alive.

The first peal of Spliced Surprise Major in ten methods was rung by the Middlesex County Association at Willesden on August 13th, 1929.

William Pye was born on August 14th, 1870.

On August 15th, 1908, the Ipswich company rang the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus at St. Mary-le-Tower. The band included William and George R. Pye and Bertram Prewett.

On the same date in 1925, the Midland Counties Association rang the first peal of Pudsey Surprise Royal.

Fifty years ago three peals were rung. One was Grandsire Triples and two Grandsire Caters.

MR. PEARSON'S BOOKS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Readers who are interested in the preservation of Mr. Pearson's collection of books on bells and change ringing will be glad to know that one of the two copies of 'Tintinnalogia,' 1667, has been presented to the British Museum, and that the other books were offered to the Cambridge University Library, and, with the exception of certain duplicates, have been gratefully accepted.

The books will be listed and labelled as presented by the C.U. Guild of Change Ringers from the library of the Rev. W. C. Pearson, and will be available to readers under the usual regulations of the library. Persons who are not members of the university who wish to consult the books for the purpose of study and research will need an introduction from two members of the Senate, which I have no doubt members of the Guild will be very willing and glad to provide.

A. C. BLYTH, President, C.U.G.C.R.

Selwyn College, Cambridge.

A BIRMINGHAM BELLFOUNDER.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I had been hoping that someone with more definite information might have replied to Mr. F. C. Smale's recent inquiry concerning the firm of 'Blows' (presumably Blews), of Birmingham, which I believe I am correct in stating has been out of existence for many years.

One of their last—possibly the last—installation was a clock chime and two independent ringing bells at St. Hugh's Charterhouse, Parkminster, the Carthusian monastery near Cowfold in Sussex.

I was shown these bells in 1933, and the explanation given by one of the monks who remembered the bells being installed as to why the third bell was fully a tone flat was that the firm was closing down, and as the bells had been paid for in advance they had no redress and had had to take what they could get.

In the clock tower hung five bells, the largest weighing about 8 cwt., the two smallest hung 'dead' and the other three hung for ringing. The front four were apparently intended for the Cambridge quarter chimes, but the effect was discordant to a degree owing to the wildness of the third bell, while instead of the hour striking on the fifth bell a single 'warning' blow was sounded on this bell three minutes before each quarter. The clock bore the name 'J. Chavin à Grenoble, 1881,' and did not strike the hours at all.

In a separate tower hung a heavily counter-balanced bell of some 12 to 14 cwt., which had subsequently been rehung by a French firm, and in a further turret on the chapel was a small sanctus bell.

With the exception of the sanctus bell all were recast by Taylors in 1935, the largest clock bell being increased to 14½ cwt. and the swinging bell to 22 cwt.

I see that Mr. Smale refers to the Cheriton Bishop bell being cast in 1887, whereas all the Parkminster bells were dated 1881, so that possibly the information given to me as to the firm being about to close down was not correct.

R. H. DOVE.

WATFORD, HERTS.—On Friday, July 17th, in the Parish Church tower, 720 Bob Minor: D. Laud 1-2, C. N. Leman 3-4, R. G. Bell (conductor) 5-6. D. Laud is wished the best of luck on his joining the R.A.F.

THE BELLS OF LEWES.

INTERESTING AND VALUABLE POSSESSIONS.

BY J. S. GOLDSMITH.

'Old Gabriel Hung in Market Tower, Lewes, October 22nd, 1792.'

This entry in the 'Diary of Local Events,' in the 'East Sussex News,' is a reminder that among the many antiquities which Lewes possesses some of its bells can be counted as almost priceless relics of past centuries. These bells are not to be seen in any museum, but hang in the towers of the ancient churches, still in use for the purpose for which they were originally made.

In view of the anniversary of the 'hanging' of Old Gabriel, which doubtless was originally a church bell, but now reposes in its present habitat like a solitary hermit, never seen and seldom heard, a brief description of some of these ancient treasures and their makers may not be out of place.

To deal first with 'Old Gabriel'—and he really is old. It must not be supposed that 1792 was the date of its casting. That was the year in which it went to its present home. Its birth was certainly more than 250 years earlier. The exact year is not to be found on the bell, but its decoration enables antiquarians to place its casting fairly accurately. Round the bell is cast the inscription, 'gabrielis menti dedens habio nomen.' On the waist there is a large shield bearing the royal arms; below the shield a figure of St. Catherine; above it a crown, and beside it a large medal of Henry VIII. and a Tudor rose. There is also on the waist of the bell a large cross and the words 'Johannes tonne me fecit' (John Tonne made me).

Thus we see that Old Gabriel has come down to us from the spacious days of King Hal and that its founder was a craftsman of Tudor times. John Tonne worked in Sussex and Essex, and Old Gabriel is an example of the decorative work which he introduced after the French fashion of ornamenting bells with large florid crosses, figures and other devices. His name suggests French descent, being derived from Antoine, but, unlike some other of the early founders, he cannot be traced to his origin. His bells in Sussex are to be found between the dates 1522 and 1536, and he then appears to have removed to Essex, with Thaxted as his possible centre of operations, for there are bells bearing his name to be found within a radius of about 24 miles of that town. There he worked for about eight years and was then succeeded by Stephen Tonne.

It would be interesting to know where Old Gabriel hung before coming to the Lewes Market tower. The date of its acquisition by the town is cut on the bell with a chisel: 'T. Mandall S. Jesse Headboroughs A Brook Gent. constables. 17c. 3q. 2½lb. 1792.' The inscription 'gabrielis menti dedens habio nomen' has been translated 'I have the name of Gabriel which brings to mind.'

But Old Gabriel is not the oldest bell in Lewes. This is to be found in the little belfry of All Saints' Church, and has moulded upon it the inscription, 'Sancta Katerina Oro Pro Nobis.' In pre-Reformation times it was not the practice of founders to put their names on bells, and thus this bell does not bear the founder's name or the date of its casting. Its age can be fairly accurately gauged, however, by a comparison of the lettering and 'stops' with those appearing on other bells. The

'stamps' used in forming the inscription on this bell are those of Stephen Norton, of Kent, who was a founder who is thought to have carried on his trade in London in the latter half of the fourteenth century and who was buried at Maidstone Parish Church. Antiquarians, and among them Mr. A. D. Tyssen, the great authority on Sussex bells, think it is unlikely that this All Saints' bell was actually cast by Norton, but attribute it to a founder who succeeded him in business or came into possession of his foundry marks, and place the date of the bell between 1420 and 1440, so that this venerable bell, which can still be heard every Sunday, has been calling people to worship for just 500 years. Do the good people of All Saints', I wonder, realise what a wonderful relic of antiquity they have hanging out of sight in their bell loft?

The two other bells in this tower, although not so old as the one just mentioned, are also ancient specimens of the founder's art, and one of them (the middle one of the three) is specially interesting because it is by a Lewes bellfounder. The bell itself bears the name and the date of casting, for it is inscribed 'Edmvdn Giles Bell Fovnder, 1595.' It was about this time that founders made it the practice to put their names and the dates upon their castings.

Edmund Giles was the first among Sussex bellfounders of whom anything is known, but this part of his business was probably very small, and he must have done business in other branches of founding, a supposition which finds support from the fact that on two of his other bells are found some of the insignia of iron founding, viz., a pair of pincers, a horseshoe, an axe head and a hammer. His foundry was probably in St. Michael's parish, and the parish register there records his burial on February 27th, 1614. His foundry passed to Thomas Giles.

The other bell in All Saints' Church is by Roger Tapsell and is dated 1625. Roger Tapsell's foundry was at West Tarring, and the conclusion is therefore drawn that by this time the Lewes foundry of Thomas Giles had ceased to exist, at least as far as the craft of bellfounding was concerned.

The second oldest bell in Lewes is one of the three at St. Anne's, another valuable treasure in the shape of a pre-Reformation casting. It bears a similar invocation (very popular on bells in those times) to that on the All Saints' bell, 'Sancta Katerina Ora Pro Nobis' (St. Catherine, pray for us). Experts have not been able to identify the founder of this bell, although several specimens of his work are still extant. Some of the stamps used had been in the possession of one John Daniel, but the St. Anne's bell and others of the same group bear another distinctive mark not found on any of Daniel's bells. This enables the date to be placed somewhere between the years 1470 and 1487.

The two other bells at St. Anne's were put in 200 years later. On each of them is the inscription, 'William Hvll made mee 1683. Iohn Smith Thomas Whiskey Chvrchwardens.' On one of the bells also are the initials 'IH.'

William Hull was another local founder who, at the time he cast these bells, had his foundry at South Malling. His history is not uninteresting, because his connection with the bellfounding industry can be traced, a matter which is impossible with many of the early mem-

(Continued on next page.)

THE BELLS OF LEWES.

(Continued from previous page.)

bers of the craft. In the distant days to which we refer the means of communication even between places no further apart than London and the towns and villages in East Sussex, were slow and difficult, and it was often the case that the Master and Founder did not personally superintend the job, but sent one of his assistants, and it was no unusual thing for these assistants to place their own name or initials, as well as their master's, on a bell. By this means we are able to identify William Hull as an assistant of John Hodson, in his day the leading London bellfounder. William Hull's initials occur on many of Hodson's bells in Surrey, Kent and Middlesex between the years 1654 and 1671. His name occurs in full on some bells at Hailsham in 1663, which have also cast upon them 'John Hodson made me.' These bells Hull cast on the spot, making his furnace close to the church. About the year 1672 William Hull left the service of John Hodson and worked for another founder, Michael Darbie, for whom, in 1674, he cast two bells at Withyham and placed thereon his own initials. The same lettering which he used for these bells he used for himself when he set up in business on his own account at South Malling in 1676. Here he carried on his craft for eleven years, and apparently had a fairly prosperous business for, when he died in 1687 (he was buried at South Malling on August 13th of that year) his house and workshop were his own property. These he left to his wife for her life, but to his son, John Hull, he left 'all the Bell mettle that is really mine' (thereby indicating that there were other bells at the foundry to be recast or for some other purpose and which did not belong to him), 'and alsoe to have liberty to use the work house about the concern of his trade when hee shall have occasion.' The initials 'IH' on the St. Anne's bell are doubtless those of the son, John Hull, but the son does not appear to have carried on his father's trade.

The larger of the two bells at St. Michael's Church is by a founder whose initials were 'R.B.,' and it was cast in 1571. R.B. has never been identified by the antiquarians, but there are five bells in Sussex with these initials and all dated 1571 or 1572. He may have been one of the itinerant founders who travelled the country, setting up a temporary furnace wherever he could find work. But whoever he was, his identity has disappeared in the mists of the ages, although his handiwork remains.

The other bell at this church is another specimen of the work of Edmund Giles. It is inscribed 'Edmvdvs Giles me fecit 1608.'

Cliffe Church contains another Elizabethan bell whose founder is unknown. An indistinct inscription gives the date apparently in Roman numerals as 1566. This bell is the second of the ring of four.

The fourth is the next oldest bell, being one by Thomas Giles and cast in 1619. John Lulham cast the other two in 1649, and these bells bear the names of the churchwardens of the time, James Russell and Edmund Newbrough. Lulham carried on his business at Chiddingfold, and these two bells at the Cliffe are the only two specimens of his work which remain. They replaced older ones, and the details of the expense of recasting are to be found in the churchwardens' accounts for the period.

St. John's Church bells, although not so old, are nevertheless interesting as being examples of the work of a

known itinerant founder, one John Waylett, who can be traced through the county between the years 1714 and 1727, setting up his furnace in any neighbourhood where he could command orders. He first appears in Sussex at Burwash, in 1714. He was at East Hoathly in 1723 and, in the beginning of 1724, at Loughton, where he recast the five bells. From there he came to Lewes, where at St. John's there were three small bells, two of which were broken and the third much cracked. These he recast, and while in the county town also recast the old treble bell of the peal of five at Mayfield and supplied a new bell to make a ring of six. Of course, he visited



CHURCH OF ST. JOHN, SOUTHOVER, LEWES.

Mayfield, in the first place doubtless to secure the job, and the churchwardens' accounts of the time include the following items:—

	s.	d.
For beer to the ringers when the Bell Founder was here	2	6
For carrying ye bell to Lewes and back againe	£1	10 0
For beare to the officers and severall others & hanging up ye bell	18	0
For beare to ye ringers when ye bell was hong	6	6

Waylett probably cast a peal of five bells for Seaford while he was in Lewes or soon after, and he then appears to have gone to Steyning.

Of the other bells in Lewes it only remains to speak of those at Southover, which alone of all the churches can boast of a full peal. Its present ten bells are modern, but in tone they are individually and collectively far superior to any of the others I have mentioned. But the bells of Southover have a history, and the metal of which they

(Continued on next page.)

THE BELLS OF LEWES.

(Continued from previous page.)

are made probably includes some which for centuries has rung out from that tower. At the latter end of the seventeenth century there were four bells in the massive steeple, and they did duty until 1738. In that year it was agreed at a vestry meeting held on the 27th of September 'to send the four bells belonging to the said parish by Captain Wm. Headley to London in order to be new cast.' Thus probably they were loaded at the Town Wharf and despatched by water to the Metropolis. The old bells were recast and two new ones were added by Samuel Knight and Robert Catlin, and of the money contributed for the purpose 'Southover gave £62 10s. 6d., Lewes and the Cliffe £97 19s. 3d., Mr. Edward Trayton gave one bell value £32 0s. 6d., Country gentlemen £57 14s. 6d.' A hundred years later the bells were again recast and were then made into eight by the generosity of the Verrall family. As the 'East Sussex News' 'Diary of Events' reminded us, they were opened on October 29th, 1839. At the beginning of this century two more bells were added, to make a peal of ten, by Mr. John Thornton Rickman and his mother.

From this account of the bells of Lewes it will be seen that the county town possesses some priceless antiquarian relics in the church towers, some of them with far more than a sentimental value, for they have been hallowed by sacred use for hundreds of years. Perhaps this article will lead to more attention being paid to their care, for, strange though it may seem, bells, which, next to organs, are often the most valuable of a church's possessions and sometimes, indeed, intrinsically of more value than the organ, are often the most neglected part of the church's belongings. At Southover every attention is paid to them, because of the attention and activities of the ringers there, but one wonders when last anyone in authority at the other churches inspected their bells!

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT SUNDRIDGE.

A successful meeting of the Kent County Association was held on August 8th at Sundridge, at which 40 members attended from various towers in the district, as well as Mr. A. A. Hughes, of Whitechapel, Mr. and Mrs. G. Cross, Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., Mr. C. Hazelden, Mr. H. Hoskins, Mr. T. E. Sone and Miss Spice.

The tower was open for silent ringing at 2 p.m., and at the service an address was given by the Rector, the Rev. J. Eyre, who referred to a peal rung in the tower 47 years ago, in which Mr. Groombridge took part. A collection for the association's benevolent fund realised 12s. 7d.

Tea was served in the Village Hall and was followed by the business meeting, at which the Rector took the chair. A member of the local band was elected to the association, and the Rector was made an honorary member on the proposition of Miss Brenda Richardson. The annual meeting of the district was fixed for Tonbridge on the second Saturday in October.

Mr. F. White proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector, who replied and expressed a hope that the visit would be repeated.

Mr. W. Latter proposed a vote of thanks to Miss B. Richardson and the Sundridge band for arranging the meeting, and to Mrs. Richardson for playing the organ. The latter replied and said it had been a pleasure to her.

PROPAGANDA.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very interested in the letter on propaganda from Capt. Daniels, and would like your readers to know of an experience we had at Beckenham, Kent.

A few years ago the band became sadly depleted, and in an effort to get recruits I suggested to the captain that we arrange a meeting and invite all and sundry to come along and see how the bells of their parish church were rung, also a demonstration of handbell ringing. I acquainted the Rector with our proposal, and he caused notices to be published in the magazine, and it was announced in several churches in the parish. In addition, I had several notices printed and placed in prominent places in the town. The local press also came to our aid and gave the cause some publicity.

A Thursday practice night was set aside for this purpose, and the belfry got an even more careful cleaning. I had also managed to get the support of some well-known London ringers to assist us give the demonstration.

The great night arrived, and half an hour after the appointed time to start the tower was positively filled to overflowing with parishioners who were 'interested.' And what a collection! Several old gentlemen with long beards, and quite a few elderly ladies trying to get their wind back after climbing 30 odd steps to the ringing room. In addition, there were quite 25 girls, ranging in age from 9 to 14 years. These all came from a local orphanage in charge of a matron, who, when asked if there were any possible recruits among them, told us that they could not be spared from training, as when they reached 14 years they were then sent into service. There were also a few schoolboys and young men.

We rang several methods on six, eight and ten bells, and during each interval endeavoured to explain the intricacies of our noble art, also showing them the actual working of the bells.

The outcome? Well, the following week there came hesitating steps into the belfry, and two maiden ladies of about 50 said they would like to learn.

The following week we had two more single ladies of doubtful age, one of whom was so stout that each time the rope came down from backstroke it hit her in the wrong place and went sailing all over the tower.

We persevered with all our new lady members, in spite of the handicap of their ages and nervousness, but, alas, after six months we had lost them all except the stout one, and she just would not do what she was told.

Our best recruit was a boy of 13, who up to the ban was doing very well indeed. Well, that was the result of our propaganda.

We thought we had left no stone unturned to get the best results, but it was a failure. We certainly acquainted about 70 people with our art who knew nothing of it before. Wishing other hands more good fortune than we had.

GEORGE W. FOGDEN.

21, Tudor Gardens, West Acton, W.3.

JOINT MEETING AT LEATHERHEAD.

The fourth ringers' rally, arranged jointly by the North-Western District of the Surrey Association and the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Guild, was held at Leatherhead on August Bank Holiday.

About forty ringers attended from, among other places, Beddington, Croydon (St. John's), Epsom (Christ Church), Kingston, Leatherhead, Reigate, Chichester, Crayford, Enfield, Feltham, Putney, Twickenham, Worplesdon and London.

A few members enjoyed the ramble from Box Hill to Leatherhead through Norbury Park, and other members went direct to Leatherhead, where eight silent tower bells and handbells were available.

A short service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge who once again welcomed the associations to his parish.

Tea was served at the Duke's Head, where the usually enjoyable meal was made even more enjoyable by music played by the Misses G. and S. Harman. Votes of thanks were passed to those who had arranged the meeting and to the Vicar for conducting the service.

The tower was again visited by some of the company, while other handbell enthusiasts remained to exhibit their skill in the tearoom.

WEDDING OF COVENTRY RINGER.

On Saturday, July 25th, the marriage took place at All Saints' Church, Coventry, between Mr. William A. Stote, eldest son of Mr. A. H. and the late Mrs. Stote, 22, Mile Lane, Cheylesmore, Coventry, and Miss Margaret A. Crossley, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Crossley, 34, Sparkbrook Street, Coventry. After the ceremony handbells were rung by Messrs. A. R. Webb, F. E. Pervin, F. Stone and E. Stone.

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SURREY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT REIGATE.**

About 35 members and friends attended a meeting of the Surrey Association, held at Reigate on Saturday, July 25th, including a fair number of members from the Southern District.

Before the meeting a few members had a very attractive walk through the grounds of the ancient castle and then through the beautiful grasslands and woodlands of Reigate Park. They arrived at the Parish Church in time for a short service, conducted by the Vicar, who welcomed the association to his church.

After the service the party adjourned to Mr. Northover's house, where an excellent meal awaited them. The Master, Mr. D. K. C. Birt, spoke in appreciative terms of the work done for the Exercise by the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith. The question of the future of the Southern District was discussed during and after tea. Votes of thanks were accorded to all those to whom the success of the meeting was due, especially to Mr. M. A. Northover for providing tea.

Later a meeting of the General Committee was held, while the remainder of those present had an enjoyable time wandering through the grounds of the house.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

A notable feature of the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry on Saturday, August 1st, was the ringing by four lady visitors of a touch of Bob Major on handbells. They were Mrs. G. W. Fletcher, and the Misses Brenda, Dorothy and Monica Richardson, of Sundridge.

The death of a member, Mr. George Haynes, of Swanscombe, was announced, and one new member, Mr. H. L. F. Derrick, of Nailsea, near Bristol, was elected on the proposition of Major J. H. B. Hesse, seconded by Mr. A. A. Hughes.

A letter was received from Mr. Albert Walker, and the hon. secretary was requested to send to him the society's expression of sympathy and hopes for a speedy recovery after his operation.

An interesting discussion took place on the necessity for umpires in handbell peals, and it was strongly urged that unless a man was fully capable of checking the changes from start to finish he could not be considered a capable umpire.

Mr. Newton conveyed greetings from Mr. R. T. Woodley, and Mr. E. Hartley from Mr. G. M. Kilby.

The Master was supported by the secretary, the treasurer and Messrs. J. H. Shepherd (Swindon), H. Marcom (Lincoln), W. Melville (Kingsworthy), Wilfred Williams (Cheltenham), R. F. Deal, C. W. Roberts, J. A. Trollope, C. H. Kippin, H. Hoskins, J. Thomas, G. N. Price, E. A. Young, W. Madgwick, D. Cooper, C. Potheary, C. C. Mayne, E. Jennings, E. Hartley, C. Parkes and Corpl. Arthur, R.A.F. Mr. George W. Fletcher was a welcome visitor.

THE BILBIE FAMILY.**THE TERM 'SALLY.'**

To the Editor.

Sir,—As I lived for many years close to Cheddar tower, where we used to claim the tenor to be Bilbie's masterpiece (and in this were supported by some outsiders), I was interested in the letters about the Bilbie and Bush families.

Can one of the gentlemen who have written, or some other reader, tell us how far afield the Bilbies sent their bells and if they are really numerous?

I have never visited either place, but have been told there are Bilbie rings at Beaminster in Dorset and Llangwynyd in Mid-Glamorgan, possibly there are bells of theirs much farther away.

I was intrigued by the term 'Hung to sally' in the advertisement of Messrs. Bush. Can someone versed in bell lore tell us exactly what it means?

In the West of England, we used to call the hand-stroke itself the 'sally,' which seems reasonable, because after pulling the 'tuffing,' and when the fillet hole passes the pulley, the rope is whisked upward, i.e., leaps, which is the meaning of the word 'sally' (the word salmon literally means the leaper), and in course of time the 'tuffing' became the 'sally.'

The bellfounders may be able to tell us when the term 'hung to sally' was first used and why. I suggest that when bells were hung with half-wheels (I have seen such) there was no handstroke, so the rope did not leap or 'sally'; when they came to put whole wheels, and obtained the double pull, they said the bells were 'hung to sally,' sally in this case being a verb.

12, Armory Street, Ebbw Vale.

P.S.—In case this comes under the eye of anyone in the Mendip country, they may be interested to know that as Cheddar tenor was cast in 1759, more than 40 years before the road was made through Cheddar gorge, she went down to the village from the top of Mendip, by the ancient track which up to that time had to serve, and of which only some portions now remain. I walked over the greater part of it some months ago, and I feel sure it must have been a ticklish job to transport a 24 cwt. bell over such a 'road' with the vehicles of that time.—R.A.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.**WHY NOT AS AN EXTRA?**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—For the last few months I have followed with great interest the various articles in 'The Ringing World' about a National Association and the rehabilitation of ringing after the war. I think there are at least three things for which the ordinary ringer ought to be really grateful, viz., the existing associations and guilds, 'The Ringing World,' and the Central Council.

Now it seems to me that it would be a great tragedy for the Exercise if the existing associations and guilds were suddenly swept away after all the good work they have done during the last 60 years or more. On the other hand, it might be an advantage to the Exercise if ringing was, in some ways, considered more from a national point of view.

I have been wondering, therefore, whether it would be possible for a National Association to exist together with the existing organisations. In my humble opinion, the chief object of such a National Association would be to strengthen and bind together the present associations and guilds. I suggest that the officers of such a National Association should be elected by the Central Council and that all the present guilds and associations should be asked to contribute a certain amount of money to finance such a scheme, and that, if they did so, all their members should automatically become members of the newly-formed National Association. I suggest that for a start this National Association should hold four meetings a year in four widely separated parts of the country. I may have got hold of the 'wrong end of the stick,' but I have a feeling that if this subject was tackled somewhat on the lines I have laid down it would help to retain all that is best of the past and present and also give the Exercise additional strength and interest in the future.

As regards the rehabilitation of ringing after the war, I think we should all do our very best to support 'The Ringing World' to the utmost, even if it means some self-sacrifice to do so. It is most essential that 'The Ringing World' should continue both now and after the war. Also it will be up to each individual ringer to do his best to help forward the cause of ringing in his own tower and locality and to support his own county association or diocesan guild as the case may be. In conclusion, I would like to say that I think we ordinary ringers should have confidence in the Central Council, which has done so much good work in the past.

ALBAN DISNEY, Pte., 12th Batt. R.A.O.C.

THE SILENCE OF ITS ADVOCATES.

Sir,—If the advocates of a National Association do not put up a better show than they have at present, there is not much chance of success for them.

I was at a meeting of the Essex Association on July 11th and hoped that at least one of the advocates who lives in the division would have been there to put forward the proposition of the above and also to tell us some, if any, of the gains which the Exercise will receive by it.

9, Park Villas, Chadwell Heath.

E. W. PYE.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.**THE WESTMINSTER QUARTERS.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Taylor says I missed his point on the Westminster chimes. He is quite right, but I am not a bit sorry about it, as if I had caught it nothing further would have been heard of it. As it is, he has made his points clearer and brought an interesting letter by W. C. B.

Leaving out the tenor or hour bell, I am not so sure about different keys on eight bells. Any octave is made up of six whole tones and two halves with the halves between the 3rd and 4th and 7th and 8th tones. Starting on F, G or C, the three bells are a group of three whole tones F G A, G A B or C D E. Neither gets to the half-tone above or below. This is what I meant by saying why could the chimes on eight bells be in different keys?

About 50 years ago the clock in the Yeovil tower was erected and two trebles added, whether for the clock or for a ring of ten I do not know. I should say probably for the clock. They have since been recast and are a great improvement for ringing. I do not wish to contradict Mr. Taylor, only explain it as I see it. I am pleased to say that my remarks on hymn tunes interested at least one reader and ringer, as I have received a letter from him.

161, Sherborne Road, Yeovil.

F. SMITH.

THE CANTERBURY CHIMES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The Canterbury Cathedral chimes were composed by the late Canon Helmore on the fifth Gregorian tone to commemorate the landing at Ebbsfleet, Kent, in 597 of St. Augustine.

They are: First quarter, FEC. Second, FEC: BCDC. Third, FEC: BCDC—CDF. Hour, FEC: BCDC—CDF: ECB: C. The dash represents a pause. Only five bells are used, the 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 of the peal of twelve. The hours are struck on Great Dunston (72 cwt.).

PETER J. H. SMALL.

Church Road, Upton St. Leonard, Glos.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, August 15th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—A meeting will be held at Leverstock Green on Saturday, August 15th. Tea and meeting in the School, Pancake Lane. Handbells, etc., from 4 p.m. Please let me know by Wednesday morning, 12th, if you require tea. Buses leave St. Albans (St. Peter Street), 314 route, every 1 and 31 minutes past the hour, and Hemel Hempstead (314 route) every 7 and 37 minutes past the hour.—W. Ayre, Old School House, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Faringdon on Saturday, August 15th. Service 3.30. Tea 4.15, at Swan Hotel.—R. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Christ Church, West Didsbury, on Saturday, August 15th. Tower open 3.30 p.m. Bring your own tea.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The next meeting will be held in the Schoolroom at Bulkington on Saturday, August 15th. Cups of tea provided, but please bring own eatables.—Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—Meeting at St. Mary's, Finchley, on Saturday, August 22nd, at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow for those who notify me by previous Tuesday. Six-tower bells for silent ringing, also handbells.—T. J. Lock, 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Kibworth on August 22nd. Ringing (8 bells, silent) at 3 p.m. Service at 4.40 p.m., followed by tea. Those requiring tea must notify me by August 19th.—Herbert W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—The annual general meeting will be held on Saturday, August 29th, at 3 p.m., in the Vestry Hall, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London. Handbells from 3 to 4 p.m. Business meeting at 4 and tea in the canteen at 1s. per head, 6 p.m. Tea can only be provided for those who notify me not later than August 24th. Please bring own sugar.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec., 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—The next meeting will be at Springfield on Saturday, August 29th. Ringing on 'silent' bells and handbells from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea and business meeting after. All who require tea must notify me by Thursday, August 27th.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Claines on Saturday, September 5th. Tower bells available at 3 p.m. (silent ringing). Service in church at 4.15 p.m., followed by business meeting. Further ringing afterwards.—Ernest F. Cubberley, Branch Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

PUBLICATION.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE, Part VI, reprinted from the Journal of the Berkshire Archaeological Society. To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire. Price: 6d.

MARRIAGE.

STOTE—CROSSLEY.—On Saturday, July 25th, at All Saints', Coventry, by Rev. A. A. Thomson, William Alfred, eldest son of Mr. A. H. and the late Mrs. Stote, 22, Mile Lane, Coventry, to Margaret Amy, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Crossley, 34, Sparkbrook Street, Coventry.

DEATHS.

NASH.—On August 3rd, at Rotherham Hospital, Albert Nash, of Rotherham and Wath-on-Deane, aged 57 years.

WILKINS.—On Tuesday, August 4th, at the Acland Home, Oxford, Alice, the beloved wife of William H. B. Wilkins, sometime resident at Sittingbourne, Kent.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 21st, 1942.

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STANDARDS.

Most of us, more or less unconsciously, cherish the idea that when peace returns we shall be able to pick up again the threads of our ringing life where we dropped them on that fateful Sunday when war was declared, but all of us know quite well, when we stop to think about it, that that can never be. There will be changes in every department of life, and changes all the more vital because their full effect will not at once be apparent. Owing to its nature, change ringing may be expected to escape these influences far more than most things, yet it will not be wholly immune. The ringers, who on the day of victory will hasten to get back to the belfries, may think they are the same men who rang before the imposition of the ban, but one and all will be altered, though in vastly different degree.

Those who were in the prime of their ringing career and whose enthusiasm has not waned nor their natural force been abated, will be the least affected. They will speedily be able to shake off the rustiness due to want of practice, and they will be able and will be eager to carry on again with peal ringing in the higher methods. But they will not be able to escape from the effects of the war on their fellows. The older men will not all have lost their enthusiasm, but four years or so of anxiety and strain will have told their tale. The brain will be less alert, the eye less keen, and the body less active. While those younger men who had not yet gained the skill which comes from experience will have to relearn much, and that will not be easy since so many of them will not realise the necessity of learning again.

Besides all this, there will be those whose enthusiasm has cooled, who have turned to new interests, and whose visits to the belfry will be few or not at all. Death will have taken its toll, and there will be a shortage of ringers due to the lack of recruits during these years of war.

It follows that the Exercise will not be able to maintain its old pre-war standards, and some of them must be lowered. Which shall it be? This is an important question, because on the way it is answered will depend the future of change ringing in many places.

Before the war the standard of method ringing was very high and had been greatly raised during the previous quarter of a century. The four Surprise methods were being regularly practised by the class of band who twenty-five years earlier would have been content with Stedman and Treble Bob. Most ringers will be reluctant to lower this standard, yet it is just what we feel sure they ought to make up their minds deliberately to

(Continued on page 378.)

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do. We shall not be able to have everything again at once, therefore we should concentrate on the most essential. And the most essential is good striking.

It is essential for outside effect. On whether we please or annoy the outside public will largely depend whether we shall again be allowed the facilities for practice and peal ringing we used to enjoy.

It is essential to the ringers themselves. Many methods and a low standard of striking would be intolerable to a good ringer, and if the number of those who value striking less than they do method ringing were largely increased, it would mean a very great and very serious decline in the art, no matter what the peal records seem to show.

The man who begins by being a good striker can usually take method ringing in his stride. But the man who puts method ringing first and allows striking to take its chance, will never be a first class ringer, and not seldom is a nuisance to his fellows.

It would be no bad thing if when ringers returned to the belfries they found there written up in large letters, 'Good stoney is better than bad changes. Good Treble Bob is better than bad Cambridge. Striking is the one thing that matters.'

THE LATE ALBERT NASH. HIS WORK FOR RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The Barnsley District Society has lost another great tower of strength by the death of Mr. A. Nash, of Rotherham. He was one of the pioneers of the society, and had a lot to do with forming it. He was in fact the first secretary and treasurer for about three years. Later, he became president, and took a keen interest in the work until his death.

He had done much in his early days to exploit and encourage six-bell ringing in nearly all the minor methods, and later many of the Major Surprise methods. He was a first-class ringer and conductor on any number of bells, both in the tower and on the handbells, and was very keen on good striking. Considering how handicapped he was through his accident, it was marvellous how he could handle his bell and put it (usually the tenor) where it should be.

This is the fourth of the staunch supporters and pioneers of the society who have passed away within three years, viz.: Potter, Panther, Gill and Nash, and wherever the Barnsley District Society is concerned these names will always be remembered. Although they have left gaps in our ranks which will be hard to fill, it is to be hoped we can carry on with success the work they have begun and entrusted to us. It is a strange coincidence and worthy of note that the last peal rung by Panther was in memory of Potter, the last peal rung by Gill in memory of Panther, and the last peal rung by Nash in memory of Gill, but the Barnsley District ringers are not superstitious and they hope to kill the omen and ring a peal in memory of Mr. Nash on the handbells in the very near future.

DANIEL SMITH,
Hon. Secretary.

LEICESTER RINGER IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Mr. Ernest Morris has just received an interesting letter from Sidney Harrison, of St. John-the-Divine, Leicester, who recently was drafted to the Middle East. At Durban, South Africa, where the voyage was broken for four days, he managed to get to St. Paul's and, finding a ringer, went up the belfry and pulled off the tenor (the bells being set up). Then between them they fell the bells, and he passed a pleasant half-hour playing hymn tunes and other pieces on the chiming apparatus.

His next ringing was at Khartoum, where for two months he took over the chiming at the Cathedral for Sunday evensong. The regular 'ringer' is a Sudanese, who simply thumps up and down the keys as fancy takes him, but Sidney Harrison soon gave a delightful variation with plain courses of Grandsire and Plain Bob with tunes as well, much to the enjoyment of an Irthingborough ringer, who soon made himself known. There are eight bells at Khartoum Cathedral by Mears and Stainbank, with a tenor about 10 cwt.

The Army, however, has moved Mr. Harrison off again, and it is to be hoped he will find some bells to keep his hand in till he comes home again.

HANDBELL PEALS.

CRAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, August 9, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

AT 10, KING'S CLOSE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

MRS. E. A. BARNETT ...	1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT ...	5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER...	3-4	EDWIN BARNETT ...	7-8

Composed by A. P. KNIGHTS. Conducted by E. C. S. TURNER. *

CRAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, August 9, 1942, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT 10, KING'S CLOSE,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER...	1-2	*GEORGE H. CROSS ...	5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT ...	3-4	EDWIN BARNETT ...	7-8

Composed and Conducted by G. H. CROSS.

* First peal in the method. First handbell peal in the method by the association.

LONDON.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, August 12, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT 24, ROLLSCOURT AVENUE, HERNE HILL,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON...	1-2	REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE	5-6
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ...	3-4	*DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON...	7-8
†BRENDA M. RICHARDSON ... 9-10			

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE

* First peal of Royal away from the tenors. † First peal on 10 bells.

BOURNEMOUTH, HAMPSHIRE.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, August 13, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT ST. PETER'S HALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor size 15 in C.

MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY	1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS ...	5-6
*WILLIAM G. YOUNG ...	3-4	FRANCIS S. WILSON ...	7-8

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* First peal 'in hand.' Arranged especially for Lance-Corpl. W. G. Young, of St. James', Poole, Band.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 15, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'.

CHARLES HAZLEDEN ...	1-2	*ALBERT DISERENS ...	5-6
ALFRED H. PULLING ...	3-4	†THOMAS N. LANAGHAN ...	7-8

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

Umpire—E. J. Munday.

Witness—Mrs. Pulling.

* First peal of Stedman in hand. † First peal of Stedman.

READING.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, August 16, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT 18, MANCHESTER ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).

Tenor size 15 in C.

*WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ...	1-2	ALBERT DISERENS ...	5-6
JOHN E. SPICE ...	3-4	ARTHUR WIGGINS...	7-8

Conducted by ALBERT DISERENS.

Witness—Thomas N. Lanaghan.

* First peal of Grandsire Triples.

THE NORWICH SCHOLARS.

MORE NEWSPAPER REPORTS.

Mr. Charles E. Borrett has sent us some more cuttings from 18th century Norwich newspapers which throw a good deal of contemporary light on the famous company of Norwich Scholars. The first four relate to early peals of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, the history of which was for long very dubious.

FROM 'THE NORWICH MERCURY.'

St. Michael's Coslany. Monday March 9th 1741 was rung by the Norwich Society 5040 changes of Court Bob all eight which was never done before, and was performed in 3 hours 13 minutes.

Saturday November 1st 1746 was rung at St. Michael's of Coslany by Edward Crane and seven Norwich Youths 5040 of that most curious Peal call'd Court Bob or all Eight in, in 3 hours and 17 minutes, without a bell out of course, being the second time that ever it was rung in this Kingdom.

On Tuesday March 26th 1754 was rung at St. Michael's Coslany by Eight Youths, a complete 5040 of Court Bob, in 3 hours and 20 minutes. This is the first time of its being performed by Youths only.

On Monday January 5th 1756 was rung at St. Michael's Coslany 5040 Court Bobs Eight in; it was completely rung in 3 hours and 8 minutes without a bell out of course by us whose names are undermentioned. John Chamberlain rang the Treble and called the Bobs, Jeffrey Brady 2, John Dixon 3, Francis Lyth 4, John Keepus 5, John Vines 6, John Read 7, George Battley Tenor.

January 6th, 1775. St. Peter's ringers return thanks to those Gentlemen and Ladies who favoured them with Christmas donations, which liberal encouragement they shall endeavour to express a grateful sense of by continuing to ring such concerto's weekly (Composed by Signor Melchoir and others) as have hitherto given universal satisfaction.

October 26th, 1776. We hear that St. Peter's bells will be rung three evenings in every week the ensuing season by the old steeple band, who will entertain the Town with several complete circumsons, particularly the much admired Oxford Campanatum and the last new peal of Norwich harmonies as composed by Messrs. Dye, Lindsey, Vines, etc., etc.

Sheffield, Yorkshire. May 4th 1809 was rung at St. Peter's Church a fine peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal composed of 5400 harmonious changes which was nobly brought round in 3 hours 59 minutes on the grand new peal of ten bells cast by Messrs. Thomas Mears and Sons, Bellfounders, Whitechapel, London, in the deep key of C, weight of tenor 41 cwt. and 5 lbs. net bell. This society also rung on the same bells in the summer 1807 at various times 11177 changes in the intricate methods of Bob Royal, Stedmans Principle and Oxford Bob Royal to represent 11177 free holders who polled that year for Lord Milton at York.

July 23rd, 1814. We have it seems been accused of blundering in our paragraph last week concerning St. Peter's Bells. We should hardly have thought it necessary at this time of day to refer our readers to their musical dictionary to discover that pitch and temperament were two things. A confusion has hence arisen (not in our minds) and we are to say that the bells were tuned in the Key of C according to the temperament of E flat. Now we hope we may be better understood. This enables us to add that the bell was broken by the wear of a bolt, which occasioning the clapper to catch upon the frame, the bell thus fell with its whole weight upon the clapper in its rotation and burst its side.

DEATH OF A BEACONSFIELD RINGER.

The death occurred on Monday, August 3rd, of Mr. J. Blackmore, a member of the Beaconsfield band, at the age of 76.

His peals were not numerous, but at one time he was a regular service ringer, and in his earlier years did much to train a change-ringing band at Chalfont St. Peter.

He was a keen horticulturist, being a member of the Beaconsfield Horticultural Association, and had been for several years one of its judges at the annual show.

The funeral took place at Penn Parish Church on Thursday, August 6th, and was attended by a large number of friends, including some of the Beaconsfield and Penn ringers, and Mr. A. D. Barker, treasurer of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, of which Mr. Blackmore was a member.

DEATH OF MR. W. H. POYSER.

OLD DERBY RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. William H. Poyser, who passed away in his sleep on Saturday, August 8th, in his 76th year. He had been a regular ringer at St. Peter's, Derby, since 1910, and before that at St. Werburgh's. He joined the Midland Counties Association in 1885, and rang 52 peals for it, as well as a number for the East Derbyshire Association. He was of a kindly and unassuming disposition and always ready to assist beginners. He was a safe ringer in most of the standard methods, a good striker, and a regular service ringer. The funeral was at Nottingham Road Cemetery on Wednesday, August 12th.

GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

THE NEED AND USE OF SINGLES.

The total number of rows on any number of bells, however they are produced, divide into two groups; half of them are even and half of them are odd.

In Grandsire Doubles all the rows produced by the plain course and by any combination of plain and bobbed leads are even. It is therefore necessary to have at least two singles to produce the full extent. The same thing happens in Grandsire Caters.

Grandsire Triples is different. There the rows are alternately of opposite nature and, in the plain course, and in any combination of plain and bobbed leads, all the handstroke rows are odd and all the backstroke rows are even. There is no one row that cannot be produced by bobs only.

It is obvious then that the use of singles in Grandsire Triples must be different from what it is in Grandsire Doubles and Grandsire Caters, and the first question is: Why are they necessary at all? In Doubles and in Caters we must have them because without them we could not produce any one of the odd rows. It is not so in Triples, and for the purpose of composing peals we do not need to change the nature of the rows. That is why in Doubles and in Caters (just as in Bob Major or Double Norwich) a definite single is always used; but in Grandsire Triples two kinds of singles have been employed, one of which turns the nature of the rows and the other does not.

The use of singles in Grandsire Triples is not (as it is in most methods) to enable us to produce the odd rows, which otherwise would have been unattainable, but to supply an indispensable link in the chain which binds the rows and the leads into one complete round block.

In the early months of this year, we gave an explanation of the nature and use of Q Sets in the composition of Bob Major. The reader should study those articles, because the principle of Q Sets are the same in all methods, and they are the expression of what is probably the most important law in the science of composition. They are best studied in Bob Major because there they appear in their simplest and most easily understandable form. In Grandsire Triples they seem to be more complex, but essentially they are not different. The distinction arises from the fact that in Bob Major only three bells are affected by any one bob, but in Grandsire Triples five bells are affected.

In Bob Major we saw that in any in-course extent the bobs must be in sets of three. If one in any set is made all three must be made. If one is omitted all three must be omitted.

In Grandsire Triples in a complete peal the bobs must be in sets of five, and if one of the five is made, all the five must be made. If one of the five is omitted, all the five must be omitted. The five bobs are the set produced by calling the same bell Before until the round block is completed. Here is a Q Set with the third called Before, and with rounds as one of the members.

1532746
1735624
1637452
1436275
1234567

These five bobs form a Q Set, and the members of any Q Set are related to each other as these five are.

We ought to say that in Thompson's and Davies' writings, as printed in Snowdon's 'Grandsire' and elsewhere, Q Sets are given in a different form. There what is called a Q Set is, not the five backstroke rows produced by five bobs, but the backstroke rows of the treble's lead previous to the bobs being made. It was natural for Thompson to use the plan he did, it fitted into the argument he was using, but it rather complicates matters, especially when we are dealing with Q Sets in other methods than Grandsire Triples.

When we are composing a peal of Grandsire Triples, the material we have to use consists of the 5,040 possible rows, but the method decides the first stages of arrangement and our material really consists of either 72 P Blocks, or 120 B Blocks. We can please ourselves which we use, but we must start with a definite decision on the matter, and if we choose P Blocks, we shall have to use in-course singles, while if we choose B Blocks, we shall have to use 'ordinary' Grandsire singles.

But you may say: Why not arrange some of the 5,040 rows in P Blocks and the rest in B Blocks, and then join up the lot into one block by means of bobs and singles? Why not? Simply because it cannot be done. If we arrange some of the 5,040 rows into any particular group of P Blocks, then those which are left over cannot be arranged into a number of B Blocks.

Even if they could they would be useless for our purpose. We can only join P Blocks together, or to other blocks, by means of bobs, and in the B Blocks every bob is already made. And we can only join B Blocks together or to other blocks by means of omitting bobs, and in the P Blocks every bob is already omitted.

A P Block, we may remind the reader, is a natural course consisting of five plain leads without any bobs. A B Block is a bobbed course consisting of three leads without any plain leads.

Having selected either the 72 P Blocks or the 120 B Blocks as the basis of our peal, our task is to join them all into one round block.

We choose the P Blocks and start with the plain course. We make a bob in one of the five leads and complete the Q Set. The result is that we join four more P Blocks to our original one. We have now a round block consisting of five complete P Blocks. We make another bob and complete the Q Set, and again we add four P Blocks. Our round block now consists of nine complete P Blocks. So we go on bobbing Q Sets and each time adding four P Blocks. But when we get to the end we shall find that we are left with three P Blocks over, and no bobbing of a Q Set will add them to our round block.

So far what we have done is exactly similar to what we found happened when we tried to join the sixty in-course natural courses of Bob Major together by bobs; except that then we added courses two at a time and had one left over. This is where Grandsire Triples becomes more complicated than Bob Major.

In Bob Major when we have grouped our sixty natural courses into two round blocks, one consisting of fifty-nine courses and the other of one, we shall find that there are unbobbed Q Sets, two members of any one of them being in the large block, and the third member in the small block. If we bob one of these Q Sets what will happen is that the large block will fall into two separate pieces, and the small block will join up to one

(Continued on next page.)

GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

(Continued from previous page.)

of the pieces. We are no nearer to getting all the sixty natural courses into one round block.

Something very similar happens in Grandsire Triples, but not quite. If in the large block there are three unbobbed members of a Q Set, and if two members are one in each of two of the remaining three P Blocks, we can bob the Q Set and the two P Blocks will join up with the large block. But we shall still have one P Block left over. We can, in fact, when we are building up our peal, add P Blocks, not only four at a time as we described above; but also, if we wish, two at a time.

What we cannot do, is to add an odd number. When we try to do that the result is the same as it was in the Bob Major—the large block falls to pieces.

An exactly similar thing happens if we start with B Blocks, except that instead of joining the blocks together by bobs arranged in Q Sets, we join them together by omits arranged in Q Sets. In either case we are left with two round blocks and for the final stage we need the help of singles.

(To be continued.)

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I have held the opinion for some time that a peal of Spliced London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative with full courses of each method is not obtainable with tenors together throughout, but I felt sure that one could be worked out if the tenors were parted for a part of the peal and, although I felt very interested in the matter, I have not been able to find time for the last few years to go thoroughly into the question.

I sincerely congratulate Mr. Parker on his success in producing such a composition, and feel sure it is the best which can be obtained.

A. J. PITMAN.

BOB MAJOR ON HANDBELLS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The article on handbell ringing by the Rev. M. C. C. Melville, in your issue of December 26th last, I found of interest owing to the fact that the system of composition he therein advocates happens to be very similar to the one contained in the peal composition we rang here. Here it is:—

BOB MAJOR.

5,120.

23456	W.	5ths.	4ths.	M.	H.
36425		S	—	—	—
43625					—
62435	—				—
46235					—
24635					—
63245	—				—
26345					—
32645					—
64325	—				—
42365		—	—	—	—
34265					—
23465					—

Three times repeated. Single at H in 23rd and 47th course.

As may be seen, the effect of this arrangement is that the pairs 1-2, 5-6 and 7-8 repeat in the second half of the peal the work each has already done in the first half, while the work of 3-4 in the second half is reversed to that done in the first half.

Our handbell practice has been suspended since last October. There are only three of us in the band, and the other two, who both were in the last big war, are doing military duties at nights and at other odd times.

New Zealand is now very busy preparing for a visit from the Japs, and I can assure you that she has from the word 'go' done her utmost to provide both men and money for the Old Country and its allies.

JAMES S. WILDE.

9, Balmoral St. Opoho,
Dunedin, New Zealand.

[Mr. Wilde's peal was rung for the first time forty-eight years ago last April 15th, at Tunstead, in Norfolk.—Ed., 'The Ringing World.']

John Taylor & Co.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. Ernest Morris' articles on Chimes and Chime Tunes will be resumed next week.

Mr. K. Ketteringham, of St. Wilfred's, Alford, Lincolnshire, who is serving in the Forces in a remote part of the British Isles, would like to form a handbell band among his companions, and wonders if anyone would like to give them six or eight bells in any condition. 'Our life,' he says, 'at this, one of the outposts of our island home, is inclined to become rather monotonous at times, and indulging in the art of change ringing would greatly assist in overcoming one of the soldiers' worst enemies—that of boredom.'

Air-raid warden (ringer) would like to get in touch with brother ringer, also an air-raid warden, with the view of spending a week's holiday in the Eastern Counties, preferably Norwich.

At Leigh, near Gloucester, jackdaws have taken advantage of the ban to build their nest in the third bell, which was left up.

Mr. Edwin Shepherd, of St. Sidwell's, Exeter, wishes to thank all who have sent him good wishes on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

On August 17th, 1812, a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal, 5,000 changes, was rung on the old ten bells at St. Michael's, Coventry.

On August 18th, 1858, Thomas Thurstans, so well known as a composer of Stedman Triples, died at Birmingham in pathetic circumstances. 'He was taken ill in the street,' wrote John Day, 'and died in the general hospital. No one knew who he was; no one enquired about him. So it came to pass that the parish authorities buried him—no friend or relative being near.'

Eight Keighley men rang 5,376 changes of Cambridge Surprise Major on August 18th, 1811. The composition was by Joseph Tebbs, of Leeds, but undoubtedly was false.

The first peal of Hereward Bob Major was rung at Reddish on August 20th, 1914, and on the same date in 1927 the first peal of Pershore Bob Major was rung at Pershore.

'On Saturday, August 22nd, 1752, was rung at St. Michael's Coslany a complete 5,040 of Mr. Holt's Tripples in three hours without changes alike or a bell out of course, it being the first time ever performed by eight men only. So intricate, it was thought no man could ring a bell and call the bobs. It has been rung in London and at Stonham with prompts. But was rung by these men without a prompt.'

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

There was little formal business to be transacted at the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths on August 15th. One new member, Mr. Cecil R. Longhurst, of West Grinstead, was elected, and appropriate references were made to the death of Mr. William G. Crickmer, of Earl Soham, who joined the society as far back as 1889.

A letter was read from Mr. George Thompson, of Tunbridge Wells, who has been a member from 1894, and another from Mr. Albert Walker, who reported that he was getting on very well after his operation.

In addition to the Master, hon. secretary and treasurer, the following members were present: Messrs. E. H. Lewis, C. W. Roberts, J. H. Shepherd, E. A. Young, W. T. Elson, F. C. Newman, C. Pothecary, C. C. Mayne, J. A. Trollope, H. G. Miles, R. F. Deal and E. Barnett, Trooper E. Rapley, R.A.C. (who rejoined his regiment and was on embarkation leave), Lance-Corpl. Len Fox and the Rev. M. C. Melville. The visitors were Mrs. E. Barnett and Mrs. E. A. Barnett.

PROPAGANDA.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Referring to Mr. G. W. Fogden's letter on propaganda, I can fully endorse what he writes, as I was one of the regular visitors at that time. There were only three or four middle-aged ladies who indicated they were willing to learn, and only the stout lady persevered alas! without much advancement. One young boy had the makings of a ringer but, owing to the ban, apparently he has been lost for the usual reason: interest has been stopped just when it needed to be most stimulated.

Since I have been out of hospital I am pleased to say at Bromley we have been meeting regularly every Monday at St. Luke's, Bromley Common.

As you are aware, the old Bromley Church and bells are destroyed, and we of the old church have been very happy to co-operate with the St. Luke's band.

Unfortunately, with the darker evenings we shall soon have to cease dumb practice on the tower bells, but I am hoping to get a few enthusiasts together to learn handbells.

F. E. PITMAN.

40, Tweedy Road,
Bromley, Kent.

THE ART OF BELLFOUNDING.

ITS HISTORY AND PRINCIPLES.

BY ALBERT A. HUGHES.

A paper read before the Newcomen Society for the Study of the History of Engineering and Technology, at Prince Henry's Room, Fleet Street, on December 18th, 1929.

The ancient art of bellfounding has an interesting history, and can be traced in this country to the Saxon Period. By this I mean 'cast' bells. Small sheet metal bells—handbells—were in use much earlier. There were large bells at the Monastery at Whitby in the 7th century. There are records, too, mentioning directions for the uses of bells at York and Canterbury in the 8th century. In the latter part of the 10th century, seven bells were presented to Crowland Abbey. None of these very early bells exist, and I do not think there are any records relating to their founding.

This paper is, however, to deal with the technical side, and I will not therefore go further into the historical side of the bells themselves. This has been fully dealt with by Mr. H. B. Walters in his book, 'The Church Bells of England,' published by Henry Frowde in 1913.

I believe the first instructions recorded in this country on bellfounding are to be found in a treatise by Walter of Odyington, a monk in the time of Henry III. (early 13th century), and I will refer to this later.

Previous to the 13th century, bellfounding was carried on practically exclusively by the monks, who devoted themselves to the arts and crafts of the Church before the days of professional craftsmen. The earliest records of bellfounders hardly go back beyond the 13th century.

The famous bellfounder's window in York Minster, given by Richard Tunnoc, bellfounder, who died in 1330, shows roughly the processes of moulding and casting.

Fundamentally, the actual processes of moulding and casting have altered only slightly during the last six or seven centuries, and I propose to take the modern method first. The first step in the founding of a bell is to design the shape, and the making of this design is perhaps the most important part of the whole work, for the satisfactory quality of tone depends upon correct shape and correct proportions of thickness at various points. The quality of metal, whilst of importance, is secondary to design.

A bell contains a number of tones apart from the note by which it is recognised. These tones are called harmonics and, in designing the bell, the shape and proportions must be such that these harmonic tones are all in perfect harmony with the fundamental note, otherwise, however good the metal, the general tone would be unsatisfactory. There is evidence that the theory was partly understood by a few early English founders, and it was certainly understood by some 16th and 17th century Flemish founders, notably the Hemonys and Van den Gheyns. This knowledge apparently was lost, and was not revived until comparatively recently. Evidence of lack of knowledge of the full theory of bell-designing is found in so many of the peals of bells cast in this country from the 16th to the 19th century, for, whilst the fundamental notes may be fairly correct one with another, the harmonic tones will be found to vary to a considerable extent.

Having designed the shape, the next step is to make the 'crook' or 'strickle' with which the moulds are made. If in wood, it is made in two parts—one for the inner and one for the outer shape of the bell, but if made in iron it is in one piece. The moulding materials are bricks and loam, and the ordinary process of 'loam moulding' is followed. Two moulds are required, the 'core' for the inner shape of the bell and the 'cope' for the outer shape. The cope is made by lining an iron case, made approximately to the shape of the bell, with loam. This loam, similar to the yellow London clay, is mixed with horse hair and manure, the hair to bind, and the manure to aid ventilation. The prepared loam is laid on by hand, in the case, and trammelled round by means of the strickle which turns between centres. The loam is laid on in several operations and thoroughly dried after each, in order to reduce the shrinkage to the lowest possible point. The 'core' is a hollow cone, constructed of bricks laid up with loam and set to the approximate shape with the aid of the strickle. The loam is applied over the whole surface and trammelled up with the strickle. This also is carried out in several operations. The final dressing of the top of the core is of stronger loam, or, in the case of large bells, soft brick, to withstand the wash of the metal during the casting.

In making commercial castings, such as cylinders, etc., the moulds do not go through so many processes, and it is customary to add a percentage of thickness to allow for machining, but in the case of bells there is no machining in the accepted sense of the word, and the founder designs his bell to produce the note required. It is for this reason that such particular care is taken with the moulding, as the limits for correction by the tuning machine are very small.

The majority of church bells bear inscriptions and ornamentation. These are effected by making impressions in the cope with metal stamps whilst the final coat of loam is still plastic.

Both moulds are finally given a dressing of plumbago and polished, in order to produce a clean, smooth surface on the casting, also to prevent the metal from burning into the mould, and to allow of easy 'stripping,' after casting. When both moulds are completed, the cope is fitted down over the core, leaving the space between the two, corresponding to the shape of the bell. The correct degree in this closing is determined by a guide step formed in both moulds by the strickle, and when these steps register correctly all round, the correct space between the two moulds is obtained.

In the crown of the cope are two holes, called the runner and the riser, the former through which the metal is poured, and the latter through which the metal rises when the mould is full. The head of the mould is now fitted with an iron box, in which two large basins are formed with mild sand, to contain the pouring metal, and the rising metal when the mould is filled. The large amount of metal on the head is necessary in order to feed the crown of the bell during the cooling, and thus to obtain a sound casting. When the bell has sufficiently cooled, the cope is lifted off, revealing the bell with the core inside. The core is then dug out, and the whole surface of the bell is cleaned by means of wire brushes or sand-blast.

(Continued on next page.)

THE ART OF BELLFOUNDING.

(Continued from previous page.)

Bell-metal is an alloy of copper and tin, and for church bells the mixture is about 76 per cent. copper and 23 per cent. tin. Many experiments have been made, but this copper and tin alloy has been proved to be the best for producing a clear pure tone.

The note of a bell depends upon its diameter at the mouth and its thickness at the soundbow—the part of the rim on which the clapper strikes. The bells of the same size, but of different thickness, would therefore have different notes, the thinner of the two being the lower in pitch. In making a 'peal' or 'ring,' they must therefore all be of different sizes, and the diameters for, say, a peal of eight in the diatonic scale, are calculated from the following proportions: Taking the largest as 1, the diameter of the next, or seventh, would be eight-ninths of the tenor, and for the whole ring of eight the figures would be:—

8	4	3	2	3	8	1
1	—	—	—	—	—	—
9	5	4	3	5	15	2

and each bell would, of course, be cast on the same scale of thickness. From this it will be seen that the smallest bell, i.e., the octave to the largest, called the tenor, would be one-half the diameter of the tenor and, as weights vary as the cubes of the diameters, its weight would be one-eighth. In the case of bells to be hung for change ringing, the weights obtained in a peal cast exactly to the above natural scale, would not be satisfactory, as the smaller ones would be overpowered by the larger ones. It is therefore necessary to depart by calculation from the natural scale, and gradually to increase the weights from, generally speaking, the 6th—the largest but two. This naturally necessitates making them larger, and in order to retain the desired note the thickness must be proportionately increased. The result is that the treble, or smallest of the peal of eight, would be about 30 per cent. of the weight of the tenor, instead of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. (one-eighth).

In casting a single bell, a good founder can generally produce the bell straight from the mould perfectly correct in tone, but in the case of a 'peal' or 'ring,' a certain amount of tuning is necessary to get them all correctly in tune with each other. For this purpose they are placed on a vertical lathe, and metal is pared from the inside. This is a delicate operation, as the various harmonic tones have also to be kept in line as well as the fundamental note.

In modern tuning, the note and harmonic tones are recorded by means of special tuning forks, registering the rate of vibrations per second for each note. The required note for each bell is then calculated from the table mentioned previously, but in the inverse ratio, viz.:—

9	5	4	3	5	15	2
1	—	—	—	—	—	—
8	4	3	2	3	8	1

Each bell is treated on the lathe until its note responds exactly to the desired forks, and a ring of bells so tuned can be guaranteed to be absolutely perfect in tune.

We will now return to early founding. As already mentioned, the actual process of moulding has altered very little through the centuries. The old system has frequently been described in the various works on church bells, and particularly by Mr. Walters in the book already

mentioned; also by the late Canon Raven in 'The Bells of England.' This method of moulding was used from the earliest recorded times up to about 45 to 50 years ago. It is also described and illustrated in the French 'Encyclopédie Méthodique' of 1784, and is still used largely on the Continent.

It is in the designing and tuning that the great advance has been made. The first tuning machines constructed were laid down at the Gloucester Foundry, owned by the renowned Rudhall family, and at the White-chapel Foundry, about 190 years ago. From descriptions handed down, these machines were worked by a horse, or donkey, and it was the machine which revolved—not the bell. Later, steam power was used. With these early machines, it was only possible to tune a bell in one zone, i.e., the sound-bow, and the harmonic tones were therefore neglected.

Previous to these first machines, tuning was effected by hand chipping metal from the sound bow inside the bell. Sometimes a bell would be sharpened by chipping metal from the extreme edge, the reduced diameter and retention of the original sound-bow thickness resulting in lesser amplitude, and therefore quicker vibration, giving the higher note.

Reverting to Walter of Odyington's instructions, the MS. in which they are included is in the library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. The translation, copied from Mr. Walter's book, is as follows:—

'For making bells, the whole difficulty consists in estimating the wax models from which they are formed, and first, in knowing that the thicker a bell is, the higher its note, and the reverse.

'Starting with any given amount of wax for the model of the first bell, you divide it into eight parts, and the addition of one-eighth part (s.c. nine-eighths of the size of the first) will give you the amount required for the second bell. If you start from the heavier bells, the principal is similar. But take care lest the inner mould (or core) of clay, to which the wax is to be applied, is changed in any different proportion; and also that none of the allotted wax gets into the vents. Further, a fifth or sixth-part of the metal should be tin purified from lead, the rest copper similarly cleansed, with a view to greater sonorousness. If any defects should be apparent, they can be set right with a file or whetstone.'

The $9/8$ ths proportion which he gives refers, of course, to the interval of a whole note, and it is strange that he takes no account of the difference between a whole tone and a semi-tone. His method is, however, so obviously empirical that it is impossible to imagine any musical result from such working. As Dr. Raven states in his book, 'one cannot wonder at the necessity for whetstones and chisels; and the free use of these instruments may help to account for the almost total disappearance of bells of the Saxon and Norman period.' The few remaining examples of 13th century bells are extremely discordant in sound.

One point of view might, however, be taken, viz., that where a number of these early bells existed in one tower it is probable that they were not used 'in peal' as at present, but that each bell had its own particular use, such as Matins, Vespers, Curfew, etc.

An interesting point in Walter of Odyington's instructions
(Continued on next page.)

THE ART OF BELLFOUNDING.

(Continued from previous page.)

tion is the reference to wax models, inferring that the *cire perdue* process was employed. There is, however, no record that this process was used in England, and one can only assume that his reference to wax came probably from his association with the Continent, where the process was used.

It has been stated that a few of the early English founders had some knowledge of the theory of correct design. The examples are mostly found in the Eastern Counties, and one can only assume that they may have gained a certain amount of knowledge by contact with Flemish founders, or by having paid visits to the Continent. One of the most renowned bells in East Anglia is the tenor at Lavenham, Suffolk, cast by Miles Graye, of Colchester, in 1625, and weighing about 24 cwt. This bell is almost perfectly correct in its tones. The curious thing, however, is that as good a founder as Miles Graye was, his bells are not consistent in quality, and one can therefore only assume that his knowledge was limited. My own opinion is that these early founders, like their successors, believed that all bells, irrespective of size or scale of thickness, could be designed on exactly the same lines. It is, of course, now known that this is not the case.

It is remarkable that in my own foundry no records exist in writing showing how the former founders arrived at their shape. This also applied to the Gloucester Foundry already mentioned, and the Hertford Foundry owned by John Bryant. Both these foundries were acquired by Whitechapel about 1825, and the only records which existed were the actual strickle boards. The only founder I know who left a record was William Dobson, of Downham, Norfolk, whose foundry eventually was merged into that of Whitechapel. He left a chart somewhat on the lines of the one shown in the French Encyclopedia, and the chart shows that his idea also was that every design was made on similar lines.

With all these early founders' products, it is noticeable that one or two bells are better than the others, and I think there is no doubt that they worked largely by rule-of-thumb methods.

I well remember as a small boy at home, looking at the old wooden strickle boards in the presence of the foreman moulder, and his remarking to me that those boards were the secret of the fame of Whitechapel bells. The foundry was at that time using metal strickles, which had been designed from the old wooden boards, then out of use, but evidently retained as original patterns.

We have now criticised the work and methods of the bygone founders, but it should not be inferred that all the old rings of bells in the country should be recast. There are still many old rings throughout the country which, despite technical faults, are regarded favourably, and the general effect in ringing is pleasing. It is also possible to retune many old peals, getting their fundamental notes correct, and their harmonic tones as nearly in line as possible, with satisfactory results. Unfortunately many good old peals have been recast for the sake of theoretical accuracy, whereas they should have been preserved as ranking amongst the best specimens of the bellfounders' art of the period.

UMPIRES FOR HANDBELL PEALS.

THEY ARE UNNECESSARY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—You ask if it is necessary to insist on umpires for handbell peals for the sake of the few people who ring false peals. I say it is not, and if we did have such a rule it would do more harm than good.

In the first place, how many ringers are really capable of seeing whether a peal is properly rung throughout? Very few, I think. It would be no good insisting that there should be umpires unless we insisted that they should be competent umpires, and who is going to do that? If people are capable of faking a peal they are capable of having a faked umpire. Even now half the umpires that are put in peal records are only fakes. Some friends of Mr. Jones meet at his house and start for a peal. Somewhere in another room Mrs. Jones is doing her household work. She can hear the ringing if she takes the trouble to listen, so she goes down in the report as the umpire, or, if the band is a bit fastidious, as the 'witness.' It doesn't do any harm, for people are not really deceived, but it is all a farce.

That sort of thing doesn't happen nowadays so much as it used to do, but it does happen, and it would be quite common if the rule were insisted on. The truth is that most bands could not get the services of a competent umpire for love or money, and they would be almost compelled to have sham umpires or drop peal attempts.

Even when they could get a real ringer to come and sit in the room while they are ringing, and even if they supplied him with the course-ends and the calling, the chances are that he would not know whether any particular change came up. All he would know would be that the ringing went on for so long without any serious trips, and that it seemed all right. And that is all that an ordinary ringer knows about a tower-bell peal he listens to outside or even that he takes part in himself.

If a handbell ringer changed his hands and put them right again after a lead or two, or a course or two, the average umpire would probably know nothing about it. Everything came out all right in the end, and so the peal must have been rung true.

There was an instance which affords a good illustration. Years ago the Cumberlands rang the first peal of Stedman Triples in hand. They had a first-class band and rang in the presence of many ringers well known at the time, including several College Youths. Afterwards William Cooler asserted that John Cox had shifted his pair for nearly a course and put them right just before the course-end. The point is that not one of the other witnesses could say what had happened, and to this day no one knows whether the College Youths or the Cumberlands have the honour of ringing the first peal of Stedman Triples on handbells. Both societies, I believe, still claim it.

I do not say that there are not many ringers who could, if they wished, properly umpire a peal, but they are not usually available.

In ordinary circumstances there are no more reasons why umpires should be insisted on for handbell peals than for tower-bell peals. Or, if you like to put it so, there is just as much necessity for umpires in tower-bell peals as there is in handbell peals. In either case the best safeguard is the honesty of the conductor and the band. And in both cases, if the truth is told, there are some men whose standards are not so high as they might be and as others' are.

HANDBELL RINGER.

THE FIRST PEAL OF LONDON.

Dear Sir,—I read with much interest your leading article of last week.

I am in full favour of the rule which the A.S.C.Y. have, that all handbell peals must have an umpire, but there is still another point to watch. When the first peal of London was rung on handbells, although there were two umpires, the truth was questioned by a certain London society. But when the fourth peal of London was to be attempted, the society were asked to send any two members they liked to umpire the peal, which was rung at Finsbury Pavement House, City, on July 20th, 1904, conducted by William Pye. The umpires were J. W. Golding and H. R. Pasmore, of the A.S.C.Y., also A. W. Brighton and A. T. King, of the Middlesex County Association.

E. W. PYE.

9, Park Villas,
Chadwell Heath.

SHIRLEY LADY RINGER MARRIED.

The marriage took place at Shirley Church, near Birmingham, on August 8th, between Miss Kathleen Morris, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Morris, of Shirley, and Lance-Corpl. J. Watts, R.A.C., of Bournville.

Both the bride and her father are members of the St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham. Mr. Arthur Morris is the popular Ringing Master at Shirley Church, and his daughter has made good progress in Minor ringing on the six bells in the tower.

After the ceremony, a reception was held, to which the Shirley ringers and friends were invited, and the opportunity was taken to wish the bride and bridegroom every happiness and prosperity.

A WEEK-END AT LEICESTER.

SUCCESSFUL HANDBELL MEETING.

In spite of present difficulties, a successful week-end of handbell ringing commenced on Saturday, August 1st, at 'The Wayside,' Narborough Road South, Leicester, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold J. Poole.

On Friday evening all those taking part assembled at 'The Wayside,' and the peals were duly arranged. The self-styled amateurs and professionals mixed very well indeed, and the 'try-out' was quite successful.

The first attempt was made after breakfast, and was a peal of Bob Major for the youngsters. After about an hour's ringing, a well-seasoned member of the band, who certainly should have known better, decided that second's place should not be made over the treble, and unfortunately it was not a case of a 'Bob Made Yer' do it, and in consequence somebody didn't dodge in 3-4 or 5-6 or 7-8. Well, no decent method will stand that messing about, and therefore we stopped. This was one of the important peals of the week-end, and further attempts would have to be made until the job was done.

In the afternoon a start was made for Stedman Caters and, after good ringing, the conductor decided that he wanted the treble where it certainly was not, and at the subsequent inquest a verdict was returned that by culpable negligence the said treble should have made a bob which was not called. Here, again, Fabian never intended the method to be 'mucked about' in that way, and that's why we stopped.

In the evening the old maxim, 'Third time pays for all,' was right, because a good peal of Stedman Cinques was rung. If the two previous attempts are regarded as rehearsals, then this peal is rightly described as the 'Opening Chorus.'

On the Sunday morning a further attempt was made for the 'Youngsters' Bob Major, and somewhere about half-way one of the professionals shifted one of his bells with one of the bells of one of the amateurs. Well, one couldn't expect the Amateur Association to stand for that, so again we stopped.

Another very special event was a handbell peal for the hostess. She had rung only one peal on handbells, and that was 22 years ago, when she rang the tenors to Grandsire Triples.

After tea, another Alf, who had bravely battled a thunderstorm on a cycle, joined the party, and a further attempt was made for Stedman Caters. Again, it was splendid ringing, and this time the turning course was negotiated without incident, but, alas! the conductor had not counted the bobs at five properly, and insisted on omitting one, in spite of strong representations to the contrary. Anyhow, as might be expected, the bell that should be in treble's place was not, and the one that was there shouldn't have been, so again we stopped. In accordance with the traditions of all good conductors, the blame was duly put on the unfortunate individual who showed the conductor the composition and told him that both halves were the same. Ah! the truth will out sometimes.

On Monday morning a further and successful attempt was made for the Bob Major. This just illustrates what practice will really do. Enid Richardson completed her first peal of Major, and the ringers duly extended their congratulations to her. This peal was also rung in celebration of Sergt. Pilot A. J. B. Wayman gaining his wings. Stedman Caters was arranged to be rung at the same time as this peal, but Old Joe the 'Rhythm King' failed to put in an appearance, and it was decided to start for Stedman Triples. This came to grief after about an hour, the band being told by the conductor that one really needed brains for such a peal to be successful.

In the afternoon a peal of Stedman Caters was given a good send-off by the siren sounding, and the 'All Clear' was heard above the roll of the 3rd course-end. Apart from some comments about the pace of the ringing, this peal was rung without incident.

(Continued in next column.)



MR. HAROLD J. POOLE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

JOINT MEETING AT RAWMARSH.

A joint meeting of the Southern District of the Yorkshire Association, the Sheffield and District Society, the Barnsley and District Society, and the Doncaster and District Society was held at Rawmarsh on Saturday, August 8th.

By kind permission of the Rector, Canon F. S. Scovell, the Church Room was available from 2 p.m. for handbells, etc.

Members were present from Sheffield Cathedral, St. Marie's, Rotherham, Felkirk, Eastwood, Handsworth, Eckington, and the local company. Welcome visitors were Sergt. Norman Chaddock, from Northampton, Pte. C. W. Woolley, from Bushey, and Pte. W. Kerr, from Finningley. An apology for absence was received from Mr. C. Haynes, Rammoor, who was indisposed.

A short service in the church was conducted by Canon Scovell, assisted by the Rev. Stephen Barker, curate, and an excellent tea was provided in the Church Room, at which 35 sat down.

At the business meeting, the chair was taken by the Rector, supported by Vice-President Mr. George Lewis, acting district hon. secretary, Mr. S. F. Palmer, of the Yorkshire Association, Mr. D. Smith, hon. secretary of the Barnsley and District Society, Mr. G. G. Graham, hon. secretary of the Sheffield and District Society, the Rev. Stephen Barker, curate, and Mr. W. Roberts, churchwarden.

Mr. T. C. Ryder, speaking with emotion, paid a glowing tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Albert Nash, of Rotherham, whose sudden death, at the age of 56 years, came as a great shock a few days previously. Mr. Nash had worked his way up from youth to become manager of the coke ovens of the Wath Main Colliery Company. Although he suffered terrible injuries to his hands by an explosion in his early days, he had supreme control of his rope and handbells, and became master of the art. He rang upwards of 200 peals, many of which he conducted. As a conductor and sound ringer, he was held in the greatest respect by everyone with whom he came in contact. He was a staunch and loyal member of the Yorkshire Association and kindred societies for nearly 40 years, and his place will be very difficult to fill.

The place and date of the next meeting was deferred until next springtime, the arrangements being left in the hands of the hon. district secretary.

Mr. S. F. Palmer stated that a notice of motion had been passed at Selby whereby the financial year end in the future would be on December 31st instead of September 30th. The committee considered it would ensure a greater representation at the annual general meeting in the spring than in January as at present. The motion would come up for ratification at the next general meeting.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the Rector for his interesting address on 'The Silence of the Bells' at the service and for his presence at the tea and meeting, and also to Mrs. F. C. Wilson and the ladies for so kindly providing the tea.

Canon Scovell said he was pleased to find that the interest of the association was being maintained by the members, and gave them a hearty welcome to Rawmarsh. He assured them they could come again, and hoped the next time the bells would send forth their joyous sounds of victory.

The Rev. Stephen Barker and Mr. W. Roberts also expressed their appreciation of the good work done by the association and the members individually.

Mr. M. E. Wilson (Sheffield Cathedral) was elected a member of the district committee in place of Mr. A. Nash.

A collection in aid of the Bell Repair Fund amounted to £1 1s.

An adjournment was then made to the tower, when silent touches of Plain Bob, Treble Bob and Grandsire Triples were brought round to the enjoyment of everyone. It was a very successful meeting.

HALE, CHESHIRE.—On Saturday, August 8th, at 6, Stanway Drive, 1,392 Bob Major: David Vincent 1-2, Gordon G. Vincent 3-4, Allen F. Bailey (conductor) 5-6, Alan J. Brown 7-8.—On Sunday, courses of Grandsire Caters, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Major were also rung, with Mrs. D. Vincent, John J. and Peter D. Vincent taking part.

A WEEK-END AT LEICESTER.

(Continued from previous column.)

In the evening a peal of Bob Major came to grief after about one hour's ringing. This time the conductor admitted very meekly, 'I've missed a bob.' Here was clearly an open confession by the conductor. Who now says a conductor will never admit being wrong? The second eleven were more successful with a peal of Stedman Caters, Alf really doing his stuff well.

Tuesday morning came with the reparture of Alf, and then a start for Bob Major as a grand finale. Bob Royal had been arranged, but for some reason yet unknown George Stedman—the son of Josiah—failed to come.

Details of the peals rung during the week-end were published last week.

H. J. P.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—Meeting at St. Mary's, Finchley, on Saturday, August 22nd, at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Six-tower bells for silent ringing, also handbells. — T. J. Lock, 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Kibworth on August 22nd. Ringing (8 bells, silent) at 3 p.m. Service at 4.40 p.m., followed by tea.—Herbert W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—The annual general meeting will be held on Saturday, August 29th, at 3 p.m., in the Vestry Hall, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London. Handbells from 3 to 4 p.m. Business meeting at 4 and tea in the canteen at 1s. per head, 6 p.m. Tea can only be provided for those who notify me not later than August 24th. Please bring own sugar.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec., 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—The next meeting will be at Springfield on Saturday, August 29th. Ringing on 'silent' bells and handbells from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea and business meeting after. All who require tea must notify me by Thursday, August 27th.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, August 29th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at Winchester on Saturday, August 29th. Executive Committee meeting 2.30. General meeting at 3.15, followed by tea; all at Dumper's Restaurant, High Street. Handbells available. Service in Cathedral at 5.15. All ringers and visitors welcomed. All those requiring tea must let me know by Wednesday, 26th.—F. W. Rogers, Hon. Gen. Sec., 35, Carisbrooke Road, Milton, Portsmouth.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Monthly meeting at Wollaston (p.v.), Saturday, August 29th, 3 p.m. Bells (6) available ('silent'). Tea 5.30 p.m. Handbells and social evening to follow.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—A meeting will be held at Stratton on Saturday, August 29th. Handbells, etc., from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Kindly notify early for tea. Suitable local train service.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, August 29th.—Handbells 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Calverley on Saturday, August 29th. Handbells in the schools from 3 p.m. Business meeting at 4.30 p.m. A good attendance is requested.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Claines on Saturday, September 5th. Tower bells available at 3 p.m. (silent ringing). Service in church at 4.15 p.m., followed by business meeting. Further ringing afterwards.—Ernest F. Cubberley, Branch Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

CROSS.—The address of Instructor Lieut. R. G. Cross is now Sunwayes, 27, Neville Avenue, Hove, Sussex. Tel. Hove 4743.

FOR SALE.

SET OF TWELVE HANDBELLS in C. Size 15. Price £10.—Sandriggs, Aldershot, Hants.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT LAW FORD.**

Eight towers—Great Bentley, Thorington, Mistley, Dedham, Ipswich, Rushmere, Sudbury and Halstead—were represented at the meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association, held at Lawford on August 1st.

Handbells were made good use of from an early hour until 8 p.m. and many methods were rung from Minor to Royal. A choral service in the church at 4.15 was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. C. E. Fynes Clinton, who gave an interesting address. Miss Hilda Snowdon was at the organ.

Mr. Charles J. Sedgley presided over the business meeting at the Ogilvie Hall, and referred to the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith and the great work he had done. A suggestion from the Suffolk Guild to hold a joint meeting at Stratford St. Mary on September 12th was agreed to.

St. Michael's, Coslany. On Monday November 19th 1792 was rung by a select company 1792 changes of that ingenious Peal call'd Norwich Court Bob, the masterly performance of which did great credit to the company and afforded much pleasure to those who understand and admire that art.

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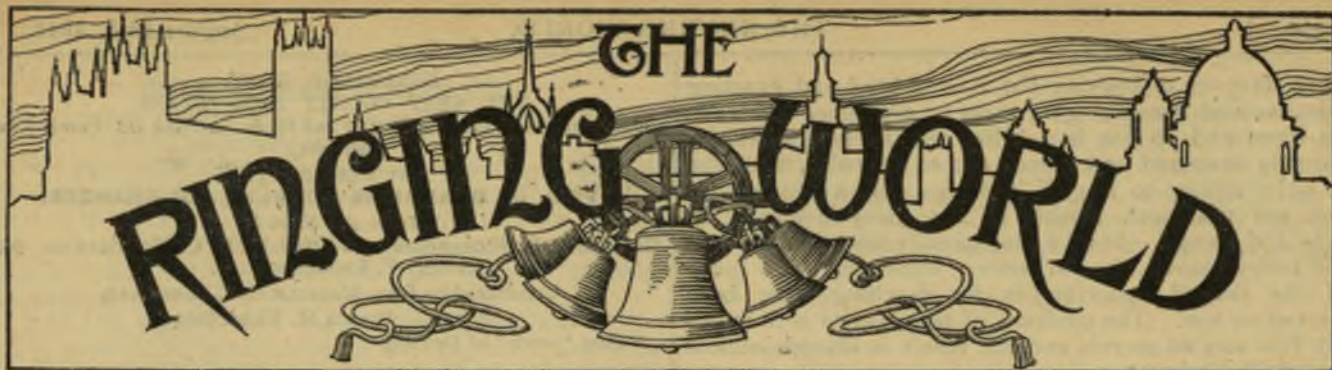
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FRIDAY, AUGUST 28th, 1942.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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These famous bell-founding firms have kindly consented to this adaptation of their advertisements to meet the pressure on our space, due to the compulsory reduction in the number of our pages this week.

PROPAGANDA.

Which is the best way to secure recruits for the belfry? That we shall need them no one doubts. There will be not only the wastage caused by death and retirement, but also the shortage due to these years of inactivity. Something will have to be done, and as Captain R. W. Daniels wrote, it will not be by sitting down and bemoaning our difficulties. Action is called for, but what?

A week or two ago a correspondent suggested an ambitious and grandiose scheme intended to create general and national interest in change ringing. It included a campanological film, the employment of a popular author to write a novel, a series of lectures, and other things. Perhaps it is unnecessary to debate whether or how far these things would serve their object, for the cost would be enormous and there is not the least likelihood that the money would be forthcoming.

Other people, more modest in their ideas and with a greater sense of reality, advise an intensive campaign within the parish where the recruits are needed. Get the parson to call a parish meeting, they say, and give lectures explaining what change ringing is with hand-bell illustrations. Leave the belfry door open and invite visitors to come and see the ringers at work. Do everything to make ringing attractive and to create and stimulate people's interest in it.

No doubt there is much good advice in all this, and no doubt in many places something of the sort will be tried and not without some measure of success. In any case, whether recruits are needed or not, it is a good thing to have the help and co-operation of the clergy and church officials, and to interest the general congregation in the work of the belfry.

Yet it is very doubtful if this sort of propaganda is really the best way of overcoming the difficulties due to shortage of recruits, which will have to be faced when the bells are rung once more. We have been told what happened at Beckenham as the result of a campaign. It was a complete failure and a disappointment. Perhaps the people there were exceptionally unlucky, though Beckenham is just the sort of place where an experiment of this kind might be expected to have a good chance of success.

The truth is that what we want is not a lot of recruits, but a comparatively small number of the right sort of recruits, and we very much doubt if they are to be had by general advertisement and propaganda. Change ringing is a highly technical and specialised pursuit. It calls for much and long training. It has

(Continued on page 390.)

many favours to bestow, but it is a hard and exacting mistress and does not give them to everyone. There is no room and no use in a belfry for the person who is casually attracted and comes out of curiosity, and who is quite willing to ring if it means only a few lessons and not too much trouble or too many demands on time and energy. Such a one speedily loses interest and the belfry knows him no more. Meanwhile, too much of the limited opportunities for teaching have been wasted on him. The tendency of propaganda is to multiply this sort of recruit and the result is disappointment and disillusionment.

The problem of the recruit has always been with us, and it always will be, because the right sort of recruit is rare. Naturally, it will be more acute when peace comes, for there will be more leeway to make up, but it will be no different in kind from what it always has been.

All means should be tried, even propaganda, but the chief thing is always to be on the look out for the right sort, and when he is found to give him all the attention and encouragement possible. The other sort are only a hindrance and a nuisance and are scarcely worth wasting any time on.

HANDBELL PEALS.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, August 13th, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

AT GLYN GARTH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13 in E.

MRS. E. A. BARNETT ... 1-2 | EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 5-6
RUPERT RICHARDSON ... 3-4 | MRS. R. RICHARDSON ... 7-8

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, August 16, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

(HOLT'S ORIGINAL.)

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

Conducted by J. THOMAS.

* 60th peal together.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(OXFORD CITY BRANCH.)

On Monday, August 17, 1942, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT HERTFORD COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in D flat.

*PETER C. GIBBS ... 1-2 | MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 5-6
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 3-4 | JOHN E. SPICE ... 7-8

Composed by W. HOWLETT. Conducted by Miss M. R. CROSS.

* First peal of Major.

SUNDRIDGE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 17, 1942, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT BEECHCROFT,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

BRENDA M. RICHARDSON ... 1-2 | *MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON ... 5-6
DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON ... 3-4 | REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE ... 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by Rev. M. C. C. MELVILLE.

Witness—Christine J. Richardson.

* First peal 'inside.'

SUNDRIDGE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday and Tuesday, August 17 and 18, in One Hour and Twenty-Two Minutes,

AT BEECHCROFT,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13 in F.

*MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON 1-2 | REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE ... 3-4

*DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON ... 5-6

Conducted by REV. MALCOLM C. C. MELVILLE.

Witness—Brenda M. Richardson.

* First 'touch' of Doubles.

SUNDRIDGE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, August 18, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

AT BEECHCROFT,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*CHRISTINE J. RICHARDSON 1-2 | MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON ... 5-6

DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON 3-4 | REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE ... 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE.

* First peal, aged 13 years 2 months, her previous longest length of Major being 224 changes.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, August 20, 1942, in Two Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

(HOLT'S ORIGINAL.)

*REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE 1-2 | JOHN THOMAS ... 5-6

MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 3-4 | PHILLIP A. CORBY ... 7-8

Conducted by J. THOMAS.

* First peal of Grandsire Triples 'in hand.' † First peal 'in hand.'

LONDON.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, August 21, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty-two Minutes,

AT 2, SEAMORE PLACE, CURZON STREET, W.1,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE GATERS, 5021 CHANGES;

EDWIN H. LEWIS ... 1-2 | JOHN THOMAS ... 5-6

EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 3-4 | REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE ... 7-8

EDWIN BARNETT ... 9-10

Composed by FRED G. MAY. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

Witness—Mrs. E. A. Barnett.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT FINCHLEY.

The members of the North and East District of the Middlesex County Association and their friends, who attended the meeting at St. Mary's, Finchley, on Saturday last, were welcomed to the church and tower by the new Rector, the Rev. Michael Ridley. Most of the 35 people present thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity of being able to have a pull at the rope's end of a tower bell, although greater satisfaction would have been derived had the lashings been taken from the clappers. However, courses or touches of Doubles and Plain, Treble Bob and Surprise Minor were successfully (and apparently easily) brought round. Handbells were also put to good use and the usual variety of methods rung on them.

The tea, provided by a group of local ladies, was excellent, in fact no one could ever have thought that there was a war on.

At the business meeting the chair was taken by Vice-President J. A. Trollope, who thanked the Rector for his cordial welcome and expressed pleasure at the opportunity of introducing to him the activities of the association. The meeting stood in silence as a mark of respect to the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, to whom tributes of his good work and character were made by Messrs. A. W. Coles and W. H. Hewett.

Mrs. E. A. Barnett was elected a ringing member of the association, and the following provisional elections as life members were confirmed: Messrs. A. N. Tyler (Bristol), K. S. B. Croft (Lincoln) and T. W. Lewis (Worcester). It was decided to hold the next district meeting at Kilburn within the next two months. The current item of interest concerning umpires for handbell peals was discussed, and whilst the majority of speakers agreed that such a person was advisable, they also clearly indicated that the scheme was not practical. A definition of 'umpire' was called for.

GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.**THE NEED AND USE OF SINGLES.**

(Continued from page 381.)

We have seen that when we are composing a peal of Grandsire Triples we must start with either 72 P Blocks or 120 B Blocks, and, in either case, the furthest we can go with bobs only is to join together all the available blocks except one. For the final link we need the help of singles.

Now, as soon as we realise that singles are necessary, there is no great point in delaying their use until the last moment of all. John Holt had a reason for doing so in the Original, but in a modern peal the two blocks produced by bobs only can within limits be of any size we please. Instead of trying to group all the rows into one big block and then adding to it by means of singles what are left over at the end, we could build up the two blocks simultaneously. Not only so, but we should probably want to have our peal in regular parts, and that would introduce many problems of composition with which at the present we are not concerned.

At least two singles are necessary in every peal, and often in order to obtain certain qualities it is necessary to use more than two, but always (with a possible exception we will refer to later) the operation is the same—each pair of singles joins together two blocks.

From the very earliest times in Grandsire Triples the composer has always been allowed the choice of two kinds of singles; one of them is the in-course single which does not alter the regular succession of the nature of the rows; the other is the 'ordinary' single which turns the nature of the handstrokes from odd to even, and the nature of the backstrokes from even to odd. Both kinds of singles are made in the change when the treble strikes the backstroke blow of its whole pull on the lead. The difference between the two is shown by the following:—

In-course.	Ordinary.
1325476	1325476
1235476	1324567

In no other method but Grandsire Triples (and those Triples methods which for purposes of composition are practically identical with it) does the Exercise allow the use of more than one kind of single. There have been cases (Stedman Triples is the outstanding example) where at one time irregular singles were used, because men did not know how to get true peals without them. But as soon as peals with ordinary singles were composed the others became obsolete and fell into disuse. This has happened to some extent in Grandsire Triples. The in-course single is still allowed, but of late years has more and more fallen into disuse, and we must turn to the kindred methods, such as Oxford Bob Triples, Court Bob Triples, Double Grandsire Triples and the like, to see that the in-course single is a real necessity and not a mere makeshift.

Both kinds of singles differ from those used in other methods by the fact that they are not made in the same change as the bobs are. The ordinary Grandsire single is made at backstroke after a bob has been made at handstroke in the previous change. We usually consider the work in the two changes as the single and for purposes of practical ringing that is the best way. But in composition the bob and the single are separate opera-

tions. The bob is a member of a particular Q Set and must be so regarded when we are considering the truth of the composition. In theory the singles could be made either with or without the preceding bob. When in-course singles are used they may be made either at a bob-lead or at a plain-lead, but custom has never allowed ordinary singles to be made other than at a bob-lead.

A	B
3152746	3152746
1357264	1325476
1352746	1324567
3157264	3125476
C	D
3152746	3152746
1357264	1325476
1537246	1235476
5132764	2134567

A is the ordinary Grandsire single in which a bob is first made at handstroke and the actual single at the following backstroke.

B is the same single without the bob being made. In theory this is equally valid to A, but in practice is never allowed.

C is the in-course bob-single as used in Holt's and C. D. P. Davies' 10-part peals of Grandsire and J. J. Parker's peals of Oxford Bob, Court Bob, etc.

D is the in-course plain-lead-single as used in Holt's six-part peal of Grandsire Triples.

(To be continued.)

AN ESSEX BELL FOUNDER.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I was greatly interested in the article on the Bells of Lewes, as it states that John Tonne worked in Sussex and Essex. I had previously been under the impression that the famous Miles Graye was the only man who had cast bells in Essex.

The article says that John Tonne removed to Thaxted, Essex, somewhere about 1536, but does not state whether he cast Thaxted bells, although it states he cast bells within a radius of 24 miles.

Thaxted are an excellent peal. I conducted a peal of Double Norwich on them several years ago, and just as I called the last bob at 6, the tenor rope slipped wheel, but owing to the skilful handling by the late Mr. Head, of Chelmsford, we were able to finish the peal.

Although Thaxted is now only a small town, it must at one time have been an industrial area, judging from its magnificent church, which is one of the glories of Essex.

Colchester.

W. KEEBLE.

WEDDING OF MISS DORIS UPTON.

On August 5th, at St. Mary's Church, Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight, Miss Doris Upton, younger daughter of Mr. W. Upton, Master of the Isle of Wight District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, and Mrs. Upton, of Hilltop, St. John's Road, Newport, was married to Mr. Herbert Brown, the Rev. Ewbank officiating.

Owing to the ban no church bells could be rung, but at the reception which followed at Weeks' Cafe, Grandsire Triples were rung on handbells by Mrs. A. M. Guy, Dr. J. B. Williamson, Mr. W. Upton and Mr. W. Scott.

BELL FITTINGS NEED ATTENTION.

The majority of steeplekeepers and ringers think, if they have a ring of bells hung on up-to-date principles, with cast-iron stocks and iron frames bolted down to steel girders, they do not require to give any attention except to lubricate the main bearings, and sometimes shift a rope up and down an inch, and later on splice it. This is not quite the case, for no matter how good the job is and how careful the bellhanger has been in his work, nuts will slack back.—The Central Council.

IN PRAISE OF RINGING.—Among the many recreations approved of by the sons of pleasure, ringing is a diversion which may be emphatically said to bear away the bell.—Dr. Kennicott, A.D. 1742.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

We are pleased to hear from Mr. Albert Walker that his operation has been completely successful, and by the time these words are read he should be out of the nursing home and back home again. He wishes to thank all the friends who have sent him messages of sympathy and good wishes.

We congratulate Miss Christine Richardson on her first peal, which is recorded this week. Miss Richardson is the fourth daughter of the late Rev. H. S. T. Richardson, and by ringing 1-2 to Bob Major at the age of 13 years and two months, she beat her sister Dorothy, who rang her first peal at the age of 13 years and 8 months.

Congratulations to Mr. R. T. Woodley, who will reach his 83rd birthday to-morrow. Mr. Woodley, who now lives at Lowestoft, was hon. secretary of the Ancient Society of College Youths before the late W. T. Cockerill. He still takes a keen interest in the doings of the society.

Last Friday was the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Rev. Maitland Kelly, who was for many years an influential member of the Exercise and the Central Council, although he had few pretensions as a practical ringer. He took part in the first 120 known to have been rung in Devon.

The second peal of Stedman Caters 5,184 changes, was rung by the Cumberland Youths at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, on August 23rd, 1788.

On the same date in 1919 a peal of Double Court Bob Royal was rung at Surfleet. It was the first and only one in the variation which has the places made in 5-6 only.

Henry Hubbard was born at Norwich on August 25th, 1807.

On August 26th, 1718, the first peal definitely known to have been true was rung at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich.

On the same date in 1908 the first peal of Original Major was rung at Ranmoor, Sheffield, and in 1939 the first of Spliced Stedman and Erin Triples by the Hertford Association.

Mr. H. G. Cashmore called the first peal of Sedburgh Surprise Major at Aldenham on August 27th, 1938, and on August 27th, 1912, Matthew A. Wood, for so many years a leading London ringer, died at the age of 87.

The record peal of Cambridge Surprise Major, 12,896 changes, was rung at Stoney Stanton on August 28th, 1923. Mr. Harold J. Poole conducted.

The first peal of Clarendon Surprise Major was rung at Norbury, Cheshire, on August 30th, 1926, and on August 31st, 1935, the first peal of Beaconsfield Surprise was rung at Beaconsfield.

The record handbell peal, 19,738 changes of Stedman Caters, was rung at Guildford on August 31st, 1912.

Rear Admiral T. P. Walker, the first admiral since Francis Geary in the 18th century to be a member of the Exercise, died ten years ago yesterday.

Fifty years ago yesterday three peals were rung. One was Grand-sire Triples, one Bob Triples, and one Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

GOOD NEWS OF MR. G. V. MURPHY.

Geoffrey V. Murphy, of Crayford tower, who was reported missing in the Middle East on June 1st, is now known to be safe and a prisoner in Italy. No further details are known at present.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES. THE ST. ALBANS CARILLON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your issue of 'The Ringing World' of August 14th you have made a mistake in the maker of the St. Albans chimes contained in Mr. Morris' article. May I correct same?

The maker of the chime barrel or carillon, built about 1880, was Mr. John Godman, who by profession was a land surveyor. He was also parish clerk and rate collector for St. Stephen's parish, St. Albans. He was a very clever man, nothing coming amiss. He built an organ for a Mr. Boff, who was the blind organist of Aldenham Church. The organ was afterwards purchased for St. Stephen's Church and was in use from 1862 to 1882, when it was sold to the Wesleyan authorities of Redbourn, and has only just recently been dismantled. Sir Edmund Beckett, afterwards Lord Grimthorpe, was greatly interested in Mr. Godman, and Sir Edmund Beckett, possessing a faculty for restoring the Abbey, in all probability paid and encouraged Mr. Godman in his work. The tunes played are as follows:—

Sunday: 'O worship the King'—Tune, 'Hanover.' 'Holy, holy, holy'—Tune, 'Nicene.'

Monday: 'Life let us cherish'—Traditional Melody.

Tuesday: 'Blue bells of Scotland.'

Wednesday: 'Jesus, Tender Shepherd'—Tune, 'Sicilian Mariners.'

Thursday: 'My lodging is on the cold, cold ground'—Irish Melody.

Friday: 'Jesus, my Lord, my God, my all'—Tune, 'Stella.'

Saturday: 'Home, sweet home.'

The machine is situated on the bell floor, immediately above the ringing chamber, the floor of which is 100ft. above the Cathedral floor. The chimes play every third hour of the day (before the war).

G. W. CARTMEL.

Duffield, Russell Avenue, St. Albans.

BERTRAM PREWETT.

A GREAT PEAL RINGER.

The first great war took a long and sad toll of the ringers of England, and among those who lost their lives none left quite so great a gap as Bertram Prewett, who was killed on the last day of August, 1918, little more than two months before the final victory. He had gone to the great base hospital at Etaples for medical treatment, and was caught in an air raid.



BERTRAM PREWETT.

Before the war he had been one of the most active and enthusiastic of peal ringers in the country, and it looked as if before his ringing career was ended he would surpass everybody in the number of his peals. Combined with an extraordinary skill in ringing he had a very attractive personality and was popular throughout the Exercise.

Bertram Prewett was born on October 12th, 1878, at Hampstead, and was educated at Watford Grammar School and King's College, London. He learned to ring at Oxhey in 1897 under the tuition of Mr. George Price and scored his first peal on March 28th, 1898. When he died in his fortieth year he had rung about 950 peals, among them the 18,027 Stedman Caters at Loughborough and the first of Cambridge Maximus. He did not live to see and take part in the great advance in method ringing, but at the time his list was a very fine one and included 56 peals of London Surprise Major. He did not usually ring a big bell, but he rang the tenors at St. Patrick's, Dublin, St. Giles', Cripplegate, and St. Sepulchre's, Holborn, to peals. He represented the Hertford County Association on the Central Council.

THAXTED BELLS.

The following account of Thaxted bells was written about forty years ago by the Rev. G. E. Symonds, at the time the Vicar of the parish:—

In 1778 it appears there were only six bells, and the tenor through carelessness on the part of one of the ringers having become injured, it was determined to take it down, and as its weight was 22 cwt. to take some from it and from one of the other bells to recast and make a new tenor and three new bells. This was done and three—tenor, 1 and 2—were maiden bells. Then came out the eight bells, and more beautiful ones are not to be found in Essex.

The treble, 2nd, 3rd and tenor are by Mears and Co., 1778; the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th are by Thomas Gardiner, of Sudbury, 1734. The weight of the tenor is given in Messrs. Mears and Stainbank's list as 17 cwt.

UMPIRES FOR HANDBELL PEALS.

OLD QUESTIONS ASKED AGAIN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—From time to time the old arguments on ringing matters are resuscitated with varying vigour, but always, so it seems to me, with the same result, that no definite conclusion is reached.

Such a one we have now before us in the renewed discussion on the necessity, or desirability, of umpires for handbell peals. To those who advocate the necessity of umpires I would ask the same old question that has been asked many times before, one which 'Handbell Ringer' touches on in the last paragraph of his letter in this week's 'Ringing World,' 'Why should it be deemed necessary to have an umpire for a handbell peal and not for a tower bell peal?' I would ask also 'Does a conductor of a handbell peal lose all sense of what is right and what is wrong as soon as he sits down with a couple of handbells in his hands?' 'Does he cast off the cloak of honesty which he is credited with wearing whilst conducting at the end of a rope and don a cloak of dishonesty when he discards the rope for the leather strap?'

Although my record of handbell peals is numerically small compared to those of some ringers, I think that I can claim to have had a fairly wide experience in handbell ringing and conducting, and of all that I have rung (some with umpires and some without) I do not know of any of which I need be ashamed.

A TOUCH OF JEALOUSY?

I often wonder whether there is not just a little tinge of jealousy in the protestations of the non-handbell ringer. I remember having a discussion on this subject of umpires with an old Yorkshire ringer, an old and highly respected friend of mine. The old arguments for and against were voiced and as quickly swept aside; then when it seemed that we had almost reached a stalemate, my friend asked, 'Why should I have to stand and ring a tower bell for three hours to get a peal whilst you can sit and ring a handbell peal in two hours, and both count the same?' To me that question showed at least one of the places where the shoe was pinching.

Personally I cannot see why the accuracy of a reported handbell peal should be doubted because it is not umpired whilst a tower bell peal is accepted without comment. Surely no band is going to claim a peal that they have not attempted to ring. After all, the only people who get any satisfaction out of a peal are those who ring in it, and there is precious little satisfaction in a bad peal either on hand or tower. A conductor who deliberately 'cooks' a handbell peal is just as liable to 'cook' a peal on tower bells; it is, therefore, only logic that a compulsory umpire for one calls for a compulsory umpire for the other, and if the uncertified ringing of a tower bell peal is accepted it is an imposition to demand that a handbell peal must be attested. I think that in the absence of any recognised rule as to what constitutes a true peal, it can safely be left to both ringers and conductors to do the right thing. If there are any who wish to claim a worthless performance let them do so. In any case they will do the same whether the peal is rung on hand or in the tower.

When our handbell band was formed in Leeds, just after the last war, there was just a bare four of us, but we had the services of a first rate umpire for two or three years, a man who could check the coursing orders of the standard methods with unfailing accuracy; since then, however, we have rarely had sufficient members to allow us the privilege of an umpire. Had it been compulsory that all handbell peals should be umpired, many of the peals which we have rung would never have been started.

A STANDARD.

My good friend and colleague, Mr. Percy Johnson, who was really the founder of the band and with whom I must have rung round about eighty or ninety handbell peals, set a standard which has governed all our handbell attempts. He always laid it down that if two or more bells got down to lead in a wrong order the ringing must stop, and, umpire or no umpire, that has always been our rule.

If due regard is paid to striking, and some similar standard is voluntarily imposed by the ringers themselves, we need not worry that the quality of peals will deteriorate. A system of compulsory umpires does not necessarily improve the standard of ringing, it only penalises those handbell bands who are capable of ringing good peals but are unable to get a qualified umpire, and unless the umpire is qualified the whole thing becomes a farce.

I fail to see how the presence of an unqualified umpire, and by that I mean one who cannot watch and check the coursing order of the bells from start to finish, in any way guarantees that a true peal has been rung.

W. BARTON.

9, Pembroke Road, Pudsey.

THE UNIVERSITY SOCIETIES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Unless my memory is at fault, I have, in recent months, seen reports of two peals rung jointly by members of the Cambridge University Guild and the Oxford University Society. As it has been my privilege to be intimately associated with both these societies, I naturally find this evidence of fraternal co-operation most gratifying.

There is, however, one point which seems to me to require further consideration. The publication of peals under the heading of two societies would appear to be rather unsatisfactory, for they have no claim to a place in the peal records of either. When ringers from a number of different areas meet together for peal ringing it is the usual custom to credit the peals to the County or Diocesan Association in which area they were rung, and this, I would humbly suggest, is a reasonable practice and one worthy of continuation.

I confess that I am somewhat uncertain regarding the rules of the O.U.S.C.R. regarding peal recording, but I do know that it has always been a hard and fast rule of the C.U.G.C.R. that no peal might be recorded for the Guild in which any non-member of the university took part. Reference to this rule at an early date is to be found in the Jubilee History of the Guild, compiled by the late Rev. B. H. Tyrwhitt-Drake, with reference to the wish of the late Rev. F. E. Robinson to ring a peal for the Guild. The rule was again upheld by all the members present on the Guild Week in 1936, when an attempt was made for Cambridge Major at Wokingham by seven members of the C.U.G.C.R. and the president of the O.U.S.C.R., and it was decided that should the peal be scored it would be credited to the Oxford Diocesan Guild.

I hope it will not be thought that I am in any way critical of the union of forces for peal ringing; far from it, for I consider it a practice worthy of every encouragement. I do think, however, that considerations of peal recording and analysis make it advisable to record peals for one society, as is the usual custom.

R. D. St. J. SMITH, C.F.

Heanor, Derbyshire.

WELL-KNOWN BRISTOL RINGERS MARRIED

On Saturday, August 15th, at St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol, the wedding took place of Dr. E. S. J. Hatcher, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. P. S. Hatcher, of Wincanton, Somerset, and Miss K. O. Rawlins, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Rawlins, of Hanford, Stoke-on-Trent. The bride was given away by her brother, Mr. P. A. Rawlins, and was attended by Miss Betsy Stone, friend, and Miss Joan Rawlins, sister. The best man was Sgt. P. A. Hatcher, R.A.F., brother of the bridegroom. Prebendary W. E. Hodgson, Rector of Wincanton, officiated, assisted by Canon S. E. Swann, Vicar of St. Mary's. The service was choral and Mr. Ralph Morgan was at the organ.

The bride and bridegroom are both ringers and were members of the band at SS. Philip and Jacob's, Bristol. The bridegroom was also well known in the tower of Clifton Parish Church, and is now a member of the band of All Saints', Maidstone, Kent.

At the reception Miss Annie Brown, of St. Philip's, Mr. H. S. Gregory and his son, Mr. Hedley Gregory, of Clifton Parish Church, and the bridegroom rang a short touch on handbells.

The happy pair were the recipients of many presents and spent the honeymoon near Minehead.

A BIRMINGHAM BELL FOUNDER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Messrs. F. C. Smale and R. H. Dove re Blews, of Birmingham, Mr. H. B. Walters in 'Church Bells of Warwickshire' states the following: 'William Blews and Sons. This firm was established in the 'sixties and for about twenty years carried on business with much success, turning out some excellent bells. Their masterpiece is certainly the recasting of the great tenor at Brailes, with its admirable reproduction of the old inscription. There is also a ring of five by them at Avon Dassett (1869) and eight of the same date at Bishop Ryder's Church, Birmingham. Their inscriptions are always in Modern Gothic of a very fair type. In 1887 the foundry came to an end with the death of William Blews on January 30th, and the business was sold to Mr. Charles Carr.'

E. V. RODENHURST.

Prees Green, Salop.

SUNDRIDGE, KENT.—On August 18th, at Beecherof, 1.344 Bob Major rung silent: Monica J. F. Richardson 1-2, Rev. M. C. C. Melville 3-4, Brenda M. Richardson 5-6, Dorothy T. Richardson 7-8. Witness, Christine J. Richardson.

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CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 368.)

No account of chimes would be complete without reference to the 'Jacks of the Clock-house,' those quaint and picturesque figures which have—for the most part—been carrying on their duties faithfully for maybe two or three centuries regularly striking their little bells to denote the flight of time. To this day these automata are known as *jacquemarts*, one theory ascribing the origin to the name *Jacque-Mart*, a clock and lock maker of Lille, who was employed by the Duke of Burgundy in 1442. It may be, however, that the appellation is merely a corruption of *Jacomarchiadus*, meaning a man in a suit of armour. During the Middle Ages it was customary to have as sentries mailed men on the belfries of towers and castles, to give warning of the approach of an enemy, or other untoward event.

The earliest use of the bells as indicators of the flight of time was probably due to the canonical hours in the monasteries. Eight times a day the *signum*, or tower bell, rang out to summon the monks to prayer. At midnight 'Matins' was said; at three in the morning, 'Lauds'; at six, 'Prime'; at nine, 'Tierce'; 'Sext' followed at noon; and 'Nones' at three; in the afternoon 'Vespers' at six; and the day closed with 'Compline' at nine.

Thus every three hours throughout the day and night the Abbey bell was heard, not only in the cell and cloister, but also in the streets of the town, or in the scattered cottages of the hamlet that lay around the religious houses.

The very early connection between bells and clocks is, however, clearly indicated by the word for bell in German and in French. The earliest church bells were not actually sounded mechanically by the horologe, but rung by hand at stated times. In 1354 there is a continental record of a *campanaris* or *klokkemist*, a man appointed to perform such a task. Before any automaton or puppet struck the bells by machinery a human *Jantje* or 'town Johnnie' would ascend the tower at regular intervals and sound the hours. This person occupied himself in his spare time with sweeping the market-place, and was classed among the most menial civil servants. During the latter half of the 14th century the advance made in horology brought the weight-driven clock to a state of development that permitted its use in towers. The time was marked by performing figures, the beating of drums, the crowing of cocks, the blowing of horns, and eventually by the striking of alarum bells of the town by an elaborate piece of machinery. This meant a much more frequent use of bells, which long before dials were introduced were struck at regular intervals by puppets or Jacks. Clocks in homes were virtually unknown, so that Jacks were regarded as of considerable importance, and soon won a place in the affection of the people. Examples of Jacks can still be found in the Netherlands at the *Stadhuizen* of s'Hertogenbosch and Heusden; and the *Waag* of Alkmaar, where they ride horses; and at the *gasthuis* of Zalt-Bommel, where a trumpet is blown. In England, a favourite device consisted of the mechanical figure of a man, who, equipped with a hammer or battle-axe, struck the hours and quarters on one or more bells. An apt description of such figures says:—

'Sometimes he appeared in knightly panoply with mace, maul, or axe in hand, ready to proclaim the flight of time upon the sonorous bell which hung near the venerable clock. Occasionally he stood forth in state hovering in nudity, his only garment being a wreath of foliage about his loins, and having a goodly club for a weapon. Hence some people called him "Hercules," while others denominated him "the savage," or "wild man," the "Saracen," the "giant"; but everybody knew him by the common appellation of "Jack of the clock-house."'

The old clock of St. Paul's, London, was furnished with Jacks to strike the hours, which are spoken of by Dekker as 'Paul's Jacks,' who, writing in the year 1609, says, 'The great dial is your last Monument; where bestow some half of the three-score minutes to observe the sauciness of the Jacks that are above the Man in the Moon: the strangeness of their motion will quit your labour.' Paul's Jacks perished with the old Cathedral in the year 1666.

From 1671 the Jacks at St. Dunstan's, Fleet Street, to which Cowper alludes in his 'Table Talk,' formed one of the regular sights of London.

'When labour and when dullness, club in hand,

Like the two figures at S. Dunstan's, stand

Beating alternately, in measured time.

The clockwork tintinnabulum of rhyme,

Exact and regular the sounds will be:

But such mere quarter-strokes are not for me.'

It appears by the Parish Book that on May 18th, 1671, Thomas Harrys made an offer to build a new clock *with chimes*, and erect two figures of men with pole-axes to strike the quarters. His offer was accepted, with the exception of the chimes, and on October 28th in the same year, at the completion of his task, he was voted the sum of £4 per annum to keep it in repair. These famous giants remained there until 1829, when the figures were sold to the Marquis of Hertford, who erected them outside his villa in Regents Park. Recently they were restored to their original place at St. Dunstan's, where they now carry on their work of marking the fleeting hours, as they did in olden days.

Two fine Jacks are to be found in Suffolk, one at Southwold, and the other at Blythburgh; but, like many of their kind, these no longer fulfil their original duties. The Southwold figure, known locally as "Jack the Smiter," holds in his left hand a scimitar; in the right a battle-axe, with the butt of which he sounded the bell which depended from a branch that curves forward on the right of the figure. Blythburgh Jack—now parted from his clock—stands over the partition which forms the vestry, and his sole duty now is to strike his bell as the clergyman emerges to commence Divine Service. Minehead, in Somerset, also has a Jack now on the rood screen, a little man in green hood and jerkin who used to strike the time with his hammer.

Norwich Cathedral has two Jacks in Jacobean costume, but these no longer perform their original tasks. Two similarly attired Jacks are at All Saints', Leicester, and are still working in conjunction with the old clock which was admirably restored a few years ago by Messrs. John Smith and Sons, and placed over the south entrance to the church. I often refer to these little men as the oldest ringers in Leicester!

(To be continued.)

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—The annual general meeting will be held on Saturday, August 29th, at 3 p.m., in the Vestry Hall, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London. Handbells from 3 to 4 p.m. Business meeting at 4 and tea in the canteen at 4s. per head, 6 p.m. — G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec., 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, August 29th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at Winchester on Saturday, August 29th. Executive Committee meeting 2.30. General meeting at 3.15, followed by tea; all at Dumper's Restaurant, High Street. Handbells available. Service in Cathedral at 5.15. All ringers and visitors welcomed. — F. W. Rogers, Hon. Gen. Sec., 35, Carisbrooke Road, Milton, Portsmouth.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Monthly meeting at Wollaston (D.V.), Saturday, August 29th, 3 p.m. Bells (6) available ('silent'). Tea 5.30 p.m. Handbells and social evening to follow.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—A meeting will be held at Stratton on Saturday, August 29th. Handbells, etc., from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Kindly notify early for tea. Suitable local train service. — C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, August 29th. Handbells 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Claines on Saturday, September 5th. Tower bells available at 3 p.m. (silent ringing). Service in church at 4.15 p.m., followed by business meeting. Further ringing afterwards.—Ernest F. Cubberley, Branch Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Gosberton on Saturday, Sept. 5th. Bring your own food; tea,

for drinking, will be provided at 4.30, followed by business meeting. Service at 6 p.m. Bells available for 'silent' ringing. Will all who intend to come please let me know by Sept. 1st.—Wm. A. Richardson, Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—A meeting will be held at Long Ashton on Saturday, Sept. 5th. Bells (silent apparatus) (8) available from 3.30 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea at 4.30, at 1s. 3d. per head. Please notify before Sept. 2nd. Meeting to follow. Election of officers, etc. Bells available again after tea.—Edgar Guise, Gen. Hon. Sec., Mill Lane, Woollard, Pensford, Som.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—A joint meeting with the East Grinstead and District Guild will be held at Wadhurst on Saturday, Sept. 5th. Silent tower bells and handbells from 3 p.m. Tea at the Queen's Head 5 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. C. A. Bassett, 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst. All ringers and friends welcome.—J. Downing, Acting Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—A meeting will be held at Redbourn on Saturday, Sept. 5th. Meet at the church for handbells, etc., 3.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea at the Holly Bush, 5.30, only for those who let Mr. J. Hobbs, 84, High Street, Redbourn, St. Albans, know by Wednesday, Sept. 2nd. Buses from Hemel Hempstead and St. Albans (Dunstable route).—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Old Bradwell on Saturday, Sept. 12th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Sept. 5th and bring their own sugar? A good attendance desired. All welcome.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION (North-Eastern Division) and the **SUFFOLK GUILD.**—A joint meeting will be held at Stratford St. Mary's on Saturday, Sept. 12th. Handbells 2.30 p.m. Service in church 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting in the Parish Room 5 p.m. Please bring own eatables, but cups of tea will be found.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., N.E. Division, Essex Association, Lower Barn Farm, Dedham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12th, at the Town Hall. Ringing (handbells only) from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. No arrangements can be made for tea. No admission without identity cards.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A general meeting will be held at the Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, Sept. 19th. Full particulars later, but please book the date.—L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heston, Bradford.

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TRUTH IN PEAL RINGING

Many, and perhaps most, of those people who call for umpires in handbell ringing seem to think, more or less definitely, that all peals can be divided into two sorts—true and false; and all conductors into two kinds—honest and dishonest. But that most decidedly is not so. A dishonest conductor is one who deliberately does a thing during a peal which he knows to be wrong and which he afterwards does his best to conceal. That is a fair definition of what is generally meant by a dishonest conductor, and as soon as it is set down in black and white we see at once how very rare is the man to whom it can be applied. For all practical purposes, we may assume that the dishonest conductor does not exist.

But that does not help us very much. Dishonesty consists in a man doing what he himself knows to be wrong; but what are we to think about the actions of a man who does what he thinks is justifiable in the peculiar circumstances, but which many other men in varying degree condemn? Here is where the difficulties arise, for the Exercise has not yet been able to arrive at any fixed and definite standards by which these things can be judged.

The reason is that no definite standards have been fixed, or perhaps can ever be fixed, as to what in actual practice is a true peal. In theory the matter is clear and simple enough, and we cannot improve on the old formula used by the Norwich Scholars two centuries ago—'true and complete, with never a bell out of course or changes alike.' The composition must be true, the peal must be rung from start to finish, and no bell must ever strike a blow other than in its correct position. That is the theory and that is the ideal which all peal ringers set before themselves, but it is an ideal and a standard so high that in actual practice it is almost beyond the reach of any band. It aims at perfection, and perfection is not a quality usually attainable in human activities.

The fact that the ideal is so hard to attain is no reason why the standard should be lowered. On the contrary it is the distinction and the strength of our art that it does make such great demands on its followers, but it does mean that in practice something short of the ideal must be accepted. But what? And how much?

Here is where we get into the region of controversy, where definite rules would be of the utmost value, but where in the nature of the case they cannot be had. Broadly speaking, the Exercise does not allow repetition of changes nor any shift of course. It does allow a certain amount of faulty striking and a certain number of

(Continued on page 398.)

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Mufflers, Ringing Mats, Matting, Flag Lines, etc., etc.

trips, but at what point a trip or a patch of bad striking degenerates into a false peal no one can definitely say.

This seems to make any rule requiring an umpire for every peal an impossible one. Nobody can umpire a peal unless he has some standards by which to judge it. They may be good standards or bad ones, high or low, but he must have some. The difficulty is that no two men would have exactly the same standards, and even the same man's standards will differ from time to time. Most conductors know quite well that they have at times allowed a peal to go on in circumstances which on other occasions would have made them stop the ringing. And the same thing applies to umpires.

Where, then, shall we seek a solution of the difficulty? Not, we think, in trying to find some definite rules to decide what defections may be allowed from strict accuracy. That plan has been tried by many people and by the Central Council without success. What we want to do is to raise the standards of the individual conductors, to foster the feeling that bad peals are not worth ringing, and to make people recognise that one doubtful performance does more harm to a man's reputation than a dozen clean peals do good. When it is universally recognised that there is nothing to be gained by claiming false peals, the amount of deviation from strict theoretical accuracy may safely be left to the individual conscience.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BOURNEMOUTH, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, August 25, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes,

At St. Peter's Hall,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 15 in C.

*CHARLES H. KIPPIN 1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS 5-6
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4	WILLIAM R. MELVILLE ... 7-8

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* First peal in hand. Rung for the 70th birthday anniversaries of both Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Melville.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Tuesday, August 25, 1942, in One Hour and Fifty-One Minutes,

At New College,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent each of Hereward, Double Oxford, London, Double Court, Reverse, Double and Plain Bob. Tenor size 15 in D flat.

PETER C. GIBBS (Hertford) 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE (New College) 3-4
WILLIAM L. B. LEES (St. John's) ...	5-6

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

The first peal in seven methods as conductor, by the ringers of 1-2 and 5-6, and for the society; also 25th peal as conductor and the 25th peal together by Messrs. Leese and Spice.

HOW TO SECURE RECRUITS.

ENLIST CHOIRBOYS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to the question, 'Which is the best way to secure recruits for the belfry?' mentioned in your leading article, 'Propaganda,' may I offer the following suggestions?

I think that recruits should be sought from the church (as ringing is a part of church work), but not from the congregation.

The ideal is to 'catch 'em young,' and choirboys, who are already churchworkers, arrive at that time when their voices break.

This is the opportunity as for a while there is no place for them either in the boys' or men's choir stalls, and they are liable to drift away from church work altogether.

A new interest is created at the right time, and in addition their minds are active and receptive to new ideas of usefulness.

To my mind it is here that we should seek for a continuous influx of new blood, as they are already used to team-work in a musical sense. So let it be 'youth and perseverance.' Progression, not retrogression.

F. E. PITMAN.

40, Tweedy Road, Bromley, Kent.

THE RINGING EXERCISE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

(Being the seventh chapter of an unpublished history of London Ringing by J. A. Trollope.)

The seventeenth century was for ringing a period of growth and development; of growth so slow and development so gradual that, although the Sixes had been invented by 1610, the first true and complete peal had not yet been rung when the century passed out. As a result of this slowness of growth and inevitability of development, change ringing has a unity and a logical coherence the like of which no similar thing can claim. It is a remarkable fact that, though it has never had any recognised code of rules, nor any authority with power to enforce them, change ringing is always essentially the same thing. The more skilled bands ring more methods than the less skilled, but the most complex method differs from the simplest, not in kind but in degree. It is still more remarkable that throughout its long history change ringing has remained essentially the same thing. Progress and development there have been in abundance, but progress and development have been in adding to the accumulated store of knowledge, not in forgetting and abandoning the things of old time. If Fabian Stedman or one of his band from St. Benet's could visit one of our five bell towers to-day there would be little that would be strange to him. Perhaps what would strike him most would be the fact that of all the methods of Doubles he knew, he would need to know so few. If Benjamin Annable or one of his companions could by any chance attend one of our meetings, he, so far as method ringing went, would be at no greater disadvantage than the average visitor. And should he be asked to take a rope with the most advanced of our ringers, he would only need to have the figures of any method to learn it, as he used to do two hundred years ago and as we do to-day.

Two things mainly contribute to all this. The first is that change ringing is based on a single, simple, strong idea which is worked out by mathematical law. That idea is the production of the different orders in which bells can be struck, by the movement of the bells among each other; and once that idea is postulated, development can only take place in one direction and along a very strait path.

The second fact is that the conditions under which change ringing is practised and the instruments it uses, are stable and practically unalterable. One belfry is for essential purposes just the same as another, one ring of bells just the same as another; and what they are now, that they have always been. Except for differences in weight and number and the state of the fittings, what you can do on one ring of bells, that you can do on another. The problem of ringing a peal of Grandsire Triples, the conditions under which you attempt it, and the instruments you use, are, in all essentials, exactly the same as they were two hundred years ago.

Here then is the explanation of the remarkable unity in the history of change ringing. To appreciate it fully, it is well to consider the story of some of the different sports with which, for this purpose, it may be compared. Football had a genesis which goes back as far and farther than ringing; but modern football has little in common with its parent. In quite modern times it has split into different forms, each with its own code of

rules, so that the various forms of rugby and association are quite distinct games. Stedman's companions could, if they came back, take a rope with us in Grandsire Doubles; they would be hard put to it to understand a varsity rugger match.

It naturally follows that there is a marked sameness and absence of drama in the history of ringing. Influences were at work all through moulding the Exercise and making it what it is to-day. But they worked slowly, and it is only when we compare dates far apart that we can see signs of any real change. Looked at as a whole the eighteenth century has characteristics which distinguish it from the seventeenth on the one hand, and from the nineteenth on the other. If the seventeenth was a period of growth and development, the eighteenth was a period of achievement; the seed that was sown in the one produced flower and fruit to the other. The nineteenth century was in London for the most part a time of stagnation and even decay, a time when the influences which had created the Exercise had largely worked themselves out and become bankrupt.

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the general religious and political opinions of the people were potent factors in determining the character of ringers and of the Exercise. In the following century those opinions completely changed. The religious controversies had burnt themselves out, and in place of strong convictions, zeal, and bigotry, there were apathy, tolerance, and indifference. The men of the seventeenth century thought so much of strict Sabbath observance that they passed an Act of Parliament to stop bell ringing (among other things) on that day; the men of the eighteenth century would have laughed at the idea of such a thing. The difference in the characters and opinions of John Pym and Sir Robert Walpole is the measure of the change which had come over public opinion. Puritanism as a direct political force came to an end in 1660, and for some years the Catholic party was the most influential in the Church, but the effect on the Exercise was negligible. These men had no objection to Sunday ringing or to the 'superstitious' use of bells, but their interest was in doctrine, not in ritual. They made no attempt to restore the old use of bells in the church services, they were largely occupied in controversies with Romanists and Nonconformists, and so long as public worship was conducted with dignity and reverence they were content with the simple ritual which for a hundred and fifty years had been used in the English Church. Their influence was largely dissipated by the schism of the non-jurors in 1689 and after the reign of Queen Anne there was a long period when the Whigs were all-powerful in Church and State.

These changes had the effect that they confirmed instead of contradicting the character the earlier influences had given to the Exercise. Puritan bigotry and sabbatarianism had made change ringing a secular sport. Eighteenth century indifference accepted it as such and saw no reason why it should be otherwise. Puritanism fought against the 'superstitious' ringing of bells and such like things, and its victory was complete. At no time during the long history of the English Church was the ritual of its services so bare and slovenly as during the eighteenth century; at no time were the material

(Continued on next page.)

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

(Continued from previous page.)

things of divine worship so little revered. In many cases the altar was regarded as a mere table to be used for putting things on when it was not required for the infrequent celebrations of Holy Communion. If there was laxity at the east end of the church, small wonder that the west end was still more neglected, and that the bells were little thought of as adjuncts of religious worship, and generally were regarded as instruments of sport, or for celebrating national, civic, and personal events.

Except in the North, service ringing was quite unknown; on Sundays one or more bells were chimed. In the country villages it is probable that the men who chimed on Sunday were the same as the men who rang on week days, but in London it was not so. There the ringers were not connected with any particular church and, as ringers, had no reason or occasion for going near a church on Sundays. It seems that there was little or no personal contact between the ringers and the church authorities. Throughout England the bells and the ringing were the special province of the parish clerk, in the principal London churches the parish vestry appointed and paid a steeple keeper, and when any special ringing was required one or the other was expected to find the ringers. When the ringers wished to have a practice or a peal attempt at a tower they went to the clerk or the steeple keeper for the key.

Whatever may have been the legal rights (and they were the same then as they are now) the incumbents of the various city churches do not appear to have concerned themselves in the slightest about their bells or their ringers. The laity and the lay officers of the church were very often keenly interested in the bells, and in many instances rings were put up or restored by a general rate levied on the parish; but the interest was mainly a secular one.

Thus a curious and entirely illogical state of affairs had grown up. The ringers, firmly entrenched in custom and supposed rights, were using the bells for their sport and diversion, without the slightest sense of obligations towards the Church; and the Church authorities and clergy on their part had as little idea that they had any duties towards their ringers or any obligations to see that their bells were used for worthy purposes. The right of a band or society to practise in any particular steeple consisted simply in the fact that they had been accustomed to do so, and had managed to keep on good terms with the steeple-keeper; and, slender as those rights may have been in strict law, time and custom had given them a reality which lasted down to quite modern times.

Judged by modern standards this state of affairs was quite wrong and indefensible, but public and Church opinion in the eighteenth century saw nothing amiss in it. It was not until the following century that changes in Church life and altered standards of divine service brought about a sharp conflict between the ideals of the Exercise and the ideals of Churchmen and so led to that movement for belfry reform which was really the most important thing in the history of the Exercise during the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

Change ringing in the eighteenth century must be judged purely as a secular sport, and from that stand-

point so far as London is concerned it was a time of success. The Exercise was left alone to itself free from outside interference. The striking difference between the history of this time and that of the preceding century is that whereas in the earlier period the interest is chiefly supplied by the influence of outside opinion, and by the number of ringers who had made names in other walks of life, now the interest is supplied by the activities of men who were distinguished as ringers but are quite unknown to ordinary history. We have no longer a long list of names of men who had distinguished themselves as lawyers, parsons, or soldiers.

The majority of the ringers belonged, as at all times in the history of the Exercise, to the lower and lower middle classes. That was so in the preceding century, but then there was a small but influential leaven of better-class men. Early in the eighteenth century this practically ceased. In the seventeenth century the squire ringer of the type of Henry Bret, John Tendring and Henry Smyth, was fairly common; in the next century men of the type of Theodore Eccleston, and, still later, of John Powell Powell, of Quex Park, were so exceptional as to be looked upon as almost eccentric.

Socially, the most important thing in the history of the time was the decay and final disappearance of ringing as a sport at the two universities. This took place at the end of the seventeenth century, and probably was a minor effect of the changes in social life which followed the Revolution of 1689. The result was that the lawyer element, which had been so prominent in the leading London societies, disappeared. The list of members of the Society of College Youths still contained for some years the names of men of wealth and position, but there are indications that some time before 1720 the society went through changes which left it very much altered socially. There had been a marked theatrical element in it, and it is probable that there was a certain Bohemian atmosphere about it which attracted the lawyers of the Restoration period, but appealed less to the soberer tastes of later years. Cave Underhill, one of the foremost and most popular of the comedians of the time, was a member. Two other actors, Benjamin Johnson and George Pack, who were sufficiently distinguished in their profession to leave something of a name behind them, joined in 1712; and probably there were others now forgotten. Later on, John Hardham and John Cundell, both eminent ringers, although not actors, were intimately connected with the theatre; and in 1745 John Rich, the well-known manager who produced Gay's *Beggar's Opera*, was elected a member. Rich served in the office of steward for the year 1750, but it is hardly likely that he was a practical ringer. It is, however, a fair inference from his presence in the society that other members were actors or in some way connected with the theatre, and it has some value in enabling us to form an opinion of the class of men who at the time formed the Exercise in London.

The actors were as a class dissolute and profligate, and earned a bad name in soberer and sedater circles, though a great improvement set in during the early part of the eighteenth century. With all their faults, they had very real virtues—generosity, good fellowship, and comradeship—qualities which perhaps were not so conspicuous in their critics, and both in their failings and

(Continued on next page.)

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

(Continued from previous page.)

their virtues the ringers of the day had much in common with them.

So far as we can trace them, the men who have left names as ringers were for the most part artisans and small tradesmen. Annable was a baker, Holt a shoemaker, Laughton a clockmaker, Catlin a carpenter and bellhanger, George Gross a weaver, and so on. In later years there grew up a tradition that the College Youths of Annable's time were men of wealth, dignity and position. 'It was very currently reported,' says Osborn, 'that everyone who rang (in the peal of Bob Maximus at St. Bride's in 1726) left the church in his own carriage—how far the real truth of this statement extends I cannot pretend to determine, but I have often heard it remarked that when St. Bride's were first put up, and for some years afterwards, Fleet Street was thronged with carriages and gentry who came far and near to hear them ring. Report says that St. Bride's bells were formerly considered one of the greatest novelties of the day.'

However the tradition may have arisen, there is not the slightest truth in it. Annable, as I have said, was a baker, and Laughton a watchmaker; Catlin was foreman to Samuel Knight, the bellfounder; Hardham at the time was a lapidary, or, according to another account, a servant; Geary was a boy of seventeen years, who, although he came of a good family, did not at that time possess a carriage. We come across Ward and Dearmore with Laughton among the Rambling Ringers. They certainly were not 'carriage folk.'

These tales of the wealth of previous ringers seem to have been common at all times during the history of the

Exercise. As early as 1733, Laughton relates that the sexton at Newington told 'sutch Damn'd unaccountable lyes' about the rich ringers in his young days. No doubt this was all a recollection of the time when the College Youths consisted largely of lawyers, and of such societies as the Esquire Youths. It is indicative of the changes which had taken place in the Society of College Youths, that Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Sir Henry Hicks and Slingsby Bethell, all men of wealth and position, were elected about 1716, and at the time Laughton wrote were all the prime of life and activity. Laughton himself was elected in 1724, but he cannot have come in contact with them, for if he had he was far too vain a man not to have mentioned it. Their connection with the society had probably ceased before he had anything to do with it.

(To be continued.)

A BIRMINGHAM BELL FOUNDER.

BISHOP RYDER'S AND ST. CHAD'S.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The information in 'Church Bells of Warwickshire' quoted by Mr. E. V. Rodenhurst under the above heading in last week's 'Ringing World' is, of course, now hopelessly out of date.

The tower of Bishop Ryder's Church in Birmingham did once contain a peal of eight by Blews, but these were recast some years ago by Taylors, of Loughborough. The south-west tower of St. Chad's Roman Catholic Cathedral originally contained a peal of eight by Blews, but these were also recast by Taylors just before the commencement of the present war.

A. PADDON SMITH.

Donnor, Wellington Road, Birmingham 20.

BELLS RECAST.

Dear Sir,—Mr. E. V. Rodenhurst quotes 'Church Bells of Warwickshire' as saying that Blews and Sons 'turned out some excellent bells.' I think we are justified in assuming that the 'excellence' referred to by the writer (or his informant) was in the lettering, not in the tone of the bells, most of which have been recast. The trebles at Shoreditch (recast by Warner) were, I think, by Blews. X.

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HANDBELLS, BELL ROPES,
MUFFLES,
Etc,

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Our peal column this week records the first handbell peal, one of Grandsire Triples, by Mr. Charles H. Kippin. Mr. Kippin rings London, Cambridge, Bristol and Spliced Surprise on handbells, to say nothing of simpler methods, and it comes somewhat as a surprise to hear he had not previously scored a five-thousand.

We recently gave an account of a handbell week-end at Leicester. Ten years ago, between August 29th and September 6th, some of the same band had a handbell week at Surfleet. They rang eight peals, including Stedman Triples and Caters, Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob Major and Double Norwich Major. Messrs. Rupert Richardson and Frank Hairs rang in all, and Mr. Harold J. Poole in all but one.

On September 1st, 1926, 5,096 changes of Spliced Bob Major and Grandsire Triples were rung at Bridgend by the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association.

On September 2nd, 1820, a new ring of ten bells was opened at Bishop's Stortford by the Junior Society of College Youths, who rang a peal of 5,039 changes of Grandsire Caters, conducted by Henry Symondson. This was the second peal by the society, which had been founded earlier in the year to supplement the Society of College Youths, which was then passing through a period of decline. The two companies were quite distinct.

The Middlesex County Association rang at St. Giles-in-the-Fields on September 2nd, 1927, the first peal of Londonderry Surprise Major. William Pye conducted.

Fifty years ago yesterday a peal of Plain Bob Royal was rung at All Saints', Fulham. The footnote to the record stated that it was 'believed to be the first peal of Bob Royal rung in London since the year 1778.' Of the band Messrs. W. T. Elson and E. H. Adams (now of Warwick) are still alive. About the same time Sir Arthur Heywood wrote that 'Plain Bob Royal and Maximus we may dismiss at once as having had their day and no longer possessing any special attraction.' Up to the present in this year 1942 ten peals of Bob Royal and five of Bob Maximus have been rung.

DEATH OF MR. W. J. NEVARD.

We very much regret to announce the death of Mr. William J. Nevard, of Great Bentley, who has passed away at the age of 86.

Mr. Nevard was one of the best known ringers in the county of Essex and had many friends all over the country.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

STEPNEY MEMBER REPORTED MISSING.

At the meeting of the College Youths last Saturday, Mr. A. B. Peck, the hon. secretary, read a letter from Corpl. Len Fox saying that Sergt. Joseph Boomsma, a member of the society, had been officially reported missing, known to have been wounded, since July 6th. 'Although he had only rung one peal,' wrote Corpl. Fox, 'he was a very promising ringer. Besides being able to handle heavy bells, he was a good striker and was seldom absent from service ringing and practices. Moreover he was proud of his membership of the Ancient Society and attended as many meetings as possible. If the worst has happened, both the Stepney band and the College Youths have lost a promising ringer and I a bosom friend.'

Mr. Peck had written to Sergt. Boomsma's mother a letter of sympathy and this action was approved by the meeting.

Mr. E. A. Young handed the Master a copy of the society's name book with the names arranged alphabetically which he had made in order to facilitate reference, and he referred to the society's historical books and E. J. Osborn's work on them. One of Osborn's books belonging to the society which contained a long list of members' names had been in Mr. Young's custody, and so had escaped destruction in the fire raid.

Mr. C. W. Roberts complimented the Editor on his bold article in that week's 'Ringing World,' and commented on the absolutely fair and straightforward way of writing all the leading articles.

Mr. H. Hoskins brought greetings and best wishes from Mr. George R. Newton, of Liverpool. Mr. C. W. Roberts brought greetings from Mr. C. P. Sedgley and Mr. G. E. Symonds, of Ipswich. Mr. R. F. Deal recently met Miss Bryant, of St. Clement Danes', who had asked him to convey her best wishes to the College Youths.

In addition to the Master (Mr. E. G. Fenn), the hon. secretary (Mr. A. W. Peck) and the hon. treasurer (Mr. A. A. Hughes), the members present were Messrs. W. H. Passmore, R. F. Deal, C. W. Roberts, H. Hoskins, J. Chapman, F. Collins, E. A. Young, J. A. Trollope, C. Potheary and E. Holman. Members from the provinces were Mr. R. T. Hibbert, of Reading, general secretary of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, Mr. E. J. Munday, of Caversham, Mr. W. Hibbert, of Basingstoke, Mr. J. H. Shepherd, of Swindon, and Mr. G. F. Hoad, of Reigate.

Welcome visitors were Mrs. F. Collins and Mr. Frank Sanders, of Buckland.

COALBROOKDALE.

The bellringers' services were held at Coalbrookdale on Sunday, August 23rd, and before both matins and evensong four of the local band rang touches of Grandsire Triples from the chancel steps. They were much appreciated by the congregations.

PROPAGANDA.

CONTACT WITH THE CHURCH NECESSARY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your leading article on propaganda is timely. Who is to say that such things as films and popular stunts would be welcomed by Church authorities generally to attract ringers to their towers? The great hope of ringing in the future is in the hands of the individual ringer, and his (or her) influence can be far reaching. At present when servers, choirs, sidesmen, church councils and every other body is depleted by the absence of many on war service the consistent loyalty of all who remain is most welcome. Here is a chance for the ringer who is still at home, or for that matter the ringer who is stationed near any church, to lend a hand.

Many ringers know that most of the clergy will back the enthusiast, but that generally the clergy do little to promote ringing because of lack of a practical knowledge of the art. My advice to all ringers is to assist the Church in every possible way, and so to make contacts personally in order to pass on to others an interest in ringing matters. Judgment can then be used to invite various boys, girls, young people or other persons to the tower to try a bell with a clapper tied, or to a weekly handbell practice. If very few at a time are dealt with it is much more personal and will be much more lasting. Gradually a good nucleus for the future will be formed.

Any ringers who have not done something in this way since bells have been silenced have not a proper interest in their art. I presume that all guild and association meetings which are held, however they may be attended, have such ideas as mine in mind. Alas, some guilds seem to have closed their doors for the duration, which is a great pity, for most diocesan organisations are carrying on as best they can. With shutters up it seems that ringers are banned as well as bells, but this is not the case. Let the ringers at home keep the doors wide open to any and every recruit, and they will find that they will have the backing of the Church authorities. Contact with the Church must come first.

A. S. ROBERTS.

The Parsonage, Carbis Bay.

THE RIGHT SORT OF RECRUITS.

Dear Sir,—I am inclined to think that the opinions expressed in your leading article are the right ones. We do not want advertising for recruits, but neither do we want to sit still and do nothing. What we want is to be continually on the look for the right sort of recruits. There are not many of them to be had, but fortunately we do not want many. This is where those who are churchmen as well as ringers can do good. They can take notice of young men in the choir or in the congregation and see if there are any likely to be any good.

I would go outside as well too, and get anyone, whoever he is, who is likely to be of any use. But we must not expect any quick or striking results. The band who got two good recruits every year would be very lucky indeed, and in ordinary circumstances two good recruits every year is quite enough for any band.

'A CHURCHMAN.'

THE PERSONAL TOUCH.

Dear Sir,—You ask in your leading article, 'Which is the best way to secure recruits for the belfry?' Well, it is common experience that a method adopted with success in one place may be a complete failure in another. For instance, according to your report, Beckenham was a failure; at St. Peter's, St. Albans, after a week's campaign, about six recruits were obtained, from which probably a percentage will 'make good.'

But to answer your question. I believe that in the long run the *personal touch* is the best method of approach in gaining the right type of ringer. Ringing is a church work, and this fact should be strongly emphasised in your point of contact. A ringer who rings for pleasure alone (a small number perhaps) falls short of the intention and aims of the great ringing associations in our land.

The bells belong to the Church, and anybody connected in an official capacity with the Church as a ringer should be a member of the Church of England and a practising Christian. In your recruiting campaign, let your outlook always be 'first things first.' Having obtained your pupil, act justly towards him, and by your diligence encourage him to persevere both inside and outside the belfry in his studies. Steer clear of favouritism; the spores of jealousy are harmful. Success so much depends upon the teacher.

By a personal touch in selection you safeguard the belfry, to a great extent, from the undesirable element. It was the personal touch which influenced the writer to become a ringer, and afterwards to realise that change ringing was a definite church work, quite apart from the healthy exercise and the pleasures to be found in it. The spirit of ringers is a living unconquerable force, and ere long, please God, we shall triumph in His strength over all our present difficulties, many of which may be purely imaginary.

With best wishes, Mr. Editor, for your carrying on.

G. W. CARTMEL.

Duffield, St. Albans.

UMPIRE FOR HANDBELL PEALS.

MR. BARTON'S RULE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. W. Barton says that old arguments on ringing matters are resuscitated from time to time, but always with the same result that no definite conclusion is reached, and he says that the question of umpires for peals is one of them. He seems to think that the proper way out of the difficulty is to leave the matter to the band and the conductor, and that can be safely done if they adopt a definite standard. His rule is that if two or more bells get down to lead in a wrong order the ringing must stop, umpire or no umpire. 'If due regard is paid to striking,' he says, 'and some similar standard is voluntarily imposed by the ringers themselves the quality of peals will not deteriorate.'

It sounds all right, but is he not merely shifting the difficulty from one place to another and raising the equally debatable question of what constitutes a true peal? On the face of it his rule would say that if two bells shifted up behind in Stedman Cinques and the conductor spotted it before the first of them had got to the front he may put them right—that is in anything up to thirty changes or even more. But if the bell which should have made third's place at a single in Bob Major does not do so, the bells must not be wrong for more than two or three changes. In Double Norwich you would have a full lead to see that the proper two bells made the single. In Bob Major one change only. On handbells a man may change his hands as often as he likes provided they are not wrong when one of them leads.

No one who knows Mr. Barton will doubt him for a minute when he says that he has never rung a handbell peal of which he need be ashamed, but I do not think much of his rule.

He is a man who holds a very influential position among ringers in the North. Perhaps he will tell us what he thinks are the qualifications for a really competent umpire and what he ought to do. Is he allowed to stop the peal if he thinks anything has happened which ought not, or must he keep his mouth shut until he is appealed to? Is he expected to guarantee that every change in the peal has been properly rung, or only to give a general statement that he knows no particular reason why the peal should not be booked?

'SENEX.'

WHERE UMPIRES ARE USEFUL.

Dear Sir,—I, for one, do not agree with your correspondent, who signs himself 'Handbell Ringer,' that umpires are not necessary for handbell peals.

It may be impossible to make a compulsory rule, but all handbell ringers should consider it their duty to do everything they can to procure a competent umpire whenever they start for a peal. I agree that not every ringer can be certain whether there has been a shift course or not, but every ringer can tell whether the peal has been a good one or a bad one, and usually whether any change has been forced up by the conductor.

Besides, the very fact that an umpire is present would be likely to stop a dishonest conductor from faking a peal. The umpire may not know whether the peal has been faked or not; but the conductor cannot be sure whether he does, and so would have to run the risk of being found out.

As I understand it, the College Youths do not say that every handbell peal must have an umpire. All they say is that unless there is an umpire the record cannot be entered in the peal book.

'A COLLEGE YOUTH.'

SOME EXAMPLES.

Sir,—In your issue of August 21st there are two letters, one signed with the writer's name and the other by 'Handbell Ringer.' I think the latter might have carried more weight if he had been more open and signed his name. He must not assume that because anyone cannot ring double-handed they are not competent to umpire. Quite the contrary, as I have seen it done more than once and quite efficiently too. One instance crosses my mind.

The band who rang the first peal of London, not at the first attempt but at the second, decided at a later stage to go for a silent peal of Superlative. This was successful at the first attempt and the two umpires did their work well, although neither had ever struck a blow in the method double handed. One took down the course ends, the other marked each one as they came up.

I can also confirm the statement by Mr. E. W. Pye about the fourth peal of London rung at Finsbury Pavement House. This was also rung at the second attempt, and Mr. H. R. Passmore rang a plain course with three of the band. I was present on both occasions.

WILLIAM KEEBLE.

Colchester.

A VERY WHOLESOME AND HEALTHFUL EXERCISE.—Though there are several other Exercises and Recreations, as Bowling, Tennis-Ball, Nine-Pins and such like, that may work and stir the Body, and every of its Parts, as much as ringing does; yet they are not in the least to be compared to this, because not so artful, or requiring so thoughtful and ingenious an Head Piece to attain to the universal Knowledge of them, as this Art does.—'Campanalogia.'

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 394.)

At Carfax, Oxford, a pair of handsome quarter Jacks have a prominent position beneath the clock dial. They swing round and strike their respective bells about two seconds before the chimes sound the quarters. At Christ Church, Bristol, are two old and much prized quarter Jacks, and at Exeter the Jacks of St. Mary Steps work in conjunction with a curious old clock known as 'Matthew the Miller's clock.' Here are three figures, the centre one of which bends forward at every stroke of the hour. The figure is reputed to represent Henry VIII., but is locally known at 'Matthew the Miller,' from a local worthy of bygone days, hence the saying:—

'Every hour on Westgate Tower
Matthew the Miller nods his head.'

The javelin men on either side strike the quarters on the hemispherical bells beneath them.

At the quaint old Sussex town of Rye are two old quarter-boys (each approximately five feet high) made as long ago at 1561, and still working actively.

Wells Cathedral has several Jacks. Above the dial of the ancient clock, a representation of a tournament is effected by mounted knights who revolve in opposite directions upon the striking of the hour. Outside the Cathedral two more knights strike the quarters upon bells: and yet another quarter Jack, known as 'Jack Blandiver,' kicks bells with his heels at the quarters. Mr. Howgrave-Graham is of the opinion that Jack Blandiver is probably the earliest example in this country. Wimborne Minster, Dorset, has, in addition to a very ancient clock, a Jack made in 1613 by a carpenter of Blandford, at a cost of ten shillings. His 'costume' must have undergone a change during the course of his career, since his present one is that of a British Grenadier of about the time of Napoleon. The clock has to be wound every day, and this is done when the curfew bell is rung at eight o'clock in the evening.

There is a Jack at Abinger Hammer, on the Guildford-Dorking road, who is also 'keeping his stroke,' in a very charming setting, while at Merton, Surrey, may be seen a 'home-made' robot acting as a town clock. It was made by Mr. J. Berry, and is outside a garage in Kingston Road. A figure announces the time every half-hour by raising its arms and striking a bell.

At Bishop's Stortford, Herts, in 1551, there was among goods belonging to the 'cherche':—'ffyrst V bells w^t ropis and the chyme hammer. Item the clock bell. Item the saunse bell.' In 1583 an item in the churchwarden's accounts states that Vjs was paid for the 'exchange of the bell for Jack.' There are entries also 'for painting Jack,' 'for mending the Jack to the chymes.' The chimes continually referred to in the accounts were constantly out of repair, and are last noticed in 1810. They were probably removed when the steeple was taken down in 1819. They played several tunes (Hanover being one) and sent out their music every three hours at 3, 6, 9, and 12 o'clock. At St. Edmund's, Salisbury, in 1618, an inventory that year gives 'It. one littell bell wch was for the Jacke of the clocke howse,' while at St. Nicholas', Newport, Shropshire, in 1665 it is noted 'May. Memorandum that William Adams, citizen of London, gent. nephew of the founder, gave the Market House

bell, with the effigy of a man to ring it. Anno 1665 which was burnt when the Tower was consumed by fire May 19—1665.' Many other churchwardens' accounts refer to such 'Jacks,' alas, now no longer existing.

In Western Europe and in Italy are many notable examples, which have been working for centuries. Thus the famous Strasbourg clock, first begun in 1352, but reconstructed two or three times since, is a most elaborate and complicated piece of work. The original clock had a small set of chimes composed of several cymbals, and the present clock has four figures representing the four ages of Man. These appear at the quarters and strike upon a bell, thus:—at the first quarter, a child strikes it with a rattle: at the second, a youth in the form of a hunter strikes it with an arrow: at the third quarter the blows are given by a warrior with a sword; and at the fourth an old man produces notes by his crutch. When he has retired the figure of Death appears and strikes the hour with a bone.

At Venice in the Piazza San Marco, overlooking the blue Adriatic and its unique island city, stands the 'Torre del Orologia,' surmounted by a large bell, beside which stand two bronze giants. These figures strike the hours in obedience to the mechanism of an ultramarine and gold clock just below them. The original clock was begun in 1495, and its successor dates from the early 17th century. Other early examples were at Caen and Montargis.

In 1401 a large clock with bells was set up at Seville Cathedral, and in 1404 a similar one in Moscow was constructed by Lazare, a Servian. The clock at Lübeck was made in 1405, and one at Pavia by G. Visconti a little later. In 1442 Nuremberg had such a clock with figures representing soldiers. Auxerre clock was finished in 1483, and soon after an astronomical clock was erected at Prague; one at Munich followed. At Calais was a clock whereon two figures attacked each other at given times, similar to the one at Lund. These are but a few of the more well known clocks with Jacks. Many other centres had similar ones at later dates, more or less complicated in design. Of recent date, and stated to be the largest in the world, are the giants—twice human size—cast in bronze, which strike three bells placed concentrically and weighing some 20,000 lbs., now on a bank building at Leipzig in Germany. They were erected in 1928.

A New York, U.S.A., example is the group, designed by Antonin Jean Charles, now surmounting the 'New York Herald' building. The specially designed bell was cast by the Meneely Bell Co., of Troy, nearby. We also recall the famous figures of Gog and Magog, who did duty in Cheapside, London, striking the hours on their bells, assisted by their subsidiary figures of Father Time and Venus. These two giants were for seventy or more years one of the sights of London, but in 1929 were sold to Mr. Henry Ford, who took them to his Museum in America, devoted to illustrating the progress of machinery products. The figures were more or less replicas of the huge ones in the Guildhall and were put up in 1860, and remodelled about 1896. The Guildhall pair were carved in 1708 to replace the ones burned in the Great Fire and were destroyed in a recent air raid. There is mention of them as far back as the days of Henry the Fifth, but the origin of Gog and Magog, two terrible giants of ancient England, is lost in legend.

(To be continued.)

BIG BEN.

A STORY OF ITS CASTING.

Probably the best known bell in the whole world, certainly the best known bell in the British Empire, is Big Ben, the hour bell of the Palace of Westminster. It is cracked and is not a good bell as bells go, yet it serves its immediate purpose of telling the hour probably as well as any other could do, and its very defects give it a character that is all its own. It has provoked a lot of controversy, and here is what Lord Grimthorpe had to say about it. He designed it, as well as the four quarter bells and the great clock.

'In 1852 the Astronomer Royal declined to have anything to do with the bells, as he did not profess to understand them and nothing was done towards getting them beyond some abortive correspondence with me by Sir W. Molesworth, and his giving a commission to Sir C. Barry and Professor Wheatstone to learn what they could about bells at the Paris Exhibition of 1855, which proved to be nothing.

'In 1856 Sir B. Hall (Lord Llanover) asked me to take them in hand, and it was then arranged that I with Sir C. Wheatstone and the late Rev. W. Taylor, who had paid some attention to the subject in a theoretical way (and must be distinguished from his namesake the bell-founder), should be the referees. Sir C. Wheatstone never acted, beyond telling us the result (or, rather, no result) of his enquiries at Paris, and Mr. Taylor would take no responsibility beyond giving the final certificates. I, therefore, prepared a specification which was sent to the three English bell-founders.

'Mr. Mears refused to accept the referees because they had among them spoken ill of his two condemned Royal Exchange peals, of his great York Minster bell, and a rather larger one he had sent to Montreal. He also declared that no one else could make the bells, and his tender was not the lowest.

THE FIRST GREAT BELL.

'Mr. Taylor's, of Loughborough, was, but he wanted some terms which could not be acceded to. Messrs. Warner required the referees to take the responsibility of giving the patterns for the bells; i.e., they confessed that they did not know how to make such large bells of the proper note: they had previously copied all their bells from existing ones. However, I was able to do that for them, and so their tender was accepted, though they demanded ten guineas a cwt. while the usual price was seven, and they were to recast any of them (unless condemned for bad casting, in which case they were to recast for nothing) for £2 a cwt., and also to cast any small experimental bells for the same price.

'They made the great bell first and from some mismanagement it came out thicker than the pattern, and two tons heavier than was intended, and required a clapper twice as heavy, as we had reckoned on by analogy to other bells. Undoubtedly we had a right to reject it: but it appeared a sound casting, except some holes at the top, and was generally praised by the public who heard it, though there was always something unsatisfactory in its tone. And no wonder: for after being rung occasionally for some weeks, it one day cracked no doubt from the weight of the clapper which it needed to bring out its tone, and when it was broken up there was found a great flaw in it where the two streams of metal meeting round it had never joined. So we were in every way well rid of Big Ben the first.

THE SECOND BELL.

'The founders, however, had then cast the fourth quarter bell of four tons successfully, and there was no intention of taking the job out of their hands. But they demanded a price for recasting enormously beyond the £2 per cwt. which they had agreed to before, evidently presuming that neither of the other founders would be employed. Mr. Mears had learnt something by experience and no longer objected to the referees, and offered to recast the bell at a more reasonable price, and so this time his tender was accepted. He, however, was still more unlucky: for he produced a bell which partially cracked also, after a few months' striking; and Dr. Percy pronounced it, on cutting a hole down to the bottom of the crack, "a defective casting, porous, unhomogeneous" and at the place where it is cracked, not of the composition I had prescribed, and therefore much more brittle.

'Mr. Mears also determined to conceal this porosity from the referees by filling up the holes with cement before he let us know the bell was ready to be seen. And when I publicly charged him with having done so, he put a bold face on the matter and brought an action for libel, and had no doubt found half a dozen engineers and brass founders ready to swear that porous castings are as good as sound ones. But he also found that I had got a piece of the bell analysed and knew that the composition was wrong besides the porosity and its concealment.

(Continued in next column.)

THE USE OF SINGLES IN BOB ROYAL

AN ORIGINAL PLAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following peal of 5,040 Bob Royal demonstrates clearly the use of singles as per recent letters from the Rev. M. Melville and Mr. E. C. Turner. I sent it to the late Mr. A. Knights in 1927 and he attested it as original and on a new plan. I extended the peal to Bob Royal and called it at Barwell, Leicestershire, on September 21st, 1935.

23456 W M H

64235 — — —

23465 S — —

45236 — — S

24536 — — —

35426 S S —

43526 — S —

25436 — — S

42536 S S —

35246 S S —

23546 — S —

45326 S S —

34526 — S —

25346 — — S

32546 — — —

65234 S — —

62534 — — S

52436 — — —

34256 S S —

53246 — — —

42356 S S —

54326 — — —

32456 S — —

53426 — — —

24356 S S —

52346 — — —

43256 S S —

54236 — — —

23456 S — —

It will be observed in the first block with 6th home, the 5th is alternately in 3rd and 4th places at course-ends, while in the second part the 5th is alternately in 2nd's and 5th places.

Leicester.

ERNEST MORRIS.

DEATH OF MR. JOB SAWYER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Job Sawyer, who passed away at his home in the village of East Hagbourne on Friday, August 28th.

Mr. Sawyer, who was 70 years of age, had been a ringer for half a century and had taken part in many peals of Grandsire and Stedman Triples. He was keen and active in the tower and on handbells, and up to the last took a great interest in ringing matters and in 'The Ringing World.' He will be remembered for his cheerful spirit and devotion to duty as a churchman and Sunday service ringer.

The funeral was at East Hagbourne on Monday.

BIG BEN.

(Continued from previous column.)

'So his Council accepted his costs without a verdict after making a speech in which he confessed and declared that the composition had miscarried and become unhomogeneous; that he had filled up the holes because he thought them immaterial—as if he was to be the judge of that; and that it was impossible—i.e., that he did not know how—to cast large bells without holes in them.

'His successor, who had bought Mears' declining business, twenty years after thought he would try again evidently with the object of advertising himself, on my once more publishing the fact that Big Ben II. was a disgrace to its founders.

'The cost of the bells, including £750 for recasting Big Ben, was under £6,000. The cost of the frame was £6,600.'

Lord Grimthorpe did not say that in the first action he had withdrawn his plea of justification, and that in the second the verdict was against him and he had to pay damages and costs.

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GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.**THE NEED AND USE OF SINGLES.**

(Continued from page 391.)

A

3152746
1357264
1352746
3157264

B

3152746
1325476
1324567
3125476

C

3152746
1357264
1537264
5132746

D

3152746
1325476
1235476
2134567

A is the ordinary Grandsire single in which a bob is first made at handstroke and the actual single at the following backstroke.

B is the same single without the bob being made. In theory this is equally valid to A, but in practice is never allowed.

C is the in-course bob-single as used in Holt's and C. D. P. Davies' 10-part peals of Grandsire and J. J. Parker's peals of Oxford Bob, Court Bob, etc.

D is the in-course plain-lead-single as used in Holt's six-part peal of Grandsire Triples.

The use of more than two in-course singles in any peal has generally been looked upon as illegitimate, and a committee of the Central Council, which issued a report on Calls in the year 1894, went further and recommended that they should be restricted to two definite sets of rows:—

1325476		1324567
1235476	and	1234567

Since the singles are not made in the same changes as the bobs there can be no co-operation in Grandsire Triples between bobs and singles to form a compound Q Set such as exists in other methods. In Bob Major, for instance, a bob, a single, a bob, and another single, all at W, or M or R form a compound Q Set which joins into one round block four complete natural courses.

23456	R		23456	W
42356	—		52436	—
43256	S	or	32456	S
24356	—		53426	—
23456	S		23456	S

A similar thing cannot happen in Grandsire Triples. There the single joins together two blocks and the accompanying bob is a member of a Q Set which joins together five blocks. Because it is always accompanied by a bob the common single cannot join together two plain courses or P Blocks. The reader may say—'But that is just what we often do. We ring a plain course, make a single at the end of it, ring another plain course, and come home with another single.' But you do not quite do that. You do not ring two full plain courses, for each is short of a lead, and you would find if you took that touch as the basis of a peal and tried to build up the rest of the rows upon it, that you would have no means whatever of including the two missing leads.

We said in our article of August 21st that if we build up our peal with P Blocks we shall have to use in-course singles, and if we build it up with B Blocks we shall have to use 'ordinary' single. That is quite true, but the two cases are not alike. When we start with P Blocks we must have in-course singles, because without them we cannot get a true peal. When we start with B Blocks we could get a true peal by the use of in-course singles, but the custom of the Exercise does not allow them to be used in that manner. We could, for instance, ring Holt's Original with in-course singles, but that is one of those things which isn't done.

The difference in the use of the two kinds of singles lies in the fact that one changes the nature of the rows and the other does not. When we set down our material either in 72 P Blocks or 120 B Blocks, all the handstrokes are odd and all the backstrokes are even, and so long as we use only bobs and in-course singles the same thing happens. But when we use 'ordinary' singles we turn the handstrokes into even rows and the backstrokes into odd rows.

So far as the B Blocks are concerned, that does not matter, but it matters a great deal with the P Blocks. The reason is that a B Block can be written out either forwards or backwards and contain the same rows; but a P Block cannot.

That is easily tested on paper. Start with rounds and write out in full a round block consisting of three leads joined together by bobs, and alongside it write out a plain course.

1234567	1234567
1576243	1527364
1752634	1253746
1643725	1726543
1467352	1275634
1325476	1624735
1234567	1267453
	1423657
	1246375
	1325476
	1234567

Here are the handstroke and backstroke rows of the trebles' whole pulls.

Next write out a pair of similar blocks beginning with 1325476 instead of rounds. You will find that in the first the rows are exactly the same, only in reverse order; but in the second block they are quite different.

GREAT HALE, LINCOLNSHIRE.

Mr. Arthur John King, a retired express driver on the L.N.E. Railway, who lives at Grantham, learnt to ring on the six bells in the Saxon tower of the village of Great Hale. They were recast in 1896 by a Birmingham firm, but were not musically a success. Now in his old age Mr. King has decided to have them retuned, and as soon as a faculty is issued they will go to Whitechapel so they may be ready to ring when peace comes.

Mr. King tells us that when he was a boy his great ambition was to be the driver of the Flying Scotsman, and he attained his ambition. Now his great hope is to hear his old parish church bells peal in thanks to God for victory. 'Some people,' he writes, 'are not believers in prayer, but it has been fulfilled with me.'

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received **NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

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All communications should be sent to **THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.**

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Claines on Saturday, September 5th. Tower bells available at 3 p.m. (silent ringing). Service in church at 4.15 p.m., followed by business meeting. Further ringing afterwards.—Ernest F. Cubberley, Branch Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD. — Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Gosberton on Saturday, Sept. 5th. Bring your own food; tea, for drinking, will be provided at 4.30, followed by business meeting. Service at 6 p.m. Bells available for 'silent' ringing.—Wm. A. Richardson, Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—A joint meeting with the East Grinstead and District Guild will be held at Wadhurst on Saturday, Sept. 5th. Silent tower bells and handbells from 3 p.m. Tea at the Queen's Head 5 p.m. All ringers and friends welcome.—J. Downing, Acting Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—A meeting will be held at Redbourn on Saturday, Sept. 5th. Meet at the church for handbells, etc., 3.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Buses from Hemel Hempstead and St. Albans (Dunstable route).—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Sprotborough on Saturday, September 5th. Silent tower bells and handbells from 3 p.m.—Ernest Cooper, 6, Grosvenor Crescent, Arksey, Doncaster.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—A meeting will be at South Kirkby, near Pontefract, on Saturday, September 12th. Handbells in Church Hall, 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. A. E. Harrison, 154, Barnsley Road, South Kirkby, before September 10th. No. 11 bus, Barnsley to Doncaster. Moorthorpe, L.M.S. station, five minutes' walk.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12th, at the Town Hall. Ringing (handbells only) from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. No arrangements can be made for tea. No admission without identity cards.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Old Bradwell on Saturday, Sept. 12th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Sept. 5th and bring their own sugar? A good attendance desired. All welcome.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION (North-Eastern Division) and the **SUFFOLK GUILD.**—A joint meeting will be held at Stratford St. Mary's on Saturday, Sept. 12th. Handbells 2.30 p.m. Service in church 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting in the Parish Room 5 p.m. Please bring own eatables, but cups of tea will be found.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., N.E. Division, Essex Association, Lower Barn Farm, Dedham.

BOURNEMOUTH AND DISTRICT.—A combined meeting of the neighbouring Guilds will be held at the Rev. C. A. Phillip's house, 36, Dean Park Road, Bournemouth, on Saturday, September 12th, from 2.30 p.m. Tea Parson's Restaurant, 5 p.m.—Arthur V. Davis, 116, Alma Road, Bournemouth.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Brigg on Saturday, September 19th. Business meeting in the Church House at 4 p.m. Will members please make own arrangements for tea. Handbells in the ringing chamber during afternoon and evening.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A general meeting will be held at the Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, September 19th. A reserved room available from 2 p.m. General committee meet at 3 p.m. General meeting at 4 p.m. Tea at 5.15 p.m. A plain tea will be available at 1s. 6d., also a high tea at 3s. 6d. Applicants for tea should specify the tea they require, and must notify Mr. D. Smith, 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley, not later than Wednesday, September 16th.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

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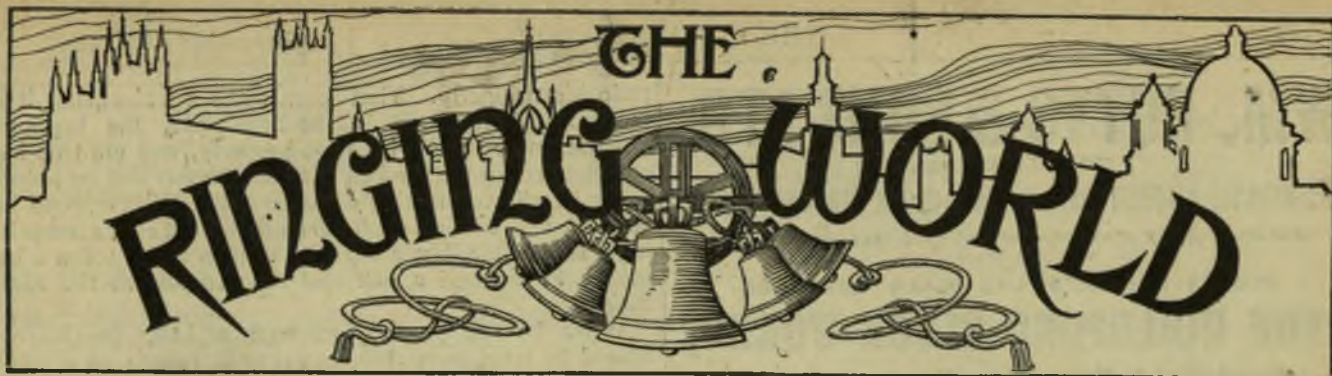
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th, 1942.

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RECRUITS.

It is a good thing that ringers should interest themselves now in the problems of reconstruction and should talk about what they hope to do when peace comes. It is a good thing that they should discuss, for instance, the best way to secure recruits and how they intend to try to fill the vacancies in the belfry. When the time comes they probably will have to do what they can and what they must, rather than what they would, but that is no reason why they should not make plans and do their best to carry them out.

The future will have to find the solutions of its problems, but in the meanwhile it may be well to consider the question generally, and in the light of past experience.

In themselves, recruits are not desirable. They are only desirable so far as they give promise of becoming sound ringers. As long as they remain recruits they are not only a big tax on the time and the patience of the older men (which is no very great matter), but they usually are the cause of bad ringing, which is a nuisance to the neighbourhood. This is a very important matter. If we could take our learners into some secluded spot and away from the hearing of outsiders as a choirmaster can train his choir in an empty church, all would be well enough. But that we cannot do. The whole parish must hear, though ringers, shut up as they are in a remote belfry, seldom realise it.

There are many churches where it would be better that the bells were not rung at all than that they should be rung badly, and this will be particularly so after the long silence imposed by the ban.

Yet we must have recruits and they must be trained. What we have to consider is how it can be done with the best results, and with the minimum of annoyance, both to the outside public and the skilled ringers.

The first thing to do is to try to get the right sort of recruit. That, of course, is easier said than done, but the idea, which is rather prevalent, that any and everybody should be welcome on the chance that some may turn out all right, is not a sound one. It does not and cannot work. Whatever is done, a certain proportion of those who attempt to learn will never make good. The proportion, indeed, is a high one, but it can be lessened if obviously unsuitable persons are discouraged from the outset. There need be no fear that any possibly good ringer will be lost. The person who has the real aptitude for the art will find his way to the belfry whatever obstacles and discouragements he may meet.

Having got the right sort of recruit, the next step is to

(Continued on page 410.)

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train him properly. That sounds like a truism, but it is far too seldom done. In the first place, the beginner must learn to handle his rope properly, and until he has complete control of his bell with the clapper tied he should never be allowed to ring an open bell. With a good instructor and an apt pupil this can be done in a surprisingly short time, but quite a lot of men try to teach a beginner to manage a bell and ring rounds at the same time.

When he can properly manage a bell, the learner should be tried in rounds, but only in rounds on a small number of bells. Five is better than six, and eight should never be used. Here again, with the right sort of teacher and the right sort of pupil, few lessons are required. A dose of call changes will then fit him for change ringing.

In all this there is one important essential if progress is to be rapid and effective. The learner must not only be told thoroughly and completely what he has to do before he attempts to do it, but he himself must thoroughly and completely understand what he has to do. The reason why so many learners are slow and incompetent is because they do not understand what they are expected to do, and it only comes to them, if at all, mechanically.

It is even more important that the beginner should know what change ringing is before he attempts to ring changes. Much he cannot be expected to know, but he should at least know what hunting is, and until he does know he should never be allowed to try to hunt the treble. Yet many instructors think to teach a beginner by standing behind him and telling him which bells to strike over. A thoroughly bad plan. The learner should be told as little as possible when he is actually ringing, and then where he should be, not which bells he should strike over.

It would not be a bad thing if a learner was told he would not be allowed to attempt changes until he had studied the elementary part of some such text book as Snowdon's 'Ropesight.'

If the beginner has been correctly trained so far, and if he is the right sort, as soon as he can hunt the treble properly he can be called a ringer. Henceforward he will be able to find his own way with help and occasional advice.

This is the problem of the single recruit. The problem is different altogether when there are many recruits, and a depleted band has to be largely reconstructed.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT STRATTON.

The Rev. A. F. and Mrs. Godley gave a hearty welcome to the 18 members, representing nine parishes, who attended a very happy gathering of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild at Stratton Rectory on August 29th.

At the service in church the Rector gave a suitable address on Psalm 150, emphasising the importance of praise.

A very excellent tea was provided by the host and hostess and the business meeting was held afterwards. Canon Markby, the chairman, expressed the sympathy of all those present with Mr. C. H. Jennings, the hon. secretary, in his illness, and hoped he would have a speedy recovery. Apologies for absence were received from Canon Smebeck and Miss Clapcott.

It was requested that the annual meeting should be held at St. Peter's, Dorchester, some time in January, 1943, the date to be decided by the chairman and secretary. Three new honorary members were elected.

A very hearty vote of thanks was expressed by the chairman to the Rev. A. F. and Mrs. Godley for their excellent tea and warm hospitality, and it was carried with acclamation. Ringing on handbells was then engaged in by different groups. It was arranged to have a practice on the silent apparatus at St. Peter's, Dorchester, on Saturday, September 26th, at 6 p.m., when all ringers will be welcomed.

HANDBELL PEALS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.*On Wednesday, September 2, 1942, in One Hour and Fifty Minutes,***AT HERTFORD COLLEGE,****A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**Being one extent each of Double and Reverse Bob and five of Plain Bob.
Tenor size 15 in C.**PETER C. GIBBS** (Hertford) 1-2 | **WM. L. B. LEESE** (St. John's) 3-4
***ROSALIND M. WRONG** (Lady Margaret Hall) ... 5-6Conducted by **WILLIAM L. B. LEESE.**

* First peal in more than one method. First peal in more than one method as conductor.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.*On Thursday, September 3, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,***AT 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,****A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 17 in A.

***BETTY SPICE** ... 1-2 | **JOHN E. SPICE** ... 5-6
DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON ... 3-4 | **MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON** ... 7-8
WALTER H. DOBBIE ... 9-10Composed by **GEORGE H. CROSS.** Conducted by **JOHN E. SPICE.**

* First attempt for a peal on ten bells. † First attempt for a peal of Royal on an inside pair.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.*On Friday, September 4, 1942, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,***AT 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,****A PEAL OF DOUBLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 16 in B.

MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON ... 1-2 | **JOHN E. SPICE** ... 5-6
BETTY SPICE ... 3-4 | **DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON** ... 7-8Composed and Conducted by **JOHN E. SPICE.**

The first peal in the method by all the band, and the first in the method on handbells by the association.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.*On Saturday, September 5, 1942, in Two Hours and Seven Minutes,***AT 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,****A PEAL OF SPICED WELLINGTON LITTLE COURT, REVERSE, DOUBLE, CAINSBOROUGH, LITTLE, AND PLAIN BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 16 in B.

MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON ... 1-2 | **JOHN E. SPICE** ... 5-6
BETTY SPICE ... 3-4 | **DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON** ... 7-8Composed and Conducted by **JOHN E. SPICE.**The arrangement of the methods by **George E. Feirn.**

In this peal there are 377 changes of method. The first peal in six Major methods by all the band (average age, 18 years and two months) and for the association. Also the conductor's 50th peal on handbells

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD**MEETING AT GOSBERTON.**

A quarterly meeting of the Elloe Deaneries Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild was held at Gosberton on September 5th, and was attended by ringers from Spalding, Pinchbeck, Surfleet, Gosberton, Donington, Deeping St. Nicholas, Algarkirk, Guildford and Leicester.

The meeting was held on a sheltered lawn in Mr. Welby-Everard's extensive gardens. Members brought their own food, and, thanks to Mr. Horace Bennett and lady members of the Church Council, were provided with seating accommodation and an excellent cup of tea.

During the business meeting under the chairmanship of the Rev. E. C. Gee, two new ringing members were elected, Messrs. Harold Fisher and Norman Hutchesson, both of Gosberton. November 14th was the date fixed for the next meeting, to be held at Pinchbeck.

After the meeting handbells were rung on the lawn until 6 o'clock, when most of the company went to the church to attend evensong, conducted by the Rev. I. S. Bennett, Vicar of Gosberton, who gave the address. The lesson was read by the Rev. J. W. Parker, of Gosberton Clough.

The remainder of the evening was spent in the tower, where silent ringing and handbell ringing were indulged in until the company gradually dwindled away.

A VISIT TO ROSS BELFRY.

A very well known and popular writer in the middle of the last century was Frank Buckland. He was a naturalist and a great authority on birds and fishes. In December, 1874, he was engaged on behalf of the Government in a long enquiry into the by-laws for the Wye fishery, and during his stay at Ross he paid a visit to the belfry. His account of it will be read with interest and some amusement.

"One evening during the progress of the inquiry, when inspecting the shops, a magnificent peal of bells began to ring. Having but once before seen a church belfry, when they were ringing a peal, I determined, if possible, to get up into the belfry. With some difficulty, having no light, we found the little door at the base of the tower, and, after shouting awhile, a man came down with a candle in an ancient horn lantern. I then went up and up and up some very narrow and much worn stairs, till I arrived at the belfry. Imagine a largish room quite square, four bits of candle burning a dim light, from the ends of a very primitive chandelier made up of laths, a creaky floor, a roof of antiquated timbers, an old man and a charity boy on a form in the middle, the solemn tick, tick, tick of the church clock, and eight men, each standing by a rope, and you will have some idea of the scene which presented itself to my view. The chief of the ringers gave me a very kind welcome; and after giving some mysterious orders to the ringers, who went each to his rope, at a given signal off went the merry bells, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, again and again for about five times. The leader then cried loudly, "Bob"! and the bells instantly altered to (as I understood afterwards) 2, 1, 3, 5, 4, 7, 6, 8; then to 3, 2, 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8; and so on for a considerable time, interspersed with the orders loudly given every now and then "Single"! "Bob"! till at last the poor bells seemed suddenly to recover their senses, and away they went loudly 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8; and then "Halt!" This peal-ringing was evidently hard work, but the music was beautiful. It was a peal of "Grandsire Triplets," whatever that may mean. Grandsire, I believe, is the name of a man who was a great authority on bellringing. An inscription on the wall was pointed out to me with evident pride, which reads as follows: "February 11th, 1851, was rung in this tower a true and complete peal of Grandsire Triplets, containing 5,040 changes, in three hours and two minutes, being the first true peal ever rung in this country." Then came the names of the ringers.

"I was then permitted to ring a bell, and was surprised to find the tremendous velocity and power with which the rope, at a certain stage of the pull, rushes upwards. This is very dangerous to novices, who might get entangled in the rope, and smashed by it against the roof above. It requires great knack to pull the rope at a certain instant so as to make the bell speak. How the men manage, under these circumstances, to ring a peal, especially with changes, I cannot understand. I was told that the bells were then "raised," that is they were standing with their mouths uppermost, and, as time was getting on, the ringers must "fall" them, i.e., bring them very gradually back to their original position, with the mouths downwards. This "falling the bells" took some time, during which many musical combinations took place most enchanting to the ear; they ended, as usual, with a half-faint 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

"I spread the news of my discovery of the bellringers at Ross Church among those present at the Inquiry, and the ringers promised to ring us another peal the following evening. We had to wait till the evening church service was over, when a goodly company of strangers visited the belfry. The ringers then took extra pains with their complicated change ringing, which is far beyond my comprehension, and even, I have reason to know, past the understanding of the learned lawyers assembled. They cross-examined the ringers again and again, but could make nothing of it. I never saw lawyers so completely stumped before, and this by eight honest hard-working men, a mason, a wheelwright, a tailor, a tallow-chandler, a shoemaker, a ploughman, etc. *Trahit sua quemque voluntas* was here well exemplified. The lawyers knew their business, the ringers knew theirs. When the men had rung a beautiful peal, they offered to muffle the bells in our honour. The bells are generally only muffled at Christmas. Muffling the bells, I was told, means tying a bit of leather on to the clappers, so that the sound is subdued. While two men went up to muffle the bells, the ringers sat down in a row on a form, each with a handbell in his hand. By interchanging these bells they rang a very pretty peal, and then standing up, played several good tunes on these handbells.

"The bells being now muffled, the men rang another peal, the effect of which was exceedingly beautiful. I then with my colleague, Mr. Walpole, went right up into the steeple, and stood upon the beam, close over the eight great bells, as they were giving out their iron voices. The noise here was tremendous. By signs alone could we speak, but it was a grand sight to see the bells swinging in great circles, with tremendous power and swiftness, and then to see them instantly stopped in their wild career, and made to speak by the comparatively feeble hand of the man at the rope below. The sight of these eight bells all swinging, apparently madly, and without order, and yet giving out a most musical peal, which (when the bells are not muffled) can be heard eight miles off, was grand in the extreme. After looking well at the bells, I sent down word to ask the ringers to "fall" them; and it was very interesting to see, how neatly and gently the bells began to lessen their speed, then seem

(Continued on page 417.)

THE RINGING EXERCISE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

(Continued from page 401.)

All through the eighteenth century, as in the seventeenth, the College Youths were superior in class to the average ringers. Many of the latter belonged to the lowest orders of society, and their general condition was not high. In fact at no time was the state of the town population worse than in the first half of the eighteenth century. 'The religious and social condition of the masses under the two Georges is the severest condemnation of the religious life of the period. The masses were ignorant and brutalised, and their numbers and demoralisation rapidly increased. The Government panicked to mob passion by public executions and insulted humanity by the brutal ferocity of its criminal code.' 'In habits of providence and of economy he (the English workman) ranked extremely low in the industrial scale, his relaxations usually took the form of drunkenness or brutal sports, and he was peculiarly addicted to riot and violence.' On the other hand, 'probably no workman in Europe could equal the Englishman in physical strength, in sustained power and energy of work, and few, if any, could surpass him in thoroughness and fidelity in the performance of his task, and in general rectitude and honesty of character.'

Bull-baiting and cock fighting and other cruel sports were popular throughout the century, and the church bells are said to have been sometimes rung in honour of the victor in the 'Welsh main,' the most sanguinary form of cock-fighting. The contrast of bell-ringing as a sport with such things as these is striking, and no doubt shows that the ringers as a body were superior to their class in humanity and intelligence.

One of the worst vices of the time was drunkenness. Excessive drinking had been common among all classes since at least the sixteenth century, but the evil increased at the time of the Restoration, and was prevalent among statesmen, judges, lawyers, at the two universities, and in the homes of the country gentlemen. Among the masses beer was the usual drink until about the year 1724, when a change took place which had deplorable results. This was a passion for gin drinking, which spread over the country with the rapidity and violence of an epidemic.

In 1684, 527,000 gallons of the spirit were distilled in England. In 1724 the number was 3,601,000, and in 1735 5,394,000. Gin sellers used to hang out notices that their customers could get drunk for a penny and dead drunk for twopence, and no extra charge for straw. The general consequences were disastrous. Owing to some Acts of Parliament, and to the Wesleyan and Evangelical religious movements, the evil was somewhat abated, but its effects were felt far down into the following century.

It is necessary to remember these facts when we consider the second of the two serious charges which were brought against ringers during so long a period in the history of the Exercise. The first—that they neglected their duties towards the Church, and, though they called others to divine service, were never seen there themselves—was not, in the circumstances, a fair one. The other—that of drunkenness—is harder to dispose of.

From at least the closing years of the seventeenth century until the closing years of the nineteenth century, it

was commonly said that ringers as a class were drunkards. The authors of the J.D. and C.M. 'Campanalogia,' though they do not admit the justice of the charge, bear witness that it was made before 1702. The book was republished four times at different dates between 1705 and 1766, and, though they were reprints and hardly new editions, the fact that the references to these charges against ringers were not out of date, is shown by the authors of the 'Clavis Campanalogia' reproducing them in their book.

Still later, in 1816, William Shipway recurred to the same theme. 'The practice of the art,' he says, 'has been objected to from its tendency to alienate the minds of men from their business by leading them into idleness, and as being too frequently productive of habitual drunkenness. In reply, I observe that there is no exercise or diversion which, if unduly followed, will not reduce a man to poverty, and alas! if a man be addicted to drink, he will obtain it, let his amusements be what they may. But far from inducing a practice so ruinous and detestable, ringing can afford no entertainment to individuals of this character; it is generally performed in a place where liquor cannot be readily procured; and the intellect of the performer must be perfectly unclouded to enable him to practise with any degree of credit.'

We have thus clear evidence extending over the whole century that the charge was made. True, all the authors mention it in order to rebut it; but we may be quite sure that it would not have been made, and still more that it would not have been noticed, if there had not been some foundation for it. No writer would think it worth while to defend present-day ringers against the charge of drunkenness, and it rather significant that the line of defence was not a flat denial that the vice existed, but that, if it did, it was not ringing which was responsible. Which, of course, was true enough.

William Laughton wrote a lively and detailed account of the doings of some men who called themselves the Rambling Ringers' Club, and in it the references to eating and drinking are nearly as prominent as the references to ringing.

The club always met at a tavern and nearly always adjourned to a tavern after they had finished ringing. That by no means shows that they were drunkards or anything like it, but it is clear that they drank quite a lot. 'Tho' I cannot say but now and then,' says Laughton, 'ringers tinkle as much as other men,' yet he goes on to claim that, owing to their exercise, they are able to throw off the effects much quicker than other people who simply 'sit in a House and Drink and Call.'

Towards the end of the century we have a glimpse of another society whose reputation in this matter was very bad. George Gross in 1784 quarrelled with the Cumberlanders and started a new company which called itself the Junior Society of Cumberland Youths. Only his son and one or two others followed him from the old society, and the band was made up from lower-class men from the East End of London. After a while Gross and the more reputable members returned to the senior society. Of the remainder, 'the less that is said of them the better,' says Osborn. They moved their meeting place from tavern to tavern in the East End, stopping as long as the landlord would encourage or trust them, getting into debt, and when they had outstayed their welcome, moving

(Continued on next page.)

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

(Continued from previous page.)

on to the next public-house. There were excellent ringers among them.

In 1804 a little book was published by S. Beaufoy, late minister of Lady Huntingdon's Chapel at Town Sutton. The writer belonged to one of the straiter religious sects, and no doubt saw his subject with a somewhat distorted vision, but his object was a thoroughly Christianlike one, and he was animated by a sincere desire for the good of ringers. He painted a very dark picture of their general condition, which, however, referred chiefly to country towns and villages and decidedly was not true of the better-class London ringers. 'Are they not in the belfry employed at these and other seasons in lying and swearing, in idle and filthy conversation, in despising real religion and the truly religious, and in almost every species of vice and abomination? They generally go to the ale house and spend the money they receive in waste. At such times filthy conversation and swearing, lying and quarrelling, frequently abound among them. Intoxication often ensues, and each man's share of liquor in a night is very often as much as would refresh a man and his whole family a whole week, yea, more than many get in a month.'

There is much exaggeration in this passage, and one would hesitate to reproduce it had not Henry Thomas Ellacombe, who had exceptional opportunities for knowing the truth of these matters, thought it worth while to republish the book forty years later.

One of the reasons given for pulling down the detached bell tower of Salisbury Cathedral in 1790 was that the ringers were wont to make the belfry a scene of carousal

and disorder. It was a paltry excuse for that act of vandalism, but it is further evidence that among some ringers at any rate there was excessive drinking.

All along, the Exercise contained a proportion of men of lower class than the members of the great London societies—the College Youths, the Eastern Scholars, the London Youths and the rest—and their chief interest in ringing was what they could get out of it. They stood no chance of being admitted to the leading companies during the eighteenth century, but it was on them that George Gross fell back when he founded the Junior Society of Cumberland Youths, and from them, or their like, the London ringers were recruited when, during the early years of the nineteenth century, the supply of better-class men failed.

The ordinary outside opinion of ringers and ringing was expressed by Sir John Hawkins when he wrote in 1776 that 'the ringing of bells is a curious exertion of the invention and memory, and though a recreation chiefly of the lower sort of people is worthy of notice'; and by Thomas Faulkner, the antiquary, when he wrote that 'bellringing, though a recreation chiefly of the lower class, is not in itself incurious or unworthy of notice,' but 'it was very seldom well performed except by the Society of College Youths, the parish ringers being ignorant of the musical changes practised by the former.'

(To be continued.)

ITALIAN BELLS.

From the following quotation from the 'Popolo d'Italia' it would appear that either bells in Italy have been confiscated for war purposes, or the authorities are considering the possibility of doing so:—

'The collection of the bells has not only a material significance, but moral as well. It is a sacrifice to be counted as highly as the decision to renounce all nuptial festivities for the duration.'

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

According to 'The Star,' Mr. Robert Symonds Clifton, of Chelsfield, Kent, who died recently, was the heir of the baronetcy conferred in 1611 on Gervase Clifton, of Clifton Hall, Nottinghamshire, though he did not use the title. If so, he was the lineal descendant of Sir Clifford Clifton, Kt., F.R.S., second master of the Society of College Youths, who held that office in 1638 and died in 1669. There seems, however, to be some doubt about the matter, for though 'The Star' says that the last person to use the title was Robert Clifton, who died in 1892, 'Burke,' the great authority on these matters, says that the baronetcy became dormant in 1869.

The first peal of Little Bob Major was rung at Brading, Isle of Wight, by the Cambridge University Guild on September 8th, 1911.

William Eversfield, in his time a notable ringer and composer of Treble Bob, died on September 9th, 1847, at the age of 79.

The first peal of Surfleet Treble Bob Caters was rung at Surfleet on September 9th, 1911. The method was an attempt to adapt the Treble Bob Principle to an odd number of bells without having one bell strike four consecutive blows in one position.

The first peal of Canterbury Pleasure Royal ('Plain Bob spoilt') was rung at Bromsgrove on September 10th, 1898. We do not know if any other has been rung, but we hope not.

In the middle of the last century there was a good band of ringers at Christleton in Cheshire. On September 11th, 1844, they rang 5,376 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major. The composition, which was by Lates, had the sixth 24 times right and wrong and obviously must have had singles in which the bells in 5-6 lay still.

Charles Henry Hattersley was born on September 12th, 1844, and Charles D. P. Davies on September 12th, 1856.

The first peal of Cambridge Court Major was rung on handbells at Surfleet by the Cambridge University Guild on September 12th, 1922. Capt. W. H. J. Hooton conducted.

The late George Dent called the first peal of Kent Surprise Major at Harlow Common, where he was churchwarden, on September 12th, 1928.

Bertram Prewett called the first peal of Superlative in Wales at Llangollen on September 13th, 1907.

In the year 1905 a ringing tour was held in Lancashire between September 9th and September 15th. Several interesting peals were scored, including the first peal of Stedman Caters at Manchester Town Hall, and what was claimed as the first true peal of Stedman Cinques in Lancashire. This was at Ashton-under-Lyne. In Mr. Morris' 'History' a peal of Stedman Cinques is said to have been rung at Liverpool in 1863. Presumably the suggestion was that it was false. An earlier peal in 1825 given in John Hopkins' book is marked 'false' by him.

The touring party contained several of the most prominent ringers of the time. Nearly all have now passed away. Among them were William and Ernest Pye, Isaac G. Shade, Charles Jackson, Bertram Prewett, George Dent, Gabriel Lindoff, Samuel Wood and A. T. Beeston.

Fifty years ago yesterday seven peals were rung. They were Grand-sire Triples 4, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1, Stedman Caters 1, and Minor 1.

GOOD NEWS OF MR. L. E. HOPGOOD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am very glad to inform you that my son, Leonard Frank Hopgood, who was reported missing in the Middle East on June 20th, is quite safe and is now prisoner of war in Italy. I feel sure his ringing friends will be glad to know.

FRANK HOPGOOD.

79, Engadine Street, Southfields, S.W.18.

MR. DENNIS BROCK.

REPORTED MISSING.

We are informed by Mr. Frank B. Lufkin that Dennis Brock, a member of the Sunbury-on-Thames band, has been reported missing as from June 21st. In reporting this, the Major of his unit said he was a fine soldier and an exceptionally keen and cheerful man. 'If,' writes Mr. Lufkin, 'the worst has befallen him, we have lost a very keen churchman and bellringer, as well as a friend and companion, whose company was always so cheerful. We can only hope and pray that he may still be alive and well somewhere.'

HANDBELL RINGING AT BRENTFORD.

On October 13th 1850 was rung a true and Complete peal of grandsire trebles at Mr. Boxall's New Brentford, consisting of 5040 changes with 88 bobs and 2 singles, in 2 hours and 15 minutes by the following viz H. A. Dyer first and second, H. Ambrose third and fourth, T. Barrett fifth and sixth, T. Harden seventh and eighth; conducted by Mr. H. Ambrose.—'Bell's Life,' October 20th, 1850.

This was 'lepped' ringing, but the band must have been very expert to accomplish the peal in so short a time as two hours and a quarter.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

ANNUAL MEETING AT ST. MARTIN'S.

The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths held their annual general meeting on Saturday, August 29th, at St. Martin-in-the-Fields. The attendance was not so large as in previous years, due, no doubt, to the many calls on members' time by the war effort. The Master, Mr. G. H. Cross, presided, and was supported by his officers, viz., Mr. T. Bevan, senior steward; Mr. R. C. Heazel, junior steward; Messrs. C. J. Matthews and A. Hardy, trustees; and Mr. G. W. Steere, joint treasurer and secretary. Among other members and friends present were Messrs. I. Attwater, H. E. Audsley, J. E. Bailey, E. Barnett, W. H. Fussell, G. Dawson, E. Smith, E. Furbank, E. W. Pye, G. and A. Radley and Mesdames Cross and Matthews.

Apologies for absence were read from Messrs. W. J. Nudds and W. G. Symonds, while others from J. Bennett and A. H. Pulling reached the secretary too late to be announced at the meeting.

At the commencement of the proceedings the Master called those present to stand for a few moments to the memory of the late J. S. Goldsmith, Bryan O'Neill and other ringers who had died during the year.

The secretary read a letter of greetings and good wishes for a happy meeting from the Master and members of the Ancient Society of College Youths via their hon. secretary, Mr. A. B. Peck. This letter was received with great enthusiasm. Mr. W. Keeble also sent greetings and good wishes for a successful meeting.

A letter from Mr. C. C. Mayne announcing his resignation from the society was received with regret.

The secretary, in his report, referred to the great loss the Exercise in general and the Cumberlands in particular had suffered through the death of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith. Also in regard to Bryan O'Neill, a young ringer of great promise who had passed away at the early age of 21 years, the society extended their heartfelt sympathy to Mr. G. Gilbert in what must have been to him a grievous personal loss, as he had been responsible for bringing O'Neill into the field of bellringing. The lad had rung about 20 peals, most of which were for the society, and the last he rang, Bob Major at the age of 19, he conducted himself.

A discussion on the recent correspondence in 'The Ringing World' about umpires for handbell peals showed that the general opinion was that a feeling of resentment would be created by the implied slur on ringers' integrity if such a rule were brought into force making umpires compulsory. One of the arguments was that very few so-called umpires were really competent to do the job properly. It was agreed, however, that where a band set out to attempt anything of outstanding importance they would see that qualified umpires to check the performance were in attendance. Further, it was resolved that where a society had a long standing rule that an umpire should be present at every attempt for a handbell peal, it was the business of that society alone to see that their regulations were complied with, but this policy should not be regarded as one to be applied to the whole Exercise.

The treasurer stated that the decrease in the financial balance was due in part to the curtailment of activities and consequent loss of revenue, and also to the payment of certain commitments which had been authorised at or since the last annual general meeting.

The balance sheet was accepted as presented, but regret was expressed that the auditors had been unable to check it.

All the officers were re-elected.

The secretary urged tower representatives at churches where possible damage had been sustained by enemy action to ask the authorities concerned to have their towers surveyed as soon as possible, and ascertain whether the bells could be rung or not when occasion offered. This would obviate any undue delay when ringing was allowed to start again.

The meeting was reminded that the society was rapidly approaching its 200th anniversary, that is, in 1945, and the time was coming when ways and means would have to be considered to celebrate so important an event in a way that befitted the occasion. It was decided, however, that the time was not yet ripe for any plans to be made, and the matter was put back to the next annual general meeting, when members were asked to bring forward any suitable ideas which might occur to them.

A proposal was made that, if possible, another joint meeting with the Middlesex Association be arranged at Shoreditch next spring on the lines of that held at St. John's, Waterloo Road, in April last.

A hearty vote of thanks to all concerned for the privilege of once again allowing the Vestry Hall to be used for the meeting brought the proceedings to an end.

Tea was partaken of in the canteen, after which handbells were brought into use. Bob Maximus, Stedman and Grandsire Caters were some of the methods rung.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Friday, August 28th, in the belfry, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (10 callings) in 33 minutes: Miss D. R. Fletcher (first quarter-peal as conductor) 1-2, Miss K. E. Fletcher 3-4, H. Wingrove 5-6. First quarter-peal of Doubles by all the band. Also a quarter-peal of Bob Major in 40 minutes: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, R. Lee 3-4, Miss D. R. Fletcher 5-6, Miss K. E. Fletcher 7-8. Rung to celebrate the 49th anniversary of the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Fletcher.

THE LATE MR. W. J. NEVARD.

FUNERAL AT GREAT BENTLEY.

Essex has lost the oldest and one of the most popular of its ringers by the passing of William James Nevard, of Great Bentley, whose death we briefly reported last week.

Mr. Nevard had been ill for only a fortnight, and a month earlier had been present at a district meeting of the Essex Association at Lawford. He then took part in handbell ringing, and it probably was his last outing. He passed away peacefully on Saturday, August 29th.

The funeral was at the Parish Church, Great Bentley, on September 3rd, and was conducted by the Rev. G. Colley. The hymn, 'Lead, kindly light,' was sung, Mrs. Munson being at the organ.

The principal mourners were Mrs. Evans (daughter), Messrs. William, Walter, Frank, Sidney, Harry and Gerald (sons), and Muriel and Philip Nevard (grandchildren).

The Essex Association was represented by many past and present officers and other members, including Messrs. G. Waterman (Harwich), R. W. Stannard (Barking), H. T. Pye, C. Marven, F. J. Bumpsfead, G. M. Rashbrook, E. P. Duffield, W. Chalk, E. J. Butler (Romford), G. Dawson (Leytonstone), D. Elliott, J. Arnott, E. E. Davies (Clacton), J. Mills, V. Gardiner, E. M. Blyth (St. Osyth), H. A. Wright (Clacton), G. Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. L. Wright (Dedham), and Miss Hilda Snowden (Halstead).

Floral tributes included emblems from members of the North-Eastern Division, Essex Association; the Essex Association; Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Wright, of Clacton; the Thorington band of ringers; St. Peter's, Colchester; and St. Osyth ringers.

Mr. Nevard, who was 86 years of age, had travelled extensively throughout the country, and was proud of the fact that he had rung in every cathedral where there is a ringing peal.

TIVERTON CHIMES.

FROM THE REV. J. H. B. ANDREWS, R.N.V.R.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Several numbers of 'The Ringing World' have just reached me, sent on by the kindness of a Yorkshire friend, and I have been reading them with much interest.

I am delighted to see, in the correspondence about quarter chimes, that Mr. A. J. Hughes remembers the Tiverton quarters. I spent my schooldays at Tiverton, and later on another five happy years there within sound of the bells. It is difficult to say in such cases just how much is due to association, but I have always thought the Tiverton chimes the most beautiful of any, and have often wondered why they are not found elsewhere. No one seems to have mentioned the chimes of Oxford, of which I know little in general, but from long hours spent in the reading room of the Radcliffe Camera I came to love the simple chimes of the University Church of St. Mary. As I remember them they went: 1; 1 2; 1 2 3; 1 2 3 4 3 2 1.

It may interest some readers to know, with reference to letters about gramophone records of bells, that we play the Columbia record of the old Bow Bells over the ship's loud-speaker system before service on Sunday mornings. It seems to be highly popular, and some men, I fancy, are of the opinion that it's the best part of the service. When our record was broken in a storm, and in the long interval before another could be got, we used the record, also by Columbia, of Stedman Cinques on St. Paul's bells. Strangely enough, I am not aware that anyone noticed that the bells are half-muffled. I got the idea from the Orient liner 'Otranto,' in which the St. Paul's record was regularly used a year ago.

In conclusion, may I say how good it is to know, through the medium of your pages, that interest in bells and in ringing is being so well maintained in these very difficult days.

J. H. B. ANDREWS.

H.M.S. —

A BIRMINGHAM BELL FOUNDER.

ST. CHAD'S BELLS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Mr. Paddon Smith's information re our bells at St. Chad's is incorrect.

The three treble bells added in 1877 to augment the ring from five to eight were the only ones by Blews. The old five were cast in 1849 by C. and G. Mears, Whitechapel. Furthermore, this ring was removed from the south-west tower to the north-west tower and rehung there in 1851.

The bells, as a ring of eight, were opened on April 1st, 1877, and in 1939 were recast into a superb peal by Taylor.

As anyone may imagine, it was a bitter pill for us when the ban was imposed only three months after the new bells were opened.

With all good wishes for the continuance of 'The Ringing World.'

WILFRED E. BOX.

140, Wentworth Road, Harborne, Birmingham 17.

P.S.—There is a ring of eight by Blews, dated 1877, at the R.C. Abbey Church, Erdington, tenor 14 cwt. 3 qr. 14 lb. (these bells are inscribed with the Eight Beatitudes). Also at Cradley, Worcestershire, an eight dated 1873, and at Bengeworth, Worcestershire, a ring of six with the date 1872.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 404.)

Many churches still possess special bells for the clock to strike on, though usually the tenor is used for the hour, and others for the quarters. They are mostly to be found in London and the Eastern Counties, and some dozen or more are of mediæval date, but many have been, originally Sanctus bells. One at Sonning, Berks, goes back to about 1300, and those at Hadleigh and Stowmarket, in Suffolk, are of the 14th century. Others again belong to the period just before the Reformation, and are probably genuine clock bells, as at Bocking, Great Chesterford and Littlebury, Essex; Linton, Cambs; Stoke-by-Clare, Suffolk. They are usually fixed 'dead' in a frame, as they only require to be struck by a hammer, not swung by a rope. In the Eastern Counties they are sometimes hung outside on the spire, as at Hadleigh and Stowmarket, Suffolk; Braintree, Essex; Histon, Cambs; and formerly at Glaston, Rutland. Two bells are thus hung outside on the spire at Barnstaple, Devonshire.

St. Paul's Cathedral and Worcester Cathedral not only possess special hour bells, but also quarter-bells, as does Kidderminster Parish Church, and there are many examples of secular edifices, of which the best known is the Palace of Westminster.

The most ancient of all quarter-chimes are the 'ding-dong' or 'ting-tang' chimes, and are played on two bells, which are at the interval of a major or minor second, major or minor third, perfect fourth, or a perfect fifth. In every instance the bells are played once for the first quarter, twice for the second, thrice for the third, and four times at the fourth or hour. They are not of much musical interest, but possess the merit of being much less expensive than any other chimes on more notes. Of the 'Whittington Chimes' there is no doubt that this was in its oldest form arranged for six bells. In the story of Dick Whittington they are supposed to have been ringing at St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, London, in the following order when he heard them and returned to London!—531246='Turn-a-gain-Whit-ting-ton.' This 'change' is still known to this day among change ringers as the 'Whittington change,' and on higher or greater numbers adapted to this 'tune.' Thus one of the best-known rows on twelve bells is 531246E9780T.

The earliest reference to the Whittington tune or change is in Shirley's 'Constant Maid,' Act II., Sc. II., where the following is to be found:—

'Six bells in every steeple, and let them all go to the city tune, "Turn again Whittington."' (1640.)

Whittington, by the way, was Lord Mayor of London in 1354, and both the Bow steeple and above-mentioned bells perished in the Great Fire of 1666. The tune is also to be found in D'Urfey's (1653-1723) 'Wit and Mirth, or Pills to Purge Melancholy.' It consists of two phases which particularly lend themselves for use as quarter-chimes:—

GDCBDAGDCB—A.

EDCBDAGDCB—A.

In 1905 Sir Charles Villiers Stanford wrote a new set of quarter chimes for the ring of twelve then in the tower, based on the ancient six-bell tune. These are excellent, and bring into use eleven of the twelve bells, but the fact that they require a diatonic sequence of twelve notes

will only permit of their being used in a few churches. These chimes are:—

1st quarter,	5123.	
2nd quarter,	512314.	
3rd quarter,	789084534.	
4th quarter,	51231457908E.	Hour T.

What are commonly called 'Whittington' chimes are to be found almost exclusively on domestic clocks, and vary considerably as to notes played and the number of bells employed. They are merely ringers' changes on a specified number of bells. The following are two different forms of these from a large number which could be given (on a set of eight, or natural octave):—

1st quarter,	12345678
2nd quarter,	{ 15234768 52617348
3rd quarter,	{ 37524618 13572468 12345678
4th quarter,	{ 13572468 52617348 37524618 15234768
1st quarter,	12345678
2nd quarter,	{ 15263748 34567218
3rd quarter,	{ 13572468 75312468 12345678
4th quarter,	{ 15263748 34567218 13572468 75312468

The Cambridge quarters—sometimes called Westminster quarters—were first erected in St. Mary-the-Great Church, Cambridge, in 1793-4. In their proper form they require a ring of ten bells, the hour bell being thus the octave of the third of the quarter-chimes. They are, however, frequently played on six and eight-bell peals, but musically these are not so satisfactory, leaving an incomplete effect on the ear as the hour bell strikes on No. 6 or 8. At Great St. Mary's Church, Cambridge, the chimes, for which £69 19s. 1d. had been collected in 1673, became discontinued when Phelps cast the eight middle bells of the present twelve in 1722. In March, 1793, the University agreed to put up a new clock, and arrangements were made for quarter chimes. The whole work was completed in about eleven months. Dr. Raven says he derived the above quarter chimes from Mr. Amps, then organist of Christ's College, to whom it came from Mr. Pratt, formerly organist of King's. At this time Dr. Jowett was Regius Professor of Laws, and Dr. Randall Regius Professor of Music, Crotch and Pratt being among his pupils. Jowett was an expert mechanic, and took the warmest interest in the new clock. The University authorities largely trusted to him, and he is credited with having taken young Crotch into his counsels. This prodigy, only eighteen, but in his fifteenth year of instrumental performance, was said to have taken in the fifth bar of the opening symphony of Handel's sublime air, 'I know that my Redeemer liveth,' and expanded it into the system of chimes to which few who

(Continued on next page.)

THE CAMBRIDGE QUARTERS.

(Continued from previous page.)

travel are strangers. It was said by Dr. Pratt that when the chimes were first heard they were thought so strange that they were nicknamed 'Jowett's Hornpipe.' Very few, except those who had known Crotch, were aware that he had anything to do with their composition, and till they were copied for the Royal Exchange their merits were but little appreciated. The arrangement is such that the chime-barrel revolves twice in an hour. The first revolution takes five movements—one from the first quarter, two from the second, and the two former out of the three of the third; the second revolution these same movements again and in the same order—the last of the third quarter and the four for the hour.

It is curious that these melodious chimes were in use at Cambridge for over half a century before they attracted any attention. Those copied for the Royal Exchange in 1845 were no improvement on the original. The groups of four notes were not changed, but the sequence altered to:—

(1) CEDG. (2) CDEG—GDEC. (3) GDEC—ECDG—CDEC. (4) CEDG—GDEC—ECDG—CDEC (hour) lower C.

In 1859-60 the Cambridge chimes were copied for the quarter-chimes at the Houses of Parliament, since which time they have become popular, so much so that out of the whole chiming clocks erected in churches and on other public buildings, over sixty per cent. have been made with Cambridge chimes.

The Leicester Municipal Buildings clock is fitted with Cambridge quarter-chimes, and so also was the nearby St. Martin's Church, now the Cathedral. Both struck on bells exactly akin in tone and tune, therefore to avoid confusion the late organist of St. Martin's—Dr. Hancock—devised for the chimes there the following variation:—

(1) ECDG. (2) CEDG—DGE. (3) EDCG—CDGE—DECG. (4) GCDE—DCEG—CGED—GDEC (hour) lower C.

Another somewhat similar arrangement of these quarters was made—purely for mechanical reasons—by the late Lord Grimthorpe for Doncaster Parish Church—these now being known as 'Doncaster chimes.'

The following are the chimes at Tideswell, adapted for a ring of six bells.

1. 1234
2. 3214
3. 1324
4. 2134

1 is played at first quarter, 1 and 2 at second, 1, 2 and 3 at third, and all at fourth, with No. 6 as hour bell.

(To be continued.)

RUISLIP.—On Monday, August 31st, at Bell Haven, Acacia Avenue, a quarter-peal of Doubles, consisting of 240 Stedman, 480 Plain Bob and 540 Grandsire: George M. Kilby 1-2, Corpl. K. Arthur, R.A.F. 3-4, Corpl. E. Coward, R.A.F. (conductor) 5-6. Believed to be the first quarter-peal on handbells rung in Ruislip.

THE SILENCE OF THE BELLS.

WOODFORD RECTOR'S PLEA.

Writing in the magazine of St. Mary's Parish Church, Woodford, the Rev. T. F. Ison, the Rector, says:—

'In company with many of you I continue to be puzzled about the ban on bellringing at our churches. I feel that it was a hasty bit of legislation and it ought to be repealed. The decision to give warning of an invasion through church bells commends itself to few people. The traffic often makes the bells inaudible at any distance, whereas there are the sirens, which can be heard far away. Moreover, it is a hazardous business for an unskilled person to attempt to ring heavy bells. Hear what a famous campanologist, Troyte, says about it: "The coil of rope which it is necessary to hold in the hand, before and whilst raising a bell, always puzzles a learner; it gets into his face and perhaps round his neck, in which case he may be hanged."

'I believe influences are at work from time to time to move the authorities to allow bellringing again. I, for one, shall be glad if they succeed. The bells are greatly missed.'

CHOIRBOYS AS RECRUITS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—If you don't mind my writing again so soon I should like to add a little to my last week's letter.

I disagree with Mr. F. E. Pitman. It is quite true that the problem of what to do to keep choirboys when their voices break is a real and important one, but it has nothing to do with us as ringers, and we do not want the belfry used as an experiment and a dumping ground for used up choirboys. Now and again a good recruit may be had from the choirboys, but they are just as rare as anywhere else and want just as much finding. I would welcome any choirboy who wished on his own accord to become a ringer, but I would not do any pressing. They are too young to be much permanent good. They might come out of curiosity; and perhaps stay for a while, long enough to give a lot of trouble in teaching, and then as other interests come along they fade away and are seen no more.

I would try and interest the young men in the choir. If one of them was induced to learn ringing and had any aptitude for the art there would be a good chance of keeping him. A CHURCHMAN.

A MESSAGE FROM MR. C. K. LEWIS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I, through the medium of your columns, express my good wishes to all those ringing friends whom I found it impossible to see personally before I left England, and to ask them to spare no effort to keep the flag flying until we return?

I would, also, like to say that I consider that the securing of the future of 'The Ringing World' would be the best memorial which its founder and late editor could have and would what he himself would have wished.

I shall look forward to receiving my copies of 'The Ringing World,' long delayed, no doubt, but very welcome, when I reach my destination, and I hope, from time to time, that I may be able to send you items of interest.

This letter is being written in mid-Atlantic, and by the time it reaches your hands I may have been able to hear the sound of church bells once again at one of our ports of call. With every good wish for continued success of our journal. C. KENNETH LEWIS.

A DRASTIC COMMENT.

'The peal of Stedman Catons rung by the Painswick Society conducted by Mr. Estcourt on the 18th inst. at St. Mary's Church, Cheltenham, was we are assured one of the worst struck peals ever rung, there not being 500 good changes in the whole 5,081 represented to have been accomplished.'—'Bell's Life,' February 29th, 1852.

A VISIT TO ROSS—Continued from page 411.

to despair of their work, then labour heavily at it, then begin to slumber, and at last fall into the deep heavy sleep, which they have enjoyed more or less for one hundred and eighty years. Only fancy one hundred and eighty Christmas days! Taking a generation at thirty years, these bells must have rung their Christmas peal to no less than six generations of the inhabitants of Ross since the reign of King William III., A.D. 1695, when the "Man of Ross," John Kyrle, gave the big bell. It is said that the Man of Ross was present at the casting of the tenor or great bell, and that he took with him an old silver tankard, which, after drinking claret and sherry, he threw in and had cast with the bell. By a curious coincidence this bell unexpectedly fell off the wheel soon after John Kyrle's funeral.'

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GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

THE NEED AND USE OF SINGLES.

(Continued from page 406.)

We have now established a most important fact in the composition of Grandsire Triples. At the start we must set the 5,040 rows down either as 72 P Blocks or as 120 B Blocks. But, while each P Block can exist in one form only in which all the handstrokes are odd and all the backstrokes are even, any B Block can exist in two alternative forms, one of which is the reverse of the other.

In Bob Major, Double Norwich and similar methods, we divide the natural courses into odd and even, and those in one group are quite distinct from those in the other group; and there can never be rows which are common to both groups. The same thing happens in Grandsire Doubles and Grandsire Caters, but in Grandsire Triples every block is both even and odd.

We could set the 5,040 rows down in 72 P Blocks in which all the handstrokes are even and all the backstrokes are odd, but that would be of no use to us, for rounds would have to be a handstroke row which, of course, never happens in a peal. If we try to set down the 5,040 rows in 72 P Blocks, some of which have even backstrokes and some odd backstrokes, we shall find that it cannot be done. And since directly we use common singles we turn the even backstrokes into odd backstrokes, we cannot use common singles as links in a peal of Grandsire Triples if we take P Blocks as the basis of the composition.

Fortunately, it is otherwise when we start with 120 B blocks. We can set the 5,040 rows down either in 120 B Blocks, in which all the handstrokes are odd and all the backstrokes are even; or in 120 B Blocks, in which all the handstrokes are even and all the backstrokes are odd. And when we compare the two groups we find that every block in the first group has a complementary block in the second group in which the rows are exactly the same, but come in the reverse order. For instance in the B Block whose lead-ends are:—

1752634

1467352

1234567

the rows are exactly the same as those in the B Block whose lead-ends are:—

1576243

1643725

1325476

The first three lead-ends are even, the second three are odd, and in each pair of complementary B Blocks the relationship of the lead-ends is the same.

We can now see broadly what happens when we use common singles as links in constructing a peal. We start with 120 B Blocks and by means of bobs used in Q Sets we can join them together until we have two round blocks. They may be of varying sizes and one may contain the total number of rows except for one B Block. We cannot add that by bobs, and must use singles.

Now suppose the missing block has the lead-ends 642735, 576342, 235476. We cannot join this block to the large one by means of common singles and have these rows at the backstroke, for the single will change the nature, and these are even. So we must reverse the block and have as the backstrokes 467253, 753624, 324567. We then look through the large block and see if either

647253, 573624, or 234567 comes up at a bob. One or two of them may, three of them cannot. But wherever one of them does come up bobbed, we can substitute a single, add the missing block, and then by a second single get back again into the large block at the point we left it.

The block given above is actually the block which is added to Holt's Original by singles. As usually rung it is added by calling the first single instead of the bob, which would have brought up rounds, but it could have been added much earlier in the peal instead of the 88th bob, 573624, and this, it will be remembered, was done not long ago, when the composition was called on handbells by Mr. Ernest Turner.

When blocks are added by means of common singles it always has to be done at bobbed leads, never at plain leads.

That common singles can be used in Grandsire Triples is due to the fact that the B Block is symmetrical about the path of the treble. This is more or less of an accident. It occurs in Union Triples, for there the B Block is identical with the B Block of Grandsire; but it occurs in none other of the seven-bell methods with a bell-in-the-hunt. With them a single which alters the succession of the nature of the rows cannot be used, and in-course or Holt's singles must be employed.

Custom has allowed these to be made either at plain leads or at bobbed leads, but the number must not exceed two; and they are not easily tolerated elsewhere than at the half-way and end of the peal.

It was some time before the limitations we have explained, in the use of the common single, were generally understood in all their implications. The first edition of Snowdon's 'Grandsire' contains a peal which is false because the wrong kind of single was used, and even so clever and so accomplished a composer as William Henry Thompson published peals which were false for the same reason.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL.

THE PEAL BOARDS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—When on a visit to Coventry a few days ago I took the opportunity of again visiting the ruins of the Cathedral.

As you are doubtless aware, the tower and spire of the Cathedral escaped destruction. When first visiting the scene shortly after the blitz of November, 1940, I was relieved to observe that the collection of peal boards affixed to the lower walls of the tower were undamaged. They were, as a matter of fact, included in a booklet issued by the Provost of the Cathedral among the list of treasures and properties saved from the fire and intact.

Since that time no steps whatsoever have apparently been taken to protect or preserve the boards, and I was appalled to observe the deterioration which has taken place in their condition since 1940, due to exposure to the elements, neglect and ill-usage. One further winter under the present conditions and the boards will be irretrievably ruined.

The base of the tower is now occupied as a builder's store, and against one of the peal records, which appears to be merely a framed canvas, a quantity of bags of cement have been stacked.

If the Cathedral authorities do not value the peal records, which are of unique interest, some dating back 150 years, could not the Diocesan Ringers' Association or other similar body be allowed to undertake their removal and preservation until such times as suitable accommodation and care can be provided? OSWALD J. HUNT.

146, Burnage Lane, Manchester 19.

NOISY BELLS.—A common cause of complaint, where there is much change ringing and many houses lie near the church tower, is the noisiness of bells. Such complaints are sometimes well founded, but there would be less occasion for them if available means for diminishing and controlling the sounds of bells were understood and adopted.—The Guardian.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12th, at the Town Hall. Ringing (handbells only) from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. No arrangements can be made for tea. No admission without identity cards. — Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Old Bradwell on Saturday, Sept. 12th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. A good attendance desired. All welcome.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION (North-Eastern Division)

and the **SUFFOLK GUILD.** — A joint meeting will be held at Stratford St. Mary's on Saturday, Sept. 12th. Handbells 2.30 p.m. Service in church 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting in the Parish Room 5 p.m. Please bring own eatables, but cups of tea will be found. — Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., N.E. Division, Essex Association, Lower Barn Farm, Dedham.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

Central Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Dinton on Saturday, September 12th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. All welcome.—F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., 30, Horn Street, Winslow, Bucks.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

Northern Branch.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Brigg on Saturday, September 19th. Business meeting in the Church House at 4 p.m. Will members please make own arrangements for tea. Handbells in the ringing chamber during afternoon and evening.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

Meeting at Coalbrookdale, Saturday, September 19th, 3.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tower bells (10) for 'silent' practice, also handbells. Please bring sandwiches.—E. D. Poole, 20, Wrekin View, Madeley, Shropshire.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

Northern Branch.—Annual meeting at Clent (D.V.), Saturday, September 19th, 3 p.m. Bells (8) available 'silent.' Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., and business meeting for election of officers, etc. Handbells and social evening to follow. Outstanding subscriptions should be paid at this meeting, please.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

OXFORD DIOCESAN BUILD.

Reading Branch.—A meeting will be held at Tilehurst on Saturday, September 19th. Handbells in tower at 3 p.m. Service in church at 5 p.m. Tea in Old National Schools at 6 p.m., 1s. per head. Please let me know by Wednesday, the 16th, how many for tea.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec., 401, London Road, Reading.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

A general meeting will be held at the Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, September 19th. A reserved room available from 2 p.m. General committee meet at 3 p.m. General meeting at 4 p.m. Tea at 5.15 p.m. A plain tea will be available at 1s. 6d., also a high tea at 3s. 6d. Applicants for tea should specify the tea they require, and must notify Mr. D. Smith, 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley, not later than Wednesday, September 16th.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

Chew Deanery.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Yatton on Saturday, Sept. 19th. Bells (with silent apparatus) available 3 o'clock. Divine service 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 o'clock with business meeting to follow.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Sec., Long Ashton.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

The next meeting will be held in the school at Wolvey, near Hinckley, on Saturday, September 19th. Cups of tea provided, but please bring own eatables. Good bus service from Coventry and Leicester.—Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The next meeting will be held at Uttoxeter on Saturday, September 19th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. E. Roberts, 46, Ashbourne Road, Uttoxeter, Staffs, not later than September 15th. All ringers welcome.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

A meeting will be held at East Grinstead on Saturday, September 26th. Handbells and, we hope, silent tower bells. The Vicar has offered to provide tea, so please send a p.c. to Miss K. Shepherd, 34, Cantelupe Road, East Grinstead. No names, no tea.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF

BIRMINGHAM (Est. 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Erdington, on Saturday, September 26th. Handbells in the Church House 3.30 p.m. Short business meeting 4.15. Guild service in church 5 p.m.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A meeting will be held at Acle on Saturday, October 3rd. Bells (6, silent) available 2.15 p.m. Service 4. Tea and business meeting 4.30. Please let me know names for tea by September 28th, and bring sugar, etc. Trains leave Norwich 1.30 and 3.23. Leave Acle 5.8 and 6.39.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

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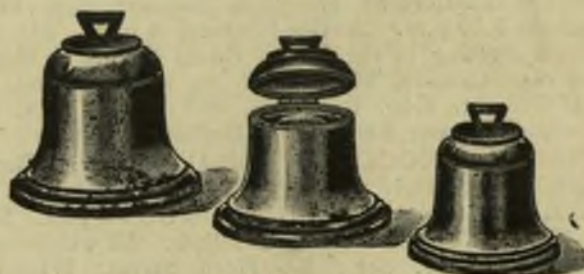
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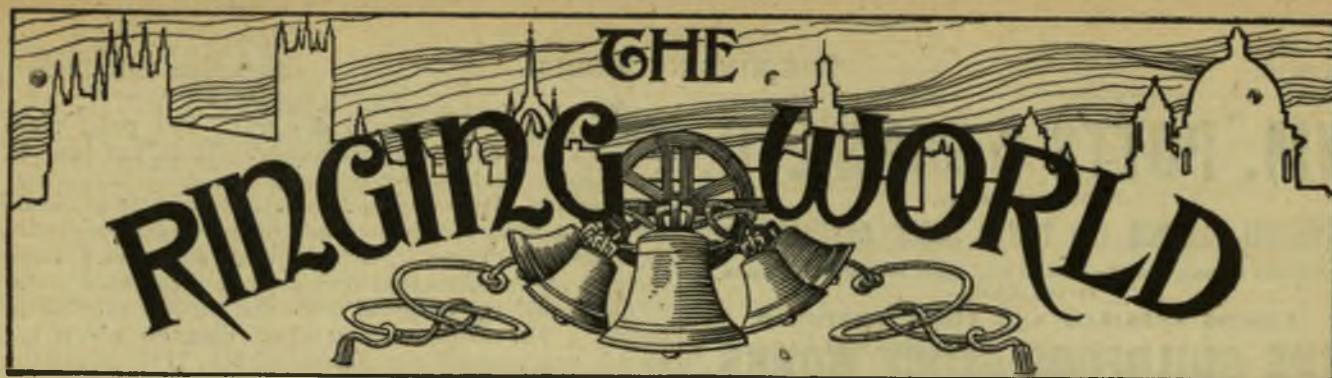
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th, 1942.

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THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

At the recent annual meeting of the Society of Cumberland Youths, held at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, the members were reminded that the society is rapidly approaching its two hundredth anniversary and the time is coming when ways and means to celebrate it will have to be considered. We are glad the matter is in hand thus early, and we do not doubt a festival can and will be arranged comparable to the tercentenary festival of the rival and now friendly Society of College Youths.

Two hundred years is a long time even in the history of the Exercise, and the story of the Cumberland Youths covers most of the period when peal ringing was the aim of a ringer's ambition and the standard of his progress. Taking the period as a whole few companies have so much achievement to boast of as they have, and among the societies which sprang up in the distant past and have endured to the present only the College Youths and the St. Martin's Youths of Birmingham can be compared to them.

The Cumberlands have had a chequered career and their fortunes have varied considerably, though they have never touched such extremes as have the College Youths. On the one hand they have never occupied such a position of pre-eminence, both socially and as practical ringers, as their rivals, and, on the other hand, they have never fallen so low or been so near extinction as the others were when they had reached their two hundredth anniversary. The names on their membership roll will compare favourably with those of any other company, and even the College Youths cannot boast a better list than that which includes George Partrick, George Gross and his son, John Reeves, William Shipway, Henry Haley, John Cox, George Newson, Henry Dains and many more.

It would be incorrect to say that the Society of Cumberland Youths holds to-day the same prominent position in the Exercise it once did. For that there is more than one reason. The rise of the great territorial associations and the development of the art among the country bands have transferred the leadership of the Exercise from London to the provinces, and it is no longer possible for one or two companies like the College Youths, the Cumberlands and the Norwich Scholars to dominate ringing and lord it over their fellow ringers as they once did.

Yet as worthy representatives of the past ages, and as the band responsible for the ringing at one of the principal London churches, the Cumberlands hold a definite and important position in the Exercise, and their approaching bicentenary is sure to receive the support

(Continued on page 422.)

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among ringers generally it deserves. One point there is which may be worth mentioning. There has been in the past a great deal of guessing and conjecture about the origin of the society and its early story. It would be well if the society appointed one or more of its members to investigate these legends and see how much truth there is in them, so that inaccurate and fantastic statements should not be made when the time of celebration comes. For instance, the actual date on which the society was founded was September 6th, 1747, not in the year 1745; the story of the personal connection of the Duke of Cumberland cannot have had any basis in actual fact, and it is not in the least likely that the society was 'previous to 1745 known as the London Scholars.'

RICHARD WHITTINGTON. CITIZEN AND MAYOR OF LONDON.

Most people know Whittington—'Dick' Whittington—as a pantomime hero, the owner of a cat, and a person who sat on Highgate Hill and listened to Bow Bells. To ringers his name is more usually associated with a musical change, and, vaguely, with the foundation of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

All this is mostly legend and fairy tale; yet there actually was a Richard Whittington, and in his time he was a very important person in the City of London.

Whittington was the son of Sir William Whittington, a Gloucestershire landowner. He settled in London, where in due course he became a mercer and a very wealthy merchant. He was alderman in 1393 and sheriff in 1393-4. In 1397 when the office of mayor became vacant through death, he was appointed for the remainder of the term, and he was elected in 1398, 1406 and 1419. He is said to have been Member of Parliament for the City, but that is doubtful. Through his great wealth he was brought into contact with King Henry IV. and his son Henry V., to whom he lent money for their wars.

Whittington had no children and he devoted a good deal of his fortune to the benefit of his fellow citizens. He helped to found an important library at Christ Church, Newgate Street, and he founded and endowed a hospital or almshouse for thirteen poor men, as well as a college in connection with the Church of St. Michael, Paternoster Royal. The college was suppressed in the reign of Edward VI., but the almshouse still survives though removed from its original site. Whittington died in March, 1422.

The story about the poor boy and his cat, and his sitting on Highgate Hill listening to Bow Bells and their message to return to wealth and prosperity, is a fairy tale which seems to have originated in the reign of Queen Elizabeth by someone adapting for the theatre a story which is traditional in several countries, and borrowing Whittington's name for it. It was not known before 1605.

In any case, Whittington could never have heard the chime which bears his name, for there were not six bells at Bow Church in his time. William Copland, who gave the great bell, 'which,' says Stow, 'made the fifth in the ring,' was churchwarden in 1515.

Nor had Whittington, or his college anything to do with the Society of College Youths or its name. The college was not an educational establishment like Eton or Winchester, but a collegiate church, and there were no youths attached to it. It was dissolved 89 years before the Society of College Youths was founded.

Whittington is often referred to as Sir Richard, but there is no evidence that he ever was knighted.

STEDMAN CINQUES AT LIVERPOOL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—You refer to the peal of Stedman Cinques rung at Ashton-under-Lyne in 1905. It was claimed, as you say, as the first in Lancashire. This claim was at the time disputed by my friend, the late Mr. William Davies.

About 10 years ago, when writing on this matter, I asked, 'On what grounds were the peals of Stedman Cinques rung at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, in 1828 and 1863 disqualified?' There was no response from anyone. These peals are recorded on boards in St. Nicholas' tower and it would be interesting to know whether they were false in their composition or by reason of their being rung in such quick time. It is very remarkable that each peal was rung in 3 hours 25 minutes, but that does not say they were incompletely rung. Two men rang the 11th on the first occasion, and one man, Thomas Lyon, on the second. This same ringer rang the same bell to a peal of Grandsire Cinques in March, 1862, in 3 hours 22 minutes.

It was evidently the custom of these old worthies to ring quick peals, and although we may not approve of their racing speed, there is no convincing reason for these performances being condemned as untrue.

GEORGE R. NEWTON.

57, Amphil Road, Liverpool 17.

HANDBELL PEALS.

RADLEY, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, September 5, 1942, in One Hour and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE SCHOOL HOUSE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings.

Tenor size 14 in D.

*BRENDA M. WILKS	1-2	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE	3-4
MARIE R. CROSS	5-6		

Conducted by WILLIAM L. B. LEESE.

* First peal, and at the age of 14.

FELKIRK, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Sunday, September 6, 1942, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

DANIEL SMITH	1-2	PETER WOODWARD	5-6
HAROLD CHANT	3-4	RAYMOND FORD	7-8

Composed by JOHN REEVES. Conducted by HAROLD CHANT.

Arranged and rung in memory of Albert Nash, one of the founders of the Barnsley and District Society, and a stalwart member of the Yorkshire Association, who died on August 3rd last.

LONDON.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, September 9, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes.

AT 2, SEAMORE PLACE, CURZON STREET, W.1,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

MRS. E. A. BARNETT	1-2	EDWIN H. LEWIS	5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT	3-4	EDWIN BARNETT	7-8

Composed by C. H. MARTIN. Conducted by E. H. LEWIS.

COVENTRY.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

(ALLESLEY AND KERESLEY SOCIETIES.)

On Saturday, September 12, 1942, in One Hour and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT 68, BROWNSHILL GREEN ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-voices with different callings. Tenor size 12 in F.

*ERNEST STONE	1-2	C. HENRY WEBB	3-4
JOHN W. TAYLOR	5-6		

Conducted by C. H. WEBB.

* First handbell peal. Rung with handbells fully muffled as a tribute to the memory of two sons of the Rector of Allesley, who gave their lives in the great fight for freedom: Philip Winsor, Royal Warwicks, Flanders, May 27th, 1940, aged 22 years; Fred Winsor, R.A.F., July 7th, 1941, aged 21 years.

WITNESHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

(ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY.)

On Sunday, September 13, 1942, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT UPPER STREET,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5038 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

*GEORGE A. FLEMING	1-2	CHARLES J. SEDGLEY	5-6
*HOBART E. SMITH	3-4	WILLIAM J. G. BROWN	7-8

Composed by J. PLATT. Conducted by WILLIAM J. G. BROWN.

Witness—Albert A. Fleming.

* First peal in the method 'in hand.'

DAGENHAM, ESSEX.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Sunday, September 13, 1942, in One Hour and Forty-Five 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		

Rung silent and non-conducted.

Umpire—T. J. Chaplin, of the Royal Cumberland Youths.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE WHITING.

HELMINGHAM COMPANY'S LOSS.

The Helmingham Company have sustained a great loss by the death of their captain, Mr. George Whiting, who passed away on Friday, September 4th, and was buried at Helmingham Church on September 8th.

Among those present at the funeral were Messrs. C. Fisher, of Ufford, C. Arbon, of Monewdon, and five of the local band. Messrs. George Bennett, George Pryke, W. Weedon and T. W. Last acted as bearers and rang the whole pull and stand a few times over the open grave.

Mr. Whiting, who had been parish clerk and sexton at Helmingham for 28 years, was 57 years old, and had been a ringer for more than 40 years. He was an excellent conductor in all methods. He had not kept a record of his peals, but they numbered about 200. Compared with some men's lists, this is not a lot, but they were in at least 55 methods, 46 of them of Surprise Major. He conducted peals in 11 Surprise Major methods, six of them the first ever rung. They were Woodbridge, Orwell, Huntingdon, Cornwall, Otley and Lavenham. He leaves a widow, five sons and three daughters, two of the sons being members of the Helmingham company.

'We shall always have,' writes Mr. T. W. Last, 'an affectionate memory of a good comrade, and a marvellous ringer considering that one arm was almost useless to him, but his bell was always in its place. Now his life's peal is ended. The great Conductor has called him home.'

DEATH OF MR. F. J. SMITH.

The death is announced of Mr. Frederick J. Smith, of Ipswich, who passed away suddenly on Thursday, September 3rd. He was cycling home to dinner with a friend when he collapsed.

The funeral service at Ipswich Cemetery was on September 7th and was conducted by the Rev. — Oyster, curate of St. John's. The St. Mary-le-Tower Society was represented by Messrs. W. P. Garrett and G. E. Symonds, and sent a wreath as a tribute of esteem.

Mr. Smith, who was 52 years old, formerly belonged to the Loiston and Aldeburgh companies, and joined the St. Mary-le-Tower band about six years ago. He had rung 98 peals for the Norwich Diocesan Association and 113 for the Suffolk Guild. They included Double Norwich Court Bob and Superlative, New and Old Cambridge, Rochester, Yorkshire and Pudsey Surprise Maximus.

CHISWICK RINGER MISSING.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir, — Many London ringers will regret to hear that Mr. Norman H. Manning has been reported missing in the Middle East. Mr. Manning was a member of the St. Nicholas', Chiswick, band that taught themselves change ringing. At the outbreak of war he was secretary of the South-West District of the London County Association and had rung about 40 peals, from Minor to Maximus. He was an enthusiastic ringer and devoted a great deal of his energy in helping beginners. It is to be hoped that the worst that has befallen him is to be a prisoner of war.

F. D. BISHOP.

36, Sussex Avenue, Isleworth.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS*By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE*

'Not only bellringers, but many others will welcome this book.'—The Times.

'Mr. Trollope has achieved more than his immediate purpose of writing a history of the Society of College Youths. So closely has the Guild been identified with English change ringing, that its history is, to a very large extent, an account of how the ancient sport of ringing developed into an elaborate art.'—The Guardian.

'I have been looking at that admirable history of your society, written by Mr. Trollope. He bears a name famous already in literature, which he worthily supports.'—The Dean of St. Paul's.

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(Continued from page 413.)

A good deal has been urged at various times in defence of the old ringers. It has been said that they were really not nearly so black as they have been painted, that they had many virtues, and that their failings, such as they were, were those of the class of society to which they belonged. There is much truth in all that. It would be manifestly unfair to judge any body of men because their standards were no higher than those of their fellows. No doubt it would have been a fine thing if the eighteenth-century ringers had been a shining example of sobriety and good churchmanship to their generation, but under the circumstances that was not to be looked for. The gravamen of the charge against them was that in a drunken age they were conspicuous for drunkenness.

Now it must be remembered that these men, naturally and on account of the conditions which had grown up, were sociable, convivial and clubable persons. They assembled at a tavern when they met to ring, and they adjourned to the tavern when they left the belfry. There they kept their property, and there they held their meetings. They had no lack of opportunity or inducement to drink. Mr. R. A. Daniell urged in their favour that in London at any rate there was no drinking in belfries, and Shipway in the passage quoted above said much the same thing. But then there was no need for the London men to be at the bother of carrying drink into the belfry—the tavern was quite handy enough both before and after they rang. Country ringers, when the church was some distance, did carry their gallon bottle of beer into the belfry, and the number of ringers' jugs which still exist in different places shows that the custom was quite common all over the country. But, granted that they did, we may ask whether, after all, it was such a serious matter. To drink beer in a belfry may be an offence against good order and decorum—that depends largely on the standards of the times—there certainly is nothing morally wrong about it. We should not condemn a man who ate some biscuits in a belfry; why then condemn men who drank half a pint of beer? for a gallon does not go far among six or a dozen ringers. The truth is that there are people, and once there were many people, who hold that beer or any form of alcoholic drink is an evil thing in itself.

In the rules of the Society of Union Scholars which were drawn up about 1713 it was 'ordained that at all weekly meetings each member should expend sixpence, and if the reckoning amount to more the stewards shall pay it.' Sixpence in those days would buy a large quantity of drink. We can make a fair estimate from the fact that during the years 1706 to 1730 mutton was 2½d. a pound, and during the years 1740 to 1760 beef was the same price. Beer was proportionately cheap, and, as I have already mentioned, gin sellers advertised that a man could get drunk for a penny and dead drunk for two-pence. But there was a good deal of exaggeration in that.

It is clear that in the eighteenth century there was a good deal of drinking among ringers, and it is clear, too, that, though ringing was not responsible for it, the conditions under which it was practised did encourage drinking. But it does not follow because a man got drunk now

and then in company that he was a drunkard; and it certainly is no occasion of reproach, either then or now, against a body of men that they used taverns for their meeting places and social gatherings.

Public opinion of the time saw little to find fault with in a man taking a drop too much, and the subject would have scant interest for us if it were not for the effect it had on the Exercise in the following century. When the nation began to wake up to the evils of intemperance, reformation naturally began with the middle classes of society. The masses lagged behind. The ringers were all of the masses, and they, far more than most people, clung to their old habits and opinions. The result was that the gap between their standards and those of church-people widened, and a state of affairs which was tolerated in the eighteenth century became a scandal in the nineteenth. There is no need to judge the later ringers hardly; it is true of evil things as of good that what one man sows another reaps. The problem of drunkenness among ringers belongs to the story of the nineteenth century rather than to that of the eighteenth.

The majority of the men whose names we come across in the history of eighteenth century ringing were of decent class. They belonged to much the same orders as present day ringers and were decidedly superior to the ringers of the nineteenth century. The leading London societies were small bodies and were enabled to keep their membership select. In the earlier times the College Youths, the Eastern Scholars, and the London Scholars contained the best of the metropolitan ringers. Possibly the Union Scholars, the City Scholars, and one or two other companies, were composed of a very similar class of men. Later on the two Societies of College Youths were very particular as to whom they admitted. The Cumberland Youths, apparently, were not quite so exclusive.

Outside these companies there were many ringers of lower class who did most of the very considerable amount of paid ringing that there was. They come very little into the history of the time, but it is likely that the low opinions outsiders formed of the Exercise was chiefly due to them.

The organisation of the Exercise had come down from the seventeenth century. The various societies were small and exclusive bodies which existed solely for the practice of change ringing as a secular sport, and as social clubs. It is hardly possible to estimate the number of active members at any particular time, but it could never have been large. Until the rise of the Cumberland Society of College Youths was the most numerous company in London. From 1637 to 1700 they elected (according to the name book) two hundred and forty-three members, an average of less than four a year. From 1700 to 1754 they elected three hundred and ninety-seven members, an average of rather more than seven a year. After 1754 we have no certain means of knowing the number of members elected, but it is probable that, neither in the 'ancient' society nor in the 'junior' society was the average greater. A certain proportion of these members were country ringers, and some were honorary members whose connection with the society was confined to the annual feast; and after making allowances for these, it is clear that the members elected were only just sufficient to fill the vacancies caused by

(Continued on next page.)

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

(Continued from previous page.)

deaths and retirements. The society consisted of one band only, and the number of those who were peal ringers was quite small.

Other societies (except the Cumberlands) were still smaller. Between 1714 and 1757 the Union Scholars, who started with a membership of eight only, elected one hundred and eighty-two members, an average of rather more than four a year. Between 1733 and 1763 the Eastern Scholars elected one hundred and forty members, about the same average. Between 1753 and 1783 the London Youths elected eighty-six members, an average of less than three a year.

In some ways these old societies remind us of the small Greek states of classic times. While to outsiders their attitude was one of scarcely veiled hostility, internally their constitution was entirely democratic. All the members were, at least in theory, equal; all had equal rights; and all had an equal share in the government of the society. The officials were chosen by a general meeting, and they held office for one year only. As a rule they were appointed according to seniority, the master being selected from those who had already served as stewards. Once a man had been master he was not considered eligible for a second term of office. There was no written law to that effect, but it certainly was the general custom, and no doubt had been inherited from the old guilds. There was a close parallel between the rules and customs governing the election of the master and those governing the election of the Lord Mayor. From the time of the foundation of the Society

of College Youths in 1637 until 1754, when the records cease, there are only two rather doubtful instances of a man holding the office a second time. John Brereton was master in 1660 and possibly also in 1661. There may have been no election in the latter year owing to political changes. Peter Bradshaw, who was master in 1694, was re-elected in 1723. Probably in that year there was a crisis in the society's affairs, and he was brought in again to tide over a difficulty.

The authority of the master was very great. Besides presiding at the social and business meetings, he had, at least nominally, command in the belfry. It was the custom in the early days of the seventeenth century for a society to hold regular monthly and quarterly meetings of varying importance. At these meetings the officers took charge in turn according to seniority. A hundred and fifty years later we find much the same thing in the rules of the Cumberlands' Society; and it is a fair inference that it was for long the general custom of the London Exercise. 'The Master, Treasurer, or Stewards,' so runs the rule, 'shall have the ordering of all the month's peals, the Master first, the Treasurer next, and then the Stewards, everyone in order; and all the quarter's peals are at the Master's disposal.'

The officer in charge was supreme. It was his right and his duty to tell everyone when he had to ring and where he had to ring, and against his orders there was in law no appeal. 'The Master or Treasurer, or any other Member in their absence that knows best, shall set every Man to his Bell; and he or they that shall refuse to ring that Bell he or they are set to, he or they shall forfeit 4d.'

(To be continued.)

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. James George's many friends will be glad to know that his health is now much better. He has left the infirmary and is now living at Summerhill Homes, Summerhill Terrace, Birmingham 1.

Congratulations to Mr. Robert H. Brundle, who reaches his 91st birthday to-day, and to Mr. William H. Fussell, who was 81 last Wednesday.

The ages of L. W. Bullock and T. H. Bullock, who rang in the non-conducted peal of Minor on Sunday, are 12½ and 15½ years respectively. We think they must be the youngest persons who have rung a non-conducted peal.

The number of handbell peals this year has already exceeded the total for 1941 and is just on double for that of 1940. It is an excellent sign and shows that interest in change ringing is still alive.

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 1933 the Helmingham band rang the first peal of Bosmere Surprise Major, and in 1934 the Australian tour began.

On September 15th, 1847, at All Saints', West Bromwich, Samuel Marsh called a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, his own composition, in 14 courses with the 5th and 6th the extent each way. Marsh was a good composer, but the peal seems to have been the same as or a variation of one by I. J. B. Lates.

Mr. H. G. Cashmore called the first peal of Raunds Surprise Major at Bushey on September 15th, 1938.

The first peal by the St. Martin's Youths of Birmingham, one of Bob Major, was rung at St. Philip's, now the Cathedral, on September 16th, 1755.

On the same date in 1912 the first peal of Little Bob Royal was rung on the now destroyed bells of St. Sidwell's, Exeter, by the Cambridge University Guild.

The extent of London Surprise Major using bobs at M, W and R only is 6,720 changes, but if bobs at In and Fifths are used 11,328 changes are obtainable, and this length was rung at Drayton on September 17th by the Oxford Diocesan Guild, conducted by James W. Washbrook.

On the same date in 1932 the Leiston band rang the first peal of Essex Surprise Major.

The first peal of Court Bob Triples was rung at Wernham in Sussex on September 18th, 1836, and the first peal of Aston Major at Handsworth on September 18th, 1909.

On August 15th, 1908, the Ipswich company rang the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus at St. Mary-le-Tower. The band included William and George R. Pye and Bertram Prewett.

On the same date in 1925 the Midland Counties Association rang the first peal of Pudsey Surprise Royal.

Fifty years ago yesterday three peals were rung. One was Grand-sire Triples and two Grandsire Caters.

MR. THOMAS H. REEVES.

On Saturday last at the Masonic Rooms, Edgbaston, Birmingham, Bro. Thomas H. Reeves was installed Worshipful Master of the Arts and Crafts Lodge No. 4134. Among the large number present were ringing colleagues in Worshipful Bro. J. W. Pemberton, Bro. E. T. Allaway and Bro. Frank Perrins.

MR. C. K. LEWIS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Will you please allow me through your columns to express my appreciation to Mr. C. K. Lewis for his great help to us during his stay in Preston? He spent just over two years amongst us, and his unbounded enthusiasm enabled our younger members to master the intricacies of handbell ringing. Though our band is now scattered far and wide, I am sure all will remember with gratitude the help given by C. K. Lewis.

E. R. MARTIN.

88, Hartington Road, Preston.

MR. F. E. WILSON'S LOSS.

The many ringing friends of Mr. Frederick E. Wilson, of Leicester, will regret to hear of his sudden bereavement. Mrs. Wilson was confined in the City Hospital and gave birth to a baby which only lived for a short time. She was progressing favourably and was due to come home on August 28th. On August 24th a message was delivered to Mr. Wilson asking for his immediate attendance at the hospital, but before he arrived there his wife had passed away as the result of a sudden heart attack. Sympathy of his ringing friends will go out to Mr. Wilson in his very sudden and tragic loss.

THE PRINCIPLE THING.—In all Ringing the principle Thing to be observed, is a true and exact Compass, which in Music is called Time, otherwise the Ringing becomes very unpleasant and disturbing to the Hearer, and may be compared to the nauseous Music of a Country Fiddler playing before a Company of Boors and Peasants. It is a smooth and exact Compass that makes the Ringing diverting and pleasing, as true Time makes the Harmony in Music.—J.D. and C.M. Campanalogia.

WINCHESTER & PORTSMOUTH GUILD**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

The annual general meeting of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild was held at Winchester on August 29th, when nearly 60 ringers attended from all the districts as well as many visitors, including Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Kippin, of Beddington.

The Master (Mr. G. Williams) was in the chair, and was supported by the general secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers) and members of the Executive Committee. Apologies for absence were received from many members and from the hon. treasurer, whose wife was ill.

In their annual report the officers thanked the district secretaries for their work in getting in subscriptions and so making the Guild's financial position a sound one.

'There is no peal recorder's report for 1941,' they went on to say, 'as all the active work of the Guild is at a standstill, but we would especially like to congratulate our Christchurch district on the great progress made in handbell ringing in the Bournemouth area, under the enthusiasm of Mr. A. V. Davis and his colleagues, when the fruit of their labours we hope will be shown very fully in our report for the current year. Another happy event has taken place, we hear, in the Christchurch district by the re-entry of Mr. E. C. Elliott to the Lymington band, and we wish them as reorganised all success when peace comes again, and may it come soon.'

The loss of Dibden and St. Mary's and Holy Rood bells at Southampton will be a great blow to the Southampton district for a long time to come.

The accounts and balance sheets were adopted as printed. They showed a balance in hand at the end of 1941 of £251 16s., compared with £237 8s. at the end of 1940.

Although it was decided at the last annual meeting not to publish annual reports during the war, the principal officers considered that since separate leaflets would be required for statements, etc., to the Guild, it would be more economical to have them in a small booklet form. The meeting agreed and rescinded the previous resolution and authorised future publication in a condensed form.

It was announced that a contribution of £10 had been made to the Goldsmith Fund, and this was heartily endorsed.

Mr. W. Melville raised the question of the future of 'The Ringing World.' It was generally felt that if the paper had to cease publication it would be a severe blow to the Exercise, and if it went down the Guild would go down with it. It was unanimously agreed that the Guild's financial commitments on this question should be left entirely to the sub-committee to handle.

All the Guild's officers were re-elected en bloc—Master (Mr. G. Williams), hon. secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers), hon. treasurer (Mr. W. Linter), peals recorder (Mr. R. Reed) and hon. auditor (Mr. G. Smith).

It was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Winchester, the date being left to the secretary to arrange.

The long and valued services of Mr. G. Preston (Christchurch), who had served the Guild consistently for the past 38 years, were duly recognised when he was unanimously elected a life member.

At the conclusion of the meeting an impromptu tea was partaken of, after which members attended a special evensong at the Cathedral.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**JOINT MEETING AT STRATFORD ST. MARY.**

A joint meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association and the Suffolk Guild took place on Saturday, September 12th, at Stratford St. Mary, when 19 ringers attended from Dedham, Mistley, Halstead, Clacton-on-Sea, Rushmere, Thorington, Wivesham, Ipswich, Barking, Colchester, Langham, Leytonstone and Stratford St. Mary.

The service in church took the form of a memorial service to three departed ringers, Messrs. W. J. Nevard, F. J. Smith and G. Whiting. Miss H. G. Snowdon played before the service Spohr's 'Blest are the departed,' and the hymns were 'Lead us, Heavenly Father,' 'Lead, kindly light' and 'The King of Love my Shepherd is.'

The Rector gave a very warm welcome to both associations. Tea was partaken in the Church Hall, followed by the business meeting, at which, in the absence of the Master (Mr. G. Waterman), Mr. C. J. Sedgley took the chair and referred to the lives of the three departed ringers. It was proposed to hold the next meeting at St. Nicholas', Colchester, at an early date in January.

Mr. R. W. Stannard brought greetings from the College Youths, and the chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector, the lay reader, the organist and blower and to all who had helped in any way to make the meeting a success. Capt. Ruglys replied.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT MANCHESTER.**

The meeting of the Manchester Branch of the Lancashire Association at the Town Hall on September 12th, although not a large one, was gathered from far and wide, and included a number of young ringers, a very encouraging sign. The handbell ringing included some Bob Major by a band whose average age was 14 years and 3 months. There were some lively discussions at the meeting, which suggests that the flag is at least being again unfurled.

UMPIRES FOR HANDBELL PEALS.**MR. BARTON REPLIES.****To the Editor.**

Dear Sir,—I am afraid that 'Senex' has overlooked the chief point in my letter, which was prompted by the renewed discussion on umpires for handbell peals.

I had no intention of raising such a controversial matter as the constitution of a true peal (your leader of September 4th deals with that question most effectively), nor was it my intention to be so presumptuous as to set a standard by which the truth of a peal should be governed. I am not 'shifting the difficulty from one place to another' as 'Senex' suggests. The difficulty, to my mind, is static; it lies in the fact that, try as we may, short of propounding the ideal that all peals must be 'true and complete, without a bell out of course or changes alike' we are unable to set a definite standard which will cover all circumstances in peal ringing. Perfection is desirable, it may be attainable; but, to what extent is it practicable?

'Senex' asks me to define the qualifications of a competent umpire; I think the last paragraph of my previous letter will answer that.

However, the point is not what an umpire should be or what he should do, but whether it is necessary that he should be there at all. Following on that, if it is considered necessary to have an umpire for handbell peals, why not for tower bell peals also?

'A College Youth' in his letter states that all handbell ringers (the italics are mine) should consider it their duty to procure an umpire; again, why handbell ringers only? Is there some human frailty or vice in the make-up of the handbell ringer or conductor from which the tower bell ringer is free? The reasons which 'A College Youth' gives to justify his contentions are not very convincing, but, and this is important, they are equally applicable to handbells and tower bells.

To return to 'Senex's' letter, he states that he does not think much of our rule. I hasten to assure him that I do not claim it to be ideal. I, too, am aware of its shortcomings, especially if it is carried to the extent which he mentions, but may I point out that a conductor need not wait until the offending bells get to lead before he corrects them.

I cannot say that I am impressed by his comparison of the Double Norwich single and the Bob Major single; surely, any conductor who knows the effect a call has on the coursing order will know if the bells have failed to make a single correctly in Double Norwich long before they get to lead. If, on the other hand, he cannot check the coursing order or doesn't know the effect a call will have, it won't make much difference whether the method is Double Norwich or Bob Major, his chances of correcting the bells are equally remote.

I have no idea who 'Senex' is (why do some writers use fancy pseudonyms instead of the names bestowed on them by birth and parental choice?), but I shall be interested, and I think others will too, to read any suggestions he cares to put forward which may improve the quality of peal ringing.

But, Mr. Editor, all this is beside the point. What we are concerned with at the moment is the occasional clamour for umpires for handbell peals. Can we have a convincing reason why they should be treated differently to tower bell peals in the way of supervision? Until some good reason is given, and generally accepted, it is absolutely inconsistent to suggest that one should be fettered whilst the other goes free.

W. BARTON.

9, Pembroke Road, Pudsey.

AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW.

Dear Sir,—Talking about handbell peals, it is worth telling this tale about the late Mr. John Souter, of Diss, who died just ten years ago. He and Jimmy Motts and William Ireland and some of the Ipswich band were trying to ring a peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal, and they had rung a long time with first-class striking and no trips when Mr. Souter put his bells down. They asked him why he did it, and he replied, 'When we ring the peal we will ring a true one.' His bells should have made places together in 3-4, but before he noticed it he dodged them. If all handbell ringers were as particular as this there would be no need for umpires.

'EAST ANGLIAN.'

WHAT AUTHORITY?

Dear Sir,—I have read with interest the letters on this matter and have come to the conclusion that umpires for handbell peals are unnecessary. If a band cannot properly ring a peal either on tower or handbells it should not proceed.

As no umpire is required for a tower-bell peal, why should one be considered essential for handbells, and, if so, what authority would he (or she) have?

W. J. G. BROWN.

40, Fuchsia Lane, Ipswich.

HALESWORTH.—On Sunday evening, September 6th, for evensong at St. Mary's Church, on handbells, four courses of Grandsire Triples: Mrs. C. D. Andrews 1-2, A. H. Took 3-4, F. C. Lambert 5-6, C. D. Andrews (Enfield) 7-8. Also on September 9th in the vestry, a quarter-peal (1,260 changes) of Grandsire Doubles: Mrs. Andrews 1-2, F. C. Lambert (conductor) 3-4, C. D. Andrews 5-6.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 417.)

The Magdalen chimes, Oxford, first erected in 1713, are quite unique, and fascinating to many on account of their indefinite rhythmic progress. Considering their beauty, it is extraordinary they are not more frequently used. They are copied, however, at Speldhurst, Kent:—

- 1st quarter, 21.
- 2nd quarter, 2184.
- 3rd quarter, 435—637.
- 4th quarter, 435—647—21.

Hour on 8. I have noted these as for an octave.

These chimes at Magdalen College tower were reconstructed in 1908 by Messrs. J. Smith and Sons, of Derby. The Guildford chimes were composed by George Wilkins, organist of S. Nicolas' Church, Guildford. He was a pupil of Hopkins, and wrote a number of services, anthems, and some excellent hymn tunes. The chimes were originally set up in Holy Trinity Church in 1843. First copied at Chard, Somerset, for a time they were called 'chard chimes.' They have also been erected at Bournville, Irthlingborough, Macclesfield, Northleach, Stretton and elsewhere. For an eight-bell quarter chime they are among the best yet written. They go:—

- 1st quarter, 1—654.
- 2nd quarter, 641275346.
- 3rd quarter, 1436574635421.
- 4th quarter, 8461234653746—
54123468124374 (hour) 8.

Regarding the Tennyson or Carfax chimes, the following is quoted from the 'Oxford Times' of July 23rd, 1898:—

'Sir John Stainer has kindly given us some interesting details with regards the new chimes to be used for the clock. Some years ago the Rev. Dr. Merriman, Vicar of Freshwater, wrote to Sir John to the effect that a new clock was about to be erected in his parish church, and he wished to avoid adopting the hackneyed Westminster chimes. Sir John Stainer promptly wrote a set of chimes and sent them to his friend at Freshwater on the stipulation that they were to be put in without comment, and kept going for a year or two to see if the parishioners liked them. "The people are attached to them, and would not part with them for worlds" was the verdict some years later, and when Sir John Stainer was asked by Mr. Jackson to write a set for the six bells at Carfax tower, he replied that he could not improve on the set he had written for Dr. Merriman, and which had, moreover, satisfactorily undergone the test of use. Thus it comes about that the chimes used at Carfax are the same as those which have given so much pleasure to the Freshwater folks. In consequence of the connection between Freshwater and Lord Tennyson, Dr. Merriman had named the chimes after the great poet, but now they have been brought to Oxford, and as they were composed by the Oxford Professor of Music, Sir John Stainer wishes them to be known in future as the "Carfax Chimes."'

Whoever was responsible for the above account was evidently unaware of the true facts respecting these chimes. Sir John Stainer did not write them. Messrs. John Smith and Sons, of Derby, submitted several sets of five-bell chimes for his approval, to be erected at

Freshwater, Isle of Wight, for his friend, Dr. Merriman, the rector there.

He chose the set below, but suggested the hour chime should be in G, using the second group of the third quarter, but altering none of the notes. Here are his own words in reference to this:—

'I think the five-bell chime (No. 3 of the sets you sent me) will be charming if you make them end on G instead of A at the close of the hour chime, thus:—

21543 instead of 14352.

If you can arrange this, I think you will have a charming set of chimes, and, as far as I know, unique.' Here is the complete set (copyright by Messrs. J. Smith and Sons) set in figures as for a ring of six:—

- 1st quarter, 14352.
- 2nd quarter, { 32415.
34512.
- 3rd quarter, { 13245.
21543.
14352.
- 4th quarter, { 32415.
34512.
13245.
21543 (hour) 6.

The alteration suggested by Sir John Stainer was thus made, and in his next letter he wrote:—

'I like the chimes as you now send them very much.

I am sending a copy of them by this post to Dr. Merriman.' (August 5th, 1895.)

These chimes are also at Uppingham and at Maralin, Ireland. It will be noted that the tenor bell is used for the hour and not in the quarters. This chime—like the Cambridge chime—has the 'double revolution in an hour' scheme.

Norwich Cathedral chimes have already been given by a correspondent, but for the continuity of these articles I will repeat. The bells are five in a minor key, which is unusual, and the present chimes were composed by the Rev. E. S. Medley, Precentor of the Cathedral (1874-1877), who was awarded the prize offered by Dean Gouldburn for the best set of chimes to suit the bells. They were set going on the new clock in 1876 and are most effective, and, in this particular style, as good as possible to write on the available notes:—

- 1st quarter, 12345 (Nisi Dominus).
- 2nd quarter, { 54123
25345 } (In Exitu Israel).
- 3rd quarter, { 54315
31243
54235 } (Sursum Corda).
- 4th quarter, { 14325
43241
51234
23451 } (Gloria Patri).

Hour on No. 5, and it should be noted that these are like the first five of a ring of six.

THE HANDBELL PEAL AT FELKIRK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is with mixed feelings that I record this peal—certainly the best ringing that has been achieved by the present band—as it was under Mr. A. Nash's guidance that I rang and conducted my first handbell peals not so long ago. By his passing Southern Yorkshire has suffered a great loss, and the debt we owe to him can only be repaid by a continuance of the high standard of his great work.

HAROLD CHANT.

36, Briar Lane, Havercroft, Wakefield.

GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.**THE NEED AND USE OF SINGLES.**

(Continued from page 418.)

Some time ago the question was asked in 'The Ringing World': Is a peal of Grandsire Triples possible in ten equal parts with a common single at the half-way and end? It seems that it had been stated that such a peal actually existed. Mr. Bankes James, it will be remembered, said it was not possible and gave the reasons, and now we can explain the matter in the light of what we have said during these last three or four weeks.

A regular ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples with two common singles is not possible, nor is any other peal, whether in regular parts or not, which has only two common singles separated by a half-peal.

Since we are to use common singles, the basis of the composition must be the 120 B Blocks, and between one single and another there must be either 60 complete B Blocks joined together into a round block by a series of complete Q Sets; or else there must be certain B Blocks and certain Q Sets which have one or more members in one half-peal and the rest in the other half-peal.

But, as we have seen, a round block consisting of an even number of complete B Blocks (in this case 60) is not possible.

If a Q Set is divided so that one or more members come before the single and the rest after, then part of the Q Set will be at handstroke and part at backstroke. That does not matter so long as the Q Set is bobbed; but the Q Sets which join together B Blocks are omits, and it follows that any incomplete Q Sets before the single would have to be completed by omitting the third's place after the treble had led instead of before. That, of course, is inadmissible.

Besides the plan of composing by joining together P Blocks or B Blocks by means of bobs and singles arranged in Q Sets, there is another plan which takes us back to the very beginnings of the art and science of change ringing. This is the plan of composing by means of Hunts. It is the plan by which the original Plain Changes were produced, it plays its part in many compositions, and an excellent example of it occurs in the Bob and Single peals of Grandsire Triples.

The general plan of Hunts is this—First of all you have the Whole Hunt (usually the treble) which has a path which takes it regularly through every position. Then you have the Half Hunt which falls regularly into every position relative to the Whole Hunt. Then you have the Quarter Hunt which falls regularly into every position relative to the Whole Hunt and the Half Hunt. Then you have the Half-quarter Hunt. And, finally, you have the three Extreme Bells which go the Sixes.

In the Bob and Single peals of Grandsire the bobs and singles are the means by which the paths of the Half, Quarter, Half-quarter, Hunts and Extreme Bells are re-

gulated. Strictly speaking, the method is plain hunting, and the third's places made after the treble has led share equally with those made before it has led (the bobs) in fixing the paths of the Hunts.

The treble is the Whole Hunt and has an uninterrupted plain hunting path.

The sixth is the Half Hunt; it completes its revolution in three leads.

1000060

1006000

1000600

1600000

1060000

1000006

1000060

The sixth you will observe has occupied every position, either at handstroke or at backstroke, and has come home at the finish.

In this block there is only one place where a bob can be omitted without upsetting the Half Hunt. This is when it is Before. When that is done every time, a five-course block is provided of which the following are the course-ends.

1000067

1007060

1070060

1700060

1000760

1000067

The seventh, the Quarter Hunt, has now completed its revolution.

But we cannot make further alterations in the number and positions of the bobs. If we did we should upset the Half and Quarter Hunts. So we must use singles to fix the path of the fifth, the Half-quarter Hunt. There are various ways of doing it and we produce 5-course blocks with the following part-ends:—

050067

005067

500067

000567

Next we must use singles on 234 to produce the part-ends:—

423567

342567

234567

and, finally, by making or omitting two singles on 2, 3, one in each half-peal, we complete the composition. The making or omitting of singles is independent of the bobs which are not affected.

(To be continued.)

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CHOIRBOYS AS RECRUITS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I noted a letter from 'A Churchman,' who states that he disagrees with me concerning choirboys as recruits, in this week's issue. Well, if he will turn to your leading article, which so ably sums up the problem, he will find most of his subject answered.

With reference to his disagreement with my previous letter, I have nothing to add to my suggestions except to say that 'the use of the belfry as a dumping ground for used-up choirboys' came from your correspondent.

However, I will make this statement for our friend to think over, i.e., 'The belfry is constantly being used for experiments.' Without this, our new methods, new compositions and arrangements, where would we be now? Of course it is a place of experiment for new ideas, from the time we first set foot in there until our last pull.

Perhaps 'A Churchman' would furnish his name and address as an experiment, as I am also a churchman. F. E. PITMAN.

40, Tweedy Road, Bromley, Kent.

SPORT OR CHURCH WORK?*To the Editor.*

Sir,—The recent references in articles published in 'The Ringing World' to ringing comparative with sport prompts me to ask the question, 'Does the ringing Exercise look upon their calling as a sport or work for the Church?' E. W. MARSH.

Grandison, Morelo Avenue, Crownhill, Plymouth.

MR. ROBERT H. BRUNDLE.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—September 18th is the birthday of our old friend Robert H. Brundle, who was born in the year 1851 and will soon be in his 92nd year.

I called on him this morning and found him very well, his hearing and memory are wonderful, he loves to talk of bygone days, and stated it was November 7th, 1870, when he went to London to work.

He and George F. Margetson, late of Walthamstow, were choirboys in Ipswich at the same time.

Mr. Brundle rang a peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus on October 15th, 1938, being then in his 88th year, the oldest person to ring a peal on twelve bells.

We wish him all the best.

G. E. SYMONDS.

57, Mornington Avenue, Ipswich.

THE USE OF SINGLES IN BOB ROYAL.

Mr. Ernest Morris' peal, published in 'The Ringing World' recently, is a very interesting composition, but it can hardly be taken as a justification for the use of many singles. It has 22 of them and they can easily be cut down to six, or even (with a little re-arrangement) to two.

5,040				Continued			
23456	W	M	R	W	M	R	
42635	--	--		52634	--		
62534	--	--		62435	--		
54236	--	S		45236	--	S	
23546	--	--		34256	--		
52346	--	--		25346	--		
34526	--	--		42356	--		
53426	--	--		35426	--		
24536	--	S		24356	--	S	
52436	--	--		35246	--		
43526	--	--		43256	--		
54326	--	--		25436	--		
32546	--	--		32456	--		
53246	--	--		45326	--		
42536	--	S		23456	--	S	

The basis of the composition is the four 6-course blocks (two the reverses of the other two), and ultimately the twelve 2-course blocks which contain the 24 natural courses with the six at Home. The four courses with the sixth away from Home are merely padding. The three consecutive bobs at M which produce them can be made almost anywhere.

BERTRAM PREWETT.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—I thank you for publishing the civilian photograph of the late Bertram Prewett, which will take an honoured place in my 'Ringing World' collection of brother ringers.

I still have a photo of him which he gave me when he was a rifleman in the London Rifle Brigade in the early days of 1916.

I also have a part of his last letter written to me from hospital only a day or two before the air raid, and perhaps it may not be generally known that he was there for dental treatment, and also application had been made for a commission, which he was hoping would soon come through.

With reference to Mr. Barnett's query asking if Prewett had rung a peal on every date in the year, I would like to say that I had the pleasure of taking part in a peal with him early in 1916 at Wrentham, Suffolk, and I can quite remember him saying outside the tower to my old friend, Francis Nauton, and myself that he had one or two dates to get in to finish the dates off, and I have a feeling that peal was his last.

Your article on 'Big Ben' is very interesting. Could we not have more about it?

May I ask you, sir, why the procedure of melting the metal twice before casting was adopted? And it would be nice to know the proportion of metals used. I am sure a good many ringers are interested in metallurgy, or am I asking a trade secret?

C. V. EBBERSON.

Chestnut Villa, Snettisham, King's Lynn.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION MEETING AT LONG ASHTON.

A meeting of the Bristol City Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held at Long Ashton on September 5th and was attended by 26 members.

At the service in church the Vicar gave an address and stressed the great opportunities ringers had through their part in worship. At the business meeting Mr. Bennett was appointed chairman and Mr. W. S. Emery hon. secretary, until the annual meeting on December 2nd.

It was decided to send letters to members on active service, and thanks were given to the Vicar and to Mr. Yeo for making the visit a successful one.

After the meeting Grandsire and Stedman were rung on the electric silent apparatus, which creates an atmosphere akin to the normal sound.

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Following is a composition of Spliced Surprise Major. London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative, in two parts, which is the first, without three lead courses. Extended work in Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative, and is interesting as regards the number of changes obtainable in latter three methods. A. J. PITMAN.

5,056, 5,120, 5,184 or 5,248 Spliced Surprise Major.

23456	M	B	W	H	Methods rung
23564	2	2	--	--	L B (C) B L
52364	--	--	--	--	C S O (C) L
43265	--	--	--	--	C S C (C) L
24365	--	3	--	--	C S C (C) B B L
32465	--	3	--	--	C S C (C) B B L
35264	--	--	--	--	C S B B B L
35642	--	--	--	--	C S S S or C S B B B B
24653	--	--	--	--	B B (C) B B
24536	--	--	--	--	S S S C or B B B B S C
54326	--	--	--	--	L B B B S C
35426	3	--	--	--	L B B (C) C S C
43526	3	--	--	--	L B B (C) C S C
52436	--	--	--	--	L (C) C S C
45236	--	--	--	--	L (C) C S C

For 5,056 repeat above, using only one of the extended courses containing the four consecutive leads of Bristol, for 5,120 use two and so on. (C) Cambridge or Superlative. Thus the 5,056 may be arranged to contain 768 London, 1,408 Bristol, 1,440 each Cambridge and Superlative.

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NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Brigg on Saturday, September 19th. Business meeting in the Church House at 4 p.m. Will members please make own arrangements for tea. Handbells in the ringing chamber during afternoon and evening.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Coalbrookdale, Saturday, September 19th, 3.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tower bells (10) for 'silent' practice, also handbells. Please bring sandwiches.—E. D. Poole, 20, Wrekin View, Madeley, Shropshire.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Annual meeting at Clent (D.V.), Saturday, September 19th, 3 p.m. Bells (8) available 'silent.' Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., and business meeting for election of officers, etc. Handbells and social evening to follow. Outstanding subscriptions should be paid at this meeting, please.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A general meeting will be held at the Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, September 19th. A reserved room available from 2 p.m. General committee meet at 3 p.m. General meeting at 4 p.m. Tea at 5.15 p.m.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The next meeting will be held in the school at Wolvey, near Hinckley, on Saturday, September 19th. Cups of tea provided, but please bring own eatables. Good bus service from Coventry and Leicester.—Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—A meeting has been arranged at Hatfield on Sept. 19th. Handbells in church 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and meeting at the Salisbury Guest House.—R. Darvill, Hon. Sec., 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL (GLASGOW) SOCIETY.—The society will meet for practice on 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month at 3 p.m., commencing on Saturday, Sept. 19th. Visitors cordially welcomed.—E. A. Stafford, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26th, 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, Sept. 26th. Handbells 3.30. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—A meeting will be held at East Grinstead on Saturday, September 26th. Handbells and, we hope, silent tower bells. The Vicar has offered to provide tea, so please send a p.c. to Miss K. Shepherd, 34, Cantelupe Road, East Grinstead. No names, no tea.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—A practice on the silent apparatus of the bells of St. Peter's, Dorchester, will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26th, commencing at 6 p.m. All welcome. Suitable local train service.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Est. 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Erdington, on Saturday, September 26th. Handbells in the Church House 3.30 p.m. Short business meeting 4.15. Guild service in church 5 p.m.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next meeting will be held at the Star Inn, Stoney Stanton, on Saturday, Sept. 26th. Handbells from 6 p.m. Midland or Brown's bus service.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Willoughby on Saturday, Sept. 26th. Usual arrangements. We will endeavour to get you a cup of tea.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Wigan on Saturday, Sept. 26th. Clapperless bells at Poolstock. Handbells at the Parish Church. Service 4 p.m. Tea in Winnard's Cafe, Market Place, at 5 p.m. Names to Mr. S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan, before the 23rd. 6 p.m., meeting at National and Blue Coat Schools.—W. H. Shuker, 36, Colwyn Avenue, Fallowfield, Manchester 14; T. Wilson, 118, Langham Road, Blackburn, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—A meeting will be held at Hitchin on Saturday, Sept. 26th. Tower bells (silent, 8) available from 3 p.m., also handbells. Tea at 5 p.m. for those who notify me by Sept. 23rd.—A. E. Symonds, Dis. Sec., The Cottage, Windmill Hill, Hitchin.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—A meeting will be held at Rothwell on Saturday, Sept. 26th. Handbells in the Church Institute 3 p.m. Will all visitors please go direct to the Institute (20 yards from N.E. corner of churchyard)? Tea and meeting to follow.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—A meeting will be held at Cannock on Saturday, Oct. 3rd. It is hoped to have the use of the bells (silent) from 3 o'clock. Short service, with an address by the Rev. J. F. Foster, Vicar, at 4.45. Cups of tea will be provided; please bring your own food.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Acle on Saturday, October 3rd. Bells (6, silent) available 2.15 p.m. Service 4. Tea and business meeting 4.30. Please let me know names for tea by September 28th, and bring sugar, etc. Trains leave Norwich 1.30 and 3.23. Leave Acle 5.8 and 6.39.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

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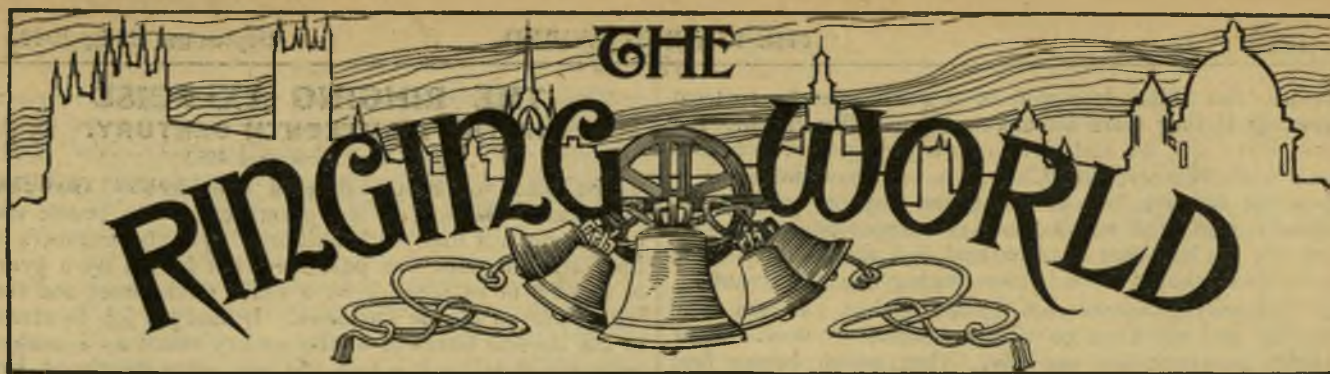
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SPORT AND CHURCH WORK.

'Does the ringing Exercise look upon their calling as a sport or as work for the Church?' This was the question asked by Mr. E. W. Marsh in our columns last week, and it is a very important question. It is one which we are sure has been asked many times before, consciously or unconsciously, by ringers, especially when at the services in church at meetings they have been praised for the work they were told they were doing for the Church. It is nice to be praised and the speakers mean what they say, but is the praise really deserved? Do we, the average ringers, look upon change ringing as a sport or as work done for the Church?

When we study the history of the art of change ringing there cannot be the slightest doubt that it began as a purely secular sport, and remained for centuries as a secular sport. Nor is there any question that it can be, and is, a first-class and most fascinating sport. We should be very much surprised indeed to hear of a man who was even a moderately competent ringer who had not felt and been influenced by the attraction of ringing as a sport, and this will hardly be denied by anyone, though some may shy at the use of the actual word 'sport.'

When we turn to those men who form the body of the Exercise, who, in fact, are the Exercise, we shall find that they look upon change ringing just in the same way that a golfer looks upon golf or a cricketer looks upon cricket. Ringers practise in a church steeple, but that makes little or no difference to the sport. A peal rung at Quex Park, or at the Loughborough bell foundry, is in no wise different from a peal rung in a parish church, nor is a handbell peal rung in a tavern different in character from a peal rung on bells that have been dedicated to the service of religion. Thus the answer to half of Mr. Marsh's question is that the Exercise does and always has looked on ringing as a sport.

But that only touches the fringe of the problem. By his use of the word 'or,' Mr. Marsh seems to suggest that if ringing is a sport it cannot be work for the Church. It must be one or the other, and we must make up our minds which it is to be. Perhaps we can make what was in his mind clearer if we put his question in another way. Which should be the dominating motive in a ringer—love of ringing as a sport, or the desire to serve the Church? Which should come first, sport or church work?

When we put the question like this it raises issues which most profoundly affect a man's life and character, and which are far too complex to be dealt with in a short

(Continued on page 434.)

article like this. It would be a great mistake to treat men as if they were all alike. They differ enormously, and there are, we feel certain, many ringers who find in the wish to serve the Church a sufficient incentive to practise the art, but of the great majority we say definitely, and with a full sense of responsibility for what we are saying, that it is natural and right that ringing as a sport should come before ringing as church work.

This may to some seem a hard saying. It is a hard saying and we have no time to explain it now. One thing, however, we can say. That which comes first and is most in evidence it not necessarily that which in the long run is the most important.

Between change ringing as a sport and change ringing as church work there is no antagonism, and the man who follows it mainly for the sake of the one can quite easily better serve the other.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, September 13, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At THE WAYSIDE, 150, NARBOROUGH ROAD SOUTH,
A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

ALFRED BALLARD	...	...	1-2	ERNEST MORRIS	...	...	3-6
HAROLD J. POOLE	...	...	3-4	FRANK K. MEASURES	...	...	7-8
FREDERICK E. WILSON	...	...	9-10				

Composed by ERNEST MORRIS. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Witness—Mrs. H. J. Poole.

First peal of Bob Royal in hand by all the band.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, September 20, 1942, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

At St. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5050 CHANGES;

WILLIAM L. B. LEESE	...	...	1-2	*ALBERT DISERENS	...	...	5-6
JOHN E. SPICE	...	...	3-4	†THOMAS N. LANAGHAN	...	...	7-8

Composed by J. E. BURTON. Conducted by WILLIAM L. B. LEESE.

* First attempt for Bob Major 'in hand.' † First attempt for a peal of Major.

DEATH OF MR. JOSEPH DRAKE.

The death is announced of Mr. Joseph Drake, who for many years was an enthusiastic member of the band at St. John's, Goole, Yorkshire, and of the Yorkshire Association. Although not a change ringer he was a good tenor man and did a lot of work in building up the Goole band after the last war. His son and daughter-in-law are members of the band, and another son, Mr. Leonard Drake, is a prominent member of the Leeds and District Society. Mr. Joseph Drake was 78 years of age.

STEDMAN CINQUES AT LIVERPOOL.

The St. Martin's Guild of Birmingham possess a book of newspaper cuttings made about one hundred years ago by John Hopkins, a leading ringer of the time. Among the extracts is the following: 'On Monday, the 25th ult., was rung by the Society of St. Nicholas, Liverpool, a true and complete peal of 5,016 in the intricate method of Stedman's Principal in three hours and twenty-five minutes. Composed and conducted by William Thistlewood. Weight of tenor 41½ cwt.'

Alongside Hopkins has written the date of the peal, March 25th, 1828; the date of the newspaper, March 30th, 1828; and the note 'This was a false peal.'

No reason is given for saying the peal is false. It was a very early performance, only eight years after the first in the method outside London, and the problems of the composition were as yet little understood. There is nothing we know of Thistlewood to lead us to suppose that he had mastered Stedman, and the presumption is that the peal was false in the composition. This would not be very surprising, since false peals of Stedman Caters by Noonan, Shipway and Escourt were rung about the same time.

THE RINGING EXERCISE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

(Continued from page 425.)

The office of beadle differed considerably from the others and was more or less permanent. The beadle was not so much a man with authority over the members as their servant, and was paid for what he did by a grant of money, or by fees, or by a share in the fines and forfeits incurred by the members. It was his job to attend to the routine business of the society much as a modern secretary does, and indeed the one office developed into the other. Since an important part of the beadle's work was to let members know when and where meetings were to be held, he was sometimes called the warner. The office of beadle gave a man a large amount of influence in a company, but did not carry much dignity, and those men who were considered socially rather above the average never sought it.

When we consider the objects of these societies and the conditions under which they existed, we cannot but admit that their constitution and rules could hardly be bettered. They were based on the broad principle of the equality of all the members. Everyone had an equal chance of filling the offices in his turn, and his turn was decided by seniority. So long as a member was in office he had ample authority to fulfil his duties, but directly his term of office was up, he stepped back again into the ranks and was expected to obey the orders of his successors as they had been expected to obey his, just as the consuls of ancient Rome exercised supreme authority for one year and one year only, and that year ended, became once more ordinary private citizens.

But admirable as these regulations were in theory, there was one stubborn fact that they left out of account. They assumed that all men are equal, and that is just what never happens, either in a ringing society or in any other body of men. Some are more talented than others. Some have more ambition. Some have a genius for leadership. It might well happen that the mastership was filled by a man who was quite willing to follow others, but neither by inclination nor qualification was fitted to lead. A young, talented, and ambitious man who joined a society was faced with the prospect of having to wait ten, fifteen, or twenty years before he reached the position of undisputed leadership; and all the while he would have to pay deference to men he would consider (and rightly) far inferior to himself.

The natural thing happened. Side by side with the official master, there were men who strove for and gained the real control without any official status. In a general way, no doubt, it worked in practice very well, but at times there was sure to be friction. Sometimes there were two men each striving for the mastery. Sometimes the attempt of one man to establish a virtual dictatorship led to disputes and quarrels. For many years Benjamin Annable was the real leader (at least in the belfry) of the College Youths, though he had to wait twenty-five years before he was elected master. He only maintained his ascendancy by dint of a continual struggle which got fiercer as time went on, and ended after his death by splitting the society from top to bottom. George Partrick, the virtual founder of the Society of Cumberland Youths, after having for many years called almost all their peals, quarrelled with them and for a time left them; and

George Gross, at the very zenith of his career, was driven out of the same society to form a new and rival band.

The same thing happened with lesser men, and the constant migrations of ringers from one society to another are proof of the very frequent quarrels and clash of personal interest and ambition that occurred.

To these changes the peculiar circumstances of the London Exercise lent themselves readily enough. In the country towns and villages where there was but one tower and one band, a ringer who quarrelled with and left his fellows would have to give up ringing altogether; but in London there were other bands who were ready and anxious to welcome a competent recruit. In those towns where there were more than one tower and one band, similar things happened; and the history of the Norwich Scholars is full of disputes, secessions, and rival companies.

Though it may be using rather too strong language to say that the attitude of one society towards another was one of veiled or open hostility, it is quite true that there was no feeling of co-operation or of mutual interest between them. The Exercise, as a whole, in its modern sense of fellowship and brotherhood did not as yet exist. Each society looked for loyalty from its own members, and that loyalty included having nothing to do with any other society. To belong to two societies at the same time was an impossibility. The leading companies, of course, had country members who also belonged to their local bands, but that was a different matter altogether. So far as rules could keep members from joining or even ringing with other societies it was done. The Esquire Youths were required to give a pledge 'to have not now or ever hereafter any interest in any company but this.' The College Youths had a rule that if any member met another society with the intention of joining them and was not accepted, he should be suspended until he had made due submission and humbly acknowledged his fault, when a ballot was taken as to whether he should be reinstated or not. And 'if any member should revolt and set his name down in any other society whereby he became a member and in process of time should have an inclination to come back again,' he should not be readmitted until he had been balloted for, and, if accepted, paid double entrance fees. Any member of the Cumberlands Society who rang with another band on the same day as any of the society's meetings was fined half-a-crown, a sum equal to the entrance fee and far greater than the forfeits for other offences, which ranged from twopence to sixpence.

This mutually exclusive spirit was no doubt necessary to the continued existence of the societies, but it prevented anything like combined practice, and it is certain that progress in method ringing would have been much more rapid had it been possible to pick the best bands from the combined societies. An attempt to do anything of the sort usually meant the break-up of one of the societies as in 1787, when the desire to ring the first peal of Stedman Cinques led to the dissolution of the ancient Society of College Youths. There were, however, cases where the wishes and interests of ringers did override the rule, and peals rung by men from two or more societies were not unknown. They were said to be 'friendly' peals, and the use of the term is an indication that the normal feeling between companies was that of hostility, or, at any rate, of rivalry. Such peals were

for the most part unrecorded in peal books or on peal boards, and so have been forgotten, but the accounts of some of them have been preserved.

A survival of this spirit of mutual exclusiveness has come down to modern times in the rules which forbid a member of the present Ancient Society of College Youths to be a Cumberland Youth, and a member of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths to be a College Youth. The rules are said to be for the purpose of keeping up a friendly rivalry and thus promoting the art of change ringing, but we may well doubt their efficacy in attaining those ends. Rather they are an anachronism, a relic of times and conditions which have long since passed away.

And if the societies tried to prevent their members ringing with other companies they did not encourage the visits of strangers to their own meetings, unless, of course, it was someone whom they desired as a recruit. There was nothing like the present day custom and etiquette by which a man, so long as he is a ringer, can enter practically any belfry in the country and expect and receive a welcome and the offer of a rope. 'If any member of this Society,' said the Cumberlands, 'shall give his bell out of his hand to any ringer of another society without he ask leave of the master or by consent of the company when ringing, he shall forfeit 6d.'

The two most important events in the lives of these societies were the annual outing and the annual feast. Both were established in the seventeenth century. The report of the visit of the College Youths to Cambridge in 1657, though not accurate as given by Shipway, is probably based on fact, and no doubt is a recollection of more than one visit. All through the eighteenth century the College Youths rarely omitted their annual journey, and, as a rule, they went a very considerable distance. It is difficult to realise nowadays what a journey to Oxford, or Cambridge, or Birmingham, meant then. The roads were bad and infested with highwaymen and footpads. Until towards the end of the century public conveyances did not exist. Noblemen and great persons travelled in their coaches with retinues of armed servants. Others who could afford it rode on horseback. But ordinary people walked on their feet, and that is how our ringers travelled. Their custom was to take one day on the outward journey, ringing perhaps at some of the towns and villages they passed through. After they had reached their destination, if it were a long distance, they rested for a day, and the next day or two they spent in peal ringing; and then came the long tramp home again.

Although the other societies do not appear to have travelled so far as the College Youths, they, too, had their outings. The Cumberlands' rule was 'that the master once a year shall have power to command the society ten miles out of London, and he that refuses to go shall pay 2s. 6d.'

(To be continued.)

THE SOCIETY OF CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was much impressed by your leading article this week and cannot help thinking that the society would profit in more ways than one if your advice is taken and the truth of their origin investigated. The statement which you make so definitely that they were founded on September 6th, 1747, cannot be disregarded.

They would also do well to consider reverting to their original title by dropping the word 'Royal,' which was added some 50 or so years ago and has always savoured of snobbery.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Ernest Pye was born on September 20th, 1876. Matthew A. Wood, for many years a leading member of the London Exercise, was born on September 22nd, 1826.

The first peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Caters was rung by the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association at St. Stephen's, Bristol, on September 22nd, 1894. The composition was by Mr. Bankes James and Mr. John Austin conducted. The method, which is probably the very best nine-bell method possible, was first produced by Shipway and printed in his 'Campanologia,' but had not been previously practised. A few peals have since been rung, but the merits of the method have never been recognised by the Exercise in general.

The first peal of Erin Cinques was rung at Christ Church, West Bromwich, by the Birmingham men on September 22nd, 1911. James E. Groves conducted and the band included Messrs. Thomas H. Reeves, William Short, Herbert Knight, A. Paddon Smith, John Carter and James H. Shepherd.

Mr. A. R. Pink called the first peal of Pyrford Surprise Major at Egham on September 24th, 1926, and on September 24th, 1937, Mr. E. A. Barnett called the first peal of Pulford Bob Major at Crayford.

John Cox composed a peal of Stedman Caters, 6,701 changes, with the sixty in-course titlum course ends, and called it at St. James', Bermondsey, on September 25th, 1845.

The first peal of Dublin Complex Major was rung at Gosforth on September 27th, 1913. The method is given in the Central Council Collection as Dublin Court.

Sixty years ago to-day two peals, both Grandsire Triples, were rung. One was Holt's Original by the Cumberlands at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields, the other Holt's Ten-part by the College Youths at Putney. In the latter the sixth was rung by Richard Kilby, the father of Messrs. Harry and George Kilby, the well-known members of the Willesden band.

Fifty years ago yesterday three peals were rung, one was Grandsire Triples, one Stedman Triples and one Kent Treble Bob Major.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

At the meeting of the College Youths on September 13th the Master, Mr. E. G. Fenn, was in the chair and there was a good sprinkling of country members, including Warrant Mechanician C. L. Guy, R.N., of Ventnor, I.O.W.; Mr. R. G. Bryant, Bristol; Mr. J. W. Jones, Newport; Mr. S. Russell, Rotherfield; Mr. J. H. Shepherd, Swindon. Others present were the secretary, and Messrs. E. Barnett, F. Collins, R. F. Deal, H. Hoskins, C. C. Mayne, F. C. Newman, E. Pothcary, G. N. Price, C. W. Roberts, E. A. Young, J. E. Davis and C. H. Kippin, Corp'l. K. Arthur, R.A.F., and Gunner Tom Fox. Lady visitors were Mrs. F. Collins, Mrs. C. L. Guy, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Kippin.

A gift of two valuable books, 'Church Bells of Lincolnshire' and 'Church Bells of Suffolk,' was received from Mr. E. H. Lewis and was gratefully accepted.

The treasurer reported that he had booked a room at Slater's Restaurant for the annual luncheon on November 7th.

Greetings were sent by Messrs. E. P. Duffield, Colchester, and Rowland Fenn, Cheltenham.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT SOUTH KIRKBY.

At the October meeting of the Barnsley and District Society, held at South Kirkby, near Pontefract, on September 12th, members were present from Bushey, Eastwood, Felkirk and the local company.

Handbells were made good use of until 5 p.m., when tea was served in the Church Hall.

At the business meeting the Vicar (the Rev. L. Sibellas) presided, and two honorary members were elected, the Vicar and the curate, the Rev. I. McCarthy. Both are very interested in ringing and had learnt to handle a bell before the ban was imposed.

The Vicar expressed his wish to have two more bells added as soon as it was possible to complete the octave, and the ringers wished him luck in this venture.

Handbells were again brought into use, and Mr. McCarthy showed great interest in the ringing and took part. Ringing continued until 8 p.m., ranging from Doubles to Bob Royal.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at Cawthorne on Saturday, October 10th.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WADHURST.

A meeting of the Eastern Division of the Sussex County Association and the East Grinstead and District Guild was held at Wadhurst on September 5th. The six bells had been silenced by Mr. C. A. Bassett and were rung to Stedman Doubles and Cambridge Surprise Minor, the latter conducted by Mr. A. Relfe, from Lamberhurst.

Tea was at the Queen's Head Hotel, and handbell ringing concluded a very pleasant meeting. Although numbers were not large, six towers were represented. The visitors included Mr. C. A. Levett, from Taplow, Bucks.

JOINT MEETING AT BOURNEMOUTH.

On Saturday, September 12th, by the kind invitation of the Rev. C. A. Phillips and his brother, a joint meeting of the Salisbury Diocesan and the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guilds was held in the beautiful garden at 26, Dean Park Road, Bournemouth. The following towers were represented: Christchurch, Ringwood, Eastleigh, Poole (St. John's, Surrey Road) and St. Peter's Church, Bournemouth, and among the visitors were Mr. George Williams, Mr. Townsend, Mr. Preston, Mr. John Austin, of Gloucester and Mr. Martin Stewart.

During the afternoon touches were rung on handbells, and refreshments and cigarettes were provided by the Rev. C. A. Phillips. After a delightful afternoon the ringers adjourned to Parsons' Restaurant for tea.

Apologies for absence were received from the Rev. Canon Burrows and Mr. A. V. Davis, who were very much missed. A letter was read from Mr. F. W. Rogers congratulating the Bournemouth handbell ringers on their recent peals and wishing them continued success. This was greatly appreciated. Mr. George Williams proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. C. A. Phillips for so kindly placing his garden at the disposal of the ringers.

In honour of the visit of Mr. John Austin, a handbell peal was arranged for Sunday afternoon, but it came to grief after an hour's good ringing. However, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was scored in 44 minutes: John Austin 1-2, Mrs. F. John Marshallsay 3-4, A. V. Davis (conductor) 6-7, F. S. Wilson 7-8.

RECRUITS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I think Mr. Cartmel's letter is one of the best of the several that have appeared, but it seems that it is a matter of chance, in getting the personal touch, that one desires to make a start.

It would be good if all ringers were members of the Church of England, but in the days of my youth I knew several that were not, but they were not denied the privilege of being church bell ringers. Looking back some sixty odd years, I have in mind one in particular who was considered a very able instructor and mentioned sometimes in 'The Bell News' for his good work. Although I could not then manage a bell, I had opportunities to attend and pick up the several hints given as to how best to get control of the bell and to become a good striker. He often said he would rather ring three hours of well-struck rounds than badly struck changes. But he didn't hide the fact that he was an atheist.

Owing to the infirmities of age and varying health I cannot do much now, but the good Lord seems to have helped me and I can manage silent practice on the ropes where possible, so hope to be of some little service yet.

C. TYLER.

Hensfield, Sussex.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—As a correspondent lately asked about the chimes of Oxford, and all have now been given except those of New College, perhaps you may like to give them. As in the case of Magdalen, only the back eight are used for the clock, and though the tone of the Magdalen bells is better, I prefer the New College chimes.

I., 37; II., 8734; III., 357468; hour, 867453241—8.

W. C. B.

BOB ROYAL COMPOSITIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Ernest Morris' peal is not new, and we were ringing this kind of peal on handbells in 1912.

We seldom used more than two singles, seeing how many musical course ends can be produced in 28 courses.

W. SHEPHERD.

22, Chapel Grove, Addlestone.

BOASTING AND CHALLENGES.

'Samuel Goodyear of Kirkheaton states that as Charles Hall of Wakefield has boasted of his powers in the sleuple, and that he can ring a tenor bell better than he (Goodyear) the latter challenges him to ring for £50 any or all of the following peals: Oxford, Violet, New London Pleasure, Duke of York, College Treble, College Pleasure, or new Treble Bob 720 changes each, or 15,168 changes Treble Bob Major, 5,000 changes Treble Bob Royal, or 5,000 or upwards of Treble Bob Maximus.'—'Bell's Life,' December 24th, 1848.

'If Charles Hall of Wakefield declines the challenge of S. Goodger, James Taylor of Rotherham, will ring him (Goodger) a peal of Kent or Oxford treble royal on any peal of ten bells in Yorkshire for any sum each man to find his own company. The money is ready at the White Hart, Rotherham.'

'Thomas Chadderton of Oldham, will ring S. Goodger a peal of Kent or Oxford treble bob royal, on any peal of ten bells, each man to find his own company. The money will be ready at John Ward's George Inn, Oldham, any night next week.'—'Bell's Life,' January 7th, 1849.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 428.)

Chimes called the 'Abbey Chimes' were erected in 1880 at Fort Augustus, N.B., and arranged from the Short Responsory in Eastertide, used at Lauds and Vespers in the Monastic Rite. They are as follows:—

- (1) CBDC. (2) CBDC—CBDE.
- (3) CBDC—CBDE—ECDC.
- (4) CBDC 'Sancte Pater' CBDE 'Benedicite' ECDC 'Intercede' ACDC 'Pro Nobis' (hour) G.

The fine ring of bells at Cambridge R.C. Church by J. Taylor and Co. (1896) has chime mechanism by Messrs. Wm. Potts and Sons, Ltd., of Leeds. The quarter chimes were arranged by the Rev. Canon Scott, D.D., from 'Alleluia' sung on Holy Saturday, and have been copied at the Redemptorist Church of St. Joseph, Dundalk, where the bells are also by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. (1921).

- (1) DGABGAG. (2) DGABGAG—ABAGED.
- (3) DGABGAG—ABAGED—DGABGAG.
- (4) DGABGAG — ABAGED — DGABGAG—CABGAG.

The 'Gonville and Caius' chimes of Cambridge were composed by Dr. Charles Wood and run:—

- (1) DC. (2) CDGF.
- (3) GAGFCD.
- (4) CEGAFCD. (hour) low F.

At Canterbury Cathedral there were formerly ting-tang quarters, but in 1897 quarter chimes for five bells were put in. They were arranged by the late Rev. Frederick J. C. Helmore, Precentor of the Cathedral, to commemorate the thirteenth centenary of the Cathedral, landing of St. Augustine, etc. They are based on the notes of the Eighth Gregorian tone—a particularly appropriate melody, as St. Augustine was made Archbishop of Canterbury under Pope Gregory I. My version runs:

GAC—DCBC—CBG—ACDC (hour) low C sharp. Dunstan.

For first quarter the first three notes, second seven notes, third ten notes, and at hour all notes. This varies slightly from that given by a correspondent on p. 374, and I should appreciate being corrected if wrong.

Beverley Minster chimes are based on the fine ring of ten bells erected here by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. in 1901. The clock and chime machinery are by Messrs. J. Smith and Sons, of Derby, in 1902. The quarter-chimes were arranged by the Rev. Canon Nolloth in such a way that a different length and ending of each strain should make it easy to tell what quarter it denotes, that the full compass and range of the whole ten bells would be brought out, and that anything like a tune is avoided. Thus the first quarter is based on the fourth quarter at Magdalen College, Oxford:—

5478594306—21.

Second quarter founded on the third quarter at All Saints', Derby:—

86579213059368—56124—3.

Third quarter motive from the 'Laudes Domini':—

8765349758—12346856345678—67954368—9—0.

Fourth quarter; 'Echo de Malines.' A reminiscence of the hour carillon of the Cathedral of St. Rombauld.

7306—12345690783106—780594213579468095643—

—2—1.

Hour strikes on Great John, $7\frac{3}{4}$ tons, in the other tower.

Another chime suitable for ten bells, and worked by the 'double-revolution an hour' system—as previously mentioned—is the following erected by Messrs. J. Smith and Sons at Derby Cathedral and called 'Derby Chimes.'

- (1) 65839470.
- (2) { 35794680.
34567890.
- (3) { 37485960.
86574213.
65839470.
- (4) { 35794680.
34567890.
37485960.
86574213.

The same is at St. Giles', Northampton, and elsewhere. At St. Mary the Virgin, Oxford, is a ring of six bells, and the quarter chimes in this curious strain is quoted in the history of that church by T. G. Jackson, R.A., 1897, p. 176:—

- (1) 1; (2) 12; (3) 123; (4) 12344321 (hour) 6.

The chimes of the R.C. Church at St. Helens, Lanes, are based on 'Salve Regina' (Hail, Queen of Heaven), and run, if noted, as an octave:—

8643—4; 312343—5;
1435—7; 6546—678:

Each quarter starts at beginning, one stanza for first; two for second; three for third; and all at fourth quarters. The hour is struck on the A flat tenor of the carillon, 84 cwt. These bells are by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., and the clock and chimes by Messrs. William Potts and Sons, Ltd.

There are many other types of quarter-chime tunes, but I will not weary readers with more, but close this section of the subject by quoting an apt illustration by what Big Ben chimes say to a reader of the *Morning Post* (June 4th, 1930):—

'I never hear them without thinking of the scene in the ambulatory of the cathedral of Rheims in Shaw's play "St. Joan" (Scene V.), when Joan says to Dunois:

'It is in the bells I hear my voices . . . here in this corner, where the bells come down from heaven, and the echoes linger. . . . Hark! Do you hear? "Dear-child-of-God." . . . At the half-hour they will say "Be-brave-go-on." At the three-quarters they will say "I am-thy-help." But it is at the hour, when the great bell goes after "God-will-save-France": it is then that St. Margaret and St. Catherine, and sometimes even the blessed Michael, will say things that I cannot tell beforehand. Then, oh then —

'Here Dunois interrupts her, saying: "Then, Joan, we shall hear whatever we fancy in the booming of the bell."'

The chimes of Big Ben—according to the note in my book, *Legends o' the Bells*, say:—

'Lord through this hour,
Be Thou our guide,
And by Thy power,
No foot shall slide.'

BEACONSFIELD.—On Wednesday, September 16th, in the belfry of St. Mary and All Saints' Church, a quarter-peal of Plain Bob Major 1,260 changes, in 47 mins.: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, Rev. R. F. R. Routh (first quarter-peal on handbells) 3-4, D. R. Fletcher 5-6, K. I. Fletcher 7-8. First quarter-peal on handbells by a local band.

COWFOLD MONASTERY BELLS.*To the Editor*

Dear Sir,—Mr. Smale's letter and Mr. Dove's reply with regard to the bells cast by Messrs. Blews, of Birmingham, for the Carthusian Monastery at Cowfold, Sussex, are very interesting to me, as I have had occasion to visit there for several years, and the particulars given by Mr. Dove, with a few exceptions, are the same as I have known.

The original idea was for the five bells to be hung for ringing, and also to strike the quarters and hour, but before the job got that far the firm went into liquidation, and the monks were given the option to accept what was possible to be had, with the hope of finishing it themselves as time permitted. They also hoped to improve the notes, as it did not give them much pleasure to hear them, but it remained unfinished until it became possible to have them recast.

The bell that was not recast, and hangs in the turret on the north side of the entrance to the church, is known as the 'Brothers' morning bell,' as a signal to commence their daily duties. The lettering on it is 'Blews and Son, Birmingham, 1881.'

The large bell, 21-22 cwt., E flat, which is rung for the Angelus and tapped with chiming hammer for Sanctus and Consecration, to some of us, is a great improvement, and seems to instil in one's mind that 'His real presence' is near. The Blews bell gave one the impression that it was cast for noise, but the Taylor bell gives out a very impressive note, more in sympathy with the ritual of the Order. I know several people in this neighbourhood who listen for it, and it seems to help them in their particular devotions. They are hoping soon to hear it again. The distance is three to four miles north of us. I mention this because I think it supports the views of many as to the uses of bells.

I had occasion to become interested in this bell, because they could not manage to regulate the number of strokes they were accustomed to for the Sanctus and Consecration, and I received a letter from the Prior asking me to go up to see if I could help them in the matter. When I saw the trouble I told them I didn't think they had given clear instructions as to what they desired. Sometimes they would raise it and allow it to go over. I don't think it was expected to do this, and it made it very difficult to get the rope back in position. The arrangement for the chime hammer did not give the sacristan much chance to act in sympathy with the celebrant.

I did the best I could by showing how to adjust it temporarily and advised them how I thought they could make it possible to comply with what they required, which they undertook to do themselves. I have been told they have done this, and it seems satisfactory.

They also tried to get me interested in the clock chimes, but I was not capable to express any opinion on such a matter. They were endeavouring to have something different to others, and could not decide which. They had several on paper, and invited four well-known musicians to come and try to select which they considered the best. The Prior was quite amused about it, because not one of them could agree as to which they considered the best. I have been told they now have something arranged by one of the novices.

C. TYLER.

High Street, Henfield, Sussex.

THE LATE FREDERICK J. SMITH.

Mr. J. E. Bailey has kindly sent us the following particulars of the ringing career of the late Mr. F. J. Smith, whose death was announced in our last issue:—

F. J. Smith began his ringing at Leiston during the time the Bailey brothers were building up their all-brothers band. He was, in fact, a cousin of the brothers and rang in several peals in which six or seven of them took part.

His first peal was on September 28th, 1907, Kent Treble Bob Major at Leiston, conducted by C. F. Bailey. In 1908 he rang in two peals of particular interest. On June 8th a 7,008 Kent Treble Bob, and on November 9th a peal of Cambridge, which was the first in the method by all and on Leiston bells. In 1909 he rang in the 11,040 Double Norwich at Leiston, which probably still stands as the longest peal by a local band.

He rang many peals with the Leiston band until just before the last war, when he joined the band at the neighbouring town of Aldeburgh. In 1925 he was again back in the Leiston band and took part in many peals of Surprise Major, including London, Bristol, Rochester, Suffolk, Guildford, Dublin, Surrey, Premier and the first in the methods of Camdon, Essex and Waveney. He moved to Ipswich about eight or nine years ago and was soon at home on the twelve at St. Mary-le-Tower and rang peals in a variety of methods.

Altogether he rang 96 peals at Leiston and 20 at the neighbouring tower of Kelsale.

UMPIRES FOR HANDBELL PEALS.**THEIR DUTIES AND AUTHORITY***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I have always disliked the word umpire in connection with handbell peals equally with the word spliced when introduced into ringing. Many years ago the Central Council decided the policy governing handbell peals, and I still think they are right in their requirements.

When a tower peal is being attempted ringers can avail themselves of a very useful branch, that of listening and obtaining various results, such as the standard of striking, class of composition, rate per minute, etc.; but how often are these available when the ringing is taking place at a residence or such places when handbell peals are rung? Tower bell peals have many umpires who are often unseen, and as long as bells are heard outside a tower you never know who are your umpires.

Mr. Brown asks what authority umpires have. It is for the conductor to supply the figures of the peal to the umpire, and even if only the bobs and singles are checked it is an assurance that the calling is correct. If incorrect he should draw the conductor's attention to the fact and await results. If in the end he is satisfied he should sign the figures are correct and return to the conductor. I would point out to Mr. Brown that I have umpired dozens of tower bell peals with and without figures being supplied, and this portion of the art is one which I hope will prevail widely in the future.

W. SHEPHERD.

22, Chapel Grove, Addlestone.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL'S RULE.

Dear Sir,—I do not quite agree with Mr. Barton that there is no difference between umpires for handbell peals and umpires for tower bell peals. Nobody, so far as I know, has ever suggested that umpires are necessary for ordinary tower bell peals, but many people have always insisted that they are necessary for ordinary handbell peals. The College Youths will not book a handbell peal rung without an umpire. The Central Council rule is that 'where practicable there should be an umpire to every handbell peal.' This was passed in 1895 and I suppose all the men who were members are dead now. I do not know what the present members would do, but the rule has never been rescinded, and is still binding on the Exercise.

It is quite obvious that a dishonest conductor would have greater temptations to fake a handbell peal than a tower bell peal, for he could never know who was outside listening. But you have told us, sir, that for all practical purposes the dishonest conductor does not exist. So I suppose that settles that point.

'A COLLEGE YOUTH.'**THE LATE MR. W. J. NEVARD.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I should like to make a few comments on Mr. W. J. Nevard, having been a firm friend of his for a great number of years. I have met him on numerous occasions and ridden some hundreds of miles with him in his car. I owe much to his generosity, which he always gave with a great goodwill. He was thorough in all he undertook, an excellent striker, and could always be relied on. He learnt to drive a car when he was 68 years of age and travelled some hundreds of miles in pursuit of his hobby. He will always be remembered for his cheerfulness and quiet disposition. He lived to see great strides made in ringing since he first learnt to pull a bell at the age of twelve, and played his part nobly and well.

WILLIAM KEEBLE.

Colchester.

LITTLE BOB ROYAL*To the Editor.*

Sir,—Your statement that the first peal of Little Bob Royal was rung at Exeter on September 16th, 1912, is not correct. This may have been the first peal on tower bells: a handbell peal was rung by members of the Cambridge University Guild on June 11th of that year at Trinity College, Cambridge.

R. O. STREET.

Glasgow.

ONE CAUSE OF BAD STRIKING.—Bad and slovenly ringing results when the ringers are unable to hear distinctly the clear tap of the clappers of all the bells, owing either to too much noise in the ringing chamber, or to the sound of any of the bells being too much subdued.—The Central Council.

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NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-. For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26th, 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, Sept. 26th. Handbells 3.30. Tea 5.30. — H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—A practice on the silent apparatus of the bells of St. Peter's, Dorchester, will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26th, commencing at 6 p.m. All welcome. Suitable local train service.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Est. 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Erdington, on Saturday, September 26th. Handbells in the Church House 3.30 p.m. Short business meeting 4.15. Guild service in church 5 p.m.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Wigan on Saturday, Sept. 26th. Clapperless bells at Poolstock. Handbells at the Parish Church. Service 4 p.m. Tea in Winnard's Cafe, Market Place, at 5 p.m. 6 p.m., meeting at National and Blue Coat Schools.—W. H. Shuker, 36, Colwyn Avenue, Fallowfield, Manchester 14; T. Wilson, 118, Langham Road, Blackburn, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—A meeting will be held at Hitchin on Saturday, Sept. 26th. Tower bells (silent, 8) available from 3 p.m., also handbells.—A. E. Symonds, Dis. Sec., The Cottage, Windmill Hill, Hitchin.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—A meeting will be held at Cannock on Saturday, Oct. 3rd. It is hoped to have the use of the bells (silent) from 3 o'clock. Short service, with an address by the Rev. J. F. Foster, Vicar, at 4.45. Cups of tea will be provided; please bring your own food. — H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Acle on Saturday, October 3rd. Bells (6, silent) available 2.15 p.m. Service 4. Tea and business meeting 4.30. Please let me know names for tea by September 28th, and bring sugar, etc. Trains leave Norwich 1.30 and 3.23. Leave Acle 5.8 and 6.39.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be at Tunstall on Saturday, Oct. 3rd, at 3 p.m. Handbells available. Meeting in the Vestry. Will those requiring tea notify the Rev. S. F. Linsley, The Vicarage, Stanley Street, Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, not later than Oct. 1st?

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD (Wirral Branch) and **LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION** (Liverpool Branch).—A joint meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' Church, Wallasey, on Saturday, Oct. 3rd. Tower bells (6, without clappers) and handbells available from 3 p.m. A service at 5 p.m., followed by tea. Those requiring tea please notify Mr. F. Varty, 22, Mostyn Street, Wallasey, Cheshire, not later than Sept. 30th.—H. S. Brocklebank, 30, Southhill Road, Birkenhead, and G. R. Newton, 57, Amptill Road, Liverpool 17.

BOWDON, CHESHIRE, MEETING, Oct. 3rd. — Tower bells only 2.30-4.30, service 4.45, tea in Schools 5.15 (handbells after) free. Only buses passing church leave Altrincham bus station (opposite railway station) 2.7 and every hour, for others near inquire. Please notify me by Tuesday, Sept. 29th.—D. Vincent, 6, Stanway Drive, Hale. Day Alt. 2314, evening 2333.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough and Burton Districts.—A joint meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Ashby, on Saturday, Oct. 3rd. Handbells available at 3.30. Tea at Ladford's Cafe 4.30, followed by short meeting. Names for tea to E. W. Beadsmoore, Packington Road, Ashby, by Thursday, Oct. 1st. No name, no tea.—A. E. Rowley and J. W. Cotton, Hon. Secs.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Goole on Saturday, Oct. 10th. Short service in church at 4 o'clock. Tea, at 5 o'clock, for all who send their names to Mr. C. Hill, 120, Weatherill Street, Goole, by Wednesday, Oct. 7th. Business meeting after tea. Handbells available. — H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—The annual district meeting at Tonbridge on Saturday, Oct. 10th. Service 4 p.m. Tea, free, at the Carlton Cafe, 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. All requiring tea must let Mr. J. Medhurst, 251, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, know by Wednesday, Oct. 7th. — T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting will be held at St. James' Church, Milnrow, on Saturday, Oct. 10th. Tower bells (silent) available from 3.30 p.m., also handbells. Make use of this opportunity to practise our art. Everybody welcome.—J. Kay, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—A luncheon to commemorate the 305th anniversary will be held at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., on Saturday, Nov. 7th, at 1 p.m. Tickets 6s. 6d. each.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of T. F. King is now 20, Foxcombe Road, Weston, Bath.

DEATHS.

MELVILLE.—On Saturday, Sept. 19th, at The Knowle, Lichfield, Daisy May Melville, the mother of the Rev. Malcolm and Lieut. Gordon Melville. Aged 57 years.

SALLEY.—James J. Salley ('Jimmy'), late of 54, Rangoon Road, Sheldon, Birmingham 26, and Institution House, Coalbrookdale, Shropshire. Drowned, serving in the Merchant Navy, South America. We shall miss him.—W. S.

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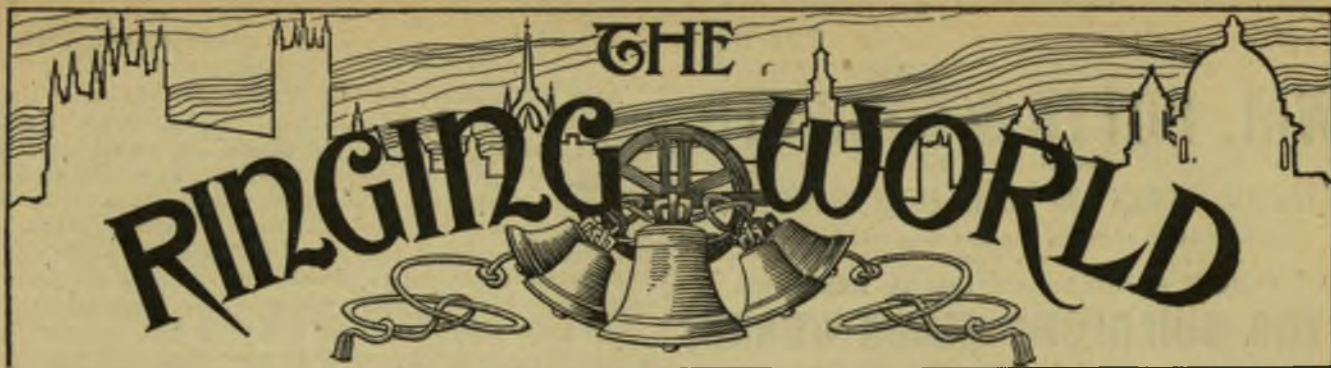
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INSTRUCTORS.

Three weeks ago, when we were discussing the question of teaching recruits, we pointed out that there is one essential if progress is to be rapid and effective. The learner must not only be told thoroughly and completely what he has to do before he attempts it, but he himself must thoroughly and completely understand what he has to do.

We believe this is a very important point, and it leads us to the conclusion that the problem of finding and training recruits cannot be solved without facing the problems of instruction and the instructor.

To many men the task of filling the vacancies which will certainly occur in many bands after the war would seem to be mainly the task of attracting sufficient young people to the belfries. That may not prove so very difficult in many cases, but when it is done the real job of rehabilitating the art of change ringing will only have begun. Equally with the right sort of recruit we need the right sort of instructor. There are very many men who are quite willing and anxious to do all they can to teach and help beginners. They give their time freely and ungrudgingly, and the Exercise should be proud of them. But that is not enough.

The instructor may have enthusiasm, sympathy and patience; he must, indeed, have all of them if he is to be a success, but by themselves they are largely ineffectual unless he uses the right methods of instruction. It is necessary, in fact, for the instructor to be himself instructed in the art of instruction.

This is a point which is far too often overlooked, and it is one to which those on whom the task of rehabilitation will be laid would do well to give their attention.

Instructors vary greatly in their capabilities just as men vary in every other thing. There are some who are naturally good instructors, but they are comparatively rare. It does not follow because a man knows a subject well that he can teach it to others. Very often the extent of his knowledge is a hindrance, for he has a tendency to assume, without thinking, that his pupil knows more, or should know more, than he actually does.

Probably the great majority of the men who are called upon to instruct beginners would make no claims to be brilliant teachers. They do the task that lies to their hand to the best of their abilities, and they are entitled to full praise. But they would be more successful and suffer fewer disappointments if they thought the matter out and had clear ideas in their minds as to what they intended to teach, and how.

(Continued on page 442.)

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As a preliminary, the instructor cannot do better than study the 'Hints for Instructors and Beginners' issued by the Central Council. He should not merely read it through and give it his general assent; he should take it sentence by sentence and realise why certain advice is given, and what are the faults to be avoided. When he is himself convinced that certain things should be done and certain other things avoided, he can pass the knowledge on to his pupil and see that he, too, understands.

The main thing is to have a definite plan and definite ideas. Unless they are clear in your own mind you cannot make them clear in the minds of your pupils. When you are teaching a beginner to handle a bell, have a definite list of things to be aimed at and things to be avoided. See that your pupil understands each one of them separately and by itself, and watch for and check each fault at the beginning.

Take one thing at a time. Do not try and push a pupil on faster than he can go. It only muddles him. What the authors of the 'Clavis' wrote one hundred and fifty years ago is as true (perhaps even more so) than it was then. "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 become familiar, become natural by constant practising, and are at last incorrigible."

HANDBELL PEALS.

WEST BRIDGFORD, NOTTS.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, September 23, 1942, in One Hour and Thirty-Six Minutes,

At 9, PATRICK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two extents.

MISS EVA WEBB 1-2 | RALPH NARBOROUGH 3-4

MISS W. MARY HICKLING 5-6

Conducted by RALPH NARBOROUGH.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Miss Hickling.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

(WIMBORNE BRANCH.)

On Saturday, September 26, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).

JESSIE M. CHICK 1-2 | ARTHUR V. DAVIS 5-6

MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4 | FRANCIS S. WILSON 7-8

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

Mr. F. S. Wilson's 60th peal.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, September 27, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

At THE WAYSIDE, NARBOROUGH ROAD SOUTH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

DEXTER'S VARIATION.

Tenor size 12 in F.

*MISS JILL POOLE 1-2 | ALFRED H. PULLING 5-6

HAROLD J. POOLE 3-4 | MRS. H. J. POOLE 7-8

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Witnesses—Mr. and Mrs. A. Hare, grandparents.

* First peal. This is believed to be the first peal of Stedman rung in hand by father, mother and daughter.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS. NEWS OF A VERY OLD MEMBER.

At the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths on Saturday, the Master, Mr. E. G. Fenn, was in the chair, and was supported by the secretary, treasurer and the two trustees, Mr. H. R. Newton and Mr. H. G. Miles, and Messrs. J. Bullock, T. H. Bullock, L. W. Bullock, J. Chapman, R. F. Deal, J. E. Lewis-Cockey, H. Hoskins, J. M. Kilby, W. Madgwick, W. H. Pasmore, C. W. Roberts, R. Stannard, J. Strickland, J. A. Trollope and L.-Corpl. Len Fox.

The Master congratulated Mr. J. Bullock and his two sons on ringing the non-conducted peal of Bob Minor.

Mr. Caleb Fenn had received a letter from Harold Warboys in the Far East. Mr. Warboys is well and sends best wishes to the members.

Mr. B. V. Collison wrote reporting the death of Mr. G. Thompson, of Tunbridge Wells, who joined the society in 1897. Mr. Thompson always spoke of the society in glowing terms and often recalled memories of happy hours spent at meetings and in the company of other members. He took the keenest interest in the meetings, reports of which were published in 'The Ringing World.'

His end came suddenly but peacefully after an illness of nearly two years, and he was interred in the Tunbridge Wells Cemetery on September 22nd.

Writing from Venezuela, Mr. B. H. Swinson gave an account of a meeting he had had with Mr. J. B. Cherry. 'When I was in Vancouver, British Columbia, a year ago,' said Mr. Swinson, 'I was ringing at the Cathedral of the Holy Rosary when the ringing chamber was visited for the first time in many years by Mr. J. B. Cherry, brother of the late Lord Chief Justice of Ireland. Mr. Cherry made an attempt to ring the tenor behind to Grandsire Triples, but was, unfortunately, soon forced to give up as the task proved too much for him. The tenor, although only weighing about 17 cwt., is a continental cast bell, very long in the waist and as awkward to handle as many bells of twice the weight.'

'Mr. Cherry told me that he was 87 years of age and had been elected a member of the society in 1873, being described as of Waterford, Ireland, and proposed by one C. Lee.

'It thus seems that Mr. Cherry is not only the oldest member of the society in point of years, but also in years of membership. He could not remember the exact date of his election, but you could doubtless trace it in the record of members.'

The oldest member of the society in years is Mr. Martin Routh, but as he joined in the same year as Mr. Cherry, which is actually the senior in membership is a little doubtful.

During the handbell ringing which concluded the meeting an excellent non-conducted touch of Bob Minor was rung by the Bullock family.

THE SOCIETY OF CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I saw in last week's 'Ringing World' that someone in the name of 'X' is very concerned over the Cumberland Society using the name of Royal. I should have thought at times like those we are now living in, when unity is so much needed, not discord, he could have found better use for his pen than to do a bit of stabbing in the back behind that letter 'X'.

If he has a look round I wonder how many things he could find that have the word 'Royal' in front of them. I suppose from his point of view it's all snobbery. I know a pub named the Royal Oak. Snobbery or not, if I was near it at the present time my bearings would soon get lubricated, so I take it that the Cumberlands have the same right to use this word Royal as the pub and dozens of other concerns.

He tells us it was added 50 years ago. Well, if this is so, I sincerely hope that all those members that follow after us older ones have gone will see that it still has Royal to its name another 50 years with ever growing prosperity.

If I am not mistaken, when one sends a letter to the Press there seems to me to be a little leaning towards snobbery when one hides behind such things as a letter 'X'.

If the Cumberlands still keep this word Royal to their name (which I hope they will), will Mr. 'X' be any better for it being removed? I say no. If it still exists the same thing applies. He will be no worse off. Then why worry?

G. RADLEY.

Broxbourne
[We ought to say that 'X' is a gentleman well known and respected in the Exercise. He explained that he did not sign his name because he wished to avoid any personal questions, and he left it to our judgment whether his letter should appear anonymously.—Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The articles 'Chime and Chime Tunes' by Mr. Ernest Morris make very interesting reading, but in his reference to the Doncaster Chimes he has not made it clear that the quarters are not chimed at the hour. The reasons Lord Grimthorpe gave for this omission are:—

(1) It was assumed that the hour bell must be an octave below the third quarter and that the Cambridge Chimes were, therefore, impossible with a peal of only eight bells if the quarters were to be struck at the hour.

(2) Playing ten chimes in every hour requires nearly twice as much power in the clock as playing six, which is sometimes a consideration when there is not much fall for the weights.

(3) In the Cambridge Chimes the blow on the lowest quarter bell is repeated too quickly in one place for a heavy hammer to be re-lifted immediately, and in all large clocks it is desirable to have two of these hammers lifted alternately.

In only a few clocks made before 1860 was this plan adopted, and Lord Grimthorpe then realised that the hour chime is the best of them all.

The Doncaster Chimes are: 1st, 2347; 2nd, 4327—4324; 3rd, 3724—7324—2437.

The chimes at St. Mary's, Scarborough, are similar to the Doncaster Chimes.

H. WALKER.

1, Flavian Grove, Walton Way, Clifton, York.

DEATH OF MR. W. J. BATTLE.

The death is announced of Mr. Walter J. Battle, who passed away rather suddenly at Bebington on September 8th.

He was a member of the Chester Diocesan Guild and the committee of the Wirral Branch, and joined the Bebington band about four years ago. Previously he had rung at Oxtun, Port Sunlight and Birkenhead St. Mary's.

The funeral service at St. Andrew's was taken by the Rev. — Turnbull, who gave an address. The ringers were represented by Mr. Jack Cooke, Ringing Master, Mr. H. Brocklebank, hon. secretary, and Mr. J. Evans, of the Wirral Branch.

RECRUITS AND CHOIRBOYS.

To the Editor.

Dear Zur,—I just wants to say a word or two about they letters from Muster Pitman and 'Churchman' about choirboys and recruits. Afore I moved, I were in the choir, Seketerry of the Church Council, and used to larn they ole choirboys a-singing, so I knows a bit about wot I be a-going to tell 'ee. Muster Pitman says catch 'em fer ringers when their voices break; 'Churchman' says that won't do, go fer the young men in the choir. Well, I reckon it's a darn sight harder to git young men fer a choir than it is recruits fer a beltry—in peacetime, I'm talking about, let alone now.

I'd go one better ner Muster Pitman. I caught my ole boys long afore their voices broke, and out o' eight choirboys and perhaps 4 young boy-chaps in the men's stalls I'll back there weren't more ner 3 as couldn't handle a bell. One on 'em, a real little chap he were, 'ould climb on an owd box and turn that 17 cwt. tenor over like she were a toy; two on 'em 'ad got to calling Grandsire when the war come and there weren't a Sunday fer years as they bells didn't ring.

You don't need me to tell 'ee that most young ringers starts orf keen as mustard, then they comes to a dull patch and wants to sleer orf rabbiting, or courting, or summat. Well, if you 'as 'em real young they be still sceered on 'ee when they gits to that bit, and they knows they got to turn up. You keeps 'em at it and they gits over it all right. Lor bless 'ee, us used to have no end of a time, lapping Grandsire Caters and Bob Royal—just village lads about 12 year old. Course, I used to keep 'em interested; us 'd pack into my ole motor and go orf to another tower or two, and they all 'ad notebooks wot they used to keep for dates, towers and sichlike. You can lay a good foundation afore they gits to the gawky stage, and one as'll help 'em through it, maybe—summat to 'old on to, like.

Mind, I'm telling 'ee about a village; it may be different in towns. Us be slower altogether in the country, which reminds me o' two old folks I heerd on as 'd bin walking out for, nigh on 45 year. Jane reckoned it were time to give old Dan a hint, so she says outright, 'We be gitting on in years, Dan. Don't 'ee reckon it were time us got wed?' Old Dan thinks a bit and then he says, 'Ah, praps you're right, but I don't know as anyone 'll have us now.'

Well, this'll 'a to do fer now. I agrees with Muster Pitman except, as I says, get 'em full young, about 9 or 10, and keep 'em at it if they be any good at all. Good-day to 'ee, zur.

'YOKEL.'

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THE RINGING EXERCISE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

(Continued from page 435.)

Besides the annual outing, the more active ringers made frequent visits to outlying towns and villages round London in the counties of Middlesex, Surrey, Kent, and Essex, to ring touches and peals. Sunday was a favourite day for these expeditions, for they had no obligations at home and no service ringing to attend to. The sabbatarian opinions which had been so strong in earlier years entirely disappeared among the masses, though there were still many people who would strongly disapprove of this or any other form of what they considered sabbath breaking. Laughton, when he was giving an account of one such outing on a Sunday, asked rather defiantly what did it signify 'so long as 'twas one day'? and boasts that he and his friends were not tied to any particular day. And, of course, there could not have been any peals or other ringing on a Sunday at the village steeples without the consent of the local church authorities, or, at any rate, without the absence of any active opposition from them.

It is not likely that the clergy were asked for their permission. It was usually a question of getting the key from the sexton or perhaps the churchwardens. Sabbatarian opinions revived during the second half of the century, but they were not shared by the ringers.

The social side of the old societies represents a phase in the life of the Exercise which has now almost entirely disappeared. Founded on the inherited traditions of the old guilds, it was immensely strengthened and influenced by the customs of the time. In the eighteenth century social clubs were very numerous and existed in all classes of society. A small and limited number of men of similar interests and tastes joined themselves together. They might consist of eight, ten or a dozen tradesmen in a particular locality, or a number of lawyers, or of people interested in art or literature, or of a few personal friends—in short, wherever there was a number of men who for one reason or another desired each other's society there was the material for a club. They agreed to meet at stated intervals, usually once a week at a tavern or coffee house. They appointed a chairman, drew up a code of rules to regulate their proceedings, and a scale of fines for faults and omissions. The rules related chiefly to the times and place of meeting, and to the money that was to be spent in drink. The fines were for absence, being late, and suchlike things. The money each paid was pooled and spent in drink. No strangers were ever admitted. The evening was spent in talking, drinking, smoking, and sometimes singing.

There were clubs in the early seventeenth century, though not known by that name, including the famous one held at the Mermaid, to which belonged Ben Jonson and William Shakespeare.

Souls of Poets dead and gone
What Elysium have ye known—
Happy field or mossy cavern—
Choicer than the Mermaid Tavern?

During the reign of Queen Anne clubs reached their full popularity and there were many associated with such distinguished men as Dr. Samuel Johnson, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Edmund Burke, Oliver Goldsmith and others.

At the other end of the social scale were what were called mug-houses. They were not exactly clubs, for they were not exclusive and did not require their mem-

bers to go through any form of being elected. Each man brought his own mug and paid a certain sum of money which was pooled and spent in beer which was consumed by the assembly. What was perhaps the most famous of these mug-houses was held at the Barley Mow in Salisbury Court under the shadow of St. Bride's steeple, the house which for many years was the headquarters of the Society of College Youths.

Ringing societies were clubs in the strictest sense of the word; the social life was of as great importance as the actual ringing in the belfry, and consequently a proportion of the rules dealt with the conduct of members in the meeting room.

The Union Scholars fixed the amount each man was to pay for drinks at sixpence, and provided penalties for gaming and profanity. The College Youths' rules forbade quarrelling and ordered that any member who offended in that way should be suspended for the night. The Cumberlands forbade any member to go out of the belfry to drink before the rest of the company; and another rule was intended to stop the practice of some members having drink at the tavern where the society met, and charging it up to the general fund. The reckoning at the meetings was done by counters, and one of them, a small oblong copper plate, with the name of the Society of College Youths engraved on it, is now in the British Museum.

The eighteenth century saw the rise or the expansion of modern Freemasonry, and one of the London ringing companies for a time organised itself as a sort of parody of the craft.

The tendency of all this was to harden and standardise the characteristics the Exercise had gained in earlier years—its exclusiveness, its independence, its tenacity of tradition. Since each society admitted none but its own members, it cared for no interests but its own, and recognised no duties or obligations to others; it made its own rules and tolerated no interference from without. And since the punctilious observance of a particular ritual was of the essence of a club, it clung to its old forms and ceremonies.

Much of this spirit survived till the end of the nineteenth century among London ringers. In small things there was the custom of excluding visitors from business meetings even when the business was merely formal and routine. More important was the hostile spirit shown towards the movement for the federation of the Exercise, first as a national association, and later under the Central Council. It was due to this spirit that the London Exercise took no part in the reform movement of sixty or seventy years ago, and that the metropolitan societies had such difficulty in coming into line with the diocesan and county territorial associations, which indeed were a challenge to the traditions of the older bodies. On the other hand, the tenacity of tradition had a very great value in preserving the unity and continuity of the art at a very critical period in the history of the Exercise.

The annual feast was the central event in the social life. In the wealthier societies it was a very elaborate affair, and even when members were less well off it was as sumptuous as their means permitted.

The rules of the Union Scholars provided that the feast should be held on the first Monday in May at some convenient place within the City of London. It was the duty

(Continued on next page.)

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

(Continued from previous page.)

of the stewards to arrange for the dinner, and towards its cost they were to collect two shillings and sixpence from each member, and the year's forfeits and fines were allotted to the same purpose. Five weeks before the day of the feast the College Youths held a general meeting to decide whether the stewards and the master were willing and able to bear the cost. If any of them could not, or would not, undertake the responsibility, other means were adopted; but the general funds of the society were not to be used for the purpose. The guarantors recouped themselves by selling tickets, not only to the members but to others whose presence was welcome. The dinner tickets were very elaborate affairs artistically designed and engraved from copper plates. In the British Museum are copies of three of these tickets issued by the Cumberlands, two belonging to the London Youths, and two belonging to the College Youths. There are also one or two issued by provincial societies.

The earlier of the two College Youths' tickets was designed by Thomas Kitchen, of Holborn, an English engraver, who flourished about the year 1750. The other was the familiar engraving by Francesco Bartolozzi, which is now used as a certificate of membership. Bartolozzi was a very famous engraver, who did an enormous amount of work during the last thirty years of the eighteenth century. The number of his engravings runs to over two thousand, and many of them were really done by his assistants, he only putting in the finishing touches, but it is said that he usually did the dinner tickets with his own hand, and so possibly the College Youths' certificate is the master's work throughout.

I do not know how early the custom arose of issuing a certificate to new members, but probably it was not until fairly late in the nineteenth century. The earliest I have been able to trace belonged to Robert Haworth and was dated August 13th, 1839, but it evidently was not given to him until long after that. The secretary's name on it was John Cooper, but Cooper was not secretary, but held the old office of beadle.

When the dinner ticket was changed into the membership certificate the annual feast in its original form had become a thing of the past. There was still an annual dinner and, so far as we have any evidence, the continuity has never really been broken, but for some half a century or so it took the form of a summer outing and a meal in some suburban town or village. It was the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary that revived the dignity and importance of the annual feast.

At one time in their history the College Youths attended divine service in church on the morning of their feast. This service was not the counterpart of the services which nowadays are usually held as a part of ringing meetings. It was rather the parallel of similar services attended by the City Companies. The College Youths paid a clergyman a guinea to read the service just as it is customary in present times for the City Companies to pay a clergyman two or three guineas for saying grace at their dinners.

(To be continued.)

HARWICH, ESSEX.—On Sunday, September 6th, at St. Nicholas' Church, for the harvest festival evening service, on handbells, four courses of Grandsire Triples and Queens and rounds: S. Jennings 1-2, C. J. Ellis 3-4, G. Thompson 5-6, A. Alderton 7-8.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

On September 19th, the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards officiated at the marriage of his nephew, Mr. P. J. Ethelstan Hills, to Miss Audrey Banfield in Kingston Magna Church, where Mr. Edwards' parents were married 70 years before. In the enforced silence of the tower bells, handbells were rung by four boys in the church porch. A peal of three small bells hung for ringing in the Rectory grounds were also rung for a short time, the bride herself taking a hand.

Mr. Alfred Pulling, who rang 5-6 last Sunday to Miss Jill Poole's first peal, recalls with pleasure that he called her mother's first peal 22 years ago, the only one she rang until last August.

Mr. G. Stacey, of Minehead, celebrated his 80th birthday on September 13th. He has been hon. secretary of the Dunster Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association for many years, and during his whole term of office only missed one meeting.

William Shipway, the author of one of the best known books on change ringing, was born in the city of Bath on September 29th, 1760.

On October 1st, 1793, the Aston ringers rang 15,360 changes of Bob Major in 9 hours and 31 minutes. Fifteen thousand one hundred and twenty changes had been rung at West Ham in 1737, and 14,480 at Oldham in Lancashire in 1784.

The first peal of Single Norwich Court Bob Major was rung on handbells at Cambridge on October 1st, 1922, by the Cambridge University Guild, conducted by Capt. W. H. J. Hooton.

On October 1st, 1907, a band consisting of the three brothers Pye, William, Ernest and George R., with Mr. William Keeble, rang 5,088 changes of Bristol Surprise Major on handbells at Romford.

Henry Bagley, the first in a long line of bellfounders, was baptised at Chacombe in Northamptonshire on October 2nd, 1608. He was the son of a blacksmith and began casting bells about the year 1632.

The first peal of Spliced Plain and Little Bob Major was rung at Long Eaton by the Midland Counties Association on October 2nd, 1926.

On the same date in 1928 a band of the Middlesex County Association rang at St. Mary's, Willesden, a peal of Lincolnshire Surprise Major. This was part of an attempt by the same band to ring a peal of Surprise Major in each number of methods from one to twelve. The peal in two methods was the only one not rung.

The first peal by eight parsons, one of Stedman Triples, was rung at Drayton in Berkshire on October 2nd, 1884. F. E. Robinson conducted, C. D. P. Davies rang the 6th and J. H. Fish, the Vicar of St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, the tenor. Canon G. F. Coleridge rang the treble.

Mr. Rupert Richardson rang 34 and called a peal of Bob Major on the Arabian Sea on October 3rd, 1934. Mr. J. S. Goldsmith rang the trebles.

TROOPER JOSEPH JONES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Talking to my old friend F. E. Dawe recently, we happened to advert to St. Paul's tenor. He recalled the practice night (October 6th, 1885) when Trooper Joseph Jones, of the R.H. Guards (blue), raised the 62 cwt. bell single-handed in just over three minutes. One of the ringers, however, had ascended unobserved to the frame, and, when possible, given a tug at the wheel. A dark and dangerous job. Jones was so pleasing and genial that no one told him of it.

Another tale I had from old Ted Horrex. Jones, who, by the way, was over 6ft. in height and long of limb, was helping to muffle Cornhill bells when Ted dropped that of the tenor into its crown. Without hesitation, Jones, with one long stride, was over and into the bell, and as nimbly out again. Horrex said, 'My heart was in my mouth,' but Jones recovered the muffle all right. Another dark and dangerous job!

Trooper Jones, who was a 'tenor-man,' disappeared from ringing circles a year or two afterwards. Being the time of the Boer War, he may have met his death in South Africa.

Bromley, Kent.

E. ALEXR. YOUNG.

STEDMAN CINQUES AT LIVERPOOL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very interested in Mr. G. R. Newton's letter about the peals of Stedman Cinques at Liverpool quoted in your issue of September 18th, and noted the quick time. But this does not make them false.

On two occasions I have taken part in peals of Grandshire Cinques at Christchurch Priory, Hants, the first peal on the 12 bells, on November 22nd, 1933. 5,038 changes, tenor 28 cwt., time taken 3 hours and 11 minutes. The second peal was about a year after, November 29th, 1934, same number of changes, rung in 3 hours and 12 minutes.

Both peals were the same composition by Mr. G. R. Newton in six parts, and conducted by my old friend, Mr. George Preston.

If my memory serves me correctly, I think the second peal, besides being rung to celebrate the wedding of the late H.R.H. the Duke of Kent and Princess Marina of Greece, served to disprove any idea that the first peal was false, and, with one exception, was rung by the same band.

I hope these few remarks may help to clarify Mr. Newton's statement about the Liverpool peals, as quick peals do not necessarily mean false peals.

F. E. PITMAN.

40, Tweedy Road, Bromley.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

GENERAL MEETING AT BARNSELEY.

The September general meeting of the Yorkshire Association was held at the Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, September 19th, and was presided over by Canon C. C. Marshall, president, supported by the general secretary (Mr. L. W. G. Morris), the hon. treasurer (Mr. S. F. Palmer), the peal secretary (Mr. W. Barton) and the vice-president of the Southern District (Mr. George Lewis). Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. F. W. Dale, W. H. Senior, H. S. Morley, F. Cryer, R. B. Smith, P. J. Johnson, E. Bradley, M. E. Wilson, L. K. Bowling, E. Hudson and R. Duffield.

A vote of thanks to the local company was proposed by Mr. G. Lewis, seconded by Mr. S. Briggs and carried with acclamation. Mr. D. Smith, who replied, said it had been a very great pleasure to make the arrangements. His task was by no means as difficult as it might have been but for the influence of their late colleague, Charles Dallion Potter. The Rector of Barnsley, Canon Wilkinson, had hoped to be with them that afternoon, but regretted that unforeseen circumstances prevented him from doing so.

THE ASSOCIATION'S YEAR.

The General Secretary, Mr. L. W. G. Morris, said the present financial year commenced on October 1st of one year and terminated on September 30th of the year following, which had the effect of causing the annual meeting of the General Committee to take place in December and the annual general meeting in January. It was undesirable to hold the two most important meetings of the year at such times. In addition, the work of compiling the annual report took place when the principal officers had other pressing business. It would be much more appropriate for the association's year to coincide with the calendar year. The present period of comparative inactivity was the most opportune time to make such a change, for two very good reasons; firstly, that to do so during normal times would considerably increase the size of the first report following the change-over by the incorporation of the additional three months' performances with the attendant additional cost, and, secondly, that much more work would be involved in compiling it. Certain amendments to rules became necessary. The motion was in the following terms:—

'That the official association year shall commence on January 1st and terminate on December 31st of each year, and that the necessary amendment to rules consequent thereon be made.'

Mr. W. Barton, who seconded, said there may be a tendency on the part of some of the older members to resent such changes, but such resentment was unfounded, as no fewer than three changes had already been made since the inception of the association in 1875. The proposed change was long overdue, as, apart from working to the calendar year, the most important meeting would take place in late April or early May when normally the weather and daylight would be far more favourable.

The Treasurer, Mr. S. F. Palmer, said he fully supported the proposed change and nothing but good could emanate from it. It was most desirable the annual general meeting should be well attended, as they looked to it for collecting as many subscriptions as possible and disposing of as many reports as possible.

The General Secretary said that in the letters of apology from members unable to attend most had expressed their support for the motion and not one had dissented.

The motion was then put to the vote and carried nem con.

DISABLED MEMBERS.

The President said the committee felt that there would be no point in holding another general meeting until the annual general meeting which, owing to the lateness of Easter, should take place on the first Saturday in May, 1943.

Mr. L. W. G. Morris moved that the next meeting be the annual general meeting and that it be held on the first Saturday in May, 1943. Mr. George Lewis seconded and this was carried. As no invitations had been received, it was left to the principal officers to arrange the place.

Mr. W. Barton moved that 'The General Committee shall have power to consider any application from any member who is permanently disabled, and unable to take any further part in practical ringing, to be transferred to the list of honorary members. Such application, if approved by the General Committee, shall then be put to the members at a general meeting for their consideration.'

Mr. Barton said that although he sincerely hoped it would not be the case, there was the possibility of members becoming totally disabled as a result of the war. He felt it only right that the association should make some provision to meet such contingencies. They had already a case brought to their notice of a member who had been stricken with blindness, but, as matters stood, had been unable to do anything. Mr. J. F. Harvey, who seconded, said that he felt it was the least thing they could do, and could not see any logical argument that could be brought to bear against. The motion was carried unanimously.

The President announced that the committee had again reviewed the circular letter received some time ago from the secretary of the Central Council relative to 'The Ringing World.' It was decided at the last general meeting to empower a sub-committee, consisting of

(Continued in next column.)

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

MEETING AT EAST GRINSTEAD.

On Saturday, September 26th, the East Grinstead and District Guild paid its first visit to headquarters since the ban on ringing. The meeting proved very successful. Twenty ringers, representing nine towers, were present, and the visitors included Mr. C. Tyler, Henfield, and Mr. E. Treagus, R.A.F., Arundel. It had not been possible to silence the tower bells, so the handbells were well used in various methods from Doubles to Caters. One touch of Stedman Triples persisted in breaking down until five ringers had a go at it.

Tea, which was partaken in a nearby cafe, was generously provided and presided over by the Guild's president, the Rev. G. Golding-Bird.

On the way back to the tower the company ran into Mr. Oliver Sippets, who, despite his protests that he was not going to ring till after the war, was dragged back to the tower and persuaded to ring 5-6 to a course of Grandsire Triples. During the evening the Rev. — Kelly (curate) conducted the company round the very interesting museum in the church tower. The exhibits give one a good idea of life in East Grinstead hundreds of years ago.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Miss K. Shepherd for arranging a very enjoyable meeting.

YORKSHIRE RINGER WINS THE M.M.



Sergt. Clement R. Robinson, R.G.A., who has been serving for over a year in Malta, has been awarded the Military Medal. He is a member of the band at St. James', Sutton-on-Hull, where there was a good six-bell band a few years ago. He joined the Yorkshire Association in 1935 and attended regularly the district meetings up to the outbreak of war.

The photograph is reproduced by courtesy of 'The Hull Daily Mail.'

UMPIRES FOR HANDBELL PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I fail to see that Mr. Shepherd has answered my query re the necessity for, and the authority of, umpires for handbell peals.

He surprises me rather, introducing 'unseen' umpires and broadcasting that he has 'unpired dozens of tower bell peals.'

His last paragraph seems to suggest that only conductors are capable of errors and only in the calling.

W. J. G. BROWN.

40, Fuchsia Lane, Ipswich.

DRIVER C. HETHERINGTON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A few months ago, Driver Chris. Hetherington, of Newcastle Cathedral Guild, was reported missing in Egypt. His many friends will now be glad to hear that, in a letter home, he says he is fit and well and a prisoner of war in Italy.

ERNEST WALLACE.

88, Grainger Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 1.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

the president, general secretary and treasurer, to make a grant of not exceeding £10 from association funds if an urgent appeal was received. Mr. W. Barton moved that the matter be again raised at the next meeting and that powers given to the sub-committee be extended until that time. This was seconded by Mr. T. C. Ryder and carried.

One new member, Mr. H. Nutt, of Friezland, was elected on the motion of Mr. D. Smith, seconded by Mr. G. Lewis.

An adjournment was then made to the hotel dining room, where an excellent repast was thoroughly enjoyed. The parting of the ways came for those who had to leave early, but those who were able to stay spent a most enjoyable evening, handbells being brought into use. A most welcome visitor was Corp. C. W. Woolley, of the famous Bushey band. Among the methods rung were Bob Royal, Grandsire Caters and Cinques, Kent Treble Bob Royal and Double Norwich Major.

LORD GRIMTHORPE.

A REMARKABLE VICTORIAN.

'Remarkable' is probably the best word to apply to Sir Edmund Beckett, Lord Grimthorpe, who has a special interest for ringers not only because he designed Big Ben and the clock at Westminster, but also because for many years he influenced English bell founding, and was one of the causes (though not in the way he intended) which have made English bells the best modern bells in the world.

He was born on May 12th, 1816, the eldest son of Sir Edmund Beckett, fourth baronet. His mother was the widow of Sir Thomas Denison, and he himself bore that surname until he succeeded his father as fifth baronet in 1874.

By profession he was a lawyer, and his success at the bar was great and rapid. He became the recognised leader of the Parliamentary Bar, the most lucrative position a counsel can hold, and as he kept a keen eye on his fees, he accumulated a large fortune. When he died his personal estate was valued at £1,562,500.

MANY INTERESTS.

The law was his profession, but during his long and busy life he found time for many other interests. The catalogue of the British Museum library contains the titles of 37 of his publications and they deal with such varied subjects as architecture, ecclesiastical fees, the lessons in church services, astronomy, church restoration, ecclesiastical courts, clocks and locks, bells, miracles, the deceased wife's sister, London water supply, revision of the New Testament, prophecies, the origin of the laws of nature, trades unionism, as well as a life of Bishop Lonsdale, his wife's father.

On all these matters he posed as an authority and was mercilessly critical and sarcastic at the expense of those who differed from him. It was hardly possible that anyone could have been so omniscient as he professed to be, and those who differed from him were not all the fools and incompetents he tried to make them appear. Yet he had real cleverness and knowledge in some of these matters, especially in clock making. He designed the great clock at Westminster and invented for it a new gravity escapement which gave it an accuracy far surpassing anything that had hitherto been thought possible. He claimed that he had directly or indirectly designed over forty public clocks, including St. Paul's and other cathedrals.

Architecture was another matter which engaged his attention and on which he had very decided views that brought him into conflict and controversy with the leading architects of the time. St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, and St. Chad's, Headingley, Leeds, are two churches which he designed, but his main work as an architect was at St. Albans Abbey, where his restorations and reconstructions caused fierce controversies. From first to last he spent over £130,000 of his own money on the work, and though he did some things, such as the windows in the transepts, that are dreadful, he saved the church from ruin.

DISPUTES AND CONTROVERSIES.

Almost all Beckett's undertakings involved him in fierce disputes with other people, and this was notably the case with the clock and bells at Westminster, where he quarrelled with the Office of Public Works, Sir Charles Barry, the architect, Sir George Airy, the Astronomer Royal, and others. His criticism of the bell led to two actions for libel, one by William Mears, in which Beckett found it advisable to withdraw his plea of justification and pay costs without a verdict being given; and the other 20 years later by Robert Stainbank, who obtained a verdict and £200 damages against him.

Grimthorpe's greatest defects were his arrogant and pugnacious temper, and a singular lack of that elusive quality called good taste. As a result of the first, when he was elected president of the Horological Institute, a stipulation was made that he should not attend the dinners. The other is shown clearly enough in the churches and bells he designed, the English he wrote and the tone and temper he displayed in the numerous controversies in which he engaged.

With all his faults he had many and great good qualities. Bitter controversialist though he was, he made many friends, outside the law all he did was done freely and without any fee, and he would always readily give advice on the subject of bells and clocks to any clergyman who approached him with due deference.

Sir Edmund Beckett was created Baron Grimthorpe in 1886 and died on April 29th, 1905, in his 89th year. He was buried in the churchyard at St. Albans Abbey.

BELLS.

On the subject of bells he held views just as pronounced and just as dogmatic as on the other matters. Here he was fortunate because the architects and other authorities with whom he had to deal knew less than he did, and did not profess to know; while the bellfounders, as Mr. Albert A. Hughes told us in his article, worked by the rules which had come down to them as the result of experience and by means of the traditional 'strickles,' and so were quite at a loss when it came to arguing points of theory.

Beckett's main idea was that bells should be very much heavier for a given note than had been the custom. He was largely responsible for several important rings cast at Loughborough, and they all showed his influence, though we may suspect that in some instances the founder modified his designs. St. Paul's Cathedral, Manchester Town

Hall and Worcester Cathedral were the most important of these. At Worcester, and more especially at St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, where Michael Thomas Bass, the donor of the church, gave him a free hand, his designs were fully carried out. Burton bells were a ring of eight with a tenor of 26 cwt. in the key of F. Worcester were a ring of twelve in the key of D flat. The usual weight of an F bell is 15 cwt. and of a D flat bell 30 cwt. Both these rings, which to ordinary ears were very poor, have been recast.

It is possible to see Beckett's influence in other Loughborough peals such as the ten at the Imperial Institute and the eight at the Roman Catholic Church at Cambridge, though actually we believe he had nothing to do with either and they depart considerably from his ideals. They form a preliminary to the magnificent series of splendid bells cast by Taylors during the last fifty years, and which probably were only made possible by the break with, or modification of, the traditional designs.

Here are some extracts from Beckett's writings giving his opinions on bells. They were published in the eighties of the last century and refer to bells as they existed then.

'Until about 14 years ago the largest ringing peal in England and therefore in the world was at Exeter Cathedral, which is the largest still, and those of York Minster, Bow Church and St. Saviour's, Southwark, otherwise called St. Mary Overy, which are all practically of the same size. The Bow peal is the best of the three, the new York one, which was cast by Mears after the fire of 1840 caused by a clock maker leaving a candle burning, being very inferior to the old ones from the same foundry and patterns. The Southwark peal is half a note lower, being a little thinner, and for that reason worse.'

ST. PAUL'S AND WORCESTER.

'The two largest modern ringing peals are those of St. Paul's and Worcester Cathedrals, both by Taylor, of the patterns and composition which I arrived at after the experiments made for the Westminster Bells, modified a little by some later ones. The St. Paul's peal is, on the whole, better than Exeter, of which some of the bells are bad; and the Worcester peal is quite equal, if not superior, to that of Bow.'

'The two trebles there (Worcester) are simply a mistake, and the peal of 10 sounds a vast deal better than the peal of 12, as is always the case. It is not so bad at St. Paul's because the notes are lower and the bells heavier and slower. But even there the 12 sound confused and inferior to 10.'

'The largest modern peals, all by Taylor, are those of Manchester and Bradford Town Halls and of St. Paul's Cathedral, but the Manchester peal cannot be rung, only chimed by machinery. The St. Paul's peal is really a more powerful and better one than Exeter, though that is rather larger; but some of the bells are too thin and otherwise inferior. Sir Christopher Wren, very unlike most modern architects who will not condescend to learn anything of such matters, but consider themselves qualified to give orders for anything that is wanted, whether architectural or not, had prepared a tower capable of bearing such a peal in full swing with perfect safety. It does not shake sensibly under the ringing, which is the case nowhere else that I know of with a moderately heavy peal. The next largest modern ringing peal is that of Worcester Cathedral, especially without the two trebles. The St. Paul's peal, being heavier and slower, bears them better; but even there—and everywhere—it is impossible to hear the 12 as distinctly and as pleasantly as 10.'

'No peal of eight with a tenor less than 4 feet diameter and 21 cwt. is worth having.'

'There are plenty of peals of eight with E tenors weighing 17 cwt. and even less, made for foolish people who insist on having bells of the deepest possible note and for the smallest possible price, and lazy ringers like them better than the good old-fashioned heavy bells, but they are miserable things.'

WEIGHTS OF TENORS.

'The smallest tenor suitable for 10 bells is D flat of 5 feet diameter and 42 cwt., or D at the very highest, for the same reason that F, 48in. of 21 cwt., is the lightest tenor for a good peal of eight; viz., that if you go much higher you run into a G sharp treble which for some reason that neither I nor the bellfounders have discovered, though the fact is certain, never sounds well together with large bells. At that point some change takes place in the character of the sound, and bells above and below it do not sound homogeneous. Peals of 12 I have already said I disapprove of altogether; and it is nothing but the vanity of having them which induces ringers to cry out for them, and subscribers to find money for them. It is almost impossible with the very best ringing to distinguish the bells in them, and the best ringing is very difficult to get. If you will have 12 bells, the tenor should not be higher than C, for the same reason as I gave just now, and even that makes the treble G thought that is not quite so hopeless as G sharp.'

'A B bell would probably be the best for such a peal, and anything below that, if of proper strength, roars over the others in a way which does not produce a good effect. The tenors of Exeter and St. Paul's are B flat; but both would be on a better scale of thickness if they had been B with the same weight or more like the B bell at Manchester. The Southwark B tenor is decidedly too thin.'

(Continued on page 450.)

THE USE OF SINGLES.

IN SEVEN-BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 429.)

In peals of Grandsire Triples the use of in-course singles is to join together two independent round blocks. Common singles have three distinct uses. The first is to join together two independent round blocks each composed of one or more B Blocks. The second is to help to arrange the paths of the hunts in the Bob-and-single peals, and the third (also in the Bob-and-single peals) is to change the nature of the rows so that some can be produced which, on the plan, would not otherwise be attainable. We will next consider the uses of singles in other seven-bell methods.

For our present purposes Triples methods divide into three classes. First there are those with a treble and a bell-in-the-hunt; then there are those with a treble and six working bells; and lastly there is Stedman.

In the first class the lead of the method is symmetrical about both the treble and the bell-in-the-hunt, and the handstrokes are all odd and the backstrokes are all even. The P Block cannot be reversed, neither can the B Block (except in the case of Grandsire and its variation, Union). Common singles, therefore, must not be used, and in-course singles have to be employed in order to produce true peals. There are eleven regular methods in this class — Grandsire, Reverse Grandsire, Double Grandsire, Court, Oxford Bob, Double Court, Double Oxford Bob, Hereward Bob, London Bob, St. Clement's Bob and College.

The methods in the second class have a plain hunting treble and six working bells. Those in this group which rank as regular methods number seventeen, excluding the ones which have adjacent places. (In a seven-bell method if you have adjacent places there must be at least three places in a change, an excessive number.) The typical method for composition in this class is Bob Triples. It does not rank as a regular method, because at the lead end one bell strikes four consecutive blows in the same position, but so far as peal composition is concerned what is true of it is true of all the methods in the class. There are two other methods which are regular, and which with Bob Triples will serve as examples of the whole group.

New Bob.	Waterloo Reverse Bob.
1234567	1234567
2135476	2135476
2314567	2314567
3241657	3241576
2346175	2345167
3264715	3254617
2367451	2345671
3276541	2436571
2375614	4263517
3257164	2436157
2351746	4231675
3215476	2413657
3124567	2146375
1325476	1243657
1352746	1426375

The methods in this class differ from those in the first class in one important respect. In the first class the changes are triple changes throughout and until a common single is made the rows are of alternate nature, all

the handstrokes being odd and all the backstrokes even. But in the second class every fourteenth change in each method is a double change, and the nature of the rows is reversed. In Bob Triples and New Bob the double change is made when the treble is leading and, consequently, while in the first lead of the plain course all the handstrokes are odd and all the backstrokes even, in the second lead all the handstrokes are even and all the backstrokes odd. In each successive lead the nature of the rows is similarly reversed.

In Waterloo Reverse Bob the double change is made when the treble is lying its whole pull behind, and the succession of the nature of the rows is reversed from that point.

The first thought that naturally strikes us is, why have these double changes? Why not have triple changes throughout just as we have in Grandsire or Oxford Bob? The answer is that unless we have a double change we cannot produce a lead-end which will give us the six-lead course we need with six working bells. In Bob Major there are seven lead-ends in the plain course, and in any other plain Major method no matter which of these lead-ends comes first, the others will follow automatically.

In plain seven-bell methods with six working bells it is not so. There the lead-ends of the plain course are—

352746
573624
765432
647253
426375

They are the exact equivalent of the leads of the plain course of Bob Major, and indeed we call them Bob Major Lead Ends, but we can easily see by experiment that there are only two orders in which they can come in the plain course of a method. They can come as we have given them above, which is the order of Bob Triples and New Bob; or they can come in reverse order with 426375 as the first lead-end, which is the order of Waterloo Reverse Bob.

If 573624 or 647253 came as the first lead-end we should have a course of three leads only. And if 765432 came as the first lead-end we should have a course of two leads only.

Custom, which is based on something more than habit and tradition, has ordained that in the plain course of any method there shall be as many leads as there are working bells; yet a Triples method with six working bells and a 3-lead course is neither an impossibility nor a freak, and one or two such methods were actually rung in early days. Indeed Grandsire Triples, when the B Block is the basis of the peal, is really such a method. When the B Block is reversed it is seen to be the lead of a symmetrical method with regular lead-ends and a 3-lead course.

We have put it alongside another and kindred method, and its nature can clearly be seen. These two methods should be compared with Crayford College Major (No. 37) and Spalding College Major (No. 41) in the Collection of Plain Major Methods.

One point must be made clear. The first of these two leads is the reverse of the B Block of Grandsire Triples, but it is not the same as the reverse we talked about in the earlier articles of this series. In composition, there

(Continued on page 450.)

THE USE OF SINGLES

(Continued from page 449.)

are two kinds of reversals, as there in most other things. There is a vertical reversal and there is a horizontal reversal. We can turn a book upside down or we can turn it over sideways. We can reverse a block by beginning with the last row and ending with the first row; and that is how we reverse B Blocks in the composition of peals of Grandsire Triples. When we reverse a method we reverse in the other direction so that work done and places made from the front in the original become work done and places made from the back in the variation. That is how this block is the reverse of the B Block of Grandsire Triples.

1234567	1234567
2143657	2143657
2416375	2416375
4261735	4261735
4627153	2467153
6472513	4276513
4627531	2475631
6472351	4257361
4627315	2453716
6472135	4235176
6741253	2431567
7614523	4213657
7165432	4126375
1756342	1462735
1573624	1647253

(To be continued.)

LORD GRIMTHORPE.

(Continued from page 448.)

TUCKING-UP OF BELLS.

'Opinions differ whether large bells should be what is called "tucked up in the stock" or the top of the bell made higher than the pivots or gudgeons. The advantage of it evidently is that it diminishes the centrifugal force or sideways strain of the bell on the frame; and if friction were out of the way it would, of course, make the bell easier to raise and ring. But friction is not out of the question, and as a bell in swing is in effect a pendulum, and not (as I have heard even bellfounders represent it) a body lifted by a steady pull like a lever, it may very easily happen that a certain amount of friction on the pivots may make it impossible to make the bell pendulum swing through 360 degrees by any practicable force that can be applied to it at the beginning of its motion which is the only time when the rope acts upon it. The Rev. Mr. Taylor told me that a bell of about 52 cwt. at Hereford which he and some other boys used to raise and set was made unraisable by them by being rehung and at the same time tucked up; and so confident was he of the mistake of this mode of hanging that he offered to fill Mearns' great bad bell at York with beer if any number of men could set it and they never could.'

'Ringing the tenor behind, i.e., ringing the changes only on the other bells, always sounds better than ringing the tenor in the changes, though ringers think more of it as a feat. One man can ring a very heavy bell behind which would require two to ring in, as its time has then to be altered continually. Also when two men are required, it tries their wind less and it requires only one rope, for one to take the fore-stroke only and the other back-stroke only, though it is hardly ever done.'

BELL CHAMBER WINDOWS.

'The bell chamber windows should be as large as possible and as open as possible. Not long ago I was consulted about some bells and a clock at Leeds; they got a bell of 16 cwt. and a clock to strike on it, and yet when it was done they could hardly hear it close to the church; and no wonder, for they put it about ten feet below four narrow windows, which were also filled up with those sloping boards or thin stones called louvres to keep the rain out.

'The proper filling up for bell chamber windows is strong wire netting close enough to keep the birds out, and the floor should be covered with lead or zinc laid so as to carry off the wet, which will do the bells no harm even if a little does blow in on them. Snow is not kept out even by louvres, and it ought to be swept off the bells before they are rung.

'At Scarborough they have put up shutters, which are opened only when the bells are rung.'

SINGLES IN BOB ROYAL.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I fancy the point of my letter on this subject seems to have been overlooked. I did not mean to do away with singles, but rather to put in as many as possible, while at the same time giving the 6th her full extent 'Home' and the 5th in regular sequence in alternate courses. The late Mr. Arthur Knights had a number of compositions with a multiplicity of singles—I myself called one of them at his own special request at Chesterfield many years ago. I aimed at symmetry in design in two halves, giving 5th in alternate places regularly, and sent two compositions with my first letter. If you could find space for the second one, I think your correspondent will see what I meant. Everyone knows that the extent with 6th home can be got in Bob Royal with two singles, but to keep 5th in two alternate places in one half, and in the other two places in the second half, four singles is the minimum.

ERNEST MORRIS.

Coventry Street, Leicester.

5,040 BOB ROYAL (Ernest Morris).			
23456	W	M	H
43625	S	—	—
65324	S	—	—
43526	S	S	—
25436	—	S	—
24536	—	S	—
35246	—	S	—
32546	—	S	—
45236	S	S	—
42536	—	S	—
35426	—	S	—
34526	—	S	—
25346	—	S	—
23546	—	S	—
45326	S	S	—

Continued W M H			
23456	S	M	H
36524	—	—	S
23564	—	—	S
53426	S	—	—
42356	S	—	—
52346	S	—	—
34256	S	—	—
54236	S	—	—
32456	S	—	S
52436	S	—	S
43256	S	—	—
53246	S	—	—
24356	S	—	—
54326	S	—	S

ESSEX RINGER A PRISONER OF WAR.

News has just been received through the War Office that R. W. Pye, R.Q.M.S., 2/5th Essex Regiment, of Kelvedon, missing since July 1st, is now a prisoner of war.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT COALBROOKDALE.

The meeting of the Shropshire Association at Coalbrookdale on September 19th proved a great success, over twenty ringers attending, including four in H.M. services. The ten bells had been silenced and were soon set going in standard methods. Handbells were also used.

A short service in church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. T. Eland, who gave the ringers a hearty welcome. One of the visitors played the organ.

Tea was at 5 p.m., and a short business meeting followed, with the Vicar in the chair. A collection for the J. S. Goldsmith fund realised over £1. The meeting was unanimous that 'The Ringing World' should be carried on as a memorial to the late editor.

Mr. William Chester, of Market Drayton, tapped an excellent course of Bob Royal on handbells, a much better one than he and nine others afterwards rang on the tower bells.

The 'go' of the bells was much admired by the visitors, and is a proof that everything is ready and in good order for the time when peace comes. It was hoped that more meetings of the kind will be held, all being convinced that it is a good way of keeping the Exercise going and interest in the art alive.

WHEN PEACE COMES.

FROM 'THE WALTHAMSTOW GUARDIAN.'

I had a very interesting and instructive talk the other day with a member of a firm of bell-founders. He explained to me that when 'the joy-bells ring out again' some of the timbre and tone of the bells will have temporarily deteriorated through non-usage. Also there will obviously be a serious shortage of experienced bellringers, as many of them will have grown too old, and the younger men have been scattered to the four corners of the earth. In any case, those remaining will sadly need practice, and, let me add, bellringing is no easy job for the tyro.

I remember visiting a belfry in my youth and attempting to ring a bigish bell: the result was that through hanging on to the rope instead of letting it pass through my hands when I had got some momentum on the bell, I hit the roof of the belfry and landed on the floor—'experientia docet stultos!' So when the St. Mary's of Wanstead and Woodford burst forth once again in would-be joyous carillons, don't be surprised or critical at the clang.

PULBOROUGH.—On Sunday, September 20th, on the front six (minus clappers), 720 Bob Minor: A. V. Corden 1, Pte. F. G. Sparks, R.A.M.C. 2, L. Stilwell (conductor) 3, L.A.C. E. Treagus, R.A.F. 4, W. Curtis 5, C. Longhurst 6. And 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: W. Curtis 1, Pte. F. G. Sparks 2, A. V. Corden 3, E. Treagus 4, C. Longhurst 5, L. Stilwell (conductor) 6. First 720's by W. Curtis.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Acle on Saturday, October 3rd. Bells (6, silent) available 2.15 p.m. Service 4. Tea and business meeting 4.30. Trains leave Norwich 1.30 and 3.23. Leave Acle 5.8 and 6.39.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD (Wirral Branch) and LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION (Liverpool Branch).—A joint meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' Church, Wallasey, on Saturday, Oct. 3rd. Tower bells (6, without clappers) and handbells available from 3 p.m. A service at 5 p.m., followed by tea. Those requiring tea please notify Mr. F. Varty, 22, Mostyn Street, Wallasey, Cheshire.—H. S. Brocklebank, 30, Southhill Road, Birkenhead, and G. R. Newton, 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough and Burton Districts.—A joint meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Ashby, on Saturday, Oct. 3rd. Handbells available at 3.30. Tea at Ladford's Cafe 4.30, followed by short meeting.—A. E. Rowley and J. W. Cotton, Hon. Secs.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 10th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Goole on Saturday, Oct. 10th. Short service in church at 4 o'clock. Tea, at 5 o'clock, for all who send their names to Mr. C. Hill, 120, Weatherill Street, Goole, by Wednesday, Oct. 7th. Business meeting after tea. Handbells available.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—The annual district meeting at Tonbridge on Saturday, Oct. 10th. Service 4 p.m. Tea, free, at the Carlton Cafe, 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. All requiring tea must let Mr. J. Medhurst, 251, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, know by Wednesday, Oct. 7th.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting will be held at St. James' Church, Milnrow, on Saturday, Oct. 10th. Tower bells (silent) available from 3.30 p.m., also handbells. Make use of this opportunity to practise our art. Everybody welcome.—J. Kay, Hon. Sec.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be at Cawthorne on Saturday, October 10th. Handbells available in Parish Room 2.30 p.m. Business meeting 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. for those who notify me not later than Wednesday, October 7th. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Taunton Deanery.—Annual meeting at St. James', Taunton, Saturday, October 10th. Tower bells (silent) at 3 p.m., also handbells. Business meeting in tower 6 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—W. H. Lloyd, Act. Sec., 46, East Street, Taunton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Francis Xavier's, Salisbury Street, on Saturday, Oct. 10th. Meet at the tower 3 p.m. It is hoped that tower bells and handbells will be available. The Rector has promised to provide tea for those who send in their names to me not later than Wednesday, Oct. 7th.—G. R. Newton, 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—A luncheon to commemorate the 305th anniversary will be held at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., on Saturday, Nov. 7th, at 1 p.m. Tickets 6s. 6d. each.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

RETURN THANKS.

THE LATE MR. W. J. NEVARD.—The family of the late Mr. W. J. Nevard wish to thank all friends for kind expressions of sympathy shown in their sad bereavement and for the beautiful floral tributes and many letters of sympathy. Please accept this as their grateful acknowledgment.

BIRTH.

CHADDOCK.—On August 29th, to the wife of Sergt. N. Chaddock, R.A.O.C., a daughter. Sergt. Chaddock and his wife were both members of the band at Whiston, near Rotherham, and Sergt. Chaddock was Ringing Master of the Sheffield and District Society.

THE BELLS OF OXFORD.

So have I stood at eve on Isis' banks,
To hear the merry Christ Church bells rejoice.
So have I sat too in thy honoured shades,
Distinguished Magdalen, on Cherwell's brink,
To hear thy silver Wolsey tones so sweet.
And so too have I paused and held my oar
And suffer'd the slow stream to bear me home
While Wykeham's peal along the meadow ran.—

James Hurdis.

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A MATTER OF TRADITION.

A question asked in our columns whether more than two singles are undesirable in peals of Bob Royal and Maximus has aroused a rather unexpected amount of interest among some of our readers, and we have had several compositions which are worthy of at least passing attention.

The matter in itself is of comparatively little importance and the obvious and sensible answer to the question seems to be that given by Mr. Ernest Turner. If more than two singles are needed to get a particular result, he said, and that result is worth getting, then their use is fully justified.

There is, however, undoubtedly a feeling in the Exercise against the unlimited and unrestrained use of singles; a feeling which amounts to a prejudice, and which goes back to the very beginnings of the science. It is worth a moment's thought why it should be so.

Since singles are useful and necessary operations in obtaining all sorts of peals it would seem at first sight that any objections to their unrestricted use is only old-fashioned prejudice due to the dead weight of custom and lack of thought. To some extent it actually is so, but that by no means explains the matter. Far more than most things change ringing is bound hand and foot by traditions which have come down from the remote past. During the last twenty years there has been an increasing tendency to seek new paths and new ideas, but the hand of custom and tradition still lies heavy on the Exercise and is likely so to do.

Does this mean that change ringing is a thing incapable of expansion and development, and that ringers are a dull and unprogressive lot? By no means. Change ringing is capable of far more development than the Exercise is likely to reach within a measurable time, and there are, and always have been, ringers keenly bent on exploring new ground. But change ringing is an art based on an exact science. Its fundamental rules are the rules of eternal mathematical truth, and its standards and its secondary rules are things which naturally follow. It allows unlimited development, but only along narrow and well defined paths. This is the reason why it has lasted so long and why it gives unlimited promise for the future. The science is a greater thing than the Exercise has realised. Ringers have only dimly understood some of its laws and their traditions are often the result of imperfect understanding, yet they are almost always based on some real truth.

How does all this apply to the prejudice against the unrestricted use of singles? It is by no means easy to

(Continued on page 454.)

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say, yet we may be sure that the instinctive dislike most ringers have for many singles in a peal is something more than mere fancy.

As we said above, this and similar traditions are of no great importance, yet they are links with the past, and so long as they do not actually hinder progress, we may as well respect them, for they may have a good deal more truth and reality in them than we realise.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, September 26, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

HAROLD J. POOLE ... 1-2 | ALFRED H. PULLING ... 5-6

*GEO. STEDMAN MORRIS ... 3-4 | ERNEST MORRIS ... 7-8

FREDERICK E. WILSON ... 9-10

Composed by JAMES HUNT. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* First handbell peal of Royal. Rung to mark the 38th anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Pulling, of Guildford.

FELKIRK, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Sunday, September 27, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 8040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

*DANIEL SMITH ... 1-2 | CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 5-6

*HAROLD CHANT ... 3-4 | †SIDNEY BIGGS ... 7-8

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

* First peal of Little Bob, also hundredth peal together. † First peal of Little Bob 'in hand.'

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 3, 1942, in Three Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes;

IN THE CHOIR VESTRY OF ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAXIMUS, 5016 CHANGES;

ALFRED BALLARD ... 1-2 | ERNEST MORRIS ... 7-8

GEO. STEDMAN MORRIS ... 3-4 | FRANK K. MEASURES ... 9-10

HAROLD J. POOLE ... 5-6 | FREDERICK E. WILSON ... 11-12

Composed by ERNEST MORRIS. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Witness—Mr. Josiah Morris.

First peal of Maximus on handbells by all the band and by the association. It was rung at the first attempt.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

(CHRISTCHURCH BRANCH.)

On Sunday, October 4, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes,

IN ST. PETER'S HALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 13 in C.

MISS FAITH M. CHILD ... 1-2 | ARTHUR V. DAVIS ... 5-6

MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4 | HERBERT MITCHELL ... 7-8

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

Rung to mark the enthronement of Dr. Mervyn Haigh as Lord Bishop of Winchester on September 30th, 1942.

THE BELLS OF VANCOUVER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was my intention this last New Year's Night, when, as usual, we were broadcasting at midnight, to have them relayed to England. The C.B.C. Broadcasting Corporation did all they could to have this done, taking the matter up with Toronto and the authorities in England, but it was thought best not to, although it would have been announced on the radio and in the papers. Someone might have turned on the radio and hearing bells ringing might start a panic, though I much doubt in the case of an invasion if the bells in England would be pealing out good old Grandsire Triples.

A. C. LIMPUS.

208, Union Street, Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

THE RINGING EXERCISE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

(Continued from page 445.)

It is difficult to say how far there was any competitive ringing between London companies and what form it took. Ringing was a sport, and there is little sport into which competition does not enter in some form or other. But competition may be direct in the form of a set match between two parties; or it may be indirect, one party trying to better what another has already done.

The latter form has always existed in the Exercise; it still exists, and is one of the greatest incentives to progress. There was plenty of that in London during the eighteenth century; notably between the College Youths and the London Scholars in 1728 and 1729; between the College Youths and the Cumberlands in 1777; and between the ancient and the junior Societies of College Youths in 1784. But of set matches there is, on the surface, little or no trace whatever. Throughout the country there was little sport at the time into which betting and wagers did not enter, but again there is no trace of anything of the sort in London ringing.

It does not follow, however, that these things did not exist. The rules of the societies in the previous century contemplate competitive ringing. The Schollers of Cheapside forbade any member to accept a challenge from any other company without consent of the general, and a rule of the Esquire Youths ordered that 'none shall engage the Company in a challenge without the general's consent, on pain of being amerced 2s. 6d.; and in case the Company shall be engaged every man shall lend his best assistance if required.'

It is quite clear that the companies did not object to having matches with other bands, but they were particular as to who their opponents were.

In the country towns and villages general challenges backed by wagers were common enough. The first peals rung at Oxford were the result of a wager. Annable's band had been to the city and failed to score a peal through broken ropes; someone offered to bet the local men that they could not succeed in six attempts; they accepted the challenge and won the money. When in 1731 Edward Crane advertised in the 'Norwich Gazette' that he had brought to light that most noted and harmonious peal, Stedman Triples, he added that if any ringer doubted the truth of the peal, let him come to the sign of the Six Ringers in St. Michael's of Coslany and he could have any wager from two guineas to ten. Two years later the ringers of Garboldisham issued a challenge to both Norfolk and Suffolk to ring the best of ten several peals for the value of five or ten guineas, and the challenge was publicly accepted by five of the Norwich Scholars. The bands met at the Red Lion at Bunwell on April 2nd, 1733, and having fixed up arrangements and each side staked five guineas, they adjourned to the village church. 'Both sides performed to Admiration, the Garboldisham Ringers erring only in the ninth peal.' So the Norwich men won the match and the money.

James Barham's band was frequently engaged in competition with other bands in Kent, and the same thing was going on all over the country. It was customary for matches to be arranged in which bands rang for hats. The genesis of these matches is easy enough to see. The village inn was the centre of the village social life, the

communal clubroom. There men talked and boasted of what they could do. If a dispute arose between the bands of two neighbouring villages, there were pretty certain to be some farmers or small gentlemen of sporting tastes who would find the money for the stake, and the village innkeeper was the natural person to arrange the match. It meant custom to him. Very frequently the innkeeper promoted an open contest in which any band might compete, and on the chosen day not only the competitors but their friends and supporters also would come to the village. A special dinner was provided, and that, with the beer that was drunk, meant money in the innkeeper's pocket.

In the social conditions of the time, we need not suppose that these contests led to anything particularly objectionable, though later on in the North and the West prize ringing was accompanied by grave abuses.

To present-day minds the thought of using the church tower and church bells for contests, which in their spirit did not differ much from prize fights or horse races, will seem strange and rather revolting, but the standards of the time were different, and the general public saw nothing amiss in them. There seems to have been no opposition to them on the part of the clergy, who probably thought them no concern of theirs. The laity, through the vestry, owned and controlled the fabric of the church and especially the bells, to a far greater extent than at present. The church was used for other purposes than holding divine service, and there was no incongruity in the use of the bells for amusement and recreation. It would be a mistake to suppose that this was due to the laxity of the eighteenth century. It dated back to pre-Reformation times.

Many years ago I remember seeing at Woodbridge, in Suffolk, a stone tablet let into the wall of the church tower on the ground floor which recorded that some man had run up and down the steps of the tall steeple so many times in so many minutes for a wager. I forget the date and the particulars, but the presence of such a record in such a place is a significant indication of the attitude of the general public.

In London, however, there is scarcely the faintest trace of anything like these matches and, after a very close study of the ringing history of the time, I came to the conclusion that they were not allowed there. Seeing, however, that these competitions were common all over the country, it would have been rather strange if they had been altogether unknown in the Metropolis, and a cutting from a contemporary newspaper, which has come into my hands, shows that in fact they did exist. It is rather curious that neither the records nor the traditions of the societies show any traces of these matches though it is certain that some of the peals recorded were actually rung in direct competition and for a prize.

The College Youths won a cup at Sonning in 1783 in competition with bands from Oxford and Farnham. The cup still exists, and it is the only piece of evidence the society possesses that it ever was engaged in a match with any other company.

On January 19th, 1784, a new ring of ten bells from Whitechapel was opened at St. John's, Horsleydown, and to mark the occasion the leading ringers of the day were invited to compete for a prize which consisted of ten gold laced hats provided by a number of local gentle-

(Continued on next page.)

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

(Continued from previous page.)

men. The winning band was also to be entertained at the dinner which, as usual, concluded the opening.

Three peals were started for. The first, apparently by the ancient Society of College Youths, was lost before 4,000 changes had been rung. Then the Cumberlands rang 5,399 Grandsire Caters conducted by the older George Gross. Then the junior Society of College Youths rang 5,040 Oxford Treble Bob Royal, conducted by John Povey. The prize was awarded to the last band.

Both peals are recorded in the respective peal books, but nothing whatever is said in either about any competition, and we should have known nothing about it if it had not been for a reference in a contemporary newspaper.

This quite clearly was inspired by the Cumberlands, who took their defeat very badly. It was mainly a bitter and spiteful attack on their opponents, who were accused not only of bad ringing but of bribing the umpire.

At the time the rivalry between the three leading London companies was very keen. The junior College Youths, by ringing 11,080 changes of Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch in 1777 had gained the ten-bell record. They had also held the twelve-bell record; but this had since passed to the Cumberlands through the 6,240 rung in 1778 by the Norwich members of that society. Now both companies were getting ready to make an attempt on their rivals' record. Two months after the Horsleydown opening the College Youths, by ringing 7,008 changes at Southwark, secured the record for Maximus, and the Cumberlands secured the record for Royal by ringing their famous peal of 12,000 changes at Shoreditch. At the same time another contest was going on between the two societies of College Youths for the honour of ringing the first peal of Real Double Bob Maximus with two hobs in a lead. The junior society rang 5,160 changes at St. Bride's on March 24th, 1784, and the others 6,048 changes at St. Saviour's two days later. The rivalry was very keen, but there was little that was 'friendly' about it.

A year earlier than the Horsleydown contest Bishops-gate bells were opened. The three societies took part and each rang a peal. First the junior College Youths rang 5,120 Treble Bob Major, then the Cumberlands rang 5,040 Grandsire Triples, and then the ancient College Youths rang 5,216 Treble Bob Major. There is no hint of any match or prizes, but bearing in mind what happened at Horsleydown, we may conclude that there was something of the sort, and perhaps the two long peals of Cinques at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields in 1728 were rung in a similar contest, though the contemporary newspaper reports say nothing about any prize.

It seems pretty clear, however, that there never have been in London any open prize-ringing contests with money prizes such as were common in the north, and there never were any matches between bands the result of challenges backed by wagers.

The secular spirit in which people of the eighteenth century looked on bells is clearly shown by the proceedings at the opening of a new ring of bells. It was a very important local event which interested all classes of society. Everything was done in fine style and amid general rejoicing, but there was no religious service in

the church, no dedication of the bells, no thought that there was anything particularly sacred about them, or that they were to be kept free from profane use.

The usual custom was to invite bands of ringers to attend on the selected day. Each company in turn went to the belfry and rang a touch or attempted a peal. Often, as at Horsleydown, a prize was given to the best performers, and we may suppose that some fee was paid to bands who came from a distance, though when the College Youths went to Shrewsbury in 1798 to the opening of the new twelve at St. Chad's, they refused to accept even their expenses. The College Youths, however, were rather an exception, and were very sensitive about being classed with those men who rang for what they could get out of it.

There was no mixing of ringers inside the belfry. Each man rang with his own company and then left the tower to join with the crowd outside in criticising the next performers. This custom of keeping bands intact at meetings survived in Devon until recent times, and possibly still exists.

At the end of the day a dinner was held at a convenient tavern, at which the principal men of the parish attended, and speeches were made and toasts drunk. The senior churchwarden took the chair, for the clergy, as clergy, seem to have had little or nothing to do with the matter. The laity, in fact, looked on the bells as their own property. The best or most distinguished band of the day would be invited to the dinner, but it was not a ringers' gathering.

At the opening of the ring of twelve at St. Peter, Mancroft, Norwich, on June 21st, 1775, there was a grand oratorio in the church, attended by leading men of the city and county, but that was rather exceptional.

When a new ring was opened at a provincial town, it was natural to try and secure the attendance of some famous company such as the College Youths or the Norwich Scholars, and the London society was engaged on many such occasions. A detailed account of one of these visits is preserved in the society's peal book. It relates to the opening of the bells at Carisbrooke in the Isle of Wight, and was written by Joseph Monk, one of the men who took part.

On Friday evening, September 28th, 1770, a party of eight men set out from the Barley Mow, and journeying through the night, reached Portsmouth on the Saturday afternoon. On the Sunday morning they were met by a messenger from the Island, who took them across the Solent in a boat specially provided. At Newport they received a hearty welcome, and next day they went to Carisbrooke, where they found the steeple decorated with flags and streamers, and booths erected to accommodate the large number of people who had come to the ceremony from all parts of the Island.

After ringing the bells they had dinner with the principal gentlemen of the Island in a large temporary building erected for the purpose, and then, returning to the belfry, rang a peal of Bob Major, while the general public indulged in the amusements and sports which were customary at fairs and suchlike gatherings.

The evening was spent 'in high glee,' and next day, after declining with regret a pressing invitation to prolong their stay, the College Youths took their departure.

(Continued on next page.)

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

(Continued from previous page.)

An account of a more homely opening is given with approval by Gilbert White. In 1735 Sir Samuel Stuart made the bells at Selborne into a ring of five. The day of the arrival of the tunable peal was observed as a high festival by the village, and rendered more joyous by an order from the donor that the treble should be fixed bottom upwards in the ground and filled with punch, of which all present were permitted to partake. This seems to have been the usual custom when a new bell arrived at a village.

The contrast is striking between these openings and the solemn dedications of medieval times, with washing with holy water and anointing with consecrated oil; or between them and modern dedications. But it would be very foolish to condemn the men of the eighteenth century because their ideas and standards were not the same as ours are; or to think that we are any better than they were. There was quite as much real religion in those days as there is now, but it showed itself in a different manner. Writing about such openings as that at Selborne, the Rev. D. Gatty, the author of a well-known book on bells published in 1848, remarks, 'Thus the festival proceeds, and if timely arrested, no evil can arise from it—indeed, the bells ascend in due course to their belfry settlement with more hearty good wishes from the people than if it had not taken place, and we see nothing at all in all this to make us sigh after the faith of our forefathers.'

We need similar charity and breadth of vision when we are judging the whole story of the ringers of the eighteenth century and their doings.

(Concluded.)

THE SOCIETY OF CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

THE KING'S PREROGATIVE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. G. Radley seems to have overlooked the real objection to the title of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, if there is any objection at all.

The use of the word Royal is a privilege formally granted by the King to a small and select number of societies. It is just as much an honour as the titles conferred on individual men and women, and is accordingly much prized. Any unauthorised use of it is just as much an infringement of His Majesty's prerogative as the assumption by unauthorised persons of titles.

Technically the Cumberlands do not offend in this matter, for they do not call themselves a Royal Society, which would be distinctly improper, but the Society of 'Royal Cumberland' Youths.

As the Duke of Cumberland was the son of the reigning king, he was, of course, a royal person in the second degree. It is not usual to add the word Royal to his name and it is difficult to see what object there can be in it. It is difficult to resist the thought that the men who added the word to the Cumberlands' title did try to create the impression that they had royal patronage.

Of course, the present day Cumberland Youths are entirely innocent in the matter. They have merely inherited a title and are not in the least responsible for it.

It is difficult to discuss matters like this without someone bringing in personal feeling. I myself have nothing to do with the Cumberlands, who I am sure, are most excellent people. My interest in the matter is quite academic and impersonal, and, therefore, I am going to ask you, sir, to allow me to imitate your correspondent 'X' and sign myself

'YZ.'

'X' REPLIES.

Dear Sir,—Let me assure Mr. Radley that the word snobbery was not intended as a reflection on either the society or any of its members. If I had added to my previous letter 'on the part of those responsible' this would have been clear.

This omission, however, is not as unfortunate as would appear, for Mr. Radley's letter clearly shows how little is known of the Cumberland's history, and the need, in view of forthcoming events, for investigation.

'X.'

DONINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.—On September 24th, on handbells, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor, 1,260 changes: *P. Markham 1-2, C. Wander (conductor) 3-4, *G. Short 5-6. *First quarter-peal 'in hand.'

John Taylor & Co.

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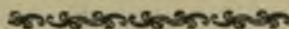
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HANDBELLS, BELL ROPES,
MUFFLES,
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Visitors who intend to be present at the meeting of the College Youths to-morrow should note that St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, will be open at two o'clock for silent tower bell practice.

The peal at St. Margaret's, Leicester, on Saturday last, was the first of Bob Maximus on handbells by all the ringers and by the association. The first tower bell peal of Bob Maximus for the Midland Counties Association was rung at St. Margaret's. Messrs. Alf Ballard and Ernest Morris have now rung peals of Plain Bob in Minor, Major, Royal and Maximus on both tower and handbells. It was the 50th peal together by A. Ballard and F. K. Measures, and coincided with the birthday of Mrs. J. F. Milner, of Southwell, Notts.

On September 30th, the day Dr. Mervyn Haigh was installed Bishop of Winchester, a handbell peal was attempted at St. Peter's, Bourne-mouth, but was lost 600 changes from the end. The band consisted of H. Mitchell, Mrs. F. J. Marshall, A. V. Davis and F. S. Wilson.

Thomas Hattersley, a well-known Yorkshire ringer in the last century, was born at Sheffield on October 5th, 1839.

On the same date in 1877 Samuel Austin, some time hon. secretary of the Ancient Society of College Youths, died at the age of 78.

William Booth, a celebrated ringer of Sheffield and grandfather of Thomas and Charles Hattersley, died on October 6th, 1849.

The first peal of Stedman Cinques was rung by the College Youths, at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, on October 6th, 1788.

A peal of Spliced Bob Major and Oxford Bob Triples was rung at Bridgend by the Llandaff Diocesan Association on October 26th, 1926: and on the same day the Gloucester and Bristol Association rang at Bristol a peal of Spliced Bob Royal and Grandsire Caters.

The Australian tourists rang a peal of Bob Major on the Indian Ocean on October 7th, 1934.

The first peal of Double Bob Major on handbells was rung at Frodsham in Cheshire, on October 7th, 1926.

Arthur Percival Heywood called the first peal of Duffield Major, at Duffield, on October 8th, 1887. It was the first exact 5,000 ever rung on eight bells.

Mr. H. G. Cashmore called the first peal of Woodston Surprise Major, at King's Langley, on October 8th, 1938.

Henry Hubbard, author of a text book on change ringing, died on October 9th, 1881.

Fifty years ago yesterday four peals were rung, two were Grandsire Triples, one Bob Major, and one Oxford Treble Bob Major.

BERTRAM PREWETT.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I have recently read a copy of 'The Ringing World' dated August 28th, in which it gives an account of the ringing activities, etc., of my late husband, Bertram Prewett.

It also states that he lost his life in an air raid on the way to the hospital at Etaples.

This latter statement is incorrect. He was killed in action on the main Peronne-Bapaume Road opposite the village of Borechavennes.

IDA PREWETT.

32, Oxhey Avenue, Watford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT WIGAN.

The annual meeting of the Lancashire Association was held at Wigan on September 26th. Good use was made of eight clapperless bells at Poolstock from 3 p.m. until 4 o'clock, when service was attended in the Parish Church, at which the Rector gave a short address of welcome. The business meeting was in the National and Blue Coat School and was presided over by Mr. J. Ridyard.

The committee reported that they had held a special meeting in January to consider the vacancies in the offices due to the retirement of the late president and the death of the treasurer. The question of a new president was left to the annual meeting, Mr. F. E. Williams was asked to take care of the finances, and Mr. E. C. Birkett to act as auditor.

Subscriptions had been received from only 291 members, and 109 who are in the Forces are excused payment while the war lasts. Expenses had been curtailed, but there was an adverse balance of £10, which had been reduced by £6 since the audit was made. Twenty-six members had been lost by death.

The Rev. F. F. Rigby was elected president and took the chair. Mr. W. H. Shuker was elected general secretary, and Mr. E. F. Mawby auditor.

An alteration in the rules was suggested, by which officers would have to retire at the end of two years, and Central Council representatives at the end of three years, and would not be eligible for re-election for at least a clear year, exceptions being made in the case of the treasurer, general, and branch secretaries. After full discussion the proposal was rejected by a large majority.

The arrangements for the next annual meeting were left in the hands of the committee.

Questions were asked about 'The Ringing World,' and a sub-committee was empowered to go into the matter as soon as information is received from headquarters.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Rectors of Wigan and Poolstock.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.**MEETING AT ERDINGTON.**

The quarterly meeting of the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham was held at the Church House, Erdington, on Saturday, September 26th. Among the visitors were Mr. R. Richardson, of Surfleet, Mr. J. F. Smallwood, who was bombed out of Bath and Weston-super-Mare and has now come to reside in Worcester, and the Rev. Malcolm Melville, who is now at Lichfield Cathedral.

The short business meeting was presided over by the Master, Councillor A. Paddon Smith, J.P., who made reference to the recent Masonic preferment of the secretary, Mr. T. H. Reeves, in being installed Worshipful Master of the Arts and Crafts Lodge, and on behalf of the Guild wished him a happy and successful year, to which the secretary suitably responded. Mr. Reeves had also received letters of congratulation from Mr. James George and Mr. John Marshall, of Edinburgh, the latter mentioning the happy times he had with members of the Guild when in Birmingham.

Messrs. E. Calcutt, of Belbroughton, G. R. H. Smith, of Cheltenham, and J. E. Spice, of Oxford, were elected life members.

It was decided to hold the next meeting, being the annual, at headquarters, the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City, on Saturday, January 2nd, 1943.

On the proposition of Mr. A. Walker, seconded by Mr. F. E. Haynes, it was decided to hold the Henry Johnson Commemoration on the first Saturday in March, 1943, as usual, and the secretary was instructed to make the best arrangements possible in the circumstances.

The Chairman expressed the sympathy of the Guild with the Rev. M. Melville in his recent bereavement.

Owing to the church being in the hands of harvest festival decorators it was inconvenient to hold the Guild service as usual. The Vicar, however, welcomed the members to Erdington, and invited them to come again as soon as possible, when he hoped to make amends for any disappointment which might be felt that day.

Handbell ringing took place both before and after the meeting, and some good practice in a variety of methods was indulged in.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**MEETING AT ROTHWELL.**

At the meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society, held at Rothwell on September 26th, members were present from Armley, Bradford Cathedral, Bramley, Shipley, Sherburn and the local company, as well as Mr. C. W. Woolley.

Handbells were rung in a variety of methods from 3 o'clock until 5, when there was a break for tea.

Mr. F. J. Harvey, the president of the association, took the chair at the business meeting. A vote of thanks to the Vicar, churchwardens and local company was proposed by Mr. L. W. G. Morris and seconded by Mr. S. Helliwell. Mr. Morris said Rothwell ringers had always been stalwarts of the Leeds Society, and their enthusiasm to-day after three years of war in providing the tea showed their worth.

The Vicar of Rothwell (the Rev. S. J. Tallents) acknowledged the vote and said that music is amongst the highest arts and bellringing is closely allied to it. He was waiting for the time when the society would be able to ring the tower bells again.

Mr. T. W. Strangeway also replied and said that if the visitors were happy and comfortable his colleagues and himself were amply repaid for their efforts.

Further handbell ringing took place, when the experience and help of Mr. C. W. Woolley was enjoyed by all those present.

The methods rung during the day were Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob, Double Norwich Court Bob, Superlative and Cambridge Surprise Major.

CHESTER AND LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATIONS**JOINT MEETING AT WALLASEY.**

A most successful and enjoyable joint meeting was held at St. Nicholas' Church, Wallasey, on Saturday, October 3rd, at which members were present from Bebington, Rock Ferry, Oxtown, Waverton, St. Luke's and St. Nicholas', Liverpool, and also the local company. A welcome visitor was Mr. Eric B. Hartley, of Willesden.

The Vicar, Canon Roscamp, conducted the service and preached an appropriate farewell sermon. He spoke of the great pleasure it had always been during a period of upwards of 30 years to welcome the Guild to his church, and although, through ill-health, he was compelled to resign his living, he hoped he would be near enough to hear the bells ring out a victory peal.

Mr. J. W. Evans and other speakers expressed the thanks of the ringers to Canon Roscamp for his many kindnesses, and regretted greatly his severance from them.

Mr. H. S. Brocklebank, the Wirral Branch secretary, spoke of the great loss sustained by the Chester Guild by the death of Mr. Walter J. Battle, who died suddenly on September 8th. Mr. Battle was the son of the late Mr. Walter Battle, who for many years rang at St. Albans, Herts. Much sympathy was expressed to his widow and family in their sad bereavement.

It is hoped that another joint meeting will be arranged very soon. Tower bells and handbells were rung before the service.

UMPIRES FOR HANDBELL PEALS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I have been waiting for one of your correspondents to clearly define the real necessity for and qualifications of aforesaid umpires. We do not yet seem quite clear as to whether an umpire is required, because (1) the Central Council recommended it years ago; (2) the A.S.C.Y. have always demanded it; (3) double-handed ringers and conductors are so notoriously dishonest; or (4) it is an old Spanish custom.

Dealing with the first, this is a recommendation only, I believe, and does not demand that where only five ringers are available one must sit out as umpire and so bar any attempts at Caters or Royal. Reason No. 2, I would point out that many of the A.S.C.Y.'s rules were made in totally different times to ours, and that while they carry on their old traditions, these are not necessarily binding on the later societies, otherwise we might have a move on the part of the Surrey to bar members of the Guildford Diocesan, or the Kent harrowing members of the Romney Marsh, or some other progressive association deciding to eliminate the probationer members and fixing a 5,040 on an inside bell as a qualification for membership. If No. 4 is the reason, why worry? Spliced ringing has upset plenty of old ideas anyway.

No. 3 is the vital one to my mind, and if this is the reason, then obviously the umpire must be the smartest ringer and conductor in the company. Mr. Shepherd's idea of counting bobs and singles and ticking off course ends is a good elementary exercise for a would-be umpire, but I submit that the mere execution of this duty is no guarantee of a true peal.

It appears to be generally conceded that the 'perfect peal' is a rarity, that one must allow for the human element and a few 'clips' here and there, therefore I take it that it is not altogether the perfect striking throughout (much as this is to be desired) so much as the absence of shifting that constitutes a true peal. Where, then, is the efficiency of the umpire mentioned above when in, say, an attempt for Kent Treble Bob there is a slight 'argument' at a Bob M and 4-5 shift, another similar 'argument' at the first Bob H and 4-5 shift back again, and the course-end rolls up O.K.?

I have not a great total of handbell peals to my credit, but I am proud of the proportion of 'first in hand' among them. Some have been umpired, some have not. Some of those which have not would have had to have been Major instead of Royal, or Royal instead of Maximus, had we had to take one of the band for an umpire, and I have come to this state of reasoning by having on one or two occasions dropped my bells in the middle of a course only to be asked by the umpire, 'What was wrong?' To sum up, if the umpire is not a smarter ringer (at least in the matter of checking a shift) than the conductor, then umpiring becomes a farce.

T. GROOMBRIDGE, Jun.

Nottingham.

Dear Sir,—I am sorry that Mr. Brown cannot see the necessity for and the authority of umpires for handbell peals, and as he accuses me of broadcasting I have no desire to add anything to my previous letter. Perhaps he will read my last paragraph again and say where it 'seems to suggest' anything.

W. SHEPHERD.

22, Chapel Grove, Addlestone.

SINGLES IN BOB ROYAL.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Regarding the use of singles in peals of Bob Royal. Here is a 5,040 with 14 singles, which I think are justified. This peal has 7 and 8 reversed for 12 courses, it contains all the 6587's and 5678's, also five courses each of 5687's and 6578's. I put these courses together just before the war, and, as far as I know, they have not yet been rung.

G. R. EDWARDS.

Snells Nook Lane, Nanpantan, Loughborough.

234567890	W	(5/4)	B	M	H
3527486	S				S
4263758		S			
4235687					
34256					
32456					S
43256					
24356					
36245				S	
24365					
32465					
34265				S	
23465					
42365					
43265					S

Repeated.

TWINEHAM.—At St. Peter's Church, on Sunday, September 27th, for harvest festival, courses of Grandsire Doubles on handbells: Miss Stella M. Wickens 1-2, Charles S. Wickens 3-4, George A. Packham 5-6.

RINGERS' JUGS AND PITCHERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

In a number of ancient churches and in some museums may be seen—preserved as curios—bellringers' jugs and pitchers. These were used in the 'good old days' to contain refreshment after special ringing occasions at a time when all kinds of labour was paid for 'in kind.' For this reason our ancient bellringers must not be condemned lightly, as it was the rule and custom of the period in which they lived.

It is often pointed out by would-be critics of the old-time ringer that he was a drunkard, and that there are many entries in old churchwardens' accounts quoting payment for ringing as being disbursed in ale or beer, yet those same critics do not tell you that the same beverages were the usual refreshment for all classes, and the same churchwardens' accounts will prove this. In those early days there were no such places as cafes, refreshment rooms, milk-bars, etc. Beer and ale were the common drink; tea, coffee and cocoa were unheard of until quite modern times, and at first even then, only obtainable by rich folk at very high prices.

'Church ales' are still a comparatively recent memory, and in one Dorset parish, at least, it was the custom to keep a barrel of cider in the vestry. A still more august example may be cited. In Queen Victoria's reign a bottle of sherry used to be provided in the vestry of the Chapels Royal for the refreshment of any distinguished preacher to partake of after his labours. Numbers of churches owned public-houses, the income from which was used for the upkeep of the fabric and stipend of the incumbent. At St. Peter's, Belgrave, Leicester, until a few years ago the Talbot Inn nearby thus provided income, and other examples might be quoted.

In the early days people would be no more shocked at bellringers partaking their usual refreshment than they would at the burning of old women as witches, or participation in the slave trade. Ringers did exactly as other people, and, as a whole, were not—could not have been—a bad sort. They composed 'Rules and Observances' for good behaviour in the belfry, and on many an ancient church belfry wall one still finds some of these rules, quaintly worded and in 'rhyme.' And thus we read at Drewsteignton, Dartmoor:—

'A good ringer and a true heart,
Will not refuse to stand a quart.'

Or at Pitminster, Somerset:—

'If any one do ware hise hat
When he is ringing here
He strait way then shall sixpence pay
In sider or bere.'

Or again at Newark, Notts:—

'Who brawls or wrangles, whom ye major part
Finds to be guilty, shall pay his quart.'

While at Crosthwaite, among other items, we read:—

'And he in ringing who interrupts a peal
for such offence shall pay a quart of ale.
In falling bells one penny must be paid
by him who stops before the signals made.
And he who takes God's Holy Name in vain
Shall pay one shilling, and this place refrain.
You ringers all take care, you must not fail
To have your forfeits all spent in ale.
With heart upright let each true Subject ring
for health and peace, to Country, Church and King.'
History shows that ringers were a respectable class

of whom we may be proud for their mighty deeds, not only for bringing the art to its present state of mathematical perfection, but also for their stupendous tasks of ringing long and intricate peals. Such peals in by-gone days often meant great physical effort, an alert attention and concentration of mind for hours on end. Do not then let us condemn these 'fine old English gentlemen' who lived up to the tradition of their times.

In many instances they had their own 'jugs' and a number still exist to this day. Others, alas, have gone, being either destroyed or lost. Some of these 'jugs' are of earthenware, others of china, pewter, and leather, and in the following notes I hope to describe most of those that are still extant.

In the Dorchester (Dorset) Museum there is a bellringers' flagon in pewter. It was in a very bad state of preservation until 1933, when Mr. Howard H. Cotterell, F.R.Hist.S., had it splendidly restored. Its total height to the top of the thumb piece is 15½ inches, to the top of the cover 14 inches, to lip 12¾ inches. Diameter at base 8¾ inches; lip 6¾ inches. Its weight is 10½ lbs. and its capacity 1½ gallons (1 pint each for ten ringers). It is thus inscribed:—

1676

The Gift of
Edward

wh is to remain for
ye ufe of ye Ringers
of Dorchester for ever

(beneath the Mantling) St. PETER.

In the centre of the cover is the 'Hall Mark' of its maker, Samuel Attley, and on one side crudely incised the initials W.I. V. R.D. An article in 'Apollo' of March, 1933, fully describes and illustrates the flagon. An extract from 'The Early Life of Thomas Hardy,' by his widow, F. E. Hardy, gives this note from his diary, p. 1221:—

'Dec. 31st, 1884. To St. Peter's belfry [Dorchester] for the New Year Ringing. The grey stones of the 15th century masonry have many of their joints mortarless, and are covered with many initials and dates. On the sill of one of the windows stands a great Pewter Pot, with hinged cover and engraved, "For ye use of ye Ringers 16 . . ."

A similar pewter pot ascribed by the late Mr. H. H. Cotterell, to have been used by ringers, is preserved at Salisbury (Wilts) St. Paul, previously called Fisherton Anger. It is inscribed:—

'The Pot of Fisherton Anger church.

George Heely and John Marchant. Churchwardens.
1660.'

It was made by Robert Martin, of London, who was made a 'Free Pewterer' in 1640 and died 1674. It holds more than a gallon.

Of leather jugs owned by former ringers perhaps the best known is that at Lincoln. It is preserved in the museum there and known as the 'Ringers' Jack,' being presented to Lincoln ringers in 1782. It has a capacity of 11 quarts, and is 15¾ inches high. Adorned with the City arms on one side and a bell on the other, it bears as its legend:—

'This Jack was the gift of Alderman Bullen to the company of Ringers' and '1782 City Ringers.'

A similar leather Jack, dated 1786, belongs to the Crowle (Worcs.) ringers, being 13½ inches high, 7 inches across base, and 5½ inches across top.

THE USE OF SINGLES. IN SEVEN-BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 450.)

New Bob.	Waterloo Reverse Bob.
1234567	1234567
2135476	2135476
2314567	2314567
3241657	3241576
2346175	2345167
3264715	3254617
2367451	2345671
3276541	2436571
2375614	4263517
3257164	2436157
2351746	4231675
3215476	2413657
3124567	2146375
1325476	1243657
1352746	1426375

Let us turn back to Bob Triples and the kindred methods.

One of the principal reasons for the use of singles is to alter the nature of the rows, but there is not always the same necessity for doing so. Sometimes the method itself will give all the alteration needed, as in the case of Grandsire Triples; where, as we have seen, singles are only needed as links in the chain which binds P Blocks or B Blocks together. Sometimes the method, even with the help of bobs, will only produce even rows, and there singles are needed to obtain the odd rows. This is so in Grandsire Doubles and Caters. In a modified way it is so also in Bob Major, Double Norwich, and such like methods. Therefore, before we can decide what are the functions of singles in plain Triples methods with six working bells, we must see what effect the methods themselves have on the nature of the rows.

Compared with Grandsire Triples and also with Bob Major, the succession of the nature of the rows is somewhat complex. For fourteen changes the rows run alternately odd at handstroke and even at backstroke. Then the succession is reversed, and for the next fourteen changes the rows are even at handstroke and odd at backstroke. Another reversal follows, and throughout the natural course we get this alternate alteration in the succession of the nature.

The result is that odd and even rows are much more mixed up in these methods than they are in Grandsire or in Bob Major, and this affects in notable manner the composition of peals.

In Bob Triples at every lead-end a double change is made and that has the effect of a single. It being so, the first question we naturally ask is whether we can dispense with singles altogether. We can, but to do so we shall have to employ a special device which belongs to the

more advanced stage of our enquiry. For the simpler classes of peals singles are necessary and custom has sanctioned their use.

As the change at the lead-end of Bob Triples is a double one, both the handstroke and the backstroke rows are of the same nature, but those at each successive lead-end are of opposite nature. Here are the lead-ends of the plain course:—

234567	even
325476	odd
352746	odd
537264	even
573624	even
756342	odd
765432	odd
674523	even
647253	even
462735	odd
426375	odd
243657	even
234567	even

In these rows the seventh is twice in every position—twice at home, twice in sixths, twice in fifths, and so on. And in each instance both rows are of the same nature. The same happens with every one of the other bells.

It follows that we cannot set the 5,040 rows down in sixty in-course natural courses or P Blocks of Bob Triples as we can set them down in the seventy-two in-course P Blocks of Grandsire Triples. If we pricked the sixty natural courses from the sixty even course-ends with the seventh at home we should produce only 2,520 rows, but each row would appear twice. Thirty natural courses is the in-course extent of Bob Triples, not sixty as in Bob Major; and the thirty in-course natural courses will have to be supplemented by thirty out-of-course natural courses to produce the extent of 5,040 rows.

We have called the natural courses with even course-ends 'in-course'; and those with odd course-ends, 'out-of-course'; but, as we saw above, every natural course contains an equal number of odd and even rows.

DEATH OF MRS. W. LINTER.

Ringling friends of Mr. W. Linter, the hon. treasurer of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, will learn with regret of the death of his wife, who passed away peacefully on September 27th after three years' illness patiently borne.

Mr. and Mrs. Linter went to live at Fareham about ten years ago, when, owing to Mrs. Linter's failing health, they both retired from active service in the Church Army.

Mr. Linter was one of the party who visited Australia in 1934. He made the round trip, returning via New Zealand and the Panama Canal.

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A YARMOUTH VETERAN.

MR. R. D. TOOLEY'S REMINISCENCES.

Mr. R. T. Woodley, who was the hon. secretary of the Ancient Society of College Youths before the late William T. Cockerill, has sent us a cutting from a recent issue of 'The Yarmouth Mercury' describing an interview with Mr. R. D. Tooley, one of the local ringers. Here are some extracts:—

A man was looking through the churchyard bars at the ruins of St. Nicholas' Church, an old man with grizzled head and brownish skin. As he turned towards me I saw he was Mr. R. D. Tooley, one of the bellringers.

'They're just uncovering the remains of the bells, I think,' he said, and smiled rather sadly and shook his head.

'You were one of the oldest bellringers, weren't you, Mr. Tooley? How did you come to take it up?' I asked.

'I am the oldest of the old school of ringers,' he said, and then pointed across the Plain towards some shops, where a chemist's and greengrocer's sit side by side.

'I used to live there when my father was a corn and meal dealer. I was always fond of music and the church was just opposite. That's how it was. That was in 1885.'

'And you have been ringing ever since?' I asked, and he replied that he had nearly all the time and that he had rung bells all over Norfolk and Suffolk and in many other parts of the country. He added that he had some interesting photographs and pictures and asked if I would like to see them.

I said I would, so I went home with him, and he got out an album full of photos of old Yarmouth, of nearly all the churches in which he had rung, of places he had visited, family pictures and so on.

As we looked at them he told me about bellringing, or campanology as it is technically termed.

LEARNING THE ART.

'It isn't a job for a man who's lackadaisical,' he said, 'because it's a split-second business. You have to have all your wits about you. It makes a call on the muscles, the ear, the eye, the mind and the memory. The muscles, because you have to pull and learn the tricks of handling the bells with the least effort; the ear, to follow the sound of your bell; the eye, to see what the other fellows are doing; the mind, to understand how a peal is running; and the memory, to remember the changes. All these come into play in bellringing.'

'How did you learn?' was my next question.

'One of my cousins was a bellringer and he was my tutor,' Mr. Tooley told me, and explained that the actual work of ringing had to be supplemented by paper exercises in the art.

'Without that you can't get very far,' he remarked. 'My cousin used to make me put down the bells on paper and then work out the variations with a pencil, drawing diagrams to see how it went in various different peals—bob, triple, Stedman, triple bob, grandsire. My father used to curse me because I often used to scribble them on the wall.'

'Then we used to practise with the bells dumb, with the tongues tied, during service sometimes, so as to get the feel and balance of them.'

He added, as an aside, that now that the sounding of bells was forbidden, bellringers frequently practise in this fashion so as to keep their hand in.

The time in which a ringer could become expert varied considerably, he went on. It depended on quickness of mind, hand and ear. 'You have to be ready to stick it out,' he emphasised. 'I have seen youngsters come up anxious to try. Often they didn't come after a couple of times. They hadn't the patience to master all the details.'

I asked Mr. Tooley if he remembered what his first long peal was. For answer he turned through the album and stopped at a little card, which recorded the ringing at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, on March 30th, 1897, of a peal of grandsire caters, of 5,004 changes, in three hours and 36 minutes. Three Yarmouth ringers were in the team, Charles E. Borrett, Robert Christian and Mr. Tooley, who was asterisked on the card to mark the fact that it was the first time he had rung a long peal.

After the first hour it was quite easy, once he had got settled in, he told me, but afterwards the ringers all needed a good long drink.

THE RINGERS' JUGS.

That reminded him of something else, and he turned to a photo of a fat decorated jug. This was the bellringers' jug of Yarmouth Parish Church, a jug of enormous size, made of white enamel, decorated in gold and bronze, which held 23 pints. On one side was a picture of a house and on the other a church.

Underneath was a verse which ran:—

'Should you venture up the tower high
To visit ringers, know that they are dry,
And if you be generous, kind and free
Give a trifle and remember me.'

And under this the line:—

'Yarmouth, May 2, 1806.'

It had largely fallen out of use in Mr. Tooley's time, and he said he remembered drinking from it only two or three times. Just before the war it was presented to the Tolhouse Museum.

(Continued in next column.)

RECRUITS.

AN EXAMPLE FROM ST. ALBANS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have waited to answer Mr. Pitman's letter about the question of recruits for the belfry, because I believe that the proof of pudding is in the eating.

I, too, recently had a drive for recruits. Last May we ran a bell week at the church. We rang handbells for service on the Sunday, and had a lantern lecture for the congregation and the Young People's Fellowship on the Tuesday. On the Saturday we opened the tower to the public, holding a district meeting at the same time so as to ensure a band to ring in order that the people who had been at the lecture might see the bells actually 'working.' All this was advertised in the parish magazine, and the local Press gave special reports of our activities. As a result we acquired three choirboys, a Girl Guide and two evacuee schoolboys all anxious to learn to ring tower bells. The next week one of the schoolboys brought along his brother, a draughtsman. Two young ladies from the tobacconists, and a husband, and a tailor joined us for handbells, and later a young lady from the Air Ministry. Twelve in all as a result of our bell week.

INSTRUCTORS WANTED.

I must confess that I was guilty of a miscalculation—or rather lack of calculation. I had got the recruits, but who was there to teach them? Mr. Darvill could only spare one evening a week, Mr. Spicer one a fortnight, and Mr. Day came over from Harpenden as often as he could. I have never taught anybody anything in my life, and am definitely no teacher and no leader.

Still, at a time like this it was a question of needs must. We started—a question (particularly on handbells) of the shortsighted leading the blind, as I am barely out of the beginner stage myself. I am quite sure that I have learnt considerably more than they have! In July seven were elected probationary members of the Heris Association, and yesterday five of them rang courses of Grandsire Doubles on handbells for the harvest festival (Mrs. Hall 1-2, Mr. Hall 3, Vernon Sinclair 4, Jack Southam 5, Mrs. Mitchell tenor) in church for the morning service.

I must say that a more loyal and enthusiastic band it would be difficult to find. They have put up with my inadequate teaching and have attended the practices regularly and enthusiastically often at great personal sacrifice. The others have also shown a spirit of self-sacrifice in standing down from this effort that makes me proud of them all. Our one regret was that the Home Guard prevented us making it Triples instead of Doubles. Their ages vary from fifty to ten.

TWO ESSENTIAL THINGS.

I am sure of two things in the matter of recruits. The first is that there must be, as there was in our original band, enthusiasm. What is left of our band have been splendid and most willing to help. Enthusiasm is a most infectious complaint among recruits.

The second thing is an objective. To my mind, there is nothing so soul destroying as to work on with nothing in view, no reason for doing anything. First of all our recruits were spurred on to 'get good enough to be elected probationers' in July, which was then about two months distant. After that they had the incentive of ringing in church for the harvest, now we have plans for Christmas. I am also a great believer in taking them out to as many meetings as possible. It gives them a wider outlook on the Exercise as a whole, it keeps up their interest, and the experience of ringing with strangers who are better than they are is a help to them in more ways than one.

I feel that it might be a help to beginners if a good instructional film were made.

URSULA M. FERGUSON.

St. Peter's Vicarage, St. Albans.

A YARMOUTH VETERAN.

(Continued from previous column.)

Campanology is a passport of friendship amongst its practitioners, and wherever he goes a bellringer may be sure of finding men ready to make place for him in their ranks.

Thus Mr. Tooley on holiday in Yorkshire used to ring at York Minster; when he was in London he rang the bells of St. Margaret's, Westminster, and St. Martin-in-the-Field. When he went to a new job at Portsmouth he joined the ringers of St. Thomas' in that city.

'I have been up St. Paul's belfry in London, too, but they won't let you ring there,' he said. 'Very particular—all top-hatters there!'

Mr. Tooley was ringing up to the time when church bells were silenced, and would be ringing still if the times permitted.

Mr. Woodley makes the following comment on the ringing at St. Paul's: 'With respect to our friend Tooley's remark about St. Paul's, I should like to know his meaning of it. I am told that he has not rung a twelve-bell peal, and could not be recognised as a Stedman ringer at that time, but I can assure you that if he went up there on a practice night he would have the compliment passed to him. I have met him and rang with him at St. Nicholas', Great Yarmouth, as I generally went over there on their practice night, and also on a Sunday evening when I have been at Gorleston.'

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 10th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.

The next quarterly meeting will be held at Goole on Saturday, Oct. 10th. Short service in church at 4 o'clock. Business meeting after tea. Handbells available.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

—Tonbridge District.—The annual district meeting at Tonbridge on Saturday, Oct. 10th. Service 4 p.m. Tea, free, at the Carlton Cafe, 5 p.m., followed by business meeting.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.

—Next meeting will be held at St. James' Church, Milnrow, on Saturday, Oct. 10th. Tower bells (silent) available from 3.30 p.m., also handbells. Make use of this opportunity to practise our art. Everybody welcome.—J. Kay, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

—Taunton Deanery.—Annual meeting at St. James', Taunton, Saturday, October 10th. Tower bells (silent) at 3 p.m., also handbells. Business meeting in tower 6 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—W. H. Lloyd, Act. Sec., 46, East Street, Taunton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.

—A meeting will be held at St. Francis Xavier's, Salisbury Street, on Saturday, Oct. 10th. Meet at the tower 3 p.m. It is hoped that tower bells and handbells will be available.—G. R. Newton, 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17,

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

—Chew Deanery. — The next meeting will be held at Long Ashton on Saturday, Oct. 17th. Bells (with silent apparatus) available from 3 o'clock. All ringers welcome.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The quarterly meeting will be held in the Church House, Rugby, on Saturday, Oct. 17th, at 6 p.m. Business meeting to be followed by handbell ringing. 1942 subscriptions due.—Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division. — Quarterly meeting at Liversedge on Saturday, Oct. 17th. Handbells from 3 p.m. in Millbridge Working Men's Club. Tea (1s. 3d.), followed by business meeting, for all who send in their names to Mr. F. Hodgson, 566, Halifax Road, Hightown, Liversedge, by Thursday, the 15th. All welcome.—F. Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District. — The next meeting will be held at Widford on Saturday, Oct. 24th. Service at 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. Numbers for tea by Wednesday, Oct. 21st.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—A luncheon to commemorate the 305th anniversary will be held at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., on Saturday, Nov. 7th, at 1 p.m. Tickets 6s. 6d. each. Last day for receiving applications for tickets, Monday, Nov. 1st.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

ST. BOTOLPH, BISHOPSGATE. — The clappers have been removed and the bells are now available for silent practice. The tower will be open at 2 o'clock next Saturday previous to the College Youths meeting. — James E. Davis, 118, Sarsfield Road, Balham, S.W.12.

RICHARD WHITTINGTON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your recent article on Richard Whittington was most interesting and informative. It may be of further interest to state that, although Richard had no issue and so that branch of the family died out, Sir William's brother not only had a son, but his progeny has continued to the present day. Mr. R. H. Whittington, solicitor, of Bath, is one of his descendants, and up to five years ago was actually occupying the original home of the family in Gloucestershire. It is deeply to be regretted from the historical point of view that he has no son, and he gave me to understand that for that reason he intended to give up the country house. Thus a connection maintained ever since the time of Dick Whittington's grandfather will come to an end.

To touch on another point, while the claim of the College Youths to connection with Dick Whittington is at best very slender, the facts adduced in your article do not appear to me completely to disprove it. When the College of Clergy was dissolved, the building remained, with its bells, if it had any, and it is quite conceivable that the founders of the Ancient Society had been allowed the use of them and adopted the name on that account. F. LI. EDWARDS.

Kington Magna Rectory.

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(From 'The Western Gazette'.)

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16th, 1942.

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SPORT AND CHURCH WORK.

When, a short while since, we said that for the great majority of ringers it is natural and right that ringing as a sport should come before ringing as church work, we fully expected to receive some protests, and we realised that a certain amount of explanation would be due to our readers. The question is one which has been raised, in one form or another, several times lately, and it calls for some clear thinking and plain speaking. We will try to put the matter as simply and as clearly as possible.

The first great truth is this. The bells in our steeples are there to minister to the glory of God and the service of His Church. No use of them can be justified which does not ultimately serve those ends.

The second great truth is that change ringing is a sport; a first class and most fascinating sport, and one which is second to no other sport. Change ringing was invented as a sport, has lived through the centuries as a sport, and, except as a sport, has no chance of survival. Any reader who prefers it can substitute the word 'recreation' for the word 'sport,' but it is better to use the term which expresses the reality in the directest and starkest manner.

The third truth is that the furtherance of the glory of God, and the service of the Church will best be served by ringers continuing to do, what as a body they always have done—treating and enjoying change ringing, as a sport.

This is not a contradiction, nor a paradox, nor the sacrificing of higher ideals to lower. It is an expression of a profound and important truth. It is one of the conditions under which God gives gifts to men, that the gift must be loved and followed for its own sake, before it can be made worthy to be used in His service. The musician, whether he be composer, organist, or singer, who would add to the beauty of divine worship, must first love music for the sake of music and enjoy its practice for itself. Nor must he ever lose the love of music for the sake of music. What would a choirmaster think of the man who came to him and said, 'I have no interest in music as music, but I do wish to serve the Church, and I am quite willing to come and sing in your choir'? Yet this, we are told by a correspondent on another page, is the way the great majority of ringers look on their ringing. We do not believe it. If it ever became the general opinion, the result would be a plentiful supply of priors and a great dearth of good ringers.

(Continued on page 466.)

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The Exercise is unique in several ways, and notably in this, that it has a sport or recreation which can supply to the limits all the interests and all the relaxation from the dull worries of life which is the proper use of a recreation; it can be a mental and intellectual stimulus, and, unlike any other sport, it can be brought as a gift to the service of the Church. It takes a place here, humble perhaps but still definite, alongside the great activities of the human mind, music and painting, sculpture and architecture.

This is a great privilege and it entails great responsibilities, but we are not now considering them. The point is that only those men who love and follow change ringing for its own sake can ever be sufficiently good ringers to make what they do really worthy of the service of the Church. That is a truth which finds ample confirmation in the experience of most of us. Change ringing can be, and should be, church work, but it must first be a sport, and it must not cease to be a sport.

HANDBELL PEAL.

COVENTRY.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Sunday, October 4, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,

At 117, WIDDRINGTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5087 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

FRANK E. PERVIN	...	1-2	JOSEPH H. W. WHITE	...	5-6
ALBERT WALKER	...	3-4	ALFRED BALLARD	...	7-8
FRANK K. MEASURES			...	9-10	

Composed by J. GROVES.

Conducted by F. E. PERVIN.

Witness—E. Stone.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT TONBRIDGE.

At the annual meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association, held at Tonbridge on October 10th, members were present from Leigh, Penshurst, Tunbridge Wells, East Peckham, Sevenoaks, Sundridge, Shipbourne and the local band, with Mr. T. E. Sone, Paddock Wood.

The association service was conducted in church by the Rev. F. Child, who gave a very interesting address. Tea was served at the Carlton Cafe, and the business meeting followed with Mr. F. White in the chair.

The accounts for the year were presented by the secretary, Mr. T. Saunders, and showed a balance in hand of £5. On the proposition of Mr. B. Collison, seconded by Mr. A. Ford, the officers were all re-elected, except that Miss B. Richardson, of Sundridge, took the place of Mr. J. Medhurst, who wished to retire owing to Home Guard duties. Tunbridge Wells was selected for the next meeting, to take place on the second Saturday in December.

Votes of thanks to the Vicar, organist and chairman brought the meeting to a close. Handbells were made good use of both before and after the meeting.

STAFFORD ARCHDEACONRY SOCIETY.

MEETING AT CANNOCK.

The autumn meeting of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford was held at Cannock on Saturday, October 3rd, and though the attendance was a small one, those present had a pleasant afternoon. Corpl. N. Elliott, R.A.F., of Crawley, was a welcome visitor. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Messrs. W. Walker, of Walsall; C. Wallater, Willenhall; H. Griffiths and W. Lawley, St. Peter's, Wolverhampton; and F. Colclough, Bilston.

Handbells were made good use of up to the service, at which the Vicar (the Rev. J. F. Foster) delivered a helpful address. Cups of tea were provided by the Vicar in the Parish Hall, and afterwards he generously handed round some cigars, much to the surprise and delight of the recipients.

Further handbell ringing took place, in which two members of the local band had their first attempt to ring a pair to Grandsire Triples.

The next meeting was provisionally fixed to take place at Tettenhall in the spring.

IMPERIAL PLACE MAJOR.

Sept. 12th was the 140th anniversary of the first peal of Imperial Place Major, which was rung by the Society of Cumberland Youths at St. Mary's, Islington.

12345678
21354768
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78563421
87654312
86745132
68471532
64817523
46187253
41682735
14628375

14263857

The peal was composed and conducted by William Shipway, who tells us that the method was matured and brought forward by him in the year 1800. It was a rather ingenious attempt to introduce a new system into ringing which should be as distinctive and as simple as Plain Bob and Treble Bob.

All the bells plain hunt and there is never any dodging, but as each bell hunting down meets the treble it makes a place—either at hand-stroke or at back-stroke as the case may be. And directly a bell, hunting up, has passed the treble, it makes a place. Below the treble all the work is ordinary forward plain hunting, above the treble it is backward plain hunting.

The method has one serious and fatal defect; the bell that the treble turns from the back, and the bell that turns the treble from the back, has each to strike three consecutive blows behind. This is a breach of the recognised rule, and it has the effect (which is perhaps worse still) that the tenors strike 8-7 at back-stroke.

Shipway and the Cumberlands had already rung on February 17th, 1801, at Hackney, a peal of Triples, and as the peal book states 'the Society to commemorate the Union of Great Britain and Ireland entitled it Cumberland Imperial Place Triples.' Later on, in November, 1802, they rang at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, a peal of Place Caters.

Shipway was rather proud of the method, and in his book gives the single, reverse and double variations on all numbers from four to twelve, but the Exercise did not take kindly to it, and so far as we know no other peal of it has been rung. It would be rather interesting if one of our clever present-day handbell bands were to ring a touch (not a peal) of it (preferably the double variation) and tell us what they think of it.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT LIVERPOOL.**

The Rector of St. Francis Xavier, Liverpool, entertained members of the Lancashire Association to tea on Saturday, October 10th, and extended to them a cordial welcome. He was unable to stay to the meeting, which was presided over by Mr. T. R. Butler. Apologies were received from the Rev. D. P. Roberts and Mr. H. Hancock, who were unable to attend, and a vote of thanks was passed to Father Dukes and his brother clergy for their hospitality and kindness.

The new Rector of Liverpool, the Rev. R. A. Reeves, having expressed a desire to meet the members at an early date, it was decided to hold the next meeting at St. Nicholas' on October 24th.

THE UNIVERSITY SOCIETIES' JOINT PEALS*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—With reference to Mr. R. D. St. J. Smith's letter, the ruling of the Central Council on the matter is quite clear—'It is desirable, when a band of ringers belonging to more than one association meet to ring a peal, that they should decide beforehand to which association such peal shall be credited, and that for the future no peal shall be published under the name of more than one association.'

This rule was passed in 1893 and has generally been observed in the Exercise.

'A MEMBER.'

THE SOCIETY OF CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I feel sure had no mention been made of the forthcoming two hundredth anniversary nothing whatever would have been heard about the word Royal. As it was, Mr. 'X' came along and told the society they would do well to drop it, at the same time telling us it had been in existence for 50 years or so. I replied that if that was the case the Cumberlands would do well to carry on with it for another 50.

Now in last week's 'Ringing World' a Mr. 'Y.Z.' comes along and tells me I seem to have overlooked the real objection to this word Royal, he himself saying 'if there is any objection at all.' I agree with him. I don't see any myself. I don't know what they had on their minds 50 years ago, as I am a present-day member of nearly 40 years' membership, but I do know there has been but very little said about it during this time. Surely if there had been any regrettable use of the word some high authority would have had something to say long before this.

Well, Mr. 'Y.Z.', I expect most of us know that the word Royal is a privilege used by the King, but, 'Y.Z.', you tell us the Cumberlands have not offended in this matter, as they do not call themselves a Royal society, but the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths which is in order. Then why worry? I must say that I am most grateful to you for this latter piece of information.

In conclusion, as I seem to have read between the lines of both Mr. 'X's' and 'Y.Z.'s' letters a tone of friendliness, I am extending the same to both from myself.

G. RADLEY.

18, Maurs Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon.

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES PAINTER.

The death is announced of Mr. C. Painter, of Ringmer, Sussex, who passed away at the age of 71 after a short illness and operation.

Born at Warbleton, he came to Ringmer at the age of 13, working with his father as a blacksmith and later carrying on the business himself. Mr. Painter taught himself to handle a bell, later becoming captain, and at the time of his death secretary to the local band. For more than 50 years he was a ringer, and had rung peals at many of the churches in Sussex, his first being at Ringmer in 1888. During the time the Rev. C. D. P. Davies was curate at Ringmer Mr. Painter worked with him in the interests of ringing in the district. Besides these activities, he was at one time organist and choirmaster.

The funeral took place on September 17th, the Rev. Jeremy Victor officiating. Mr. Painter's eight children, all of whom are married, were the chief mourners. The coffin was followed by four of the Ringmer ringers, Messrs. A. Carpenter, G. S. Wiggins, J. Geall and E. Geall, others on active service being unable to attend.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN BUTLER.

The death is announced of Mr. John Butler, who passed away on September 20th at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Stanley, Royston Road, Bideford.

Mr. Butler, who was 91 years of age, was one of the oldest members of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association, and held the office of Master in 1907. He was a native of Halse, Somerset, and began to ring when he was about 12 years old. His first peal was on October 20th, 1894, at Llandaff Cathedral. He rang in the first peal on the old eight at St. Woolos', Newport, on November 12th, 1895, conducted by Mr. R. T. Hibbert, and since then had taken part in several peals of Triples and Caters.

Mr. Butler was a faithful member of the St. Woolos' band and was regular at practices and Sunday evening service ringing.

A BASINGSTOKE REUNION.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—On Sunday, October 4th, four members of the Ancient Society of College Youths spent a pleasant hour together, viz., Grenadier Guardsman F. Munday, Pilot Officer R. Kingham (just returned from South Africa), Pte. C. J. Munday, R.A.O.C., and Sergt.-Major W. Hibbert, H.G. An adjournment was made to the residence of Mr. W. Hibbert, where with the assistance of Miss Joyce Cottrell several touches of Stedman Caters were rung on handbells, and time passed very pleasantly but too quickly in talk and joke, and what we are going to do in the future when we get out of these uniforms is without doubt a very big programme. Flight-Sergt. Nash (now in Kenya) and Corpl. E. Gower, R.E., were by no means forgotten, and we all hope the time will soon come when we shall all meet at least once a week to keep things going.

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FABIAN STEDMAN AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES.

(Being part of the third chapter of J. A. Trollope's unpublished 'History of London Ringing.')

It was during the seventeenth century, and especially during the second half of it, that the art of change ringing was developed and given those characteristics which it has never since lost. The process was a slow and gradual one and many men in many places took part in it, but among them all only one was fortunate enough to be remembered by succeeding generations of ringers. That was Fabian Stedman, and his fate has been, not merely to be recognised as one of the earliest and most important composers, but to be treated as if he, in his own person, comprised the sum total of all the men who, through the century, had built up and developed the art and science. He has been called the earliest ringer of any account, the Father of Change Ringing, and the real inventor of the art.

The impression made by the man on his contemporaries must have been a profound one for such a thing to be possible, but the real truth is that, while Stedman was a great ringer and thoroughly deserved to be remembered for what he did, he was in no sense the inventor of change ringing, and among the composers of the second generation his position is not so much one of outstanding pre-eminence as of primacy among a select number of men who were very little inferior to himself.

Very few details of Fabian Stedman's life and career have been preserved. In the generation after his death the Norwich Scholars thought 'he was Master of a College in the University and a learned Mathematician.' When Osborn was writing an account of seventeenth century ringing as it was known in his time, he took some trouble to find out what he could about Stedman, but, beyond the general tradition that among ringers in his day he had no superior, he could discover nothing. A few facts have since come to light, and it is now possible to put together something of a story, but the 'Campanalogia,' impersonal though it be, is the best means for judging what manner of man he was.

According to tradition, Fabian Stedman was born in Cambridge, and though up to the present his name has not been found in any of the parish registers, it well may have been so. The name, though not very common, is not particularly rare. From its etymology (it means a farmer) we should expect it to be much more common in country districts, in olden times, than in the larger towns, and we should expect it to be borne by many people who were not related in blood. A Walter Stedman was living at Haslingfield, a village about five miles from Cambridge, before 1563, as in that year the bishop's court granted letters of administration of his estate, and it appears that his family were living in the same place down to the time of Fabian.

On April 14th, 1629, John Stedman married at Holy Trinity Church in Cambridge, Mabel Middleton. John was a townsman of some position and in 1649 he served in the office of churchwarden. There is nothing to connect him with Fabian, but he quite well may have been the latter's father.

Fabian Stedman is usually said to have been born in 1631, and it was in 1931 that the tercentenary of his birth was celebrated. The date depends entirely on the statement made to Shipway by John Alfred Parnell, but

Parnell wrote nearly two hundred years after the event at a time when probably less was known about the history of the Exercise than at any period since the beginning of ringing, and though probably there was some truth in the tradition, the dates are unreliable. Stedman, he said, was born in 1631; he met the College Youths in the summer of 1657, when they were on a visit to Cambridge, and presented them with his 'Principle'; and he published the 'Campanalogia' in 1669.

Now two of these dates are demonstrably wrong. The 'Campanalogia' was published in 1677, and the 'Tintinnalogia' in 1668. Stedman's 'Principle' could not have been composed so early as 1657, as it does not appear in the 'Tintinnalogia,' and most certainly belongs to a later stage in the development of ringing.

Two of the dates being wrong, a good deal of doubt is thrown on the third, and when we take into consideration all the known facts of Stedman's life, we shall come to the conclusion that he was born about 1640 or 1641. Some day, perhaps, the record of his birth will be found in some parish register, and then we shall have the key to several problems of seventeenth century ringing which at present remain obscure.

Whoever Stedman's father was, or whatever was the date of his birth, he quite evidently came of a middle class family, and he received a good education—good, that is, for one not intended for one of the learned professions. After leaving school he was apprenticed to a printer. If he remained in Cambridge it must have been to John Field, at the time printer to the University, who was also Printer to the Parliament of England, and 'One of his Highness's (i.e., Cromwell's) Printers.' But in those days printing was a monopoly of the Stationers' Company, the only printers allowed outside London being those at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and so it is likely that Stedman was sent up to town to be apprenticed, and it may be to W. Godbid in Saint Dunstan's Churchyard in Fleet Street, the man who afterwards printed both the 'Tintinnalogia' and the 'Campanalogia.'

Whether Stedman had learnt to ring as a boy at Cambridge we do not know, but in London he practised the art, and while still an apprentice he joined the Scholars of Cheapside. That company had lost most of its old dignity and importance, and was now on the point of dissolution. In its last year, 1662, Stedman filled the office of treasurer. It was an office which did not exist in the early days of the society, and its holder was a sort of junior steward whose duty probably was to collect steepleage and such like dues.

When the society broke up, John Jenkins, the musical composer, who had been one of the wardens, joined the College Youths, but Fabian Stedman, who, of course, was then a much less important person, had to wait for two years before he was admitted to that exclusive body. That he was admitted at all is proof that already he was beginning to be known as a skilful ringer, and also as a desirable man personally.

In the College Youths' name book he is described as of Cambridge. The present list is a copy made about 1750, and how far it is an exact copy of the original manuscript cannot be said. In some cases titles have been given to members' names which they did not bear when they joined the society, and in this case the word Cambridge may have been a later addition.

However, some time after his seven years' apprentice-

ship was up, but probably not until after 1664, Stedman returned to Cambridge. The occasion may have been the plague of 1665, which devastated London and caused all who could to leave the stricken city. Stedman never forgot that he was a member of the premier ringing society; he kept in touch with his old associates; and twelve years later, when he was writing the 'Campanalogia,' he seems to have looked on himself not as a Cambridge ringer, but as a London ringer who happened to be living in Cambridge. The peals Samuel Scattergood and others composed were 'Cambridge peals,' but the peals Fabian Stedman composed were 'London peals,' though they were worked out not many yards from the banks of the Cam.

On their side the College Youths, though for the most part they were greatly his superiors socially, regarded him with affection and esteem; and there is little wonder that he longed to be back among them, and took the first opportunity that offered itself.

From the earliest times Cambridge had been a home of change ringing. It shares with Oxford and London the distinction of being the places at which we know the art was developed, and the men who invented and first practised it were probably to be found among the students at the two Universities and the Inns of Court. Compared with Oxford, Cambridge never had many bells. Great St. Mary's for long had been the principal 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 finished in 1519; 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 'Tintinnalogia' was written. Holy Trinity had four pre-Reformation bells,

St. Andrew's had five, St. Edward-the-Confessor's were made six in 1669, and St. Benedict's had a mixed lot which were increased from five to six in 1663.

St. Benet's is the church which traditionally is most associated with Fabian Stedman. It was there that, according to Parnell, the College Youths first rang the Principle, and the tale is likely enough except for the date. It would have been easy for the figures to have got somewhat mixed in the course of a century and a half, and perhaps the true explanation of the matter is that the Principle was rung in 1675, not in 1657. An older authority than Parnell gives the date as March 30th, 1671. Either 1675 or 1671 is much more likely to be correct than 1657, and cannot be far from the truth.

It was at St. Benet's that the memorial to Stedman was erected in 1931, but we should probably be wrong if we supposed that as a ringer he was more connected with that tower than any other in the town. It was contrary to the custom of the time for any band to confine themselves to one belfry if there were others within easy reach. At Cambridge no doubt there were town ringers who did the paid ringing at all five towers, and there were University ringers, who rang entirely for sport, and among them Stedman, a member of the Society of College Youths, would find a ready welcome.

Stedman still practised the profession of a printer, and therefore must have been employed by John Field, for the University press was the only one in the town. He is said to have been Parish Clerk at St. Benet's, but the statement has no further authority than a passage in C. H. Cooper's 'Memorials of Cambridge,' published in 1880, and seems to be no more than a muddled reference to Ellacombe's writings.

(To be continued.)

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The second peal of London Surprise Major ever accomplished was rung at Woolwich on October 11th, 1849.

The first clerical ten-bell peal, one of Stedman Caters, was rung by ten parsons at St. Mary's, Warwick, on October 11th, 1910. C. D. P. Davies conducted.

William Pye called the first peal of Spliced Surprise Major by the Middlesex Association in the four standard methods at Willesden on October 11th, 1927.

George Partrick called Holt's Ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples with a band of Cumberland Youths at Shoreditch on October 12th, 1754. This is usually said to be the first time the composition was rung, but that perhaps is doubtful.

Bertram Prewett was born on October 12th, 1878.

The first peal of Rutland Surprise Major was rung at Bolsover on October 13th, 1923, by the Midland Counties Association, conducted by John Flint.

William Hudson, of Sheffield, whose name is so well known in connection with peals of Stedman Triples, was born on October 14th, 1791. He died on October 24th, 1851.

The first peal of Marlborough Bob Major was rung at Willesden on October 14th, 1924. It is one of the very best plain Major methods possible.

John Martin, of Leicester, a composer of peals of Grandsire Caters, died on October 16th, 1799.

On the same date in 1883, John Carter called, at Birmingham, 10,176 changes of Grandsire Major on handbells. It was the longest length then rung in hand and was beaten by 11,200 changes of Bob Major rung at Norwich in 1894, conducted by Mr. Charles E. Borrett.

The first peal of Original Triples was rung at Bushey, Herts, on October 16th, 1926.

The College Youths rang 10,188 changes of Grandsire Caters at West Ham on October 17th, 1762, and on the same date in 1938 the first peal of Gippeswyck Surprise Major was rung at Helmingham.

Fifty years ago yesterday seven peals were rung. They were Bob Triples 1, Stedman Triples 3, Caters 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1.

The Stedman Caters was on the now destroyed ring of ten at St. Sidwell's, Exeter, and was the first in the method in Devonshire.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL.

THE PEAL BOARDS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The facts about the Coventry Cathedral peal boards are as follows. There are six peal boards hung on the interior walls of the tower. During the fire which destroyed the nave and choir in November, 1940, four of these peal boards were scorched and blistered by the extreme heat, but the inscriptions remained legible. Two were badly charred by a fire from burning curtains near them and the writing was obliterated. Under the open tower the boards are safe from the weather and have not deteriorated in the slightest: it is probably as good a place as any for them.

It is true that in the confusion which has followed the raid the tower was the only dry place in which to store the bags of cement being used for the repair of the crypt chapel—our only surviving place of worship, and that some bags accidentally got laid against the bottom of the two boards whose writing was obliterated. No further harm was done even to these.

The peal boards will continue to receive the care that we take of all our treasures, and if we think that they will fare better stored elsewhere, which is doubtful, we shall remove them.

Would it not have been better if Mr. Hunt, instead of publicly making extraordinary accusations against the Cathedral authorities, had first expressed his concern privately to me? It would have been more in keeping with the courtesy which I have always received from my friends, the bellringers.

R. T. HOWARD, Provost of Coventry.

October 6th, 1942.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

There was an interesting innovation at the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths last Saturday. Mr. James E. Davis had had the clappers removed from the bells of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, and members had the opportunity, both before and after the meeting at the bell foundry, of finding out how much they remembered of the art of change ringing. Courses of London, Cambridge and Double Norwich were rung.

The members present at Whitechapel were the Master (Mr. E. G. Fenn), secretary (Mr. A. B. Peck), treasurer (Mr. A. A. Hughes), Messrs. R. F. Deal, E. Hartley, H. Hoskins, G. M. Kilby, C. C. Mayne, C. M. Meyer, H. G. Miles, W. H. Pasmore, G. N. Price, R. Stannard, J. A. Trollope and H. W. Kirton, of Writtle, Essex.

Welcome visitors were Messrs. G. W. Steere (hon. secretary, Royal Cumberland Youths), C. T. Cotes (general secretary, Middlesex Association), E. Smith (Leytonstone), A. J. Pitman (Bromley) and Mrs. J. E. Davis and Mrs. A. J. Pitman. An apology for absence was received from Mr. E. A. Young, who was engaged on business at St. Clement Danes'.

THE LATE WILLIAM J. NEVARD.**A FINE RINGING CAREER.**

Through the courtesy of Mr. Leslie Wright we are enabled to give some particulars of the ringing career of the late W. J. Nevard, who, as reported in our columns, passed away on August 29th at the age of 86.

William J. Nevard was born at Langham on February 8th, 1856. As a young man he lived at Great Horkesley and worked for several firms in his trade as an agricultural engineer. In 1880 he started in business for himself at Great Bentley as a threshing machine proprietor, and lived there until 1941, when his house was destroyed by fire. Afterwards until his death he lived at Thorington with his daughter, Mrs. Evans.

He rang his first 720, one of Bob Minor, at Great Bentley, on January 11th, 1882, and his first peal at Long Melford on his 29th birthday, February 7th, 1885. The method was Bob Major and it was rung for the Society of Cumberland Youths.

When he went to Great Bentley there were five bells in the steeple in very bad order. He rehung them himself, and largely through his exertions a treble was added. On August 2nd, 1890, there were rung on the bells two 720's of Oxford Treble Bob Minor, two of Kent, one of Court Bob and one of Plain Bob, besides various touches. In 1898 when the ring was increased to the full octave Mr. Nevard helped the late Alfred Bowell, of Ipswich, to do the work.

Other peals he rehung were Lawford, All Saints', Colchester, and Thorington.

In 1938 Great Bentley bells were tuned and rehung with all new fittings at Mr. Nevard's expense. It is a matter for regret that he was not able to ring a peal on them afterwards.

In his prime Mr. Nevard was a very powerful man and was never afraid of tackling a bad going bell. In 1888 he rang the tenor to the first peal on Coggeshall bells, one of Kent Treble Bob Major. The local men had made a bet of £5 to £1 that no man could turn the bell in to a five-thousand, but Nevard did it, though he owned it wanted some doing. At the finish he had 17 blisters on one hand and 16 on the other.

Mr. Nevard travelled about a good deal in pursuit of ringing. He rang in every cathedral in England where the bells are ringable, and scored a peal in every county. On 22 occasions he took part in two peals in the same day, and once he rang three peals in a day.

His total number of peals was 460, made up of: Superlative Surprise Major 114, Cambridge 48, New Cambridge 3, London 34, Norfolk 1, Bristol 6, Oxford Treble Bob Major 25, Kent 42, Bob Major 19, Double Norwich Court Bob 72, Stedman Triples 33, Grandsire 11, Stedman Caters 11, Grandsire Caters 1, Kent Treble Bob Royal 6, Oxford 1, Bob Royal 1, Kent Treble Bob Maximus 1, Minor 29, and Doubles 1. He also rang one peal of Major on handbells.

His longest peal was 7,040 Kent Treble Bob Major at Walter Belchampe on June 27th, 1896. His other performances included peals in Scotland, Ireland and Wales, the first of London Surprise outside England, and the first of Superlative in Scotland. He rang in 811 towers.

Mr. Nevard was District Master of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association and churchwarden at Great Bentley for 50 years.

THE SOCIETY OF CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

When the new company was formed at Shoreditch on September 6th, 1747, by George Patrick, William Thornton, and sixteen others, it called itself the Society of Cumberland Youths and that remained its name for many years.

How soon the word 'Royal' was added is a little uncertain, but it was in use as early as 1881. It is said to have been adopted through the influence of a man named Thomas, who was strongly supported by Henry Dains. Both were prominent men in the society during the seventies and eighties of the last century. The addition was probably a sort of counterblast to the use of the word 'Ancient' by the rival society. At the time of Queen Victoria's first Jubilee, Thomas tried to obtain official recognition of the title, but it was refused. Some light might perhaps be thrown on these things by a search through the society's minute books, if they still exist.

Henry S. Thomas was a Battersea man who held an important position in the well-known publishing firm of Ward, Lock and Co. as head of the sales department. For many years he was in charge of the belfry at Battersea under Canon Erskine Clarke, the founder of 'Church Bells.' He had no great pretensions to be a ringer, but he took part in something over twenty peals of Grandsire Triples and Caters, one of them being the first 'Henry' peal, which was rung half-muffled at Battersea on the day Henry Haley was buried.

In Queen Victoria's time there was much laxity in the use of royal emblems and insignia by ordinary people. Many firms used the royal coat of arms, and the royal standard was flown by all and sundry side by side with the union jack and the red and white ensigns. Edward the Seventh was very sensitive about such matters, and when he came to the throne the regulations were much tightened up. The public were given to understand that the royal standard was his personal flag and must never be flown except when he was himself present: and in a similar way he did what he could to stop people using the word 'royal' without his permission.

SPORT AND CHURCH WORK.**A PROTEST.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am surprised that up to now your leading article of September 25th has not provoked protest.

The body of the Exercise does not look upon ringing as a sport. The great majority of change ringers look upon ringing as an interesting art, their talent for which they devote to the service of their parish church and they have little further use for the art than that.

There are, of course, a number of ringers who do look upon ringing as a sport and I am not decrying them, as if one takes a broad view they are extremely useful to the art and to the body of the Exercise. The rank and file as a class, however, have little or no interest in change ringing merely as change ringing and would not pursue ringing as a mere secular hobby, which is perhaps a better description than sport.

G. L. GROVER.

East Clandon, near Guildford.

PUTTING THE CLOCK BACK.

Sir,—Writing is more difficult to me than ringing, so I have hoped that a more expert hand than mine would deal with your leading article of September 25th on 'Sport and Church Work.' I consider that the tone of that article puts the clock back 60 years. When in 1879 we, at the Church of St. John the Baptist, were fortunate in the appointment of a total abstinence Vicar, he found that the belfry was conducted on 'sporting' lines. I think the men received a small payment for ringing, which they 'melted' at the earliest open 'pub,' leaving the belfry as soon as they finished ringing. The Vicar dispensed with their services and gathered together a few young men from the Sunday School and congregation, who, with the excellent tuition of the late Mr. Francis Lees, soon could manage the six bells in various methods.

We ultimately by means of concerts and our own contributions purchased two trebles and went on to ring Stedman and other methods up to London Surprise. Had that belfry remained on the 'sporting' lines where would it have been to-day?

Surely the formation of all our diocesan ringing associations was with the distinct object of enforcing the fact that the belfry was as sacred a part of the church as the chancel or any part of the church and that the service performed in the belfry was a distinct introductory part of the service.

If you will refer to the reports of the various associations you will find their primary object was on the above lines.

The Bishop's address on the dedication of new bells most emphatically declares the sacredness of their purpose and the devotion necessary in those who ring them.

Although I have rung about 300 peals I would much rather prefer to see my belfry top in the quality and regularity of the Sunday ringing, and in the attendance of the ringers at the remainder of the service.

WILLIAM STORY.

2, Graingerville North, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 4.

EXETER CATHEDRAL BELLS.**THE FIRST CHANGE RINGING.**

Last Sunday was the fiftieth anniversary of the first change ringing on the heavy ring at Exeter Cathedral. It was during a tour in Devon by a mixed band made up of famous ringers. The bells had not then been restored by Messrs. John Taylor and Co. and the go was very bad. The following is the account of the ringing taken from 'The Bell News'—

'The bells were raised, the front six in peal, ten or a dozen being required for the job, and a few rounds rung on the ten, when someone suggested a course of Caters, no such thing ever having been rung by any men, the bad go of the bells and the weight of metal, tenor 67 cwt., being supposed to militate against it.

'Though sixteen men are accustomed to ring the ten, the visitors stuck to nine changing bells single handed, allowing only four to the tenor. Marvellous to relate, the course was rung, and well rung too, as testified by those outside. On this historic occasion, the first touch ever brought round on the ten bells, we may be permitted to append the names of the gallant band: H. G. Fruin 1, J. W. Taylor 2, E. A. Pitstow 3, N. J. Pitstow 4, Rev. F. E. Robinson 5, W. W. Gifford 6, F. Shepherd 7, Rev. G. F. Coleridge 8, J. W. Washbrook 9, Rev. W. S. Willett, E. Shepherd, B. Mundy and J. W. Carnell 10.'

Of this band Canon Coleridge is the sole survivor.

The bells were restored and rehung, and the tenor recast in 1902. On October 6th in that year the first peal, one of Grandsire Caters, was rung on them. Mr. George Williams conducted from the treble, Canon Coleridge rang the 72 cwt. tenor with the help of Ferris Shepherd, and included in the band were Messrs. A. W. Brighton (4), C. R. Lilley (6) and R. T. Hibbert (9). Two men who were in the first touch, F. E. Robinson and W. W. Gifford, rang the fifth and eighth.

EASTCOTE.—On September 23rd, at Bell Haven, Acacia Avenue, on handbells, 720 Bob Minor: G. M. Kilby 1-2, Corpl. K. Arthur, R.A.F. (conductor) 3-4, Corpl. E. Coward, R.A.F. 5-6.

RINGERS' JUGS AND PITCHERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 460.)

Perhaps the most interesting leather Jack belonging to ringers is the one at Stafford, and preserved in the church there. It is 19½ inches high and has a girth of 31 inches. Its capacity is 27 pints and it is inscribed (on handle):

'Edward Baret and Ralph Burton made mee 1750.'
(under spout): 'Joseph * Dickinson
Rector N. Griffin
P. Church Warden

Bell
ringers
'of the
P. Church
of the Blessed
Virgin
Mary
Ringers 1750.'

?Nantes illegible, but cut in the side quite clearly are the names of a subsequent set of ringers:—

'T. Wood
W. Finlow
T. Lithgo
T. Kenderdine
W. Tildersley
J. Hubbard
J. Goodwin
T. Tildersley
Ringers
††††† 1798.'

In Norfolk and Suffolk we find a number of places still retain their old-time ringers' pitcher. An early example is that at Garboldisham, Norfolk, which dates from 1703 and holds 16 quarts. It is of brown glazed earthenware with two ears, and is supposed to have been made at Wattisfield. It is thus inscribed:—

'Come jolly boys and drink your fills.

Let me not empty long remain
But if all out fill me again.
Leonard Tillot: Nath. Holt: Tho. Knock:
Thos. Malowes: Jonas Calby: Thos. Wakefield:
Isaac Cooper: John Taylor: John Tuffis:
May 10th, 1703 . . . Joseph Hammond made me.'

A similar pitcher exists at Clare, Suffolk, which holds more than 17 quarts, and has two handles. It is 3 feet 3 inches round, and 18 inches deep. It bears—on a bell—'Campane Sonant Canore' and below 'Clare Ringers 1729.'

The Norwich ringers' pitcher originally had three handles, but now only has one. It holds 35 pints, and was presented to the parish of St. Peter Mancroft in 1749 by John Dersley, a wealthy potter, who was Sheriff of Norwich 1759, Mayor 1764, and who died July 24th, 1765. Later it was lost, but discovered in 1846 by Robert Fitch at a sale, and he presented it to St. Peter's ringers. Lost a second time, but refound, it is now preserved in the church. A quaint water-colour by Ninham showing St. Peter's Mancroft ringing chamber in the 18th century, with the ringers at the ropes, also includes this old pitcher, which is placed on the floor in the middle of the circle.

Another old Suffolk example is that at Ixworth, where the ringers' pot is of brown glazed ware and was formerly carried from house to house to receive whatever beer the liberal parishioners might feel disposed to give. This pot, long since disused, had neither lip nor spout, but was provided with a tap at the base to draw off the two gallons which it held. It was inscribed in rude letters:—

'Here you may see what
I request of Hanst (honest) Gentlemen
My Baly (belly) filled of the Best. . . I com
But now and then . . . 1716.'

Another curious pitcher of this period is at Hadleigh. This one also is of brown glazed earthenware, and has two ears. Circular in shape, swelling out in the middle, it holds 16 quarts. It is inscribed in rudely indented letters without any regard to uniformity of size of letters or straightness of line. First word 'ME' or perhaps 'MEI' is in italics, others in Roman capitals:—

'Me. Thomas Windle: Isaac Bynn: John Mann: Adam Sage: George Bond: Thomas Goldsborough: Robert Smith: Henry West.'

There is no doubt these were the names of the ringers, Hadleigh having eight bells. Below are the lines:—

'If yov love me dve not lend me,
Evse me often and keep me clenely,
Evl me fvl, or not at all,
If it be with strovng, and not with small.

HADLY.'

Under one handle is the date=17 T.G. 15=, under the other=17 R.O. 15. This jug was in the possession of Mr. Pettitt, of the Eight Bells Inn, Angel Street, who held it for the ringers, he being their leader. Another pitcher, similar in size and shape to this at Hadleigh, was preserved in the church tower at Hinderclay, inscribed:—

'By Samuel Moss, this pitcher was given to the Noble Society of Ringers at Hinderclay, in Suffolk, viz.: Tho. Sturgeon: Ed. Lock: John Haw: Ric. Rud-dock: and Ralf. Chapman: to which Society he once belonged, and left in the year 1702.

From London I was sent,
As plainly doth appear:
It was with this intent,
To be filled with strong beer.

Pray remember the Pitcher when empty.'

Samuel Moss was elected a member of the Union Scholars, London, in 1716, Master 1718, Steward 1719, and may be the donor of this.

The well known Ringers' Pitcher of Beccles, still kept in the belfry, has three handles and bears the name of the potter:—'Samuel Strongfellow, Potter, 1827.' It holds six gallons less one pint and bears the quaint rhyme:—

1827.

'When I am filled with liquor strong,
Each man drink once & then ding dong;
Drink not to much to cloud your knobs.
Lest you forget to make the bobbs.

A gift of
John Pattman,
Beccles.'

Great Yarmouth ringers preserve a large jug of Staffordshire pottery. It has one handle and a steadying rib
(Continued on next page.)

RINGERS' JUGS AND PITCHERS.

(Continued from previous page.)

on front. It is hand-painted with floral decorations in colours and pictured either side. Capacity $23\frac{1}{2}$ pints, 12 inches, diameter at middle $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches, neck $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Inscribed:—

'Should you venture up the tower high
To visit Ringers, know that they are dry:
And if you be generous, kind and free,
Give a trifle and remember me.

Yarmouth, May 2. 1808.'

In the belfry at Witchampton, Dorset, is preserved a large Ringers' Pitcher of yellow earthenware, roughly glazed inside, and about six inches down the outside. It is inscribed:—

'Witchampton
+ Belfrey.'

It was bought by the ringers themselves, and made at the Verwood Pottery about the year 1800. At Christmastime and on special occasions it was carried round to the farmers and others who might give, to be filled with beer or cider. Its capacity is six gallons (measured by the Rector May 1st, 1933), girth 51 inches, height 18 inches. At a meeting of the Vestry September 17th, 1879, the following minute was passed:—

'It was resolved that for the future the ringers of the bells of this church should be under the legal authority of the minister and churchwardens, and that hereafter no ringer should be appointed or discharged without consent of the above authority. It is also resolved that notice should be given to the whole body of ringers that their services will no longer be required.'

It was said that this dismissal was in connection with the filling of the pitcher at Harvest. The pitcher originally had a pouring handle and two carrying handles, and when one of the latter was broken off, a piece of rope was tied round the neck for carrying.

T. F. Thistleton Dyer, in 'Church Lore Gleanings, 1891,' p. 107, says Swansea Ringers' Jug had this couplet:—

'Come fill me with liquor sweet,
For that is good when friends do meet;
When I am full then, drink about,
I ne'er will fail till all is out.'

It was said to be in Swansea Museum, but no trace can be found. I myself made exhaustive inquiries in 1931, but failed to find any other notice of the jug.

Kendal, Westmorland, once had a Ringers' Jug or Pitcher, but this is either broken or lost. A view of it is to be seen on the inn sign of the 'Ring o' Bells.' It is said that about the year 1820 the Rector often ascended the tower to look into the jug. If empty he would put 2s. or 2s. 6d. in it to replenish it. It was inscribed:—

'If you love me do not lend me,
Euse me often and keep me clenly.
Fill me often or not at all,
If it be strong and not with small.'

The inn sign referred to shows the tower with ten ringers in shirt sleeves ringing the bells, several of which can be seen in the open louvre windows above. The jug appears on the floor of the ringers' room, with a small glass or tankard beside it.

(To be continued.)

WRINGTON BELLS.

By PREBENDARY A. J. HOOK, Rector of Wrington.

The tower of Wrington Church is the glory of the countryside, and its bells are known to ringers in all parts of England. We do not know how many bells were hung in the tower after it was completed somewhere about 1450, but a few years later, when the nave was finished, a sanctus bell was placed in a very lovely bell-cote on the gable. That bell is still there and is inscribed 'Sancta Maria.' In the 16th century there were apparently four bells in the tower. A fifth was added in 1611, when the churchwardens employed Roger Purdue to cast a new treble, which was to weigh 11 cwt. 3 qrs. 2 lbs. In 1621 Purdue recast the 4th for £8, and seven years later he recast the 3rd and 5th. In both cases the bells were to be cast within the parish, and great care was taken over the weights of the bells. Moreover, the churchwardens and any of the inhabitants were to be allowed to watch the proceedings, provided that they behaved themselves. This must have been trying for Purdue.

The churchwardens were constant in their care of their five bells, and during the 17th century spent a large proportion of their money in keeping them in order. For instance, in the years 1633-74, they bought 41 new ropes, supplied seven new wheels, four new stocks and seven new clappers, as well as mending the tenor clapper eight times.

In 1702 the tenor was taken to Gloucester, and recast by Abram Rudhall. Ten years later, some of the bells were taken to Chew Stoke to be recast by Bilbie. One of them was the old 3rd (the present 9th), which has not been recast since. In 1743 a new cage was made by John Bush and the bells rehung. In 1749, Bilbie contracted to make the old five bells into a peal of six. All the bells were taken to Chew Stoke, with the exception of the old 3rd, above mentioned, which was to be the 5th in the new peal. The tenor was not to weigh less than 'thirty-eight hundred.' As the five new bells were cast out of the old treble, 2nd, 4th and tenor, it would be interesting to know what was the weight of the old tenor.

The treble and tenor were recast by Messrs. Mears in 1845, and it is said that, when the bells were rehung, the last of the Bilbie family came over to hear whether the new bells were up to the Bilbie standard. Unfortunately, history does not record the remarks he made on that occasion.

The greatest change of all took place in 1911, when Messrs. Mears added four new trebles to the old peal of six. The old bells were not recast, but had their cannons removed, and were tuned. Two new steel bell-frames were supplied at the same time. The result is a magnificent peal of ten, which would have delighted Purdue, Rudhall and Bilbie. Up to the time of the enforced silence, there was a good band of ringers in Wrington, and we were always delighted to welcome the many ringers from all parts of the country who honoured us by their visits. The ringers here, and indeed in all this district, owe a very deep debt of gratitude to Mr. Herbert Knight, whose unfailing skill and tact and patience has kept the ringing very much alive, and the ringers happy; and to Major J. H. B. Hesse (to whom and to his sister we owe the recasting of the 5th when it was

(Continued on page 475.)

THE USE OF SINGLES

IN SEVEN-BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 461.)

When we are composing an extent of Bob Major with the tenors together, our material consists of 120 natural courses, 60 of which are in-course and 60 out-of-course. When we are composing an extent of Bob Triples our material consists of the same 120 natural courses, but we are allowed to use only 60 of them. Which 60 we use is very largely a matter of choice, but is governed by one strict condition. If we use the plain course 234567 we may not use the natural course of 243657, and for every natural course we use we are debarred from using the one which bears to it the same relationship as 243657 does to 234567. For instance, if we use the natural course 642357, we may not use the natural course 624537; and conversely if we use the natural course 624537, we may not use the natural course 642357.

The reason for this is quite clear as soon as we examine the matter, for the courses 234567 and 243657 are really the same, except that the rows in one come in reverse order to the rows in the other.

The fact that we have an alternative form for every natural course we need to use considerably modifies the problems of obtaining true peals, and they are further modified by another fact.

We can, if we choose, select 60 natural courses from the available 120, and then join them together by bobs and singles arranged in Q Sets as we do in Bob Major, but we need not select 60 complete natural courses. We can often use only a part of a natural course and supply the missing part from the alternative natural course.

This is where these methods differ from Grandsire Triples. We cannot split up a B Block of Grandsire and have one lead of it in the direct form and the others in the reverse form; but we can split up a natural course of Bob Triples and have some leads of it in the direct form and the others in the reverse form.

So long as our peal of Bob Triples consists of sixty full natural courses, half of which are in-course and half out-of-course, we shall need the help of singles in exactly the same way as we do in Bob Major and what we cannot do in Bob Major we cannot do in Bob Triples. For instance, we cannot produce an extent of Bob Major (tenors together) in either four, six or ten equal parts with only two singles. Neither can we in Bob Triples with full natural courses.

Here is a very simply constructed six part peal.

	5040
23456	M. W. R.
64235	— — —
26435	— — —
42635	— — —
56234	— — —
25634	— — —
62534	— — —
45236	— — —
24536	— — —
52436	— — —
43256	S — —

Five times repeated, omitting last bob in second, fourth, and sixth parts.

To avoid misunderstanding it may be as well to point out that what is called the Middle in Bob Triples gives

the same natural course end as the Wrong in Bob Major, and what is called the Wrong gives the same natural course end as the Middle.

The peal is made up of sixty full natural courses, half of them in-course and half of them out-of-course, and the sixty are put together by Q Sets.

The basis of the composition is the twenty-four full natural courses with the sixth at home. They are produced in a very familiar way. First we have a Q Set formed by two bobs and two singles at the Middle made alternately.

	325476
B	235746
S	253476
	253746
B	235476
	325746
S	352476
	352746

The effect of this Q Set is to join together into one round block the following four complete natural courses, 52436, 32456, 53426 and 23456.

Two similar Q Sets will join 53246, 43256, 54236 and 34256 into another round block, and 54326, 24356, 52346 and 42356 into a third. A Q Set at R on 234 will join the three round blocks into one and give us the twenty-four courses with the sixth at home.

The thirty-six natural courses to complete the peal can be supplied by Q Sets at the W and R. They can easily be seen from the figures given above. What we want to point out is that the whole has been made possible by the three compound Q Sets (B.S.B.S.), each of which joins together an even number of natural courses. It is because there is no equivalent of this Q Set in Grandsire Triples that peals in that method are not possible in exactly similar parts with only two ordinary singles or only one ordinary single in each part.

UNUSED BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Will someone tell us if it is true that the tone of bells deteriorates through non-usage, as was stated in your last issue on the authority of a member of a firm of bell founders? There are many bells which have not been rung for many years for one reason or another. Are they spoiling?

JOHN SHARPE.

NEWS FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The bells of Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria, B.C., were rung half-muffled for the morning and evening services on Sunday, August 30th, in honour of H.R.H. the Duke of Kent, who died on active service on Tuesday, the 25th.

On Sunday evening a half-muffled quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung and broadcast, the striking being exceptionally good. The quarter-peal was arranged and conducted by A. B. Lomas. Those taking part in the ringing were D. Bonniface, A. King, W. Sampson, A. Roberts, A. B. Lomas, E. Millard, E. W. Izard and E. Lake.

The people of Victoria have very pleasant memories of the Duke of Kent, who visited Victoria on more than one occasion.

Their Majesties, the King and Queen, when they visited Victoria in 1939, took particular interest in the bells, especially knowing that Her Majesty Queen Mary graciously consented to the tenor and 7th bell being named King George and Queen Mary. They also sent a message complimenting the ringers on their ringing during the royal visit.

We feel, here in Victoria, that we are very fortunate in being able to continue ringing bells, knowing that our fellow ringers in England are unable to do so during the present war restrictions.

E. W. IZARD.

980, Arundel Drive, Victoria, B.C.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The quarterly meeting will be held in the Church House, Rugby, on Saturday, Oct. 17th, at 6 p.m. Business meeting to be followed by handbell ringing. 1942 subscriptions due.—Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division. — Quarterly meeting at Liversedge on Saturday, Oct. 17th. Handbells from 3 p.m. in Millbridge Working Men's Club.—F. Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 24th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District. — The next meeting will be held at Widford on Saturday, Oct. 24th. Service at 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. Numbers for tea by Wednesday, Oct. 21st.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Burton District.—The last meeting of the year will be held at Measham on Saturday, Oct. 24th. Handbells and tower bells (silent) available at 3.30. Tea and meeting in church at 5 p.m. All members must take own eatables. Cups of tea provided. All ringers invited. — J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch. —The next meeting will be held at St. Nicholas, Liverpool, on Saturday, Oct. 24th. The Church Vestry will be open at 3 p.m. The new Rector (the Rev. R. Ambrose Reeves) extends a cordial welcome to all ringers. Handbells will be available and refreshments provided.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Lewisham District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Woolwich on Saturday, Oct. 24th. The Rectory Room, Rectory Place, will be available for use of ringers from 3 p.m. till 8 p.m. Short service in St. Mary's Church at 4.45 p.m. If members let me know not later than Tuesday, Oct. 20th, I will try to arrange for tea.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION. — Northern Branch. — Meeting for practice, Netherton (D.V.), Saturday, Oct. 24th, 3 p.m. Usual arrangements. Tea 5.30 p.m. Handbells and social evening at 'Bird.'—B. C. Ashford, Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District. — A meeting at St. Margaret's, Leicester, on Oct. 24th. Silent ringing 3 p.m. Tea and meeting at 5.15 p.m. in St. Margaret's Church Rooms. All requiring tea must notify me by Oct. 22nd.—H. W. Perkins, 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, Oct. 31st. Handbells 3.30. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—A luncheon to commemorate the 305th anniversary will be held at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., on Saturday, Nov. 7th, at 1 p.m. Tickets 6s. 6d. each. Last day for receiving applications for tickets, Monday, Nov. 2nd.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Barnett is now 42, Clay Lane, Bushey Heath, Herts.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. J. Frank Smallwood has removed to 19, Dorothy Crescent, Ombersley Road, Worcester.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The present address of Mr. F. W. Alleway is now Darbe House, 13, Southbourne Avenue, Birmingham 8.

FOR SALE.

SET of 26 Handbells, two octaves; chromatic; size 20 in F; good condition. What offers? — W. R. Wolton, 68, Belstead Road, Ipswich.

WANTED.

COPIES wanted of any hymns that have been written specially for ringers, other than the well known ones published in 'A Manual for Ringers.' Replies will be acknowledged, copies returned if requested and cost and postage forwarded.—Ernest Pearson, Adderbury West, Banbury, Oxon.

WRINGTON BELLS.

(Continued from page 473.)

cracked), who, whenever he could visit us, has always been a help and encouragement. Our anxiety, in common with other places, is how to secure recruits for the time when we shall be able to ring again.

The weights of the present peal are:—

Treble	7c.	1q.	0lb.	6	10c.	3q.	25lb.
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4	8c.	3q.	0lb.	9	20c.	3q.	16lb.
5	10c.	2q.	9lb.	Tenor	36c.	2q.	23lb.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23rd, 1942.

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These famous bell-founding firms have kindly consented to this adaptation of their advertisements to meet the pressure on our space, due to the compulsory reduction in the number of our pages this week.

A POINT TO REMEMBER.

What will happen when at last victory comes nobody can say. The reaction from the strain of these years of war will certainly be great, and the effect on men's opinions and outlook cannot be foreseen. Everything will be altered in some way or another, and though the Exercise may perhaps expect to come through the crisis as little changed as anything, we may have to face new conditions and new difficulties, and we ought to be prepared as far as possible to meet them.

Many of these difficulties will concern the internal affairs of the Exercise, the shortage of ringers, the need for recruits, and the like. Others will arise from the attitude of the general public towards bellringing. Of one thing we can be reasonably sure. Directly the war stops there will be a great and a general call for the bells to ring again. Not only churchpeople who associate the music of the steeple with the services in the parish church, but also those who ordinarily scarcely give a thought to the sound of the bells will expect and listen for them. For a while, at any rate, ringers and their art will be in great demand, and there will be little criticism of the quality of the ringing.

But that phase will pass and pass quickly, and it may easily turn out that the reaction will do us no little harm. That is one of the things we must be ready for. We must thoroughly realise that it is of vital importance for the bells to be used so as to cause the greatest amount of pleasure to the outside public and the least amount of annoyance.

Of course that sounds like a truism and is an opinion to which all ringers would naturally assent, but it will be by no means easy to put into practice. There will be, we hope and are sure, many places where new bands will be formed and where devoted and enthusiastic leaders will be doing everything they can to have the bells rung regularly for morning and evening services and on practice nights. They will look forward to the time when the band in their belfry is a competent and skilled one, and they will devote all their energies to that end. We need such leaders, and we do not doubt that in most cases they will have their reward.

But they will have to pass through a dangerous time, and the risk is that before a respectable band is trained the general public, especially those who live close to the church, will be annoyed and alienated by the bad ringing which will result from the training of the new recruits. Most people like to hear bells rung well, but few people are not irritated by bad ringing, and it will

(Continued on page 478.)

not be easy to persuade them that they must put up with it for a time for the sake of the future.

What, then, is the best to be done to meet the difficulty? Several things suggest themselves which all who are responsible for the ringing at any church should consider. There is the question of sound control which is one that ought to be tackled far more than it has been up to now. There is the question of selecting the right sort of recruit. And there is one to which we would now call special attention, the great advisability of limiting what is aimed at to the capacity of the available ringers.

In an eight-bell tower it is quite natural that the instructor should aim at getting as quickly as possible a band who can ring Triples or Major. Anything less would hardly occur to him. Yet a good eight-bell band usually takes years to form, and even a moderately competent band can only be produced by a very slow process.

When a new band has to be formed in an eight-bell tower it is far better not to use the trebles at all, even when there is no lack of would-be learners. Not even for round ringing, certainly not for changes. A beginner will learn to ring rounds, call-changes, and method ringing much more quickly on six bells than on eight, even when the rest of the band are already trained; and when the majority are beginners the difficulty with eight is far greater than with six.

Bad ringing on eight bells sounds worse than bad ringing on six, and, of course, moderately good ringing on six sounds vastly better than bad ringing on eight. Six-bell ringing has much to recommend it, and we certainly consider that the fine points of striking and bell control can be better learnt on a small number of bells than on a large number.

It is difficult for an instructor in an eight-bell tower, who has many beginners all eager to try their hands, not to use all the available bells at once. He would do well if he took the ropes off the two trebles until he has a fairly competent six-bell band.

What we have said about an eight-bell tower applies with more than doubled force to a ten-bell tower.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, October 11, 1942, in Two Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 15.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER	... 1-2	CHARLES H. KIPPIN	... 5-6
HAROLD G. CASHMORE	... 3-4	*FREDERICK E. COLLINS	... 7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

Umpire—Edwin Jennings.

* First peal on handbells.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, October 12, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

IN THE CHOIR VESTRY OF ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*MISS JILL POOLE	... 1-2	PERCY L. HARRISON	... 5-6
HAROLD J. POOLE	... 3-4	ERNEST MORRIS	... 7-8

JOSIAH MORRIS ... 9-10

Composed by WILLIAM WILLSON. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE

* First peal of Caters.

FABIAN STEDMAN AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES.

(Continued from page 469.)

In 1668 Fabian Stedman published the 'Tintinnalogia.' For many years it had been assumed in the Exercise that there was no question that he was the author of the book, and it came as something of a shock to those who, like myself, had based their opinions of Stedman very largely on the 'Tintinnalogia,' to find that actually it was written by another man. Yet there can be no doubt that such was the case.

On the title page the book is said to have been written by a Lover of that Art, and to have been printed by W. G. for Fabian Stedman at his shop in St. Dunstan's Churchyard in Fleet Street. That does not mean that Stedman was the author. The man for whom a book was printed was the person responsible under the licensing laws, the owner of the copyright, and the nearest equivalent to the modern publisher. He might be the author, but usually was another man. The 1677 'Campanalogia,' which we know was written by Stedman, was printed for W. S. The 1702 'Campanalogia,' which was written by Doleman and another, was printed for George Sawbridge.

The second edition of Anthony Wood's 'Athenae Oxonienses,' which was published in 1721 after the author's death, contained a number of additional lives, taken from the original manuscripts, of men who were still alive when the first edition appeared. Among them, and included with the lives of writers belonging to St. Alban's Hall, is a short account of Richard Duckworth, and the reason for his inclusion is that 'he hath written Tintinnalogia or the Art of Ringing, 1671, oct. Instruction for hanging of Bells with all Things belonging thereto.'

Wood is the recognised authority on the Oxford men of his day, he was a contemporary of Duckworth, as a young man he had been a ringer, and all through his life he was keenly interested in bells and ringing. His testimony, therefore, even if uncorroborated, is conclusive. In the next generation Thomas Hearne, who, though so far as we know he did not practise the art himself, was passionately fond of bell ringing and missed no opportunity of finding out matters connected with it, repeated the statement, and added that Duckworth was a great ringer and had very great skill in it. Hearne records in his diary that he talked with a Mr. Whiteside, who, as a young student of Brasenose College, used to be visited by Duckworth.

Richard Duckworth was born some time about 1630, in Lancashire, according to Whiteside, in Leicestershire according to Wood. He was an undergraduate at New Hall Inn in 1647, and was one of those who made their submission to the visitors appointed by the Long Parliament among the changes which followed the execution of Charles the First, and by them was made a Fellow of Brasenose College. According to 'Alumni Oxonienses' he matriculated at University College in 1648, but men in those days frequently changed their colleges. He graduated B.A. in 1651, and proceeded M.A. in 1653. He took Orders, and was Rector of Hartest-with-Boxted, Suffolk, in 1660; of Tolland in Somerset in 1671; and of Steeple Aston in 1670. In 1671 he gave £10 to the new chapel which was being built at Brasenose College. He was then a Bachelor of Divinity, and apparently still re-

tained his fellowship, for Wood, in his diary, records that on October 22nd in that year 'a child was left in B.C. quadrangle, the child cried. Mr. Richard Duckworth heard it and went to the buttery to fetch a candle to see for it. In the meanwhile a Bach. Art. carried it away under his gown.'

As a fellow Duckworth would be an unmarried man. Hearne says that when he was Rector of Steeple Aston 'he made the place much better than it had been by recovering and settling many tithes that were refused, in order to which, he went to law with the Parishioners and over threw them, after which he left the place and became Vice Principal of Alban's Hall, under old Dr. Boucher, but what he did there I know not. This is certain, that he had been a schoolmaster also at Steeple Aston and was severe to his scholars, some of whom were boys of good birth.'

Duckworth seems to have been a man of tolerant disposition, who took little interest in the fierce religious disputes of the time. He had no difficulty in submitting to the Presbyterian system under the Parliament; when the Restoration came he took episcopalian orders and a rectory; and when James the Second, in his endeavour to further the cause of Roman Catholicism, ordered the clergy to read in church a Declaration of Indulgence, he was one of the only half-dozen in Oxfordshire who consented to do so.

When in 1670 the Prince of Orange (afterwards William the Third) visited Oxford, he paid a round of visits to the colleges and at Brasenose Duckworth, as Vice Principal 'speecht it.'

Richard Duckworth, no doubt, learnt his ringing as an undergraduate and practised it during the time he was up at Oxford. He was little more than thirty years old and in the prime of life when he went to Hartest as rector. There were four bells in the tower, and one of his first cares was to have them recast and increased to five. In 1661 John Darbie, of Ipswich, put up the ring which is still there. The tenor weighs about 11 cwt., and the bells are curiously tuned, being like a peal of six with the fifth left out. Whether this was intentional and in accordance with some idea of Duckworth's; or whether it was intended to have six and one was not supplied or has since disappeared does not seem to be known. The only inscription on the bells is the name of the founder with those of the churchwardens on the tenor only. We might have expected that of the rector, but he was not a man to advertise himself either on his bells or on the title page of his book.

Hartest is in West Suffolk, about six miles north-west of Long Melford, and so no great distance from Cambridge. An active and intellectual man like Duckworth would be sure to make frequent visits to that town, and there he would come in contact with some of the leading ringers of the day. In 1662 Samuel Scattergood and Isaac Newton were admitted to Trinity College. Scattergood certainly found his way to the belfry, and if Newton ever practised the art, as a tradition asserted, this was the time. Shortly afterwards Fabian Stedman returned from London bringing with him all the improvements the College Youths had introduced into ringing, and himself ready to help on further improvements.

It is not surprising that among such a company the idea should have arisen of writing a book on ringing, and it was a happy chance that brought Duckworth and

Stedman together, for the co-operation of those two resulted in a book which in many respects is the best that has ever been written on the art.

Stedman's part is evident. He supplied information about the peals which were being rung in London, the compositions of Roan and Tendring, the Esquire Youths' method, and the allusions here and there to what the College Youths were doing.

But, if much of the matter was Stedman's, the manner was wholly Duckworth's; and it is there that the supreme excellence of the book lies. The author attempted and achieved what no subsequent writer has succeeded in doing. He wrote of ringing and explained it as an abstract science and art which takes place in the belfry and in the minds of the ringers. Other writers always explain ringing through the medium of figures, and it is left to the reader to supply the connection between the figures and what happens in the belfry. So much so that only by a mental effort can we realise that figures have nothing to do with the essential part of ringing, and are only more or less imperfect conventional signs by which the abstract is expressed in concrete form. A man who knew nothing about ringing and who studied the writings on the subject would imagine that it is the science of the permutation of figures; he would scarcely realise that the one essential thing, the only thing which concerns the majority of ringers, is the connected path by which one bell moves among the others.

Duckworth's handling of his subject is masterly. He knows thoroughly what he is going to write about, and he knows how to write about it. His style is direct, simple, and clear, he always uses the right word, and every word tells. There is no florid writing, no straining after literary effect. The book is the work of a clean cut, logical brain, and is a supreme example of the truth that clear writing can only result from clear thinking. How good the book is can perhaps only be realised by those who have themselves tried to write on the same or a similar subject, or when it is compared with other books of like nature. The first book on ringing, so far as style goes, it has never been surpassed, and it is difficult even now to point to one that can be said to equal it.

Duckworth set out to give 'a full discovery of the Mystery and Grounds of each Peal,' and he really did succeed in doing so. He attempted to give a complete verbal description of how the methods practised in his time should be rung. He treats a method as an abstract mathematical entity. For example, Grandsire Bob Minor is not just a particular 720 which may or may not have variations; there is only one peal of Grandsire Bob, but it may be rung in many hundred ways, according as you choose different bells to be the whole-hunt, half-hunt, quarter-hunt, and extreme bells. The description covers all these ways alike, and it is only when he has finished it that he comes to the concrete and gives figures to illustrate a particular 720. It is the method of Euclid and is used with a skill not unworthy of Euclid.

(To be continued.)

LEICESTER.—On Sunday morning, October 18th, for morning service at the Prebendal Church of St. Margaret's, on handbells, three courses of Stedman Cinques: Miss Jill Poole 1-2, H. J. Poole 3-4, G. S. Morris 5-6, E. Morris 7-8, F. E. Wilson 9-10, J. Morris 11-12. This was a special service for the nursing profession and was attended by the Lord and Lady Mayoress and a large representative gathering of nurses from all the various local hospitals, nursing homes, infirmary, etc. The preacher was the Lord Bishop of Leicester.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Friends of Frederick A. Salter, of Nottingham, will be pleased to know he is now home from hospital and on the way to complete recovery after undergoing a serious operation.

Mr. George Baker reached his 75th birthday on October 14th, and two days later was the 56th anniversary of his first peal, rung at Fareham and conducted by Mr. George Williams.

The handbell peal at St. Margaret's, Leicester, on October 12th, was specially arranged and rung to mark the engagement of Miss Margaret L. Morris, daughter of Mr. Ernest Morris, F.R.Hist.S., F.R.G.S., vergier and vestry clerk of St. Margaret's and hon. secretary of the Midland Counties Association, to Pte. Robert Davison, R.A.O.C., son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Davison, of West Hartlepool. Both Miss Morris and Pte. Davison are ringers and well known in their respective towns.

Miss Jill Poole, who rang 1-2, is not yet 14 years old. She is the youngest ringer who has taken part in double-handed peals of Stedman Triples and Caters.

Thomas Tolladay, a prominent member of the London Exercise, and especially of the St. James' Society during the first half of the nineteenth century, died on October 18th, 1843.

The first peal of Windsor Surprise Major was rung by the Oxford Diocesan Association at Old Windsor on October 18th, 1833, and on the same date in the next year, the first peal of Silchester Surprise Major was rung by the Suffolk Guild at Helmingham.

The same band on the same bells rang the first peal of Cornwall Surprise Major on October 19th, 1836.

By ringing 6,000 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch on October 19th, 1766, the College Youths started the famous long peal duel between them and the Cumberlands. It reached its climax in 1802, when by ringing 7,104 changes of Maximus at Southwark the latter society secured the double record for ten and twelve bells.

John Holt called 5,104 Grandsire Cinques with a Band of Union Scholars at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, on October 20th, 1751.

On October 20th, 1794, on the light bells of the old Church of St. Giles, Camberwell, George Gross called John Reeves' five-part peal of Treble Bob Major, containing 6,720 changes and the 120 course-ends. Shipway, who took part in the performance, says this was the first time the composition was rung, but the probability is that the College Youths had already rung it on March 4th, 1791, at St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington.

The only peal of Stedman Royal was rung on October 21st, 1876, by the Birmingham men at Aston Parish Church. It was composed and conducted by Henry Johnson.

The eight Bailey Brothers of Leiston rang a peal of Bob Major together on October 21st, 1911.

Charles Henry Hattersley died on October 21st, 1915.

The twelve bells at St. Mary's, Taunton, were opened on October 21st, 1922.

The first peal of Aldenham Surprise Major was rung at Aldenham on October 21st, 1933, and on the same day a band whose average age was 76½ years rang Stedman Triples at St. Olave's, Hart Street. The oldest member of the company, Mr. Robert H. Brundle, is happily still alive.

Samuel Thomas, a prominent Sheffield ringer, was born on October 22nd, 1869.

On the same date in 1938 the first peal of Delrow Surprise Major was rung at Aldenham.

On October 22nd, 1752, William Dixon rang the treble at St. Giles', Norwich, and called Holt's Original. On October 23rd, 1791, James Bartlett rang the seventh at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields and called the same peal. For long he was supposed to be the first man to accomplish the feat. On the anniversary in 1884 the peal was rung non-conducted for the first time.

The first true peal of Waterloo Reverse Bob Major was rung on October 23rd, 1912, by the Kent County Association at St. John's, Waterloo Road, conducted by Mr. Frank Bennett. It is the only Major method (except Grandsire Major) with a bell-in-the-hunt which has been rung to a peal.

On October 24th, 1809, the Oldham men rang 15,120 changes of Bob Major; 15,360 changes had already in 1793 been rung at Aston.

The first peal of Little Albion Major was rung at Pulford, Cheshire, on October 24th, 1913.

On October 24th, 1934, at St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, the Australian touring band, with Mr. Rupert Richardson as conductor, rang the first peal of Royal outside the British Isles.

The first peal of Stedman Triples ever accomplished was rung on the old eight bells at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, on October 25th, 1731. On the same date in 1790, at St. Philip's, Birmingham, the St. Martin's Youths rang the first peal of Stedman Caters outside London.

The first peal of Boveney Surprise Major was rung at Old Windsor on October 25th, 1934.

Fifty years ago last Wednesday, Mr. George Williams called the first peal of Major at St. Paul's, Brighton. The lofty tower is a familiar object to visitors to the town, but the bells have not been rung for many years. Besides the ringing peal there is a bourdon bell of about 2 tons weight.

MARRIAGE OF MR. DANIEL COOPER.

On Saturday, October 10th, at Croydon Parish Church, the marriage took place between Mr. Daniel Cooper and Miss Doris Williams, both of Croydon.

The bride, who wore a dress of white velvet, was given away by her brother, and was attended by two bridesmaids. The best man was Mr. J. Cawley.

Among those present were Mr. A. Harman (Ringing Master of the Guildford Diocesan Guild), Mr. D. K. C. Burt (Ringing Master of the Surrey Association), Mr. C. H. Kippin (Beddington), Mr. C. Potheary (Mitcham), Mrs. W. Massey (Epsom) and several members of the local band, also Mr. A. W. Clarke and L.-Cpl. J. Rumble, Royal Suffolk Regt., late members of the Croydon band.

As the happy couple left the vestry a well-struck course of Grand-sire Triples was rung on the handbells by Messrs. A. W. Clarke, R. Davies, C. H. Kippin and F. E. Collins.

Mr. Cooper, who is very popular among Surrey ringers, is leader of the band at Croydon Parish Church and Ringing Master of the North-Western District of the Surrey Association. The bride is also a member of the Parish Church band.

Mr. and Mrs. Cooper were the recipients of many congratulations and presents, including cheques from the Croydon Parish Church ringers and the Surrey Association.

MEMORIAL TO THE LATE MR. JAMES HUNT.

The Taunton Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Association has decided to acquire the handbells of the late Mr. J. Hunt as a deanery memorial to him.

When times permit, it is proposed that under proper safeguard the handbells shall be housed in the ringing chamber of St. James', Taunton, there to be available for use by the Deanery Branch for practice, or in any way likely to further change ringing.

The bells, fourteen in number, include the ten on which the record handbell peal of Stedman Caters was rung.

It is not intended to make a general appeal for subscriptions outside the Taunton Deanery Branch, but if any of the late Mr. Hunt's friends care to be associated with this memorial contributions will be gratefully received and acknowledged by the acting secretary of the branch, Mr. W. H. Lloyd, 46, East Street, Taunton, Somerset.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT CAWTHORNE.

The October meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Cawthorne, and members were present from Bushey, Eastwood, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine and a good muster of the local company.

The Parish Room was kindly lent by the Vicar, and handbell ringing began at 3.15 p.m., followed by the business meeting, the Vicar (the Rev. F. B. Greenwood) presiding.

The best thanks were extended to the Vicar and to the local company for all the arrangements made.

The Vicar, in reply, said he was very pleased to meet the ringers once more and to know that they were keeping in touch with each other and the society in being.

The party then adjourned to the Spencers Arms for a real Yorkshire tea, and full justice was done to it.

After tea the handbells came into action, and methods were rung ranging from Doubles to Royal until 8.30 p.m.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Eastwood on Saturday, November 14th.

THE BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT TAUNTON.

The Taunton Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association held a quarterly meeting at St. James', Taunton, on Saturday, October 10th. A small attendance included Mr. T. H. Taffender, Ilminster, and Mr. T. Locke, Drayton, and some good practice was put in on both tower bells and handbells.

A business meeting was held in the tower, and in the absence of the president, Mr. A. W. Hayward was voted to the chair.

The chief item on the agenda was a report of a committee appointed to deal with a proposed memorial to the late Mr. James Hunt.

Later, reference was made to the late Mr. J. Maddocks, a former Ringing Master of St. James' and first secretary of the Taunton Branch, and to the late Mr. W. Hayward, for 40 years a member of the band of St. George's, Wilton. Both these men, in their respective spheres, played their parts worthily and well. The meeting stood for a few moments in silent tribute to their honoured memory.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar of St. James' and to Mr. W. Gigg for having the bells ready concluded the business, and further ringing took place until 8 p.m.

DUBLIN.—On Monday, October 12th, at St. Patrick's Cathedral, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes) in 53 minutes: *H. W. Jones 1, W. H. Wilson 2, *D. H. Jones 3, *W. T. Farrell 4, R. Tait 5, J. A. Atkinson 6, T. McMorran 7, *A. B. O'Ferrall 8. Composed by G. Lindoff and conducted by T. McMorran. * First quarter-peal in the method. † First attempt. Rung as a compliment to the newly-appointed conductor, Mr. T. McMorran.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**THE SAFETY OF MANCROFT BELLS.**

A most successful meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held at Acle on October 3rd, when the six bells, most kindly silenced by the Rector, the Rev. J. E. H. Williams (who is himself a ringer), were rung in various methods from 2.30 to 4. The service was conducted by the Rector, assisted by the president and the general secretary. A splendid tea followed in the Parish Hall, provided by Mrs. Williams.

Members were present from Acle, Bergh Apton, Buxton, Loddon, Mulbarton, Norton, Norwich, Wymondham and Great Yarmouth, 24 in all. At the business meeting the usual letter from Nolan Golden (late general secretary) was read, also one from Charlie Banham, just called up. It was proposed to hold the next meeting at Norwich on Saturday, December 12th. The general secretary was directed to write to the new Bishop of Norwich, Dr. P. M. Herbert, asking him to honour the association by becoming its patron in succession to the late Bishop. The Bishop has since very kindly consented to become patron.

A discussion took place about possible steps to be taken to protect Mancroft bells from war damage, and it was decided, on Mr. W. C. Duffield's proposition, that the president (the Rev. A. St. J. Heard) be asked to write to the Rural Dean of Norwich to see what could be done. The question whether to issue a report for 1942 was left undecided, as it was felt right, if steps are taken to protect Mancroft bells, to give the money saved by going without a report to the Mancroft bells fund. The general secretary suggested that, as Mancroft bells cannot be rung during the war, it might be a good idea to hold the annual service on Easter Monday in the Cathedral instead, if it is possible to arrange this. This was unanimously agreed to.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Rector for the use of the bells, for tying the clappers, and for preaching at the service, and to Mrs. Williams and her helpers for the splendid tea. Further ringing on tower and handbells brought a successful meeting to a close. Ringers will be very sorry to hear that the Rector of Acle was taken ill on October 5th; they will wish him a speedy recovery.

SPORT OR CHURCH WORK?

To the Editor.

Sir,—It just depends on what you mean by sport and whether sport and recreation are synonymous.

If ringing is to be first a sport and if sport is to be interpreted in its meaning as given in the English dictionary, then I cannot reconcile that sport and church work can combine.

If the bells are used to promote sport, then, in my opinion, a flagrant misuse has been made of them according to the terms of their dedication.

E. W. MARSH.

Grandison, Moreton Avenue, Crowhill, Plymouth.

RAISING AND CEASING.

BY FABIAN STEDMAN.

The truest way of raising a peal of bells according to the best of modern practice, is as quick as may be; every ringer taking assistance to raise his bell, according as the going of it requires. In raising them, the lesser bells, as the Treble, &c, ought at the first pull to be swung very deep, and held down in the sway by strength of arms as much as may be, to delay the time of their first striking, by which means the bigger bells, which carry a large compass, may have space to come in; and the raising of the smaller bells be continued with a strong pull, giving them scope over head (for the aforesaid reason) until they come up Frame-high, or thereabouts, and then the pull to be slacken'd and the bells leisurely to be raised to the intended height or pitch. The bigger bells of the peal, as the Tenor &c, must in their first raising be checkt or pinch'd over head, by which means the notes of all the bells may be made to strike round in their due place and order from the beginning; and observe that at the first pull all the bells must follow one another as close as may be. A peal of bells may thus be ceased: the falling of the bells from a Sett-pull must gradually be done, by checking them only at Sally, until the low compass renders the Sally useless; and when they are ceased so low that they scarce strike at back-stroke for want of compass: then he that rings the treble may give notice (by stamping on the ground) that the next time the bells come to strike at the fore-stroke, they may be checkt down so low as to cease their striking at the back-stroke, yet their striking round at the fore-stroke may be continued, until they are brought into a chime, which is a grateful conclusion of a peal.

In raising of a peal of bells, all the notes ought to strike round at one pull: but mistake me not, I do not mean at the first pull; for at small bells 'tis usual to sway them all round at the first pull without striking; at the second pull to strike them at the fore-stroke, and at the third pull at back-stroke. In raising of a peal of more weighty bells, 'tis usual to strike them double at the fourth pull, because the extraordinary weight and large compass of the hind bells permits it not to be done sooner. In the first raising of a peal of bells, one bell ought not to strike before the rest, or to miss striking when the rest go round: neither ought any bell in ceasing to strike after the rest, or to leave striking before the rest all which, according to the strictness of true ringing, are accounted great faults.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

At the beginning of another academic year the Oxford University Society finds itself in a relatively strong position, for although many members were called up during the summer months, others have returned to Oxford, and among them is a nucleus of six, all of whom have handbell peals to their credit.

Nevertheless, a vigorous recruiting campaign was again launched through the colleges and haunts of the university, and at the undergraduate service at St. Mary's Church handbells were rung as the congregation assembled.

On Tuesday, October 13th, a general meeting was held in New College. The president was in the chair. There were present Dr. R. E. Havard, the Master, the secretary, a good number of old members and over a dozen recruits. The treasurer's report was adopted, and the Master gave an account of the Trinity Term and vacation activities of the society.

The president extended a very hearty welcome to the newcomers, and the Master extolled the praises of change ringing. He promised would-be ringers nothing but hard work in the early stages of learning the art, but he hoped that people would come along to the first few meetings to see if ringing appealed to them. If it did, well and good; if it did not (and it is not everybody who takes to ringing), no harm would be done.

A letter from Mr. D. H. Parham was read, and the society agreed to forward a copy of the 'Ringer's Handbook,' together with Jasper Snowden's 'Standard Methods,' diagrams and letter-press, to the Durban ringers.

Demonstration courses of Bob Major and Grandsire Triples were rung on handbells, and then as the night was still young, the meeting adjourned to New College bell-tower, where everyone had a chance of handling a bell rope.

Subsequent practices have been well and enthusiastically attended, which augurs well for the future, especially as three of the new members have had previous experience of tower-bell ringing, and two of them are competent handbell ringers.

JOHN BUNYAN.

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—It is common knowledge among members of the Exercise that John Bunyan, author of 'Pilgrim's Progress,' was for some time a bellringer, but I doubt if the following verses of his on ringing are so widely known. I came across them in a very commendable little volume, 'The English Parish Church,' by Powys, and I think they may be of interest to our readers.

K. ARTHUR.

14, Crawley Drive, Ruislip.

UPON A RING OF BELLS.

Bells have wide mouths and tongues, but are too weak,
Have they not help, to sing, or talk, or speak.
But if you move them they will mak't appear,
By speaking they'll make all the Town to hear.
When Ringers handle them with Art and Skill,
They then the ears of their Observers fill,
With such brave Notes, they ting and tang so well,
As to out strip all with their ding, dong, Bell.

COMPARISON.

These Bells are like the Powers of my Soul;
Their Clappers to the Passions of my mind;
The Ropes by which my Bells are made to tole,
Are Promises (I by experience find.)

My Body is the Staple where they hang,
My graces they which do ring ev'ry Bell:
Nor is there anything gives such atang,

When by these Ropes these Ringers ring them well.
Let not my Bells these Ringers want, nor Ropes;
Yea let them have room for to swing and sway:
To toss themselves, deny them not their Scopes.

Lord! in my Steeple give them room to play.
If they do tole, ring out, or chime all in,
They drown the tempting tinkling Voice of Vice:
Lord! when my Bells have gone, my Soul has bin
As 'twere a tumbling in this Paradise!

Or if these Ringers do the Changes ring,
Upon my Bells, they do such Musick make,
My Soul! then (Lord) cannot but bounce and sing,
So greatly her they with their Musick take.
But Boys (my Lusts) into my Belfry go
And pull these Ropes, but do no Musick make
They rather turn my Bells by what they do,
Or by disorder make my Steeple shake.

Then, Lord, I pray thee keep my Belfry Key,
Let none by Graces meddle with these Ropes:
And when these naughty Boys come, say them Nay,
From such Ringers of Musick there's no hopes.

O Lord! If thy poor Child might have his will,
And might his meaning freely to thee tell;
He never of this Musick has his fill,
There's nothing to him like thy ding, dong, Bell.

RINGERS' JUGS AND PITCHERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 473.)

At Stowmarket, Suffolk, the Ringers' Pitcher is preserved in the belfry. It has two handles and two lips and is enclosed in wicker work. It holds $4\frac{1}{2}$ gallons, is $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, and has a girth of 45 inches. It is of stone pottery and at the back where the wickerwork is broken away is the date 1780, and letters 'R.P.'

In the Colchester and Essex Museum is a Ringers' Jug from Braintree, dated 1685. The inscription is given by Dr. Henry Laver in 'Relinquary,' vol. xi., p. 130, as follows:—

' Brayntre Church

Jonathan Harvey, Church Clark, Daniell frances, Will. Neuard, Iohn Everett, Rich. Bennett, Will. Neuard, jun., Samuell Heridance, Sam. Bennett.

made at Stock 1685

R x Y.'

The initials R. Y. at bottom are supposed to be those of the potter. It is made of black glazed earthenware from the Stock potteries. It has two handles and is ornamented with imprints of flowers, and above inscription. Formerly the property of Mrs. Waylett, in whose family it was for more than a century, it was originally purchased by the Mayor of Braintree and given to the ringers, and always used on Christmas Eves.

[It would be interesting to know if the two 'Will. Neuards' shown on this ancient jug were ancestors of dear old William J. Nevard, of Great Bentley, Essex, so recently passed away.]

At Hornchurch, Essex, is preserved two pitchers, and a note from 'Ye olde village of Hornchurch,' by Charles Thomas Perfect, says: 'These Pitchers were originally made for the use of the bellringers, and on certain occasions were filled with ale brewed at Hornchurch Hall for the refreshment of the ringers. In 'The Church Bells of Essex' (Rev. Cecil Deedes and H. B. Walters) it is mentioned that in the ringing chamber of Hornchurch belfry 'there was formerly a set of old ringing rules (now superseded by a more prosaic set) as follows:

'If you ring with Spur or Hat

Three pints of beer you pay for that:

If you Swear or give the Lye

A pot you pay immediately:

If a bell you overthrow

A pint you pay before you go.

T. S., 1798.'

In later years the pitchers were used for supplying refreshment to the tenants when they came to pay their tithes at the Hall. It is evident from the inscriptions on the pitchers that they were intended to belong to the church, but for some inexplicable reason they were in more recent times kept at the King's Head Inn. They were seized there by Messrs. Benjamin and Henry Holmes, during the time they owned the Hornchurch Brewery, in distraint for rent, and afterwards placed in the hall at 'Grey Towers.' After the death of Colonel and Mrs. Holmes an auction sale was held at the 'Towers,' and the family 'bought in' the pitchers and presented them to the Vicar and churchwardens, with the request that they should, is possible, always be preserved in the church.

The smaller of the two is made of brownish coloured

earthenware of a dull glaze, and has the following inscription in a cursive hand:—

1731

Hornchurch, Essex.

Ringers

John Bader	Benjn. Malin	W. Randall	} Church Wardens
Thomas White	William Carter		
Thos. Wooton	Thomas Sanger	Fram. Sumpner	

This pitcher is $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches high and 40 inches in girth at its widest part. The larger pitcher is made of very dark burnt umber-coloured earthenware and is very thickly and highly glazed, so as to become almost purple in hue. It bears the following inscription:—

May 24th, 1915.

This Pitcher was made by Rt. Aungier.

— Oxley

Js. Fry

W. —rison

Js. Nokes

John Oxley

Frnc. Oxley

Jerg. Evrett

Saml. Cooper

George Hills

Peter Smith

Hornchurch Ringers, 1815.

Gift of Mr. C. Cove.

Churchwardens:—John Thompson, James Bearlock.
TOM, Lincoln.'

This pitcher is $20\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, and 50 inches in girth at its widest part. It is known that this pitcher was made at Mr. C. Cove's pottery at the western end of High Street, and there seems to be little doubt that the 1731 pitcher was made there also.

At Witney, Oxon, there is a Ringers' Jug or Pitcher preserved in the Rectory. Its date is unknown, but it is about 250 years' old. It is of semi-glazed earthenware and capable of holding 16 quarts, of which the neck only takes one! An old ringer—Howell Ball, a tinker, stated (about 70 years ago) that his grandfather—also a tinker—repaired this pitcher, it having been broken. This was done very neatly by placing three bands of iron round it, and also inserting eight brass rivets.

In the ringers' chamber at St. Mary's Church, Bungay, is a large three-handled jug of rather coarse brown earthenware, glazed, measuring about 15 inches in height, and $41\frac{1}{2}$ inches round its largest part. It holds 34 pints and bears an incised inscription in common writing letters cut in before it was kiln-burnt thus:—

1827

A Gift

to the

Society of Change

Ringers

of

Saint Mary's

Bungay

by

Thos. Hurry

Norwich.

(To be continued.)

EXETER CATHEDRAL BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir.—When you stated last week that Canon Coleridge was the sole survivor of the band that took part in the first change ringing on these bells you overlooked the name of Mr. E. Shepherd, who is still residing in Exeter.

I remember the occasion, for I was in the belfry when it took place.
W. SHEPHERD.

22, Chapel Grove, Addlestone, Surrey.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 24th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.

The next meeting will be held at Widford on Saturday, Oct. 24th. Service at 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.

—The next meeting will be held at St. Nicholas, Liverpool, on Saturday, Oct. 24th. The Church Vestry will be open at 3 p.m. The new Rector (the Rev. R. Ambrose Reeves) extends a cordial welcome to all ringers. Handbells will be available and refreshments provided.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.

—The annual district meeting will be held at Woolwich on Saturday, Oct. 24th. The Rectory Room, Rectory Place, will be available for use of ringers from 3 p.m. till 8 p.m. Short service in St. Mary's Church at 4.45 p.m.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

—Northern Branch. — Meeting for practice, Netherton (D.v.), Saturday, Oct. 24th, 3 p.m. Usual arrangements. Tea 5.30 p.m. Handbells and social evening at 'Bird.'—B. C. Ashford, Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.

—A meeting at St. Margaret's, Leicester, on Oct. 24th. Silent ringing 3 p.m. Tea and meeting at 5.15 p.m. in St. Margaret's Church Rooms.—H. W. Perkins, 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, Oct. 31st. Handbells 3.30. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

—Swindon Branch. — A meeting will be held at Christ Church, Swindon, on Saturday, Oct. 31st. Tower bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon, Wilts.

CHRIST CHURCH, FRIEZLAND.—Saturday, Oct. 31st, 3 p.m. Practice on new silent apparatus, which gives correct striking. Good bus service from Stevanston Square, Manchester, to Greenfield Station.—H. Nutt, Royal George, Greenfield, near Oldham.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division. — A meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Cheshunt, on Oct. 31st, at 3 p.m. Silent tower bells and handbells. Short service at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. to all who notify me by Wednesday, Oct. 28th. Business meeting to follow.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS

(Established 1637).—A luncheon to commemorate the 305th anniversary will be held at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., on Saturday, Nov. 7th, at 1 p.m. Tickets 6s. 6d. each. Last day for receiving applications for tickets, Monday, Nov. 2nd.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Joint meeting, Stockport, Bowden and Mottram Branch and Macclesfield Branch, at St. Thomas', Norbury (Hazel Grove), Saturday, Nov. 14th. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea in the school 5 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. W. Fernley, 4, Grove Street, Hazel Grove, near Stockport, by Wednesday, Nov. 11th. Handbells during afternoon and evening.—T. Wilde and J. Worth, Hon. Dis. Secs.

BIRTHS.

LOCK. — On Sunday, Oct. 18th, at 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts, to Kathleen (née Bradford), wife of Thomas J. Lock, a second son.

SAVILL.—To Grace Elsie (née Alleway), wife of K. A. P. Savill, of a daughter (Christine), at the College Hill Nursing Home, Harrow Weald, Sept. 28th.

RINGERS' EPITAPHS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I enclose a cutting from a recent copy of 'East Anglian Daily Times.' It would be interesting to know if the memorial mentioned still exists. Little Thurlow is a small village in the extreme south-west corner of Suffolk, near the Cambridgeshire boundary; it has five bells, now unringable.

I have often thought that if some enthusiast would make a collection of ringers' epitaphs it would make curious and interesting reading.

CHARLES J. SEDGLEY.

61, Belvedere Road, Ipswich.

This is the epitaph as copied by the Rev. John Wareyn Darby (1791-1846) from 'a wooden memorial on the N. side of Belfry' at Little Thurlow:—

JOHN ANDREWS, 7 Feb. 1794, ag. 72.
'Beneath his fav' rite Bell poor Andrews lies.
No pitying Naiads heard his dying cries
When in the Stour he fell—his Spirit rose
To brighter climes & left this world of woes
Pause, ringer, pause, with serious thought
On vast eternity,
Perhaps thy God this night may claim
Thy forfeit life of thee.'

SWINDON, WILTS.—On Tuesday, October 13th, on the front six at Christ Church, 720 Bob Minor: G. W. Townsend 1, W. B. Kynaston (conductor) 2, Pte. N. G. Knee (Pioneer Corps) 3, W. M. Greenaway 4, C. J. Gardiner 5, J. H. Shepherd 6.

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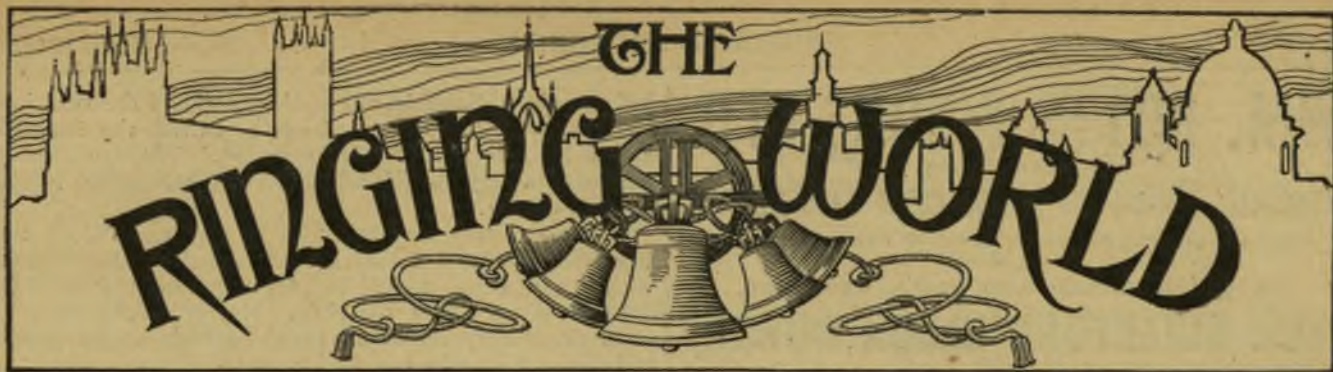
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No. 1,649. Vol. XXXVII.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30th, 1942.

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UNUSED BELLS.

A short while since we gave a quotation from a contemporary paper in which the writer explained, on the authority of 'a member of a firm of bell-founders,' what will happen 'when the joy-bells ring out again.' Some of the things he said were worth telling to the general public, as, for instance, that there will be a serious shortage of experienced bellringers, that those who remain will be in need of practice, and that people must not be surprised if the ringing is not good.

But he went on to say that some of 'the timbre and tone of the bells will have temporarily deteriorated through non-usage,' and some of our readers wondered whether that could be true and what was the cause of it. It seemed unlikely, and not in accordance with experience, for there are many bells which for one reason or another remain silent for much longer periods of time than the ban has lasted or is likely to last.

Any doubts on the point are set at rest by the letter we print this week from Mr. F. C. W. Stevenson, of Croydon, who writes with knowledge and authority. He tells us that the tone of bells does not deteriorate in any way from non-usage, but he adds 'provided they are kept reasonably clean.'

This latter is a point which we fear has entirely escaped the notice of ringers, steeplekeepers and church authorities, always and everywhere. There are bells which have hung for many years, some of them for centuries, in church towers, and throughout the whole time have never once been cleaned. There are many more that have been cleaned only when on some rare occasion they have been taken to a foundry during the process of rehanging and restoration. Perhaps in the majority of cases this is no very great matter, for bell metal is as little subject as any metal to changes from the action of the ordinary atmosphere, and the dirt to be found in a bell chamber in a country town or village is not very likely to cause corrosion. What does happen there with old-fashioned hangings is that the sound bows of the bells below the bearings very often become coated with grease. That we are told is distinctly prejudicial to tone.

It is in larger towns, and especially in industrial areas, that excessive corrosion can be caused by an atmosphere heavily charged with smoke and chemical fumes, and since such corrosion does affect the tone of the bell, it is advisable for those in charge to see that it is periodically removed, especially as it is neither a difficult nor a costly operation. The better plan, if the corrosion is old and extensive, is for the authorities to employ a competent

(Continued on page 486.)

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bell founder. Sandblasting makes perhaps the best job, but that means the removal of the bell to the foundry, and usually is out of the question. There are other means of doing the job which do not necessitate taking the bell down.

In the ordinary way bells can be kept quite clean and free from corrosion if they are occasionally brushed down with a wire brush and if any oil or grease that falls on them is wiped off at the time. Every steeplekeeper in town or country should be provided with a wire brush, and those that take a pride in their bells will soon get into the habit of using it.

The second and shorter paragraph of Mr. Stevenson's letter is perhaps the more important. The bells themselves may hang unused and neglected for years, and at the end, when the time of restoration comes, they will emerge from their long silence unharmed and unimpaired. Not so the fittings. They steadily deteriorate with neglect, and they need periodical attention. The amount required is not much, but a little may quite easily avoid a lot of disappointment through broken ropes and bad going bells when the time to ring comes once more. The amateur who attempts to tighten up nuts with a powerful wrench, especially on old bolts, should remember that it is quite easy to strip the thread, and then the last state of that bell is far worse than the first.

HANDBELL PEALS.

SUNDRIDGE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, October 18, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-One Minutes.

At BEBCHROFT,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 is C.

CHRISTINE J. RICHARDSON...	1-2	KENNETH S. B. CROFT	... 5-6
BRENDA M. RICHARDSON	... 3-4	WALTER H. DOBBIE	... 7-8

Composed by E. MAURICE ATKINS. Conducted by K. S. B. CROFT.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD
(CHRISTCHURCH BRANCH.)

On Monday, October 19, 1942, in Two Hours and Two Minutes.

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents.

WILLIAM G. YOUNG	... 1-2	MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY	3-4
ARTHUR V. DAVIS	... 5-6		

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

First peal of Minor 'in hand' by all.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, October 25, 1942, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes.

AT THE WAYSIDE, NARBOROUGH ROAD SOUTH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

*Miss JILL POOLE	... 1-2	HAROLD J. POOLE	... 7-8
GEORGE S. MORRIS	... 3-4	ALFRED BALLARD...	... 9-10
PERCY L. HARRISON	... 5-6	FREDERICK E. WILSON	... 11-12

Composed by C. H. HATTERSLEY. Conducted by H. J. POOLE.

* First peal of Stedman Cinques. Jill Poole has now rung Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques in hand at the age of 13 years.

VILLAGE BELLS.

Then let the village bells, as often wont,
Come swelling on the breeze, and to the sun
Half-set, sing merrily their evening song
Now dying all away, now faintly heard,
And now with loud and musical relapse
Its mellow changes huddling on the ear.

—James Hurdis.

FABIAN STEDMAN AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES.

(Continued from page 479.)

Duckworth set out to give 'a full discovery of the Mystery and Grounds of each Peal,' and he really did succeed in doing so. He attempted to give a complete verbal description of how the methods practised in his time should be rung. He treats a method as an abstract mathematical entity. For example, Grandsire Bob Minor is not just a particular 720 which may or may not have variations; there is only one peal of Grandsire Bob, but it may be rung in many hundred ways, according as you choose different bells to be the whole-hunt, half-hunt, quarter-hunt, and extreme bells. The description covers all these ways alike, and it is only when he has finished it that he comes to the concrete and gives figures to illustrate a particular 720. It is the method of Euclid and is used with a skill not unworthy of Euclid.

But this way of explaining ringing is not only very difficult to write, but it demands the closest attention on the part of the reader. Few people are mentally capable of appreciating abstract things, and so ringers very quickly found out a way of giving the rules for ringing a particular method by means of a formula. A dozen or so rows of figures representing a lead of a method were sufficient to enable a man who knew how to use them to find out what to do in the belfry, and later on the addition of a few rows of figures representing course-ends was sufficient to give all that was necessary to ring a true peal of practically any length. These formulæ did not give 'a full discovery of the mystery and grounds of each peal,' but they did supply all the practical ringer wanted to know. Later writers do indeed make a pretence of giving some rules for ringing the different methods, but actually all the value of their books lies in the figures. You might omit all the letterpress from 'Clavis,' Shipway, Hubbard, Banister, Sottanstill, and Thackrah without seriously lessening their value as ringing text books. The majority of the Central Council's collections of peals and methods have been issued without any letterpress at all. Jasper Snowden in 'Ropesight,' 'Double Norwich,' and 'Standard Methods,' did attempt, and successfully, to give verbal rules for ringing methods, but he dealt with the subject in the concrete and on less ambitious lines than Duckworth.

A non-ringer who had sufficient patience and intelligence could follow without difficulty the explanation of ringing given in the 'Tintinnalogia,' but later books would be entirely cryptic and incomprehensible to him unless he first knew something of the general nature of ringing. We might illustrate the difference between the 'Tintinnalogia' and later books in this way: Suppose you were asked to direct a man across country. You might give him a full description of his journey; he must go so far along a road until he came to a gate; he must then follow a field path, passing a stack here and a barn there; he would reach a church at this point and an inn at that; and so on until he came to his journey's end. And suppose you did this so well that your friend had a clear mental vision of his itinerary before he set out, that would be the method of the 'Tintinnalogia.' But the later method would be to give him a sheet of an ordnance survey map, and say to him: There you are. Find

out for yourself. There can be no question that, provided a man can read a map, he would find it a better guide than any verbal description; and, provided a man knows what the figures mean he can better learn how to ring a method from a lead than from any verbal instructions. This does not lessen the merit of the 'Tintinnalogia,' and by adopting the other plan, while the Exercise has gained much, it has lost something. If we could look at the problems of composition and method construction through the eyes of Duckworth we should be spared the many disputes as to originality, authorship, and the like.

Good as is the 'Tintinnalogia' and excellent as was its author, in one very important respect his vision was restricted. What he saw, he saw clearly and wholly; but he was always looking at what had already been done, never to the possibilities that lay ahead. He did not dream that he was only standing on the threshold of the art, he thought that 'the very depths of its intricacy was already found out.' And that was because neither he nor Fabian Stedman had as yet turned their attention towards composition. He had set himself to explain ringing as it existed in his day, and every one of the peals in the 'Tintinnalogia' is the work of some other and older man. To Duckworth and Stedman in 1667 the climax of the science of change ringing was Grandsire Bob, and Grandsire Bob was already ten or a dozen years old.

And so the 'Tintinnalogia' marks the end of a period in the development of change ringing rather than the beginning of a new one.

Nine years later, Stedman published the 'Campanalogia,' and the difference between the two books is enormous. The later is not superior to the earlier—in many ways it is not nearly so good—but, though the literary style and the handling of the matter is inferior, time had given a vastly greater experience of methods and the details of composition. There is a greater amount of development between the 'Campanalogia' of 1677 and the 'Tintinnalogia' of 1688, than between the J.D. and C.M. book of 1702 and the 'Campanalogia'; or than between the Shipway of 1816 and the 'Clavis' of 1788; very much more than between the Hubbard of 1876 and the Shipway; and nearly as much as between the 'Clavis' and the J.D. and C.M. All of which confirms the opinion that Stedman was a comparatively young man when the 'Tintinnalogia' was written.

Duckworth tells us that what first suggested the book to his mind was a treatise written in Latin by a Dutchman (i.e. a German), entitled 'De Tintinnabulis,' being a discourse on striking tunes on little bells, and he considered that if that was worth doing it was 'worth a Dayes labour to write something on this Art or Science, that the Rules thereof might not be lost and obscured to some, as the Chronicles before William the Conqueror, being given only by Tradition from father to son.'

In its reprint the book consists of 112 octavo pages, of which about forty deal with plain changes and the rest with cross peals. There was as yet no distinction between plain courses and touches produced by bobs and singles; each round block was a peal whether it was long or short. The term bobs was used somewhat indefinitely. In Grandsire Doubles, what is now called a plain lead was then called a single bob, and what is now called a

(Continued on next page.)

FABIAN STEDMAN

(Continued from previous page.)

bobbed lead was then called a double bob. But in Bob Minor the term was used in the ordinary modern sense.

The 'Tintinnalogia' is a very rare book. For many years it was believed that only one copy of the first edition had survived. This at one time belonged to C. W. Lukis, an early writer on bells, and I believe had previously been owned by John Hopkins, of Birmingham. Jasper Snowdon used it when writing his 'Grandsire,' and a reprint of it was published by Harvey Reeves in 1895. It subsequently came into the possession of the Rev. William Carter Pearson, who also had another copy. These, with the rest of his ringing books, were bequeathed by him to the Cambridge University Guild, and one is now in the Cambridge University Library and the other in the British Museum. A third copy belongs to Mr. Edwin H. Lewis, the president of the Central Council.

Only one copy of the second edition is known to exist. At one time it belonged to a Mr. William Tite, a member of Parliament. After his death his widow gave it to Ellacombe, and it is now in the Bodleian Library at Oxford.

When he had written the book, Duckworth entrusted the publication to Fabian Stedman. It is not difficult to see why he should have done that. At Hartest he was out of touch with printers and booksellers, and, though no doubt he was regularly at Oxford in connection with his fellowship, this was not the sort of book that was handled by the printers at either University. Stedman was a printer, and if I am right in my supposition that he had served his apprenticeship in London, he would know who was the most likely man there to print and sell the book. As I have said, Godbid may have been his old master; but in any case it was necessary to secure the full support of the College Youths, to whom the book was dedicated, and Godbid's shop was in St. Dunstan's Churchyard, hard by the Temple and Lincoln's Inn, to which so many of them belonged, and not far from St. Bride's and Salisbury Court, where it is reasonable to suppose they held many of their meetings.

The book, which Duckworth says inspired him to write the 'Tintinnalogia,' is a little volume, written in Latin by Guolamo Magius and published in Hanover after his death. A second edition was published in 1664 at Amsterdam, which may have been the one seen by Duckworth, and others in 1689, 1716 and 1735. It is probably the most widely known of all the books that have been written on bells.

Though the book was first published in Hanover, the author was not a German or Dutchman, as Duckworth supposed, but an Italian, who was a civil judge in the Venetian service in Crete. In 1571, Candia in that island was besieged by the Turks, and Magius was taken prisoner. During his captivity he wrote the treatise which has preserved his name, and ultimately he was beheaded by the order of a pasha.

Not long after the publication of the 'Tintinnalogia,' Richard Duckworth left Hartest and went to Tolland in Somerset. His church there had no ring of bells, but we know from Whiteside that he had at the time in Oxford the reputation of being a very skilful ringer, and no doubt he practised the art when he was in residence at Brasenose College. There were then clever ringers in

Oxford, and men who gave to the Exercise some of the standard methods which are still rung. Who composed Oxford Treble Bob and Single and Double Oxford Bob we do not know. It quite easily may have been Duckworth, and since, a few years later, when the 'Campanalogia' was written, Stedman was well acquainted with what was done at Oxford, it seems likely that Duckworth kept in touch with him and supplied him with the information.

In his 'History of Music,' published in 1789, Dr. Charles Burney refers to the 'Tintinnalogia' and makes it the occasion of some general remarks on ringing and music. He had been giving an account of John Jenkins, a composer of light music, one of whose pieces, called 'The Five Bell Consorte,' was very popular. 'What gave rise to this trio, or consort as it was called,' he writes, 'seems to have been a book called "Tintinnalogia, or the Art of Ringing," published in 1668, a work not beneath the notice of musicians who wish to explore all the regions of natural melody: as in this little book they will see every possible change in the arrangements of diatonic sounds from 2 to 12, which, being reduced to musical notes, would point out innumerable passages that, in spite of all that has hitherto been written, would be new in melody and musical composition. The reader will be able to form some judgment of the wonderful variety which the changes in bells afford to melody by the annexed calculations, whence it appears that even in the plain and simple arrangements of natural sounds according to the species of the octave without the intervention of either flat or sharp, eight notes will produce 40,320 different passages and twelve 479 million 1,600.

'Mersennus in his "Harmonie Universelle," published 1636, has enumerated these changes and reduced to musical notation those of the hexachord as an illustration of the amazing variety which may be given to the arrangement of only six sounds in melody. It must not, however, be imagined that all the changes in the table would be equally agreeable or even practicable if introduced in an air; yet in the almost infinite number offered to a musician's choice many would doubtless frequently occur which would not only be pleasing but new.

'Out of the great number of peals which are given on five, six and eight bells in the "Tintinnalogia," it is extraordinary that melody has not been consulted in the choice of changes; there seems a mechanical order and succession in them without the least idea of selecting such as are most melodious and agreeable. Even the clams or the collision of two bells together in counterpart has been settled by ringers without the least knowledge of harmony.'

Coming from such an authority as Dr. Burney, this criticism is interesting, but of course it is all wide of the mark. To select changes and to consult melody in the construction of peals was entirely outside Duckworth's purpose. His peals are abstract rules for producing all the possible changes, whatever their musical value, and the order and succession of the changes is not mechanical but strictly mathematical. That is true of all change ringing from the beginning till now. It may produce music—it does, in fact, produce music—but in its essentials, whether as a science or an art, music has neither part nor lot. A peal of Double Norwich rung on bells out of tune is just as much a peal of Double Norwich as if it were rung on the best bells in the land, but the sim-

plest air played on an instrument with one false note ceases to be that air. Burney was judging ringing simply as music; he had no knowledge of the things in ringing which appeal to the ringer.

Dr. Burney's reference to clams is rather curious, because there is no mention of such things in the 'Tintinnalogia.' There is in the 'Campanalogia,' and it marks what was probably an attempt about this time to develop ringing on different lines. For some reason or other it seems that changes on seven and eight bells were slow to come, and where ringers had a full octave to practise on (and it was but rarely) they either rang Doubles and Minor with covering bells or they rang Sett Changes or Colledge Grounds. In the latter the bells were first hunted into Queens or Tittums and then Singles were rung on them, each pair being treated as if it were one bell. Each pair, or concord as it was called, could be dodged or struck simultaneously. The latter was called Clamming. 'Tis pleasant Musick to Clam them, that is the two notes of the concord to strike together. If they are Clam'd true, the eight bells will strike as if they were but four, but with far greater harmony. They may clam two or three bouts, and then strike them open as many, and so alternately; or else they may clam one pull, open the next, and so on.'

This ringing was recommended for the less skilful bands, but to do it well would require quite a good company, and it is not likely that it ever was much practised.

(To be continued.)

IN PRAISE OF RINGING.—Considered as a means of bringing men together, experience proves ringing to be so fascinating that those who once take it up and master the rudiments are almost sure to persevere, often under great difficulties.—Canon Woolmore Wigram, 1872.

TROOPER JOSEPH JONES.

A NOTABLE TENOR-MAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was somewhat interested in the letter from our friend, Mr. E. A. Young, which appeared in your issue of the 2nd inst., re the above. May I be permitted to add a little more to the information furnished, as I rang with Jones at St. Paul's and other churches. He was a most genial companion, and, being over 6ft. in height, was also hefty with it, and with one of the longest reaches that I have known ringers to have.

By a coincidence, at the time mentioned in Mr. Young's letter, there were two tenor ringers at St. Paul's, both Jones. One amateur (Joseph) and one professional (Walter). The latter was in the scrufe and went by the sobriquet of 'Taffy,' and the difference in them was remarkable. The amateur was all smiles and the professional the reverse, especially of a Sunday morning when the latter had to go up and stir up the grease in the gudgeons. I have strapped the tenor for both of them; when the amateur was on the box all you had to do was to keep the strap rope clear of the main rope and pretend to pull, but when 'Taffy' was on the box you had to do more than your share, or else you were told of it. I often conjectured what made him so, whether the weight of the bell told on him, or whether it was a case of the morning after the night before. However, when I went on the box (before I went inside) and relieved him matters were soon different.

Joseph rang the tenor to the first peal of Stedman Triples by H. R. Newton and myself, just 56 years ago, at St. Mary's, Lambeth, conducted by J. Murray Hayes. The last peal that I have a record of where Joseph rang the tenor was a peal of Stedman Triples (Thurstans') at St. Andrew's, Wells Street, on Saturday, April 12th, 1890, in 3 hours, by the College Youths, the first peal in the method on the bells. The band was C. F. Winney (conductor) treble, A. W. Barkus 2, F. G. Newman 3, W. T. Cockerill 4, H. R. Newton 5, G. T. McLaughlin 6, R. T. Woodley 7, Joseph Jones tenor.

I should not like to have been the quadruped to carry Joseph when going on guard for two hours in one of the pill boxes at Whitehall. I should think the poor horse at the finish went back to the stables with a dot and carry one expression, wondering whether life was worth living.

With respect to Joseph's vocation as a trooper in the Blues, he put on so much weight that they eventually dismounted him and made him a regimental cook.

R. T. WOODLEY.

Lowestoft.

P.S.—The scrufe strapper at that time was James Dwight. He was a cripple and I used to like to relieve him.

John Taylor & Co.

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Tenor 82 cwt.

HANDBELLS, BELL ROPES,
MUFFLES,
Etc.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Members of the Chester Diocesan Guild should note the alteration in the times of the meeting at Norbury on November 14th.

We congratulate Miss Jill Poole, of Leicester, who in a very short time has rung peals of Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques on handbells. She is only 13 years of age and should have a good career as a ringer before her.

A new set of bell ropes has been presented to St. Maurice's Church, Winchester.

There was a mistake in the report of the last meeting of the College Youths. It should have said that Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Pitman, of Bromley, were present, not Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Pitman.

Mr. Kenneth S. B. Croft, of the Cambridge University Guild, has been called up for service in H.M. Forces. He has been fortunate enough to be stationed where there is ringing, and the result is a handbell peal of Bob Major reported on another page.

On October 26th, 1822, nine members of the Wakefield Society and Joseph Tebbs, of Leeds, rang the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal. The peal was said to be composed by William Woodhead, who conducted. It really was John Reeves' fifteen courses of Cambridge Major with the tenors together, and was taken from the 'Clavis.'

On the same date in 1837, the St. James' Society, with Thomas Tolladay as conductor, rang at St. Martin-in-the-Fields 7,325 changes of Grandsire Cinques. This at the time was the longest length in the method by twelve men. It was not beaten till 1887, when the Birmingham men rang 9,020 changes.

The Liversedge men rang 6,240 changes of Cumberland Exercise Major on October 26th, 1867. The method is a poor variation of Oxford Treble Bob.

The first peal of Stansted Bob Triples was rung by the Essex Association at St. Mary's, Stansted, on October 26th, 1907.

On October 27th, 1924, the first and only peal of Little Canterbury Pleasure Major was rung at Erith in Kent.

The longest length of Kent Treble Bob Major with the tenors together was composed by James Lockwood, of Leeds. It contains 9,120 changes, but the bells are brought round by a special single. It was rung at Holbeck on October 28th, 1876.

Eight Norfolk and Suffolk men, all over 70 years of age, and all good ringers, rang a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major at Pulham Market on October 28th, 1922. That was 20 years ago, and Mr. R. H. Brundle, one of the band, is happily still alive.

The first peal of Reverse Bob Major on handbells was rung at Frodsham on October 28th, 1926, and the first peal of Dunwich Surprise Major at Helmingham on the same date in 1935.

Henry Dains was born at Tibenham in Norfolk on October 29th, 1837.

The first peal of Brighton Surprise Major was rung at St. John's, Waterloo Road, on October 29th, 1913. Mr. Frank Bennett conducted. Thomas Day, the composer of long lengths of Treble Bob Major and other peals, was born at Birmingham on October 30th, 1803.

On the same date in 1811 the Sheffield men rang the first double-handed handbell peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major.

The first peal of Spliced Stedman and Grandsire Caters was rung at St. Mary's, Nottingham, on October 31st, 1925, and the first peal of Newcastle Surprise Major at Hughenden on October 31st, 1936.

Mr. Isaac Emery rang his first peal of Treble Bob Major fifty years ago yesterday.

Sixty years ago last Monday a peal of Grandsire Caters was rung at Christ Church, Oxford, on the occasion of the marriage of Capt. J. E. Acland-Troyte, brother of Charles A. W. Troyte, the author of a well-known text book on ringing and himself a ringer. Mr. G. F. Coleridge (as he was then) rang the seventh, and Mr. J. F. Hastings, who is now Rector of Martley in Worcestershire, rang the second. Charles Hounslow conducted and James W. Washbrook rang the ninth. There were two to the tenor, which was given as 36 cwt.

STEEPLE ASTON BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to your most interesting articles on Stedman and Duckworth, do you think your readers would be interested in a very brief account of the bells at Steeple Aston, near here, which were installed during the incumbency of Duckworth?

In connection with the Stedman Tercentenary, I believe you once published a photograph of the bell frame at St. Benet's, Cambridge, which, if I remember correctly, is identical with that at Steeple Aston, the augmentation from four to six bells being carried out in the same manner, and an unusual one for the period. The frame at Steeple Aston was originally as at Harwell, Berks, for four bells, and altered to house the four largest of the six with 3, 4 and 5 side by side at right angles to the tenor. The trebles were added to swing mouth-to-mouth the same way as 3, 4 and 5. This might be a Stedman-Duckworth design. The usual custom in the mid-seventeenth century was, as you know, to keep the tenors side by side, a point I made under the heading East Hendred in my Berkshire book.

FREDERICK SHARPE.

Derwen, Launton, Bicester.

[We would gladly welcome an article from Mr. Sharpe.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World.']

SPORT AND CHURCH WORK.

THE NATURE OF RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your leading article, 'Sport and Church Work,' will bear a good deal of inspiring thought. Julian Huxley's 'Essays of a Biologist' came to my mind as I read it, in which the author refers to three 'means of approach to God'—religion, science and art. (There is nothing new about this, of course; the book of Revelations strikes a similar chord, '... and for Thy pleasure they are and were created.') But, as both you and Professor Huxley point out, they may sometimes appear to be working against each other.

Ringing, it seems to me, is firstly an act of religion. Secondly, we all agree that it joins hands with music, the greatest of the arts. Thirdly, we also, quite rightly, call it a science. And, fourthly, it is, as you say, a sport. We may ask the questions—What is religion? What is art? What is Science? And, for that matter, what is sport? They have much in common, however we may regard them. Religion, surely, is work for and praise to God. Art, according to William Morris and John Ruskin, is 'the expression of pleasure in man's labour.' Science may be considered as the force of 'the will to know.' And sport, assuredly, is the exercise of the deep joys of fellowship and physical well-being.

Ringing then, in embracing all these conceptions, indeed holds a position of dignity; for to be a good ringer a man must be a devout churchman, an artist, a scientist, and he must be reasonably fit. When viewed as it should be, I venture to state that very few of man's activities co-ordinate so well our 'means of approach to God.'

C. W. BOND.

THE REASON FOR PEALS.

Sir,—Concerning your leading article on 'Sport and Church Work,' may I be permitted to make the following observations while agreeing with your article in the main?

I think it will be accepted that the public does not differentiate between 'plain or ordinary' ringing and 'change ringing' as we understand it, but discriminates between good and bad ringing, i.e., good or bad striking and the selection of the music of the method that is being rung in the case of change ringing especially.

This being so, I remember on various occasions many eminent people have stated the public is 'always right.'

Now, sir, I am of the opinion that away from the fact that ringers ring for the pleasure it gives them, the exercise and mental stimulus as most sports do give, long periods of ringing such as peals are attempted by most ringers to improve their striking, knowledge and team work in order that their Sunday service ringing shall give pleasure to public and ringers alike and be worthy on the holy day of the week as an acceptable offering to God, and truly a part of the Church.

FREDERICK E. PITMAN.

THE USE OF THE WORD SPORT.

Sir,—I wish to protest against the use of the word sport in connection with change ringing.

This word, usually associated with such things as horse racing, football and bull fighting, is hardly applicable to the manipulation of a musical instrument.

The essential fact about change ringing is the production of music from bells, therefore it is a fine art and comes under the subject of music. It is not placed alongside the great activities of the human mind, but takes its place as part of one of them. The physical and mental effort necessary on the part of the ringers does not make any difference; the fundamental aim of the change ringer is to produce music, and if that end is not accomplished there is very little satisfaction for him, as experience on silent bells has proved.

Bellringers are surely musicians rather than sportsmen.

The art may be regarded as if it were a sport by some ringers, but that does not make any difference to what it is in fact.

F. H. OLDNALL.

70, Friary Road, Handsworth.

[The word 'sport' has been used in connection with ringing from at least as early as the seventeenth century. There is nothing to be ashamed about in sport. It is a mistake to think that 'the essential fact about change ringing is the production of music.'—The Editor, 'The Ringing World.']

EXETER CATHEDRAL BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Referring to your recent statements of the survivors of the band that took part in the first change ringing on the bells, I am very pleased to say that Mr. E. A. Pitstow, of Saffron Walden, brother of Nathan J., is still alive and well in his 83rd year. Reference has been made before to survivors of historic ringing tours in the West of England at the end of last century where Mr. Pitstow took part.

F. DENCH.

12, Victoria Avenue, Saffron Walden.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT LIVERSEDEGE.

The Western Division of the Yorkshire Association held an interesting quarterly meeting at Liversedge on Saturday, October 17th, when about two dozen members attended from a wide area, including some enthusiastic probationers from Keighley.

The Millbridge Club was the venue and handbells were soon in evidence during the afternoon, when various touches were rung with success. Tea was served in the Co-operative Cafe, and afterwards the members returned to the club for the business meeting.

The vice-president, Mr. P. J. Johnson, was in the chair, supported by the association's president, Canon Marshall. The Chairman pointed out that the committee had decided not to hold a meeting in December. Owing to the difficulties of the black-out and travelling, it was thought better to pass over until the following spring when conditions would be more favourable. After discussion it was agreed that a joint meeting with the Leeds and District Society be held towards the end of March—if possible at Bramley.

In proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar, wardens and local company for making the splendid arrangements, Canon Marshall said he was pleased to visit old haunts. The Liversedge tower had always been a source of strength to the association, and he was sure everyone would be grateful for the very satisfactory arrangements which had been made. In the very short distance to the cafe he had noticed no less than four chapels, so he concluded the district must be very promising. This was seconded by Mr. W. H. Senior, and in putting it to the meeting, the Chairman mentioned a number of the old Liversedge ringers who had passed on, but were not forgotten. The present generation, he said, owed a lot to the careful teaching of the late Mr. Thomas and others, and he hoped that the progressive spirit would remain in evidence at Liversedge for a great many years to come.

Mr. Fred Hodgson, replying, said the local company were always pleased to welcome the association, and though times were difficult, if the members were satisfied they were more than pleased. He would always remember with gratitude the debt they owed to the late Mr. Thomas for struggling with a raw band of learners. They were now doing their best to carry on the traditions of their tower.

A collection for the association's belfry repairs fund realised the sum of 6s. 6d. After the meeting the handbells were very much in evidence, so much so that the vice-president missed his bus through a very intricate touch of Stedman Triples.

The following towers were represented during the day: Arncliffe, Almondbury, Batley, Birstall, Bradford Cathedral, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's), Idle, Keighley, Lindley and the local company.

MEETING AT GOOLE.

The autumn meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at Goole on Saturday, October 10th, and was attended by about a dozen ringers from Hessle, Howden, Hull, Pontefract, Selby and the local company. Service was held in church, at which the Vicar (Canon Knightall) officiated.

Tea was served in Hackforth's Cafe, after which the business meeting was held, presided over by the Vicar.

The meeting stood a few moments in silence to the memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. Drake, of Goole, both of whom have recently passed away. Mr. Drake was a member of the District Committee for several years.

The place and date of the next meeting was left in the hands of the secretary, it being decided to hold it in the springtime.

The meeting heard with pleasure of the award of the Military Medal to Sergt. C. Robinson, of Sutton-on-Hull, for bravery in the Middle East. A letter was read from Mr. C. W. King, of Goole, at present serving with the Merchant Navy. Mr. King stated he had been in the company of Mr. Millbourne, of the Lincoln Cathedral band. They both wished the meeting every success and hoped they would soon be home again and able to ring the tower bells once more. Votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar, organist and local company, and the Vicar welcomed the association to Goole. Handbells were rung in the belfry and in church before service.

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. A. H. Fox, of Kirk Ella, A. B. Cook, of Hull, and G. Horner and S. Steel, of York.

LIQUID REFRESHMENT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to Mr. Morris' interesting statements on the subject of liquid refreshment in connection with church work, a delightfully candid instance is found in the churchwardens' accounts of the parish of Sefton, near Liverpool: 'Spent on ourselves, when we met at the Abbey Arms to decide how much to give to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.'

I remember as a boy seeing a keg of cider in the belfry at Kington Magna, but it was kept discreetly under a seat. A somewhat exceptional example of its modern counterpart occurred on Coronation Day, 1911, when the baker was one of the ringers and regaled us in the belfry with hot rolls and coffee at 3.40 a.m.

F. LI. EDWARDS.

Kington Magna.

THE USE OF SINGLES

IN SEVEN-BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 474.)

When we are composing peals of Bob Triples with bobs at Middle, Wrong, and Right only (or, in other words, when we keep the seventh as an undisturbed observation bell) and when we use full natural courses, we are compelled to employ singles as links in the chain which joins the separate natural courses into one round block. If we use only two, the singles must be part of the Q Set formed by bob, single, bob, single. If our peal is a regular six-part we must use at least one of these compound Q Sets in each part. We cannot produce a peal in five or ten regular parts if we use full natural courses throughout.

But, unlike the case with extents in most methods, our composition need not consist of full natural courses. There are 120 in all from which we have to select our material, and we need only 60. The available natural courses are in pairs, and if one in a pair is used in full, the other is barred. We can use part of one of a pair and supply the missing rows from the other at a later position in the composition. This will sometimes give us links which will join together the equivalent of an even number of full natural courses, a thing impossible in most methods.

How this can be done will perhaps be best explained by a concrete example. Here are the natural course-ends of a touch produced by making bobs at M, M, W, four times repeated.

Middle	Wrong	M. W.
52436	52436	—
35426	45623	— —
24653	24653	—
52643	62345	— —
46325	46325	—
24365	34562	— —
63542	63542	—
46532	56234	— —
35264	35264	—
63254	23456	— —

This block is of the length of ten courses, but it contains the wholes or parts of fifteen natural courses. The first natural course, 52436, appears in its entirety; so does the third and every alternate one, but the second natural course, 35426, appears only from the Middle to the Wrong, four leads out of six. The third natural course, 45623, appears only from the Wrong to the following Middle, two leads.

When, however, we examine the block further we find in the third part the natural course 34562, which extends from the Middle to the Wrong. 34562 is the alternative natural course to 35426, and so it supplies the rows which are missing from the latter. In a similar way, whenever we have only part of a natural course, the missing rows are supplied in another part of the touch.

This five-part block forms an excellent basis for a peal. If we bob Q Sets at Right in every one of the

courses we shall have the full thirty in-course courses we need, and if we substitute a single for either a bob or a plain lead at any M, W, or R, and repeat the whole we shall add the thirty out-of-course natural courses and produce our peal. Perhaps we hardly need say it is Hubbard's well-known ten-part composition.

Here we have singles used in their simplest form; they are necessary to change the nature of the rows, and to give us the odd course-ends which, without their aid, would not be available.

The point to notice in this example is that the reason why we can use incomplete natural courses is that in Bob Triples everything is perfectly symmetrical about the path of the treble, and consequently any lead can appear either in a direct form or in its reverse form, one belonging to a natural course and the other to the alternative natural course. This does not happen in Grandsire Triples, for though the B Block there is symmetrical about the path of the treble, directly a bob is made the symmetry is destroyed. The whole of a B Block in Grandsire Triples must come either in its direct (or in-course) form or in its reverse (or out-of-course) form.

Perhaps the reader may think that, as Bob Triples is a method which has been discouraged by the Central Council and practically is never rung, it is only a waste of time to discuss its composition; but that would be an incorrect way of looking at the matter. A study of the method will tell us a good deal about composition in general, and if Bob Triples itself is barred from practice there are some other methods similar for purposes of composition, which are fully worthy of the attention of any really skilful band. We have already given two, and here are two more which will serve as illustrations for the next remarks we have to make.

Stansted Bob.	Croydon Bob.
1234567	1234567
2135476	2135476
2314567	2315746
3241576	3251764
2345167	3527146
2435617	5372416
4236571	3527461
2463751	3254761
4267315	2345716
4627135	3254176
6421753	3521467
4612735	5312476
4167253	5132746
1462735	1537264
1426375	1352746

All we have said about Bob Triples will apply to Stansted Bob, and the compositions of one can be adapted to the other, although the lead ends come in a different order. But Croydon Bob and its kindred methods introduce a new feature.

We have already pointed out that in plain seven-bell methods with six working bells it is necessary to have a double change, either when the treble is leading full, or is lying its whole pull behind.

In the first case the bob is made at the lead end as it is in Bob Triples, but in the second case a bob cannot be made there.

(Continued on next page.)

THE USE OF SINGLES

(Continued from previous page.)

It is essential in bob making to move a place. In Plain Bob, for instance, we move second place to fourth's; in Double Norwich we move eighth's place to sixth's; in Treble Bob Major we move eighth's place to fourth's; in Stedman Triples we move seventh's place to fifth's; and so on. But we cannot do a similar thing in Croydon Bob Triples for there is no place to move. It has been suggested that in such circumstances the proper thing to do would be to make two new places like this

1537264

1357624

Such an operation would no doubt enable us to produce true peals and would be quite legitimate, but it would not be a bob, for it is of the essence of a bob that it should not change the succession of the nature of the rows, and that is what this operation does.

We could make the bob by shifting sixth's place when the treble is lying behind the fourth's, and with such a bob all the compositions of Bob Triples could easily be adapted to Croydon Bob.

But the better plan is to make the bob in the interior of the lead when the treble is passing from fourth's to fifth's:

3251764	instead of	3251764
2357146		3527146

This bob will give us the same natural course-ends as the bob of Bob Triples, and, so far as the course-ends are concerned, will produce the same compositions. If our peal is made up of full natural courses it will be true, but since the position of the bob is not symmetrical with the path of the treble, we may not use a part of one natural course and think to supply the missing rows from the alternative natural course. When the bob is made in the interior of the lead of one of these methods a true peal in five or ten exactly similar parts is not possible and for the same reason that it is not possible in Grandsire Triples.

WILLIAM J. NEVARD.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I should like to thank Mr. Morris for his excellent articles on ringers' jugs. I notice Mr. Morris asks the question if the two Will Nevards are ancestors of the late Mr. W. J. Nevard. Although it is not definitely possible to say so, I think most probably they are.

Many of his ancestors are buried in several churchyards in the county of Essex: Great and Little Totham, Great and Little Braxted. His paternal grandfather used to farm Ashmans in the parish of Kelvedon, which is the adjoining parish to Great and Little Braxted.

Mr. Morris may be interested to know that there was at one time a ringers' jug at Coggeshall, but whether it is still in existence I cannot say.

WILLIAM KEEBLE.

Colchester.

UNUSED BELLS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In answer to Mr. John Sharpe's query in your issue of the 16th October, the tone of bells does not deteriorate in any way from non-usage, provided they are kept reasonably clean. Excessive corrosion, as occurs in certain industrial areas where the atmosphere is heavily charged with chemical fumes, will certainly cause some 'deadening' of normal resonance, but this is always restored by the physical removal of the corrosion. Oil and grease is definitely detrimental to the tone, and for this reason should in no circumstances be allowed to come into contact with the bells themselves, or if it does so accidentally, it should be wiped off immediately.

With reference to the fittings, however, there is no doubt that these do deteriorate from disuse. They ought to receive the same care and attention as when the bells are being rung regularly.

FRED C. W. STEVENSON.

Croydon

RINGERS' JUGS AND PITCHERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 482.)

A large pitcher is preserved at Tamworth, which has besides one handle a steady nib on front. It is 12½ inches high and 11½ inches diameter, and inscribed: 'Tamworth Ringers, 1805.'

Perhaps the most unique ringers' possession of this description is that preserved at Cirencester, Glos. It is described as a 'loving-cup,' and was presented to the ringers there in 1785, and is silver mounted on double ram's horns, with a silver plate inscribed with a bell and the couplet:—

'Intactum sileo percute dulce cano,' meaning:—

'Untouched I am a silent thing,

But strike me and I sweetly ring.'

This was a favourite inscription often found on ancient bells. Round the bell is 'Prosperity to Ciren. Ringers, 1785.' This loving-cup, together with a chair which has a bell on its back, was given to Cirencester ringers by Mr. Blackwell, of Ampney Park nearby. This gentleman was keenly interested in bellringing, and was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, London.

Macclesfield possesses three jugs and two pots which are unique. They are carefully preserved in a cupboard in the belfry and are thus inscribed:—

(1) 'This Jug Presented by H. Burnet: J. Rigby: J. Colclough: W. Rogers: and H. Lewis: Ringers of Burslem to the Change Ringers of St. Michael's Church, Macclesfield, in the year of our Lord 1837' (at bottom) 'Henry Lewis 1837.'

This inscription is in gold leaf, hand painted with a different picture on each side. There is a projecting nib under the spout to assist in carrying, and it was given to replace another which was badly cracked and would not hold ale. It is 13½ inches high, 40 inches circumference, and holds 34 pints.

(2) 'This Jug was presented by the Longton Ringers to the Macclesfield Society of Change Ringers in commemoration of their having rang the first complete peal of changes ever rung in the Potteries. It was Holt's celebrated peal of Grandsire Trebles consisting of 5,040 changes which was performed in three hours and 3 minutes at Longton Old Church on the 28th day of March 1864 by the following persons: Willm. Hulne, Willm. Ashworth, Thos. Wright, Edwd. Matthews, Jas. Holt, Willm. Dupen, Jas. Maurice, Jas. Morlidge, Willm. Dupen, conductor.' (below) '1864 by John Hancock, Longton.'

Underneath the jug: 'James Locker, senr.: Thos. Fone: Willm. Shenton, senr.: John Davis: Photographer: Thos. Locker: Enoch Watson: George Locker: Willm. Shenton, junr.: Longton Ringers, 1864.'

It is said that two golden sovereigns were melted down to gild this jug. It is hand painted with a different picture on each side of the ringers' names above. Height 10 inches, circumference 22 inches, holds 10 pints.

(3) 'This Jug was given by John Smith and Howard Burnet, Ringers of Hanley, in commemoration of two peals rung by the Ringers of St. Michael's Church, Macclesfield, being both maiden peals.'

(Continued on next page.)

RINGERS' JUGS AND PITCHERS

(Continued from previous page.)

BOB MAJOR, December 25th, 1827.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Jas. Broadhurst. | 5. Jas. Kelly. |
| 2. Thos. Fisher. | 6. Robt. Hulme. |
| 3. Saml. Wilshaw. | 7. Jas. Birchenough. |
| 4. Thos. Hulme. | 8. Jas. Maurice, conr. |

GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, December 30th, 1827.

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Heny. Houselander. | 5. Jas. Broadhurst. |
| 2. Thos. Fisher. | 6. Robt. Hulme. |
| 3. Saml. Wilshaw, conr. | 7. Jas. Birchenough. |
| 4. Jas. Kelly. | 8. Thos. Davenport. |

Tenor 20 cwt.

It is of the old blue Willow or Chinese pattern, lettered in black, is 12½ inches high, 33 inches circumference, and holds 20 pints.

(4) Pot with two handles, inscribed:—

‘A present
from
Longton Ringers,
1883.’

At Easter, 1883, the Macclesfield ringers rang a date touch of 1883 changes at Longton, and this pot was a present for the company. Each ringer also had a pot with his name on, and the number of the bell he rang, and the date.

(5) Pint pot with one handle, inscribed:—

‘Health to the Longton and Macclesfield Ringers,
(clasped hands).

May they ever be united.’

A ringers' jug was presented to Church Lawton ringers (where they then had six bells), out of goodwill by the ringers of Tunstall, together with six mugs, one of which is now broken. The jug holds 11 quarts and was made at Tunstall, but has no maker's name. It is adorned with roses and inscribed:—

‘Presented to the
Ringers of All Saints' Church,
Lawton, Cheshire, by the
ringers of Christ Church,
Tunstall, on Novr. 3rd, 1883.
G. Gee. W. Gee.
G. Gee, jun. W. Saunders.
E. Horne. R. Mills.’

The names are those of Tunstall ringers. The jug is 12 inches high and is 35 inches in circumference in middle. Each mug holds half a pint.

I am told that Stalybridge, Cheshire, has a gallon jug with ringers' names on, but I have been unable to get details of this. At Hyde, Cheshire, a quart silver cup or tankard, the Old United Counties' prize cup, won by Hyde ringers three times in succession, became their own property. Prize ringing finished in 1893. At Crewe, there is a ringers' jug preserved in the belfry, dated 1894. It is of highly glazed earthenware from the Albion Pottery, Burslem. Its circumference at the middle is 38

inches, at the neck 24 inches, height 12 inches, capacity 10 quarts. Besides the large handle there is a steadying nib on front. It is inscribed in gold in ‘copper plate’ style as follows:—

‘Presented to
The Crewe Society of Change Ringers
by
Mr. and Mrs. O. O. Rothwell,
Oak Farm Hotel, Crewe,
and a friend.’

Under the spout is a bell with cannons complete, and on other side is:—

‘Mr. Richard T. Holding.
Mr. G. Harding. Mr. A. Harding.
„ J. Wright. „ W. Evitts.
„ R. Langford. „ J. Davies.
„ A. Jarvis. „ J. Edwards.
„ A. Dudley. „ L. E. Fearn.’

In ‘The Ringing World’ of February 10th, 1939, p. 95, may be seen the very finely decorated ringers' jug of Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, together with some interesting items relating to it.

Oxford possesses a modern ringers' jug of white china, with two handles, having a capacity of 7 pints, inscribed:—

‘Presented to the Oxford Society of Change Ringers
By and with the compliments of George A. Smith,
Tunstall, Staffs. August, 1905.’

The lettering is in gold, and there is a gold ring round the top and bottom. On the reverse side is a picture of a Dutch steeple. Mr. G. A. Smith, the donor of this jug, took part in the late Rev. F. E. Robinson's 1,000th peal.

At Tawstock, Devon, is preserved a fine double-handled ringers' jug dated 1812. It is made of cloam, a clay dug in the neighbouring parish of Fremington, which still supplies raw material for Royal Barum ware. The jug is glazed a bright yellow, and on the front is the crude outline of a bell, inside which appears the following:—

1812.
‘Success to the hearty
Ringers of Tawstock
(then drawings of five bells).
The youngest ringers shall
carry the Jug.’

On the reverse at base, ‘E. Fishley, Fremington, 1850.’ The local ringers state that the latter date is in reference to repairing the jug, although to what extent is not known.

An old ringers' jug or pitcher, capable of holding 5 gallons, inscribed, ‘Grimley Ringers,’ after having been lost was ‘rescued’ by Mr. W. A. Sharp, of Hallow, Worcs.

RUISLIP.—At Bell Haven, Acacia Avenue, on Wednesday, September 30th, 720 Bob Minor as a birthday compliment to Brian, infant son of Corpl. ‘Ted’ Coward, on the occasion of his first anniversary: G. M. Kilby 1-2, Corpl. K. Arthur, R.A.F. (conductor) 3-4, Corpl. E. Coward, R.A.F. 5-6.

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NOTICES.

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NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, Oct. 31st. Handbells 3.30. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

CHRIST CHURCH, FRIEZLAND.—Saturday, Oct. 31st, 3 p.m. Practice on new silent apparatus, which gives correct striking. Good bus service from Stevanston Square, Manchester, to Greenfield Station. — H. Nutt, Royal George, Greenfield, near Oldham.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division. — A meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Cheshunt, on Oct. 31st, at 3 p.m. Silent tower bells and handbells. Short service at 4.30 p.m.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—A luncheon to commemorate the 305th anniversary will be held at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., on Saturday, Nov. 7th, at 1 p.m. Tickets 6s. 6d. each. Last day for receiving applications for tickets, Monday, Nov. 2nd. Business meeting and election of officers afterwards.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual committee meeting will be held at Hanley, on Saturday, November 7th, at 4 p.m. Handbells available. Tea will be arranged for all who notify Mr. G. Jones, 46, Harley Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, not later than November 3rd.—The fifth annual dinner will be held at the Borough Arms Hotel, Newcastle-under-Lyme, on Saturday, December 19th, at 7 p.m. Tickets, 5s. each, may be obtained on application, with remittance, to Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs, not later than November 28th.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Joint meeting, Stockport, Bowden and Mottram Branch and Macclesfield Branch, at St. Thomas', Norbury (Hazel Grove), Saturday, Nov. 14th. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea in the school 4 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. W. Fernley, 4, Grove Street, Hazel Grove, near Stockport, by Wednesday, Nov. 11th. Handbells during afternoon and evening.—T. Wilde and J. Worth, Hon. Dis. Secs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch. —The annual branch meeting will be held at Accrington on Saturday, November 14th. Silent tower bells and handbells from 2.30 p.m. Business meeting at 4 p.m. Business important. Election of officers. Bring your own refreshments, cups of tea provided. A good attendance is desirable.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—After October 31st, the address of Mr. Leslie Wright, hon. secretary of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex County Association, will be Cherry Green Farm, Broxted, Dunmow, Essex.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. and Mrs. D. Cooper is 51, Waddon Road, Croydon.

BIRTH.

COPE.—On Oct. 21st, 1942, at Dawn Nursing Home, Emsworth, Hants, to Barbara, wife of W. F. J. Cope, a daughter.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**MEETING AT RUGBY.**

At the ninety-seventh quarterly meeting of the Guild, held in the Church House, Rugby, on Saturday, October 17th, members were present from Chilvers Coton, Keresley, Nuneaton and Rugby.

Owing to the absence of the Master (Mr. J. H. W. White), Mr. H. Argyle was voted to the chair. The hon. secretary said she had made strenuous efforts to provide silent ringing at each of the towers where meetings had been held during the past six months, but had not met with any success for varying reasons.

Apologies for non-attendance were read from the Master (Mr. J. H. W. White), Mr. F. Pervin (Coventry), Mr. A. Grant (Rugby) and Mr. A. H. Beamish (Chilvers Coton).

Mr. W. Stote proposed that the November and December meetings should be dispensed with and the January quarterly meeting held at Bedworth, but this was not seconded. Mr. H. Webb proposed the holding of no meeting until the annual in April at Nuneaton or Chilvers Coton. Mr. Vann seconded this and it was carried.

The hon. secretary was asked to write letters of condolence from the Guild to the Rev. M. Melville (a former secretary) on the death of his mother, and to Mr. J. A. Fenton (also a former secretary) on the loss of his only son on active service in the Middle East.

A vote of thanks to the Rector for the use of the room for the meeting and to Mr. C. Underwood for making the necessary arrangements concluded the meeting.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The business at the meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths, held on Saturday, October 24th, was largely routine and consisted mainly of the nomination of officers and the election of auditors.

Mr. Deal stated that the Southwark Cathedral bells were still uncovered in the transepts, and asked if anything could be done. The treasurer said he thought the authorities were still waiting for a licence to proceed with the bricking up.

The Master welcomed Mr. George F. Swann, of Birmingham, Mr. F. Cole, of Gloucester, Mr. A. E. Hoare, of Poole, and Sergt.-Pilot Brian Wayman, R.A.F.

Mr. Cole brought greetings from Mr. A. R. Macdonald, and Mr. Roberts from Mr. J. T. Kentish. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, both before and after the meeting was very much appreciated.

The members present, besides the Master, secretary and treasurer, were Messrs. E. Jennings, G. N. Price, J. A. Trollope, E. A. Young, J. Chapman, C. Potheary, R. F. Deal, F. E. Collins, C. H. Kippin, R. Stannard, G. M. Kilby, H. Hoskins, C. C. Mayne, C. M. Meyer and C. W. Roberts. Two trustees, Messrs. H. R. Newton and H. G. Miles, were also present.

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'I have been looking at that admirable history of your society, written by Mr. Trollope. He bears a name famous already in literature, which he worthily supports.'—The Dean of St. Paul's.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6th, 1942.

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CO-OPERATION.

There is an old proverb which tells us that we should cut our garment according to our cloth, and it is advice we shall do well to pay heed to when the time for ringing comes once more. In other words, we should have some fairly clear idea of what means are at our disposal before we make plans about what we hope and intend to do.

Bells cannot be rung without ringers. They cannot be rung even moderately well without competent ringers; and so in calculating the possibilities of restarting the art in any tower, all recruits and learners must, for a time at any rate, be left out of consideration. But where are the competent ringers to come from? It takes six trained men to ring six bells well; five and a novice will not do; and the four best men in the land, though they will form a nucleus of a good band, are by themselves helpless.

There will, we fear, be many bands in that condition. It will, we hope, be a condition which will pass, and in some cases will pass fairly quickly; but while it lasts, be it for long or for short, it must be met.

But how? One of the best plans seems to be for bands to co-operate closely one with another. We do not mean the co-operation which consists of attending joint meetings and practices, or the occasional visits to neighbouring belfries. Something closer than that is called for, and when distance will permit (as it will in towns where there are more than one ring of bells) it would be well if there were an actual amalgamation of companies so that instead of two depleted bands vainly trying to carry on the ringing at two separate towers, one fairly competent band could serve alternately both churches.

A plan like this seems simple and almost obvious, but it would need a good deal of self-sacrifice and the giving up temporarily of some cherished ideals. Many ringers are attached to one particular church. They look on their band as part of the parochial organisation, and they would be just as reluctant to leave their own belfry for another, as an average chorister would be to leave his choir. Their first duty, they would feel, would be to their own church.

Such feelings are understandable and praiseworthy, but it is necessary to take the larger view, and in abnormal times ordinary considerations should not always prevail.

If bands give help to others, they will receive help in like measure, and the result of the combined effort will

(Continued on page 498.)

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be much more than the sum of the individual efforts. It will be far better, not merely from the point of view of the ringers themselves, but from that of the churches they serve, if the bells in any one tower are rung well once a fortnight, or once a month, than that they should be rung badly or indifferently every week. Every effort should be made to keep beginners away from the ropes on Sundays, at any rate until they have attained a reasonable amount of proficiency. It will not be an easy or an agreeable thing to do, for all ringers like to give every encouragement to learners and to offer them every opportunity of practising. But the one important thing we must keep in mind is the absolute necessity of seeing that the ringing after these years of silence is as good as it can be. The Exercise will be on its trial and, in many cases, especially in residential districts, a spell of bad ringing may easily result in the bells being silenced for years. That has happened in the past. It is far more likely to happen in the future.

The problem will, of course, be less acute in some places than in others, and in some fortunate, isolated towers will hardly exist at all. But, generally speaking, we feel certain it is the hardest problem which will confront the Exercise, and we make no apology for returning to it again and again.

HANDBELL PEALS.

RADLEY, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, October 25, 1942, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE SCHOOL HOUSE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings. Tenor size 14 in D.

*COLIN J. CORNWALL ... 1-2 | WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 3-4

MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 5-6

Conducted by MISS M. R. CROSS.

* First peal and first attempt. First member of Radley College Society to ring a peal.

RUISLIP, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, October 25, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT 46, ACACIA AVENUE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 13.

GEORGE M. KILBY ... 1-2 | ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 5-6

*KENNETH ARTHUR ... 3-4 | †EDWARD G. COWARD ... 7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First handbell peal. † First handbell peal of Triples.

DONINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(ELLOE DEANERIES BRANCH.)

On Sunday, October 25, 1942, in Two Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. P. MARKHAM.

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in G.

*PERCY MARKHAM ... 1-2 | CYRIL WANDER ... 3-4

*GERALD SHORT ... 5-6

Conducted by CYRIL WANDER.

* First peal 'in hand.' First peal 'in hand' by a local band.

COLCHESTER.—On Sunday, November 1st, at Severalls Hospital, by kind permission of the Medical Superintendent, 1,264 changes of Bob Major in 40 minutes: G. M. Rashbrook 1-2, A. Andrews 3-4, J. W. Keeble (composer and conductor) 5-6, W. Chalk 7-8.

**SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**

On Tuesday, October 27, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT GLYN GAETH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13 in E.

MISS ENID M. RICHARDSON	1-2	*MRS. R. RICHARDSON	... 5-6
RUPERT RICHARDSON	... 3-4	A. J. BRIAN WAYMAN	... 7-8

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.

* First peal in hand on an inside pair. First peal by the 'entire' family.

**LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**

On Wednesday, October 28, 1942, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes.

AT 57, THE HEADROW,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

MISS L. K. BOWLING	... 1-2	WILLIAM BARTON	... 5-6
PERCY J. JOHNSON	... 3-4	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY	7-8

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by WILLIAM BARTON

**BOURNEMOUTH.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.
(WIMBORNE BRANCH.)**

On Friday, October 30, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,

AT 11, EXTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 6040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 15 in C.

GERALD BROMLEY	... 1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS	... 5-5
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY	3-4	FRANCIS S. WILSON	... 7-8

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

**OXFORD.
THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.**

On Saturday, October 31, 1942, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*ROSALIND M. WRONG (Lady Margaret Hall)	... 1-2	WM. L. B. LEESE (S. John's)	5-6
JOHN E. SPICE (New Coll.)	3-4	†WILFRID F. MOREYON (St. John's)	... 7-8

Composed by M. J. MORRIS. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal on eight bells. † First attempt for a handbell peal.

**LEICESTER.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**

On Saturday, October 31, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

IN THE VICAR'S VESTRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5065 CHANGES;

Tenor size 19 in F.

GEO. STEDMAN MORRIS	... 1-2	PERCY L. HARRISON	... 5-6
HAROLD J. POOLE	... 3-4	J. FREDERICK MILNER	... 7-8
ERNEST MORRIS	... ..	... ..	9-10

Composed by F. W. PERRENS. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Arranged for J. F. Milner, of Southwell Minster, as his first peal of Stedman 'in hand.'

**BIRMINGHAM.
THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF
BIRMINGHAM.**

On Saturday, October 31, 1942, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOR STREET, CITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

FRANK E. PERVIN	... 1-2	J. FRANK SMALLWOOD	... 7-8
ALBERT WALKER	... 3-4	GEORGE F. SWANN	... 9-10
FRANK E. HAYNES	... 5-6	GEORGE E. FEARN	... 11-12

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

THE MUSIC OF CHANGE RINGING.—An expert band of ringers secures perfect precision in the striking. This, together with the full tone of the bell in the whole swing, the ever changing notes, the continuity, and the mingling sounds, constitutes the indescribable charm of good change ringing. In many ways the succession of sounds has no real musical significance, but the indefinite rhythmic tonal progression is fascinating.—W. W. Starmer, in Groves' 'Dictionary of Music.'

**FABIAN STEDMAN
AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES.**

(Continued from page 489.)

Dr. Burney was in error in thinking that the 'Tintinnalogia' suggested the Five Bell Consorte to John Jenkins. That piece was published in 1662, six years before Duckworth's book appeared, and indeed Jenkins got his knowledge of ringing at first hand. He was one of the last to hold office in the Society of Cheap-side Scholars, and when that company broke up in 1662, he joined the College Youths and held the office of steward in 1669. Ten years later he was elected master, but he could not have served, for he was now an old man and had retired to Norfolk, where he died.

John Jenkins was born at Maidstone in 1592, and is said to have been the earliest English composer of instrumental music. He was attached to the court of King Charles the First, and during the Commonwealth lived in the houses of some country gentlemen, chiefly with Sir Hamon L'Estrange at Hunstanton, and with Lord North at Kirtling. Roger North says of him, 'I was instituted by that eminent master of his time, Mr. Jenkins. He was a person of much easier temper than any of his faculty. He was neither conceited nor morose, but much of a gentleman, and had a good sort of wit.' In another place he calls him 'a little man with a great heart.'

Anthony Wood, who also had studied with him, says 'he was the mirror and wonder of the age for music.'

After the Restoration John Jenkins and John Lilly were appointed musicians in ordinary to Charles the Second, at a salary of £40 a year. Jenkins was a prolific composer of light music. All his earliest and most lively works are lost and forgotten and he lived long enough to see himself outrun and antiquated; but some of his catches and the Five Bell Consorte (the full title of which is The Lady Katherine Audley's Bells) were printed. Dr. Burney thought enough of it to give it in his history, and it has been reproduced by Dr. J. J. Raven in his 'Bells of England,' and by Mr. Ernest Morris in his 'History and Art of Change Ringing.'

Dr. Burney's statement that Mersennus in his 'Harmonie Universelle' had enumerated and reduced to musical notation the 'changes of the hexachord' made me wonder whether there was any rudimentary system of producing changes given in that French writer's book, but I could find nothing, nor even trace what Burney was referring to.

The 'Tintinnalogia,' though small, was not a cheap book. It was leather bound and a considerable number of copies would have to be sold to make it a financial success. For the bulk of his customers Stedman would rely on his friends among the College Youths and the Esquire Youths, and as soon as the book came out he wrote to the leading provincial bands, and in some cases made personal visits to sell it and incidentally to promote the spread of change ringing. On Whit Monday, May 11th, 1668, he wrote to the bellringers of Leicester introducing the book, and explaining to them the desirability of establishing a society of scholars for setting forth the arts and mysteries of change ringing, not only for the edifying of their minds, but also for their enjoyment and the healthful exercise of their bodies, and he expressed his desire, with Almighty God permitting, to

(Continued on next page.)

FABIAN STEDMAN

(Continued from previous page.)

visit their city at a time appointed, when he hoped for the pleasure of their goodwill and company.

It was not until the September of the following year that he actually visited Leicester, but when he did, the ringers received him right royally. It was fair time and there were many strangers in the town. First the gentlemen ringers entertained their guest to 'swete musick' at the different churches, especially at St. Margaret's, where a heavy ring of six had lately been hung. Then, on the Saturday, the young ringers entertained him at St. Mary's, and that same evening there was a supper and a social meeting at Maister Baker's, ye Angell, where both the gentlemen and the young ringers entertained him. The sum of £1 16s. 8d. was 'spent for meates, wines, beere, tobacco, and pipes, etc.' On Sunday, after morning service at St. Martin's Church, Mr. Stedman entertained them all at his inn near the High Cross, and afterwards in the great chamber or gallery he gave a lecture on change ringing. His audience consisted of the gentlemen and young ringers, with many others, clergy and gentlemen, who were mightily pleased with it, and it was near seven o'clock in the evening before they departed to their homes.

At ten o'clock the next day Stedman left the town, and his hosts, gentlemen and youths, accompanied him a mile 'beyond ye conduit spring hill, and so gave him their farewell in his journey towards Harbrow.'

No doubt these pleasant scenes were repeated at other large towns, though no record has come down to us. Most likely at Nottingham, an early centre of the art whence Stedman drew material for his second book; probably at Norwich and Ipswich, the two chief towns of the Eastern Counties, where change ringing flourished long before the close of the century. But no visit was paid to Oxford, which is rather a pity, for Anthony Wood would certainly have known of it and we should have had an interesting account of Stedman and his work in the diary. But no doubt Duckworth's influence was sufficient to push the sale of the 'Tintinnalogia' among Oxford ringers, and it is not likely that they needed a Cambridge man to tell them how to ring.

Richard Duckworth lived to be an old man. Though his name does not appear on the title page of the 'Tintinnalogia,' there was no secret among his contemporaries that he was the author. As we have seen, both Anthony Wood and Thomas Hearne mentioned it in their writings, and later in the century Lord Chancellor Bathurst, in a conversation with Nollekens, the sculptor, referred to 'a curious little book, I think by Richard Duckworth, entitled "Tintinnalogia," and the conversation was recorded by J. T. Smith in his life of Nollekens, published in the early years of the nineteenth century. Many years later the then rector of Steeple Aston, writing to 'Notes and Queries,' remarked that the only one of his predecessors who had done anything particular was a man named Richard Duckworth, who had written a book on bellringing, entitled 'Tintinnalogia.' But by that time ringers had become firmly convinced of Stedman's authorship, and Ellacombe, in a reply, said there was not the slightest doubt he had written the book. Finally, the 'Dictionary of National Biography' gives a short account of Duckworth on the grounds that he was

the author. He, in fact, is the only man noticed by that great work just because he was a ringer.

Apparently the 'Tintinnalogia' sold well, for in 1671 a second edition was called for. This was the edition Anthony Wood knew of. It was a replica of the first edition except that it was 'printed for F.S. and are to be sold by Thomas Archert at his shop under the Dial of St. Dunstan's Church, Fleet Street, 1671.'

In the year 1677 an edition was published of a book called 'A Rich Cabinet, with Variety of Inventions,' 'unlock'd and opened for the Recreation of Ingenious Spirits at their vacant Hours.' The original author was J. White, 'a lover of artificial conclusions.' The book has no literary value, and its nature is sufficiently indicated by its title. It evidently was popular among a certain class of people, for no fewer than seven editions were published between 1651 and 1715. The 1677 edition is interesting to us because it contains a chapter on ringing. The title page is similar to that of the earlier editions, and then is added—'Likewise directions for ringing the most useful peals that belong to that Art. Collected by J.W., a lover of artificial conclusions.' The fifth edition, with many additions. London. Printed for William Whitwood at the sign of the Golden Bell in Duck Lane, near Smithfield, 1677.'

Who White was I do not know. Probably after the first edition he had nothing more to do with the book. Whitwood, to whom he sold the copyright, issued reprints as they were required, and the chapter on ringing was the work of a hack writer who knew nothing about the art.

For it is a most unblushing piece of piracy. The writer heads his chapter—'Exact Rules for Ringing all sorts of Plain Changes and Cross Peals, with easie Directions for everything which necessarily belongs to the Compleat Art of Ringing.' He then proceeds to copy out some of the first part of the 'Tintinnalogia.' Duckworth is followed closely, but an attempt is made to disguise the theft by slightly altering the wording.

Duckworth wrote—'On six Bells there are Seven-hundred and twenty Changes to be made; but there are Peals of Six-score and Twelve-score Changes to be rang on them. The Six-score Changes are to be made by observing a whole hunt and half hunt, which are to be hunted in the same course as in the Six-score on five bells, and the Extreame Changes to be made by the same rule as they were on five bells.'

'White' copied this as follows—'Now let us come to the Changes on Six Bells which are found by Ringing Artists to be seven hundred and twenty, and there are peals of Six-score and Twelve-score Changes to be rung on them. The Six-score Changes are to be rung by observing a Whole Hunt and a half Hunt, which you must hunt after the same manner as you hunt the six-score Changes on five bells. And the extreame Changes to be made by the same Rule as is afore exprest.'

Slight as is the verbal alteration, it is enough to spoil the passage. The substitution of the word 'and' for Duckworth's 'but' shows that the writer did not understand what he was copying; to talk of hunting the changes is nonsense; and the cleancut economical style of the 'Tintinnalogia' is lost in unmeaning verbosity. Throughout the language of the 'Tintinnalogia' is altered in the same way, and the result has a value, for it shows by contrast how excellent Duckworth's style really is.

After having copied about forty pages of the 'Tintinnalogia,' which included all that by 1677 had become obsolete and of no practical value, 'White' gets tired of his job, or perhaps he had filled up as many pages as Whitworth had paid him for. He then goes on—'Having given you these short yet easie Directions for all sorts of plain and single Changes, I should proceed to Cross Peals, as Doubles and Singles on four Bells, the Twelve-score Long Hunts or the Esquire's Twelve-score, Doubles and Singles on Five Bells, Tendring's Six-score on five Bells, Paradox on five Bells, London Pleasure on five bells, What you Please, Doubles and Singles on five Bells, New Doubles, Old Doubles, Grandsire Bob, and several other Peals which will take up too much time, wherefore I shall refer the Reader to his own and others' practise for further information.'

The thing is a fraud, for having professed to give directions for everything which necessarily belongs to ringing, and also how to hang bells, he tries to fob off his reader with some out of date stuff and a list of the methods in the 'Tintinnalogia.' As for the hanging of bells he never got any further than Duckworth's title page.

The chapter appears only in the edition of 1677, but in 1698 a book was published under the name of 'Tintinnalogia' by G. Conyers which apparently was pirated from this pirated book. It is practically a reprint of 'White's' chapter on ringing, and has also directions for making artificial fireworks and for gardening. There is added 'an excellent receipt to make a valuable Liquor agreeable to all Constitutions.'

The worthlessness of the book as a text book on ring-

ing is shown not only by the fact that when it was published it was long since out of date, but also by the claim that 'perhaps the like had never been done before'—a pretty cool claim for a book which was a barefaced copy of a book which was itself a barefaced copy. It is said to have been written by 'J.W. and other members of that Society,' but, of course, there was no such person. The original J. White had long since disappeared; so far as there was any author at all, he was one of the hack writers employed by the printer, and it is not at all likely that he knew anything about ringing. The reference to 'that Society' is only a meaningless echo of the dedication of the 'Tintinnalogia' to the Society of College Youths. White's 'Tintinnalogia' is now a rare book. A perfect copy, which once belonged to Osborn, is in the British Museum, a copy not quite perfect is in W. C. Pearson's collection, and another in the Central Council library.

(To be continued.)

HAPPY REUNION AT HUGHENDEN.

An enjoyable practice was held at Hughenden on Saturday, October 24th, when a number of ringers met to welcome, and ring with, Mr. Roland Biggs, home on leave from Ireland.

Numerous touches of Grandsire Triples and Caters, Stedman Triples and Plain Bob Royal were rung, Mrs. R. Biggs also taking part in the ringing.

During the evening, the Rev. S. A. C. Dickins, who was recently inducted to the living of St. Michael and All Angels', Hughenden, came to meet the ringers. He took a keen interest in the ringing, and expressed a desire to take up the art.

On Saturday, October 10th, at the above church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1,260 changes, was rung in 47 minutes by Harry Wingrove 1-2, Walter Lee 3-4, Dorothy Fletcher 5-6, Frederick Biggs 7-8. Rung as a compliment to the Rev. S. A. C. Dickins on his appointment to the living.

It was Mr. Biggs' first quarter-peal on handbells, Mr. Wingrove's first in the method as conductor, and the first in the method on handbells by the two others.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The many friends of Mr. James Parker, of Edmonton, and Mrs. G. W. Fletcher will be sorry to hear that Mrs. Parker is suffering from a somewhat severe illness. Mrs. Parker, who celebrated her 80th birthday a fortnight ago, is well known among ringers.

Congratulations to Mr. William H. Barber, who reached his 67th birthday last Wednesday.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Elson, who are celebrating their golden wedding.

The noble ring of twelve bells at St. Paul's Cathedral was rung for the first time on November 1st, 1878.

The Norwich Scholars rang 6,160 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major at St. Michael, Coslany, on November 1st, 1831, 'which by reason of the intricacy of the composition might be properly called a performance of first rate eminence, and with respect to the superiority of striking it was no less worthy of notice.'

What seems to have been the first peal of Plain Bob Caters was rung on November 2nd, 1751, at Leeds in Kent by James Barham's band. The unusual number of changes, 6,480, is accounted for by the fact that the composition evidently was Annable's peal of Bob Major or one of the variations of it which at the time were popular.

On November 2nd, 1891, at St. John's, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Mr. C. L. Routledge called the first peal of Woodbine Treble Bob Major. Mr. William Story rang the fourth.

Eight years ago this week the Australian tourists were in Tasmania. They rang Kent Treble Bob on November 3rd and Bob Major on November 6th, both at Holy Trinity Church, Hobart. Mr. George Martin called one and Mr. Rupert Richardson the other.

William Pye called the first and only peal in three Spliced Surprise Major methods at Pinner on November 3rd, 1930.

The first peal on the heavy ring at Wells Cathedral was rung on November 4th, 1891, and on the same date in 1932 the first peal of Helmingham Surprise Major was rung at Helmingham.

On November 5th, 1821, the Huddersfield company rang 5,040 Oxford Treble Bob Triples. 'The peal was gone through in a most magnificent style. Likewise 5,152 changes of Superlative Surprise at the first attempt, making a total of 10,192 changes in five hours and fifty-six minutes.' Benjamin Thackrah composed and called the peals and they were the first in both methods.

Twenty years later on the same date the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Triples was rung at Liversedge.

The first peal of Surrey Surprise Major was rung at Holy Trinity, Guildford, on November 5th, 1930, and the first peal of Verulam Surprise Major at Bushey on November 5th, 1938.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN JAGGER.

We much regret to announce the death of Mr. John Jagger, who passed away peacefully last Friday at the age of 81 after a long illness. In his young days Mr. Jagger was a member of the famous company at Burton-on-Trent, which was the earliest of the modern bands who have made the practice of Surprise Major ringing a regular feature of Sunday and peal ringing. The funeral was last Tuesday.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE S. ROWE.

The death is announced of Mr. George S. Rowe, one of the older members of the band at Debenham, Suffolk, where he had lived all his life. Mr. Rowe had been in failing health for a year or more, but was able to get about until Tuesday, October 13th, when he had a seizure and passed away on the 18th without regaining consciousness. He was 69 years of age and had rung about 80 peals, most of which were for the old Norwich Diocesan Association.

He did not ring many peals in his later years, but attended service ringing until the ban was imposed. He was a good striker and could handle a heavy bell very well.

The funeral at Debenham on Wednesday, the 21st, was attended by members of various public bodies with which Mr. Rowe had been connected. He leaves a widow and ten children, all of whom are married.

Mr. Rowe was in business as a tailor, at first in partnership with Mr. Curtis, and for the last 20 years on his own account. In 1904 he became a member of Debenham Parish Council, and in April, 1926, was elected chairman. He became a member of the old Bosmere and Claydon Rural Council, and continued to represent the parish when the Gipping Rural Council was formed.

In 1911 he undertook the secretaryship of the Debenham Athletic Sports Club, which rose to a high place in the athletic world. He was elected to the Executive Committee of the Suffolk County A.A.A. and was one of the official judges of that body. A Trustee of the Star of Suffolk Court of the Ancient Order of Foresters and also of the Framlingham District, he was at one time District Chief Ranger. He was also a keen member of the Hartismere Lodge of Freemasons, passing the office of Master, and, in the wider sphere of Provincial work he was a P. Prov. Grand Standard Bearer. In addition, he was a governor of the local school, a trustee and governor of the Wentworth-Gurney Charity.

SPORT AND CHURCH WORK.

THEN AND NOW.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Although it may be true to describe ringing as a sport of the 17th and 18th centuries, very few ringers will agree that it is a 20th century sport.

Modern sport covers a very wide variety of pursuits, including racing, boxing, tennis, soccer and rugger, and, on the indoor side, billiards, darts, etc. All of them are highly competitive and most of them more or less commercialised.

It can hardly be said that either of the above factors are common to ringing. About nine out of every ten peals are rung purely for the satisfaction of the band concerned and there is happily no commercial element in ringing.

The passing of years has brought about great changes in the attitude of the people to most things, and sport is no exception. Most sports of a couple of centuries ago have disappeared completely or have been modified very considerably to suit modern ideas. In their original form many of them would be looked on with horror at the present time.

Ringing has changed very little and certainly has not disappeared, and surely we have some justification for believing that one of the reasons for its survival is that it has moved to a higher level, where it is not necessary to have a highly competitive or pecuniary motive to make it worth while.

Surely it is up to us to try to maintain and improve this 'elevation in status' and not insist that we are still sporting men of the 17th and 18th centuries. J. E. BAILEY.

20, Swaisland Road, Dartford, Kent.

THE WORD SPORT.

Sir,—Those who object to the use of the word 'sport' as applied to change ringing had better refer to their dictionaries: they will find a variety of meanings and not a few perfectly applicable. In the biological world the word is used to denote a variation in species from a normal. F. A. YORKE.

27, North Bailey, Durham.

WHEN IS RINGING CHURCH WORK?

Sir,—No one so far seems to have raised what appears to me to be the two main questions on this subject—under what conditions and when is ringing a 'sport' and when is it church work?

There are those who would argue and claim that if you ring a 'touch' before a divine service it is 'church work,' but if you ring a peal it is sport. With these people I cannot quite see 'eye to eye,' for in my humble judgment there can be no hard and fast rule on this point, indeed I know of no rule either with any association or ecclesiastical authorities which stipulates a certain number of changes as 'church work' and another certain number as 'sport'; therefore, we come next to the conditions under which that number of changes (be it long or short) is rung. Many times when bells have been rung on a weekday I have heard passers-by and people living in the immediate neighbourhood ask, 'What are the bells ringing for?' Some I have known to go out of their way to find out whether there is a service on, whether there is a wedding ceremony and so on. If they find that there is something of the kind they go away with a contented mind, and to the 'man-in-the-street' ringing under such conditions is looked upon as a piece of church work. Sunday is the one day to him when he looks to hearing the bells the most, and the thought of ringers ringing for sport is practically disbanded from his mind.

Anything in the nature of long touches or peals should as far as possible, therefore, be confined to Sundays, or if on a weekday to occasions of weddings, special divine services, etc., in order to avoid such ringing being classified as sport. The man-in-the-street to a very large degree (and by that I include churchpeople themselves) who is not a ringer is the final judge on this issue, and it is his sympathy which we must win, and whose support to a large extent we are dependent upon for the upkeep of our bells in order to keep our art in existence.

Finally, there comes the question—what about practising to perfect oneself? Is that 'church work' or is it 'sport'? In this connection, as far as weekday ringing is concerned, it might be said that both terms can apply, but, broadly speaking, much more use might be made of handbell practice, and district meetings where a divine service is included at which the public could be invited to attend and see things for themselves by the simple announcement of the service by the incumbent on the Sunday previous—after all, parsons never mind going out of their way to announce a service of some other guild or union, so why object to announcing one of ringers? Much of the abuse from the outside public under such circumstances would then never arise. P. AMOS.

Northampton.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

A PEAL AT WEST BROMWICH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A paragraph in 'Belfry Gossip' a few weeks ago, referring to a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major rung at West Bromwich on September 15th, 1847, composed and conducted by Samuel Marsh, caused me to look among some old papers that used to belong to my grandfather, Paul Cashmore, when I came across the following account of the first peal rung on eight bells in that tower, just 100 years ago, and which I thought might be of interest:—

On Tuesday, November 8, 1842, the All Saints' Society of Change Ringers, West Bromwich, Rang upon the Bells of the Parish Church, a True and Complete Peal of Grandsire Triples, Containing 5,040 Changes, Being the first true and complete Peal yet rung upon the above Bells since their augmentation to a Peal of Eight in July last. The above Peal was completed in a Masterly Style, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes, and consisted of 194 Bobs, and 46 Singles, and was conducted by Mr. Samuel Marsh. The Band as stationed: Sampson Marsh, Treble; Paul Cashmore, 2nd; Edward Marsh, 3rd; John Harris, 4th; Joseph Bourne, 5th; Samuel Marsh, 6th; John Noak, 7th; John Green, Tenor.

The record is printed on quarto size paper, now yellow with age, and no fewer than ten different sizes and styles of type were used in its make-up.

Paul Cashmore was my maternal grandfather, and the three Marshes were great-uncles.

My mother, Paul Cashmore's youngest and only surviving daughter, now in her 88th year, still enjoys reasonably good health.

The eight bells on which this peal was rung were recast in 1917 by Taylors, of Loughborough.

A. PADDON SMITH,

Master of St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham.

Donnor, 16, Wellington Road, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham 20.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT LIVERPOOL.

A meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, on Saturday, October 24th, and members were present from Huyton, Bebington, Oxtown, Childwall, Great Crosby, Oughton, Edge Hill, St. Luke's, Liverpool, and the local company.

Handbells were rung in the vestry both before service and after tea. In addition to a touch of 504 Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Grandsire Triples and Stedman and Grandsire Caters were brought round. The Rev. R. Ambrose Reeves, the Rector, conducted the service in the west vestry and presided at the meeting. The Rev. Leslie Evans, curate of St. Nicholas', and the Rev. D. P. Roberts, Vicar of St. Catherine's, Edge Hill, were also present.

Mr. J. W. Evans, of Oxtown, was elected a non-resident life member of the association, and after a discussion as to where and when the next meeting should be held, the Rector very kindly invited the members to St. Nicholas', and November 21st was the date chosen.

The Rev. D. P. Roberts voiced the thanks of the company to the Rector for his kind hospitality and cordial welcome. The Rector, in reply, said what pleasure he had derived from the visit and how pleased he was to entertain members of the association. He promised to convey to the ladies warm thanks for their efforts in arranging the tea.

The presence of Lieut. Purdom, of Erith, Mr. Sam Jones, of Chester, and Mr. John Brown, of Aughton, who is now serving with the Royal Marines, gave great pleasure to the company.

RINGERS' EPITAPHS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As a supplement to Mr. Ernest Morris' records of ringers' jugs and pitchers, a collection of ringers' epitaphs would, as Mr. Sedgley says, be 'interesting.'

In Horringer, otherwise Horningheath, churchyard is a headstone to the late Harry Turner, some time licensee of the Rose and Crown, Bury St. Edmunds, as follows:

'Whene'er the sweet church bell
Peals over hill and dell,
May Jesus Christ be praised.'

Being the first three lines of the second verse of the hymn, 'When morning gilds the skies,' by E. Caswall, Ancient and Modern, No. 303.

GEORGE E. SYMONDS.

57, Mornington Avenue, Ipswich.

ST. PETER'S COLLEGE, RADLEY.

A ringing society was formed at St. Peter's College, Radley, during 1939, its prime object being to ring for college services at the Parish Church. Until the ban stress was laid on the correct handling and striking of a bell and not on change ringing. After the ban the boys began to ring handbells before the college services and still continue to do so. Besides service ringing the society has taken part in college dramatic productions and carol services. At the present time all the members can ring Bob Minor and Grandsire Triples.

The president of the society is Canon J. L. C. Dart, who was British Chaplain in Paris until the fall of France, and B. K. Barber, of Morgan's, is the secretary.

STAINBANK v. BECKETT.

A LAW ACTION ABOUT BIG BEN.

Once or twice lately in our account of Lord Grimthorpe we have referred to an action against him for libel, in which he was condemned to pay £200 damages and costs. It was brought by Robert Stainbank, who at the time owned the Whitechapel Foundry, and as the names of many of the men involved are well known to ringers, and as the action turned largely on the casting of Big Ben and the cause of it being cracked, the evidence will still be read with a great deal of interest.

We have already told something about the defendant, Sir Edmund Beckett, afterwards Lord Grimthorpe, and have given some of his opinions about bells. Robert Stainbank, the plaintiff, was a native of Nottingham, and was in business in a large way as a timber merchant. At one time he contemplated buying 'The Daily Telegraph' when the fortunes of that paper were at an ebb, but instead in 1861 he entered into partnership with George Mears, the last of the family to control the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Stainbank died on January 24th, 1883, and was buried at Boston in Lincolnshire.

LETTERS TO 'THE TIMES.'

The libel complained of consisted of some passages in letters to 'The Times' in the year 1878, when the proposals for a new ring of bells for St. Paul's were being discussed, and among them were the following:—

'Though I do not profess to write about dominants and minor thirds, or to guess how a Belgian bellfounder would probably begin to re-tune this peal, I have no hesitation in saying that no modern Belgian bells which have come over here and heard in public are superior or equal to the best English ones, though they are superior to such as used to be made by the English firm which had a practical monopoly of the business until about 20 years ago. Of course, I agree with Mr. Haweis about the present condition of Big Ben of Westminster, which is a disgrace to the nation, as it was to its founders, and as their York bell was still more, and as the clock bells of St. Paul's were to their predecessors, and Tom of Oxford to its maker, which is the worst of all the great ones.'

Bells without number, which moreover were never cast for it with a properly adapted crown, have been ringing for years and centuries with bolts through their crowns to hold in the clappers when the bells have been turned in the stock, before I introduced the now common practice (except I believe at the oldest and worst of the foundries in England) of having the clapper bolt independent of the bell.'

The plaintiff alleged that the publication of these statements had seriously damaged him in his business. The defendant admitted having published the letters, but denied they were published of the plaintiff in his trade or business, the plaintiff at the time of the founding of the bell not being a member of the firm who founded it—viz., Messrs. Charles and George Mears. He further contended that the words complained of, in so far as they referred to the firm of C. and G. Mears and to the casting of the bell, were fair comment on a matter of public interest and were true in substance and fact.

The action was tried on June 27th, 1881, and the following six days in the old Lord's Justice's Court before Mr. Baron Huddleston and a special jury.

DISTINGUISHED COUNSEL.

Both sides were represented by leading counsel. Mr. Charles Russell, Q.C., M.P., Mr. W. G. Harrison, Q.C., and Mr. Hilbery appeared for the plaintiff. Sir John Holker, Q.C., M.P., and Mr. Francis Jeune appeared for the defence.

Sir John Walter Huddleston, the judge, who was born in 1815 and died in 1890, was the last of the Barons of the Exchequer, the title borne by the judges of one of the divisions into which the judicature for centuries was divided.

Charles Russell, who afterwards became Sir Charles, and, later, Baron Russell of Killowen and Lord Chief Justice of England, was generally acknowledged to be the leading advocate of his time and one of the most successful cross-examiners in the history of the Bar. Judging from the reports (a not very conclusive test), his great gifts do not seem to have been much in evidence in *Stainbank v. Beckett*. He appears to have been a little afraid of the great reputation of the defendant, and to have aimed at securing a verdict rather than at getting heavy damages.

Sir John Holker had been Solicitor General and Attorney General, and afterwards was appointed a Lord Justice.

Francis Henry Jeune, the son of a Bishop of Peterborough, was a distinguished ecclesiastical lawyer and chancellor of several dioceses. He afterwards made a great reputation as the first Judge of the Divorce Court and was created Baron St. Helier.

Mr. Russell, opening the plaintiff's case, after regretting that he had to appear against so distinguished a member of his own profession, said that the defendant had interested himself in clocks and bells and especially in the clock and bells of Westminster. More than 20 years before, the strictures he passed on the founders of the bell had led to an action for libel by the late George Mears, and now that he was dead, the defamatory statements were repeated and reiterated without regard for charity or common generosity. Mr. Stainbank joined the firm of Mears in 1861, in whose name it had

been carried on since 1782. It was, in fact, started in 1570 and was the oldest in the kingdom.

A firm of that character had a continued identity. When a peal of bells was ordered they went out with the name of Mears upon them. If at any subsequent time they wanted repair, they were sent to Mears' foundry, which was now the plaintiff's.

After the first Big Ben was condemned a contract was made with the firm of Mears for the second bell. The defendant designed it, and it was to be made to the approval of the defendant and the Rev. W. Taylor. The bell was cast on April 18th, 1858. It had an indent in its surface, which, by order of the Government officials, was filled up. Soon after, it developed a crack upon the side of the soundbow opposite to that struck by the hammer, at the point where two currents of vibration attained their greatest force. The hammer used, with which the firm had nothing to do, was one of 7 cwt., and it was the opinion of some experts that the too great weight of the hammer was the cause of the crack. However, the 7 cwt. hammer was removed, and one of 4 cwt. was substituted and had been in use for more than 20 years.

On the discovery of the crack, the defendant was attacked and defended himself in the newspapers. When Messrs. Mears brought an action against him for libel, the defendant justified, but afterwards withdrew his plea of justification, and the case was withdrawn from the jury upon the terms of the defendant retracting all charges made by him against Mr. Mears, and paying all costs incurred.

An inquiry was instituted into the state of the bell, and as a result the hammer was reduced in weight and the bell swung round so that the crack should not be opposite to the hammer. Years went by, and in 1878 a new controversy arose. In a letter to 'The Times' in 1878 the phrase 'the oldest and worst foundry in England' undoubtedly referred to the plaintiff's foundry, as he believed would be admitted by the defendant himself in the witness box.

HOW THE BELL WAS CAST.

The first witness was Mr. John Mears. He said he had been manager under his brother, but had not had anything to do with the foundry for many years. He described the casting of Big Ben. The proportions of the metals were according to contract, 22 of copper to 7 of tin. The metal was first run into ingots and submitted to the defendant. Melting was done in three furnaces by a wood fire, and the molten metal was run into one reservoir. The metal was the best obtainable, and the defendant had said that the bell had a freer tone than the old one.

Cross-examined by Sir John Holker, the witness said he had never heard of any holes being stopped up. If there were any they would have been noticed when the bell was hung.

When the Court assembled on the second day counsel for the plaintiff intimated that he proposed to call evidence of the construction of Big Ben, of the nature of the cracks and cavities which had been found on the surface, and of the causes of these defects. Sir John Holker objected to the relevance of this evidence, but after a prolonged discussion did not press his objection.

Edward Thomas Loeby, clock and watch maker of Leicester, said he had seen Big Ben before the cracks were discovered, and had closely examined it afterwards. He took casts of the holes or cavities upon the surface, which he now produced. The cracks were discovered by covering the bell with acid: when the bell was struck a stream of air bubbles showed themselves along the line of the cracks. There were three cracks of 6in., 7½in. and 18in. in length respectively. They would not have been noticed but by wetting the bell. The hammer formerly struck opposite the 7½in. crack. Bells are never of uniform thickness all round; there is a variance of one-twentieth of an inch at least, and in comparison of that variance these small holes were of no importance.

Cross-examined by Mr. Jeune, witness admitted that he had a controversy with the defendant in 1851. The defendant was chairman of the horological jury at the Exhibition of 1851, very much to the regret of the exhibitors in that section. He gave satisfaction to nobody.

THE COMPOSITION OF THE METAL.

Mr. John Imray, consulting engineer and founder, said the proportion of 22 of copper to 7 of tin would make a hard brittle bell-metal, and in the course of setting, the tin being the lighter metal, would be found in greater quantity upon the upper surfaces, especially upon the upper surfaces of the sound bow. He examined the bell in 1859 and again in April, 1881. As far as he could see the cracks were unchanged since 1859. He considered the casting an excellent one.

Cross-examined by Mr. Jeune: It was physically impossible that the metal in this case should have been otherwise than porous, unless the metal cracked.

Jabez James, civil and mechanical engineer, said he was the contractor for raising Big Ben to the tower. He saw the bell when it was cast and, considering its size, thought it was an excellent casting. At the same time, he thought the proportions of copper and tin were dangerous and told the defendant so.

Henry Hart, foreman to Mr. James, considered the casting a good one. He was told to bronze the bell with nitric acid.

Several witnesses testified to the excellence of the bells cast to their orders at the Whitechapel Foundry. Among them was the Rev. Francis E. Robinson.

(Continued on next page.)

STAINBANK v. BECKETT.

(Continued from previous page.)

Matthew A. Wood, examined by Mr. Russell, said he had rung at St. Paul's, Bow Church, St. Michael's and All Hallows', London, and also at Yarmouth, St. Gabriel's, Pimlico, St. Peter's, Norwich, and St. Stephen's, Rochester Row, and had assisted at the opening of many peals of bells, many of them coming from the Whitechapel Foundry. He had also rung on Warners' bells, Taylors' bells and others; he decidedly gave Mears' bells the preference, big or little.

Cross-examined, witness said he thought the words 'oldest and worst' were intended to apply to the Whitechapel Foundry. He had no doubt that Mears' was the best foundry, not the worst. Some of the others were 'not in it' at all. They might make one good bell, but casting a peal was another matter.

Mr. Jeune: Mears' are much the best?—Yes.
Of Warners' and Taylors', which is the better of the two?—Warners'.

Messrs. Taylors' are the worst?—I did not say that. You asked me which was the better of the two.

James Dwight, of the College Youths, gave similar evidence. William Read, solicitor, of North Shields, and president of the Durham Association of Change Ringers, examined by Mr. Russell, said he had examined a great many peals of bells throughout the country. Several in the north were supplied or augmented by the Whitechapel Foundry and they had given the greatest satisfaction. In his opinion the bells coming from that firm had a distinctness of tone which no others possessed.

THE PLAINTIFF'S EVIDENCE.

S. B. Goslin, manager to Warners', described the process of casting. He said that the rising of the tin during the setting could be prevented by certain measures, but he would rather not say what those measures were. He thought Big Ben had not been properly cooled. He would have taken away the sand from the cope of the mould at an earlier stage.

Robert Stainbank said he joined the firm in 1861, but his name did not appear in the style of the firm until 1865. He had in his possession a continuous history of the firm since 1570. He frequently got letters addressed to him as Mears and Co. or C. and G. Mears, and was often personally addressed as Mr. Mears. The proportion of tin to copper in Big Ben was higher than he would have wished, but it was fixed by contract.

Cross-examined by Sir John Holker: He was especially aggrieved by these libels, because they were reiterations of statements made 20 years ago, and they were injurious to himself and the foundry of which he was the owner.

Sir John Holker addressed the jury on behalf of the defendant and referred to the casting of the two Big Bens and the old action for libel, *Mears v. Beckett*. It was not the case that his client had waited till Mr. Mears was dead before renewing the attack. He would ask the jury to say there was no proof of damage to the plaintiff.

Dr. Percy said he had at the request of the Government made several reports upon Big Ben. He had no practical experience, but expected there was great difficulty in obtaining homogeneity, especially in a large casting where some of the metal cooled before the rest.

Cross-examined: It was a common thing to fill up small holes on the surface of castings; that might be seen in the paws of the lions of the Nelson column.

SOME LOUGHBOROUGH BELLS.

John W. Taylor, bell founder, of Loughborough, said he had cast bells of 6½ tons without any difficulty, and was now preparing to cast one of 14 tons for St. Paul's. It was quite possible to cast a homogeneous bell. Porosity was very prejudicial to tone.

Cross-examined: He knew that the Manchester bell was cracked. That was due to the weight of the hammer, which was 4 cwt. There was no fault in the casting. It was possible to conceal holes unless they were suspected and scratched for.

Sir Edmund Beckett, the defendant, was examined by Mr. Jeune. He said he had great experience in bells, and was consulted about the first Big Ben. He was appointed with the Rev. Mr. Taylor to approve the present Big Ben when cast. Without their approval there was, according to the contract, to be no payment for the casting. Many experiments had been made by him and at the School of Mines to discover the best proportion of tin to copper. Portions of Tom of Lincoln and other old bells were analysed, and finally the proportion of 7 to 22 was fixed upon as likely to give sufficient softness to prevent cracking and sufficient hardness to ensure a sonorous tone. In the old bells there was more of tin in proportion. He was not

(Continued in next column.)

THE BAN ON RINGING.

However much we may regret the imposition of the ban, we shall do well to reconcile ourselves to the silence of our bells until the day of victory, and though we may feel that it was a mistake in the first instance, it would probably be as great a mistake to remove it now. It is, however, gratifying and a good sign to find indications that the general public does miss the sound of the bells. Recently the 'Kent Herald' devoted a leader to the subject, which is worth reproducing, though we may be sure the arguments have been fully considered by the authorities:—

Many people are asking, 'When shall we hear again the old familiar chimes of the church bells?'

We are all well aware that for patriotic reasons it is essential that we should do without a great many things, but that is not to say that we should deprive ourselves of certain amenities of life unless it is absolutely necessary. It is now over two years ago since it was decided that the church bells should be condemned to silence—in order that they might be rung as a warning should the enemy (which were then mustered in large numbers on the other side of the Channel) gain a footing on these shores. At that time an attempt at invasion seemed both certain and imminent, and hasty measures had to be introduced to warn the public when it occurred. Circumstances have undergone a radical change since that period. Our chief enemy is so heavily preoccupied in Russia that, while the danger of invasion has not entirely disappeared—and so must still be guarded against—it has become definitely less likely. Having regard to all the discussions which have taken place on the subject of the establishment of a Second Front, an invasion of the German-occupied countries on the Continent by British, Empire and American forces seems much more probable.

We know how easy it is to criticise arrangements which had to be improvised quickly, and which were inspired by the best possible motives. But reflection must, surely, have convinced us that the method of giving a warning to the populations by the ringing of church bells is both crude and inefficient. In these days, with the wireless installed practically in every home, an announcement can be made on the radio more speedily to reach any area in these islands which may be threatened. In the event of radio communication being disrupted, there are many more direct means which could be adopted and which are much less calculated to cause confusion and panic.

Without being unduly sentimental, the ringing of the bells in the churches of towns and villages did contribute to the pleasure of British life. It marked all manner of joyous occasions, both national and local, and they were a constant reminder of the place which religion occupies in the general scheme of things in this country. The signposts in many of our towns and cities are now being restored, and in numerous other directions we are getting back to our normal customs and practices.

We can let the bells again be heard without any detriment to the national effort. In these times of trial and tribulation, and of struggle against the powers of evil, they would bring to us a message of hope and inspiration.

THE BELLS OF EDINBURGH.—I have heard the chimes of Oxford playing their symphony in a golden autumn morning, and beautiful it was to hear. But in Edinburgh all manner of loud bells join, or rather disjoin, in one swelling brutal babblement of noise. Now one overtakes another, and now lags behind it; now five or six all strike on the pained tympanum at the same punctual instant of time, and make together a dismal chord of discord; and now for a second all seem to have conspired to hold their peace. Indeed there are not many uproars in this world more dismal than that of the Sabbath bells of Edinburgh.—Robert Louis Stevenson.

STAINBANK v. BECKETT.

(Continued from previous column.)

present at the casting of Big Ben. When he saw the bell in November, 1859, the holes were visible. There were about 40 of them and the largest had been filled with zinc. He should have rejected the bell if he had seen the holes. He examined the bell at the foundry and at Westminster, and was satisfied with it, and especially with its tone. If he had known what was in Dr. Percy's report he would not have withdrawn his plea of justification in the former action. He did so under advice, not understanding the dodges of common-law pleadings.

After counsel's speeches on either side, Mr. Baron Huddleston summed up. The jury found that one letter was libellous and applied to the plaintiff, and that two other letters were libellous but did not apply to the plaintiff. Damages were assessed at £200 and judgment entered accordingly.

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THE USE OF SINGLES IN SEVEN-BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 493.)

In the composition of seven-bell methods with a plain hunting treble and six working bells the last way to use singles is to do without them altogether. This is possible, although it is not possible in any other class of Triples methods, and we will now examine the reasons for it.

Let us turn back to the plain course of Bob Triples and look at the lead ends, handstroke and backstroke.

234567 even

325476 odd
352746 odd

537264 even
573624 even

756342 odd
765432 odd

674523 even
647253 even

462735 odd
426375 odd

243657 even
234567 even

Half of these rows are even and the other half odd, and since all the changes in the interior of the leads are triple changes, the rows will be alternately even and odd, or odd and even, according to the nature of the lead end. The plain course and every other natural course will produce an equal proportion of odd and even rows.

On the face of it that would seem sufficient to enable us to get the whole peal without singles, for the principal use of singles in composition is to produce the odd rows which, without their use, would be unattainable.

But we remember Grandsire Triples. The plain course of that method, and every P Block, and every B Block, produce odd and even rows in equal proportion, and yet singles are necessary to obtain a complete peal. Why should Bob Triples differ in this respect from Grandsire Triples?

The answer, in a word, is that in Bob Triples the natural course and the bob making are symmetrical about the path of the treble, but in Grandsire Triples they are not.

To take the matter in detail. When we examine the lead ends given above, the first thing we notice is that at any lead end both handstroke and backstroke are of the same nature; both are even or both are odd, and consequently every alternate lead end is of opposite nature. The result is that both the rows in which any one bell falls into the same position are of the same nature. For instance, the two rows with the seventh at home are both even. So are the two rows with the seventh in third's, and the two with the seventh in fourth's. But the two rows with the seventh in second's, the two with it in fifth's, and the two with it in sixth's, are all odd.

So long as we use the seventh as the fixed observation bell (that is so long as we compose by means of bobs at

Middle, Wrong, and Right only) this cannot be altered, and we cannot get the odd rows with the seventh in third's, fourth's, and at home; or the even rows with the seventh in second's, fifth's and sixth's, by bobs only. What we can do is to shift the relative position of the seventh, and we can do it by a very simple process. We bob a Q Set which involves the seventh.

234567 362547 425367

325476 635274 243576
352746 653724 234756

537264 B 567342 327465
573624 657432 372645

B 756342 564723 736254
576432 546273 763524

754623 452637 B 675342
745263 425367 765432

472536 674523
427356 647253

243765 462735
234675 426375

326457 243657
362547 234567

We have made three bobs on 5, 6, 7, and the result is to join together three independent natural courses into one round block. It is just as simple a process as the joining together three natural courses by three bobs at Right.

The three natural courses we have joined together are 36254, 42536 and 23456; and of them the first two are odd while the third is even.

This joining together natural courses of different nature has been done without in any way altering the natural succession of the rows. Actually every natural course in the method is both odd and even, and what we have done is to shift the relative position of the observation bell so that it comes home at an odd lead end instead of at an even lead end.

This block of three courses gives us an obvious basis for a peal. All we have to do is to select twenty-eight out-of-course natural courses and join them to 36254 and 42536; and twenty-nine in-course natural courses (or their equivalent) and join them to 23456.

But at once we find a difference between the two cases. When we are composing with full natural courses we can only add them two at a time. That is all right with the out-of-course courses, for we have twenty-eight to add. But we have twenty-nine in-course courses to add, and we cannot do that if we use full natural courses. We must therefore fall back on the plan we described in our issue of October 30th and use parts of natural courses supplemented by parts of the alternative natural courses. We can only do so when both lead and bob making are symmetrical about the path of the treble. Bob Triples, New Bob and Stansted Bob will give us peals without singles, but Waterloo Reverse Bob and Croydon Bob will not, unless we make the bob when the treble is lying its whole pull behind.

(To be continued.)

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

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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 business meeting, with election of officers, will be to-morrow, Saturday, Nov. 7th, at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, after the annual luncheon. — A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The annual committee meeting will be held at Hanley, on Saturday, November 7th, at 4 p.m. Handbells available. —The fifth annual dinner will be held at the Borough Arms Hotel, Newcastle-under-Lyme, on Saturday, Dec. 19th, at 7 p.m. Tickets 5s. each, may be obtained on application, with remittance, to Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs, not later than November 28th.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

Joint meeting, Stockport, Bowden and Mottram Branch and Macclesfield Branch, at St. Thomas', Norbury (Hazel Grove), Saturday, Nov. 14th. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea in the school 4 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. W. Fernley, 4, Grove Street, Hazel Grove, near Stockport, by Wednesday, Nov. 11th. Handbells during afternoon and evening. — T. Wilde and J. Worth, Hon. Dis. Secs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

Blackburn Branch. —The annual branch meeting will be held at Accrington on Saturday, November 14th. Silent tower bells and handbells from 2.30 p.m. Business meeting at 4 p.m. Business important. Election of officers. Bring your own refreshments, cups of tea provided. A good attendance is desirable. — F. Hindle, Branch Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

Elloe Deaneries Branch. —Quarterly meeting will be held at Pinchbeck on Saturday, November 14th. Bells (silent) available from 2 p.m. Service 3.45 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Business meeting afterwards. Will all who want tea please let me know by Tuesday, November 10th. — W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glenside, Pinchbeck.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

South and West District. — Meeting on Saturday, Nov. 14th, at St. Mary's, Acton. Handbells in the church from 2.30 p.m. Short service at 4 p.m. Tea, as the guests of the Rector, followed by

business meeting in the Rectory, after the service. Names must be sent to the undersigned not later than November 11th. The Rector specially asks for a good attendance, and is notifying the local Press of the meeting, so that people may come and hear the ringing. Outstanding subscriptions will be welcomed, and any information of interest relating to towers in membership for 1942. — J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 1, Listoke Edgehill Road, W.13. Perivale 5320.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — A practice will be held at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, November 14th. Bells (silent) available from 2 p.m. — A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

Liverpool Branch. — A meeting will be held at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, on Saturday, November 21st. Meet in the vestry 3 p.m. Handbells will be available. Service at 4.30 p.m., followed by the meeting. Those requiring tea kindly let me know, and I will do my best to arrange for some. All ringers cordially invited. — George R. Newton, 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

LIQUID REFRESHMENT.

Mr. Edwards' quotation could be paralleled from many churchwarden's accounts. Here are two from St. Mary-at-Hill, London, the date 1510:—

Paid for wyne & peres at skrasis house at Aldgate for Mr. Jentyll, Mr. Russell, John Althorpe, & the clerkes of Synt Antonys to go and see whether Smythes bell wer Teunabill or nat—viijd.

Paid for wyne at the salutation at the bargeyne making for the frame of the belles—viijd.

CHIMES AND CHIME TUNES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—With reference to the interesting articles on clock chimes which have recently been appearing in 'The Ringing World,' I wonder if any readers can give any information about the chimes of the beautiful old Priory Church of St. Mary, Lancaster. I was in the town a few days ago and heard these chimes, but was not able to stay long enough to note down the actual chimes played. I do not know how many bells the tower contains, but they sounded quite heavy and of magnificent tone.

PETER N. BOND, A.C./1, R.A.F.

NEWS OF MR. C. K. LEWIS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have received an airgraph from Mr. C. K. Lewis, sent from a transit camp in South Africa. He is well, gets plenty of fruit and finds the people kindly and helpful. He said he had found the church with the ring of bells, and had had a pull at the tenor, and has started, with the aid of one of J. E. Spice's pupils, to teach one of the local ringers Bob Minor on handbells.

Mr. Lewis' many friends will be glad to know of his well being.
P. LAFLIN.

Stockport.

YESTERDAY?

Childrer, dear, was it yesterday
We heard the sweet bells over the bay?
In the caverns where we lay,
Through the surf and through the swell
The far-off sound of a silver bell?
When did music come this way?
Children dear, was it yesterday?

—Matthew Arnold.

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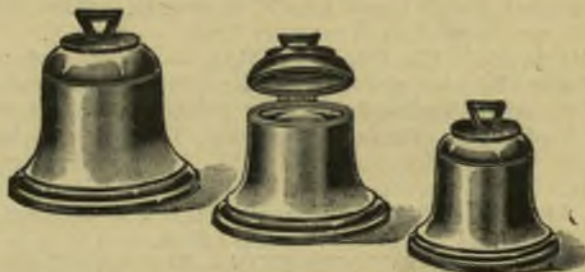
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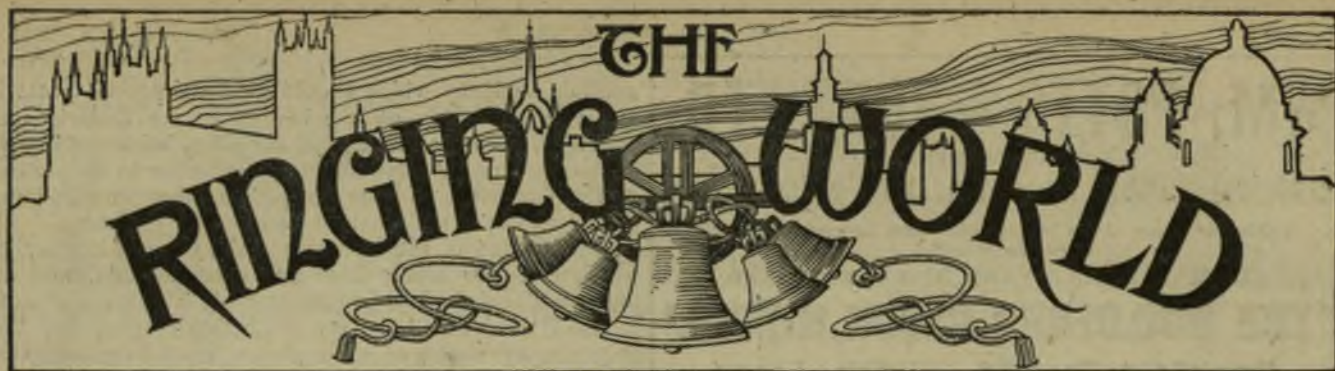
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HISTORY.

History is not only a most fascinating subject for those who study it; it is one of the best means we have of understanding the conditions and problems of the present. It is pre-eminently so in the case of the Exercise and the art of change ringing, for few things with which we are acquainted are so much the direct result of past events or have deeper roots in bygone years than they have.

We may be quite certain that if we had not inherited change ringing from our ancestors it never could have been invented in our days. We may go so far as to say that there was only one period in the history of the people of England and the Church of England when change ringing could have appeared; and the fact that it did appear, and develop with increasing vitality, was due not only to the inherent qualities of the art, but equally to the peculiar religious and social conditions of the time, conditions which for the most part have passed away, but which have left their deep impress on the character of Englishmen.

When we closely study the history of the Exercise through the centuries we are conscious of two main tendencies which dominate everything and have made ringing and ringers what they are to-day. The first was the obscure influence which took what had already been a purely athletic sport; classed in the time of Shakespeare among other manly sports, such as football and wrestling, and transformed it by adding to it an art based on a strictly mathematical science. The story of the Exercise during these last three centuries is largely concerned with the way in which this combination of athletics, art and science developed and gave evidence of vitality which after all these years shows no signs of exhaustion.

But that is only half the story. By a strange chance to which we may fairly apply that much abused word 'unique,' the athletic sport of the sixteenth century used for its tools the bells of the parish churches. The bells had already much older and much more important uses, uses which were concerned with the services of the Church and, almost equally, with the civic and common life of the people. The use of church bells for the purposes of a sport seems to many to-day an unnatural and improper one, but it did not seem unnatural or improper two or three hundred years ago, and the very fact that it was practically universal and has lasted so long forbids us to condemn it offhand. Men in those days were not less zealous in the cause of religion or the service of God.

What we should do is to try and understand how all this happened, and when we do so we are conscious of

(Continued on page 510.)

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Mufflers, Ringing Mats, Matting, Flag Lines, etc., etc.

another tendency which should form the second great interest in our study of the history of the Exercise—the tendency, which at first, and for long, alienated the art of change ringing from direct participation in the services of the Church, and then sought to bring into harmony things which in their nature seem so very diverse.

The relation of the Exercise to the Church is a subject which calls for much close and careful study, and any hasty and ill-informed judgment on it is to be deplored.

The Exercise and the art of change ringing are what they are by virtue of their past. They live to-day because of the life that was given them three centuries ago. And because they are alive, and as long as they are alive, on the one hand they cannot break with their past, and on the other hand they must adapt themselves to the conditions of the present.

The problem of the future existence of the Exercise can be summed up in a sentence. There must be increased and close co-operation with the Church; and on the other side there must be no weakening of the interests which first created the art of change ringing and then sustained and developed it through the centuries.

HANDBELL PEALS.

DUBLIN.

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, November 1, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

At 23, SCREEN ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings.

MISS ADA C. DUKES ... 1-2 | FREDERICK E. DUKES ... 3-4

*MRS. F. E. DUKES ... 5-6

Conducted by F. E. DUKES.

Witness—Miss Irene Eyre.

* First peal. First handbell peal by all the band. Believed first peal by members of the same family outside England, viz., sister, husband and wife.

IPSWICH, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

(ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY.)

On Sunday, November 1, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-LE-TOWER,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 18 in G.

GEORGE A. FLEMING ... 1-2 | CHARLES J. SEDGLEY ... 5-

HOBART E. SMITH ... 3-4 | WILLIAM J. G. BROWN ... 7-

WILLIAM P. GARRETT ... 9-10

Composed by W. GARRARD. Conducted by CHAS. J. SEDGLEY.

LIQUID REFRESHMENTS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—It would be interesting to know where M. F. Ll. Edwards got his information about the above subject at Sefton, near Liverpool, and the approximate date when it occurred.

I showed the letter to our Rector, who is writing a book about the parish of Sefton. He tells me he has not come across it when going through past records. There never was an abbey at Sefton and so not likely to be an Abbey Arms. S. FLINT.

39, Sefton Lane, Mayhull, near Liverpool.

SIXTY YEARS AGO.—Of all the sad things that have happened to our Norfolk villages, two of the saddest and most to be regretted are, first, the decay of all instrumental music among the country people; and, secondly, the decay of bellringing.

How has this deplorable effacement of our rural music been brought about? There is only one answer—It has been brought about by the general deluge of smug and paralyzing respectability which has overrun our country villages. And for this I am bound to say the clergy and their families are in great measure answerable.—The Rev. Augustus Jessopp, D.D., Rector of Scarning, Norfolk, 1886.

THE LATE JOHN JAGGAR.

As was announced briefly in our last issue, Mr. John Jaggar passed away on October 30th, at the age of 81. The funeral was on the following Tuesday at Oldbury Road Cemetery, West Smethwick, where he was laid to rest in the same grave as his wife, who was buried there 27 years ago.

In addition to members of his family, several of his ringing friends were present to pay their last tribute to one who for so many years had been a popular and well-known figure in the Midlands. His old friend, Mr. John Austin, of Gloucester, was there, while the St. Martin's Guild was represented by Mr. Albert Walker (vice-president), Mr. E. T. Allaway and Mr. F. E. Haynes (Ringing Master). Among the numerous wreaths was one from the St. Martin's Guild, and at the conclusion of the service a plain course of Grandsire Triples was rung at the graveside by J. Austin 1-2, F. E. Haynes 3-4, A. Walker 5-6; E. T. Allaway 7-8.

Mr. Jaggar's kindly personality and unfailing good humour, his ever cheerful countenance and twinkling eyes, his readiness to help at all times, his obvious enjoyment of all things appertaining to ringing—including a 'pint of the best'!—and, above all, his quiet gentlemanly bearing and innate modesty, endeared him to all. Although well on in his 82nd year, he retained his interest in ringing to the very end, and was, indeed, an active performer on tower bells until the ban was imposed two years ago. His ringing career, in which may be seen reflected much of the development of change ringing throughout the last sixty years or so, is one of which any man might well be proud.

Born at Oxford on January 3rd, 1861, John Jaggar received his first lesson in bellringing on May 6th, 1869, at St. Thomas' Church, his tutor being his father, Mr. Charles Jaggar, ringer and chorister, master cooper and a Freeman of the City of Oxford. Little over a year later John Jaggar was responsible for the introduction to the Exercise of one who was to become one of the greatest ringers of all time. At the age of 9½ he persuaded a six-year-old schoolfellow, Jim Washbrook by name, to climb up into St. Thomas' tower with him and get into the belfry, where he proceeded immediately to show his young companion how to pull a bell.

In 1873 the Jaggar family moved to Burton-on-Trent, and Jack became one of the choirboys at St. Paul's Church. There he assisted the Rev. J. H. Fish in the instruction of a band of young ringers, who were allowed to ring on Sundays from 7 to 8 a.m. and on Monday evenings, while the old 'regulars' rang on Thursday and for the morning and evening services on Sundays. When, in 1879, trouble arose with the 'regulars' and the Vicar 'sacked' four of them, Jaggar and his pupils were invited to fill the vacancies. This they did, and so rapid was their progress that on November 6th they rang their first peal, one of Kent Treble Bob Major. This band at St. Paul's became the pioneers of Surprise ringing, for after Double Norwich they rang a peal of Superlative in 1884, Cambridge in February, 1887, and New Cambridge (then called the 'Burton Variation').

John Jaggar took an active part in all these performances, not only as a ringer, but to some extent as conductor and composer, a notable composition being 5,024 New Cumberland Major rung at St. Paul's in 1886, the first peal ever rung in that method. In that year also he took part in a 'silent' peal of Stedman Triples at Burton, which was witnessed by the Birmingham worthy Henry Johnson. He was one of the foundation members of the Midland Counties Association and for some years he occupied the position of local secretary, while on May 5th, 1888, he conducted the first peal on handbells for them. At this time also he acted as instructor to the ringers at Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

Whilst at Burton he was employed as cooper at Bass' Brewery, in the same trade as his father. In 1897, however, he left Burton and went first to Wolverhampton and later to Oldbury, where he became landlord of the 'Wrexham.' We can well visualise the convivial ringers' gatherings that would take place under his patronage. A notable performance of this period was the 'John' peal at Hagley, Holt's Original, in 1902, which he conducted.

His association with Birmingham was of long duration. In 1884 he was one of the band who rang in Henry Johnson's last peal, 5,093 Stedman Caters on February 23rd. The names of those who rang that peal are worthy of mention: H. Bastable 1, G. H. Phillot 2, H. Johnson, sen. 3, H. Johnson, jun. 4, W. R. Small 5, J. Jaggar 6, Rev. C. D. P. Davies 7, J. Buffery 8, W. Wakley 9, S. Reeves 10.

He regularly attended the Henry Johnson dinner, and on several occasions was entrusted with the toast of 'The Memory of Henry Johnson,' which he always rendered in a witty and attractive manner, being possessed of a fund of interesting anecdotes concerning famous ringers of the past. Always ready to give a helping hand, he was one of the first to offer his services when Birmingham Cathedral bells were recast in 1937, at which church he rang regularly until the ban came, while he was also a frequent visitor to St. Martin's. On Christmas morning, 1940, he rang handbells at the Cathedral, and, there being no public transport, then walked home—a distance of six miles, being then a young man of 80!

(Continued in next column.)

SPORT AND CHURCH WORK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am fond of the gun and dog, and also of change ringing. I have often been invited to a partridge drive on the same day that I have been booked to stand in for a peal. The sport of ringing a peal has always won. I have gone ringing.

My shooting friend said to me, 'I cannot understand you giving up a good day's partridge drive to go ringing.' My reply was, 'You are not a ringer. You do not understand the fascination of ringing a peal of Stedman, getting the bells into a beautiful beat, and all the band trying to keep them there. More combination is required in ringing than in football.'

Peal ringing will always be a sport to me, and the best of sport.

R. EDWARDS.

Tenterden.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WOOLWICH.

The annual district meeting of the Lewisham District of the Kent County Association was held in the Rectory, St. Mary's, Woolwich, on October 24th, some twenty members attending.

Handbell ringing during the afternoon was followed by a short service, conducted by the curate, the Rev. P. Astre, who gave a very fine address worthy of a larger audience.

The business meeting followed, the curate presiding. Extending a warm welcome to Woolwich, the Chairman apologised for the unavoidable absence of the Rector, the Rev. Cuthbert Bardsley.

The district secretary made a statement of the activities of the past year and presented the balance sheet, which was adopted.

Mr. A. G. Hill was re-elected as district secretary, Mr. E. Barnett enjoyed the continued confidence of the members as district representative, Mr. J. Bailey, of Dartford, being appointed as his co-representative in place of Mr. T. Groombridge, jun., whose removal from the district had vacated the post. Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., was reappointed Ringing Master.

In response to a kind invitation, it was resolved to hold the January meeting at Woolwich, when it is hoped the Rector will be able to attend.

Questions were asked about the annual reports, and the district secretary was instructed to get into touch with the secretary of the association concerning this matter.

News of serving members in various theatres of war was welcomed.

The secretary was instructed to convey the sympathy of the members to Mr. J. Morton, of Erith, in his recent sad bereavement.

A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the Rector for the use of the Rectory room and to the curate for his address and for presiding at the meeting.

Further handbell ringing followed to complete an enjoyable afternoon and evening.

RINGERS' JUGS AND PITCHERS.

Sixty years ago this week a correspondent wrote to 'The Bell News' and asked if it was correct that the ringers of St. Peter's, Norwich, always have a new year's feast in the belfry in the shape of hotpot and bread and beef; and was it subscribed for by the principal gentry of the city.

This brought a reply that it used to be the custom for the leading citizens to meet in the tower on New Year's Eve, when the contents of a kind of loving cup contributed by one of the churchwardens was handed round, the ringers, of course, coming in for their share. The cup or pot (for it is simple earthenware) bears the date 1648.

The custom was discontinued in the year 1876 when the Rev. Sidney Pelham became Vicar.

THE LATE JOHN JAGGAR.

(Continued from previous column.)

But perhaps his greatest 'labour of love' was his custom of arranging for a handbell party to visit West Bromwich Hospital on Christmas Day and entertain the patients with tuneful selections. This he did for 34 years in succession, for some time in company with Mr. Reuben Hall, more recently with Mr. Jesse Screen.

Mr. Jaggar belonged to various ringing societies, among them being the Midland Counties Association, the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham, the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford and the Oxford Diocesan Guild, of which he was one of the original members. In all he rang 212 peals, 36 as conductor:—

Grandsire Triples 53 (conducted 15); Grandsire Caters 10 (2); Stedman Triples 58 (10); Stedman Caters 8; Stedman Cinques 3; Plain Bob Major 3 (1); Kent Treble Bob Major 15 (2); Kent Treble Bob Royal 3; Double Norwich Major 22 (6); Double Oxford Major 2; New Cumberland Surprise 1; Cambridge Surprise 6; Superlative Surprise 22; London Surprise 3; Duffield Royal 1; Forward Major 1; Forward Maximus 1; total 212 (36).

FABIAN STEDMAN AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES.

(Continued from page 501.)

The 'Tintinnalogia,' as I have said, marked the close of a period in the development of change ringing, and it was followed by a great expansion of the art. Five-bell ringing had already almost reached its zenith, and there was little room for further improvement. Seven and eight-bell ringing was not practicable except rarely, because there were as yet few complete octaves. But on six bells there was a very great development of method ringing. In many of the large towns men were composing and bands were practising methods of a style which a few years before would have been thought impossible, and indeed it would have been impossible to ring them had not great improvements been made in bell hanging.

The most important of these was the introduction of the complete wheel. Down to the beginning of the seventeenth century bells were fitted with half wheels, which were a development from the original levers fitted to the stocks and which served well enough for the round ringing which at one time was the common use. When changes were introduced, the circumference of the wheels was increased so that the bells could be rung at a 'greater compass,' as the phrase was. They could now be rung up to a 'set pull' at handstroke, and it was possible to make changes there, though hardly at backstroke, and so the early skilled bands rang their peals in whole-pulls.

Duckworth in the 'Tintinnalogia' gives some instructions for hanging bells, and the wheel he refers to is the three-quarter wheel. This explains a passage in the book which has been much misunderstood by later writers. 'Tis very convenient,' he says, '(if the frame will permit) to fasten a piece of timber about half a foot long on the end of the main spoke at the top of the wheel (whereon the end of the rope is fastened), with a notch on the end of it; so at the setting of the bell the rope will hit into that notch from the roll, and this will make the bell lie easier at hand when it is set, and fly better.'

This is not, as has been supposed, a form of stay and slider. The piece of timber was fixed to the spoke where the circumference of the wheel ended, and acted as a lever. When Duckworth spoke of a bell being set; he did not mean what we should mean now. He meant that it was held on the balance by the ringer. Stays and sliders were as yet unknown.

Whether this arrangement was ever generally adopted, we do not know, for the spread of method ringing was bound to lead to the introduction of the full wheel. The earliest example of it I know of is the ring of five at St. Bartholomew's by the Exchange, which were fitted with round wheels in 1649. It naturally would take some time for the improvement to become general, but it was common by 1677. About the same time (though of this there is no definite information) woollen sallies were put to ropes.

Of the new methods and the names of their composers, most has been forgotten; but we know that at Nottingham what we now call Single Court Minor was produced and rung, as well as other methods; and that at Oxford the third of the standard methods was composed and practised. Plain Bob was the logical development of the Sixes through the Singles and Doubles on four bells and

Old Doubles. Grandsire was the original work of Robert Roan. Oxford Treble Bob was a further important development opening up vast possibilities which even to-day have not nearly been exhausted.

At Oxford, too, were composed at this time Single and Double Oxford Bob, methods which have taken permanent places in the ringers' repertoire, as well as some others now obsolete.

Curiously enough, there seem to have been no composers among the London men, no one to carry on the work of Robert Roan and John Tendring and, though the College Youths were foremost in practising new methods, they had to go for their material to Fabian Stedman, who was generally recognised as the foremost authority on the science of ringing. There were other composers at Cambridge among the University men, and the most important of them was Samuel Scattergood.

A notable man among the divines of the late seventeenth century was Anthony Scattergood, a Cambridge graduate and a friend of Sancroft, afterwards the non-juring Archbishop of Canterbury. He was Rector of Winwick, in Northamptonshire, and a prebendary of Lincoln, and also of Lichfield. He was entrusted with the task of seeing the revised Book of Common Prayer through the press in 1662, and in the following year the University at the King's request conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

His eldest son, Samuel, was born at the Rectory at Winwick in 1646. There are still three bells in the parish church, which were then already old, and on them quite likely the boy first learnt to ring. He was designed for the Church, and on April 29th, 1664, he was admitted a student of Trinity College, Cambridge, at the same time that Isaac Newton joined. He graduated B.A. in 1665 and M.A. in 1669, and in the previous year was elected a fellow of his college.

Samuel Scattergood's compositions in ringing are all interesting, though none has proved of permanent value. Winwick Doubles, which he named after his native place, is a bobbed lead of Grandsire with two kinds of singles; in My Honey the treble hunts in whole pulls; and one or two Six-scores are constructed by joining together different kinds of leads, thus anticipating by two and a half centuries modern spliced ringing.

He also tried to break fresh ground by introducing what he called Jumping Doubles, in which bells, instead of having an unbroken connected path, move up or down two positions at one blow. Although the idea of movement is supposed to be retained, this really broke the fundamental laws of the art, and was never adopted by the Exercise. The notion was not altogether new, for Roan had suggested the use of jumps in Grandsire and Plain Bob to get rid of singles.

In 1672, Scattergood joined the Society of College Youths. As he never was resident in London, this may have happened on a visit to the Metropolis, but perhaps more likely when the society visited Cambridge. If there is any truth in Parnell's statement that Stedman's Principle was first rung by the College Youths at St. Benet's, Cambridge, this was about the time.

In 1669, on the occasion of the opening of the Sheldonian Theatre, Scattergood and his father were incorporated members of the University of Oxford. In 1676

(Continued on next page.)

FABIAN STEDMAN.

(Continued from previous page.)

he took Orders. From 1678 to 1681 he was Vicar of St. Mary's, Lichfield, where a society of ringers, the Loyal Youths, was formed in 1685. By that time he had been appointed Rector of Blockley, after holding the vicarage of Ware for less than a year; but he was still intimately connected with Lichfield, for in 1682 he was collated to the prebend of Pipa Minor in the Cathedral, which had been held by his father. In the next year he succeeded his father in his other prebend at Lincoln Cathedral.

It is likely, therefore, that Scattergood was instrumental in putting the ring of ten bells in Lichfield Cathedral. He retained his love of ringing throughout his life. He was steward of the College Youths in 1676, and Master in 1685. His duties evidently in those offices were confined to the annual feast. At Blockley he added a treble to make a ring of six, and he visited other bell-fries in the Midlands.

In 1686, when Henry Bagley cast a new octave for Solihull, Scattergood was asked to give a report on them — '27th day of August, 1686. These are to certify whom it may concern; that I, Samuel Scattergood, Minister of Blockley in the County of Worcester, having several times viewed and tryed ye sound of ye 8 new Bells lately cast by Mr. Henry Bagley, Bellfounder, of ye Parish Church of Solihull in ye County of Warw. and now hung in ye sd. Church; especially at ye ringing thereof ye day and yeare above said by myself and about 20 other skillful p'sons accompanying me from Leicester to that purpose, doe with ye generall approbation & consent of ye

said Persons, judg all ye sd 8 Bells to be well and workmanlike made, every way right for tone and metall, ye chearfullest & best Ring of Bells for their weight that I have ever heard. And also that ye clappers and other iron work & tackle with which ye aforesaid 8 Bells are hung, are now made quite good, so as to need no further alteration that I know of. In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand this aforesd. 27th day of August ano dni 1686. Sam. Scattergood.'

Scattergood wrote and published a Greek poem, and in his lifetime had a great reputation as a preacher. One of his sermons was printed by order of King Charles the Second, and some years after his death fifty-two of his sermons were collected and published in two volumes. They are excellent discourses, such as with very little verbal alteration might be delivered to an educated congregation of the present day. A short quotation from one of them will give a very good idea of the preacher's character and outlook on the religious opinions of his time. He had drawn attention to a passage in the Gospel and went on to say that 'it was a reproof of the too hard censors of our age whose religion consists chiefly in sour looks, demure carriage, and a different garb from the rest of the world; who will needs have heaven peopled with none but morose and ill-natured persons, and think there is no way thither but from a cell or a hermitage, that will not allow a disciple of Christ to laugh.'

Samuel Scattergood died at Blockley, aged 50, and was buried there on December 10th, 1696. There is no memorial to him in the church save his name on the present third bell. His daughter gave £100 to the poor of the parish, a charity which is still administered.

(To be continued.)

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Hearty congratulations to Canon G. F. Coleridge, who reached his 85th birthday last Tuesday, and to Mrs. G. W. Fletcher, whose anniversary was yesterday.

Canon Marshall, president of the Yorkshire Association, has been appointed Rural Dean of Leeds.

In the middle of the last course of the peal rung at Ipswich on a recent Sunday the air raid sirens sounded, but that did not interfere with the completion of the peal.

By a remarkable coincidence, the death of Mr. John Jaggar occurred exactly (except for one day) fifty years after his full-page portrait appeared in 'The Bell News.'

The Burton-on-Trent band rang 6,720 changes of London Surprise Major on November 8th, 1888. The composition, which has the extent with the tenors together, was the longest in the method at the time.

The first peal of Alliance Major was rung at Crawley on November 8th, 1894. It was composed and conducted by Mr. James Parker.

The Bushey band—Messrs. Hodgetts, Woolley, Cashmore and Brinklow—rang the first peal of Spliced Surprise Major (London and Cambridge) on handbells on November 8th, 1935.

The College Youths rang a peal of London Surprise Royal at Stepney on November 11th, 1907.

The first peal of Waveney Surprise Major was rung at Leiston on November 11th, 1933, and the first peal of Camdon by the same band on November 14th, 1931.

John Noonan called 6,003 changes of Stedman Cinques with a band of Junior Cumberland Youths on the old ring of twelve at Spitalfields on November 13th, 1797.

Sixty years ago last Wednesday the College Youths rang the first peal of Stedman Cinques on the bells of St. Leonard's Church, Shore-ditch. It was the first peal in any method on the bells for fifty-two years. James Pettit conducted, and Walter Jones, who was mentioned in Mr. Woodley's interesting letter last week, rang the 9th. Mr. F. E. Dawe is the only survivor of the band.

Three other living men took part in peals the 60th anniversaries of which fall in this week. Mr. James S. Wilde rang the tenor to Bob Major at Hyde, Cheshire, on November 10th, 1882; Mr. R. H. Brundle rang the 5th to Oxford Treble Bob Major at St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, on November 14th; and Mr. Joseph Griffin called Penning's one-part peal of Grandsire Triples at Burton-on-Trent on November 9th. The late Mr. John Jaggar rang the 3rd to this last peal.

MR. NORMAN H. MANNING.

We are glad to hear that Mr. Norman H. Manning, of Chiswick, who was reported missing, is alive. He is a prisoner of war in Italian hands.

DEATH OF AN OLD LUTON RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. Bert Wilson, who passed away on October 28th at the age of 69 years.

Mr. Wilson was born at Barton-le-Clay, Beds, and migrated to Luton, where he joined the Parish Church band and was a member for upwards of 43 years. He was a most conscientious member and always attended the tower for Sunday services twice a day and practices except during his holidays.

He was not a great peal ringer, although he had rung peals from Grandsire Triples to Bristol Surprise Major.

The funeral took place on October 31st at the church cemetery, preceded by a service in church. The Vicar of Luton, Canon Davison, who conducted the service at the Parish Church and officiated at the graveside, paid tribute to Mr. Wilson's services. His brother ringers sent a wreath and were represented at the service by Messrs. L. A. Goodenough, J. Herbert, F. Hunt and A. King.

He will be greatly missed in the belfry. He leaves a widow, four sons and a daughter to mourn their loss.

YORK MINSTER BELLS.

THE LAST PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On Wednesday, November 9th, 1892 (50 years ago last Monday), the York band rang a peal of Grandsire Caters on the Minster bells. This peal will almost certainly be the last to be rung at York Minster. The reason for this is that just below the bell tower, in fact not 100 yards away, a nursing home has been erected in memory of Dr. Percy-Cust, who was Dean of York from 1880 to 1916. This puts the veto on the bells being rung for any length of time. Plenty of good ringers were eager to come to York to ring a peal for the Coronation of George VI., but the bar was not lifted even for that occasion. Of the band who rang the peal, all are dead except two, T. F. Earnshaw, who rang the 3rd, and George Worth, who rang the 4th, both now 74 years of age. George Breed, a noted heavy bell ringer in his day, rang the 9th, and Mr. W. H. Howard, the well-known northern ringer, then 71 years old, rang the tenor (with help, of course). Thomas Haigh was the conductor, number of changes 5,129, time 3 hours 35 minutes.

GEORGE WORTH.

11, Howe Street, Acomb.

Mr. Earnshaw has sent us similar information.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

THE ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON.

One hundred and six members and friends were present last Saturday at Slater's Restaurant, in the City of London, on the occasion of the anniversary luncheon of the Ancient Society of College Youths. The Master, Mr. Ernest G. Fenn, presided, the hon. treasurer, Mr. A. A. Hughes, being in the vice-chair. Canon G. F. Coleridge, was on the Master's right hand, and the company included Mr. A. B. Peck, the hon. secretary, Capt. Poyntz, the Rev. V. W. Dumphries, Messrs. E. P. Duffield, E. A. Young, A. Walker, J. Shepherd, R. Richardson, C. T. Coles, G. Steere, T. Hibbert, T. B. Worsley, J. Hawkins, J. Thomas, H. R. Newton, G. N. Price, F. Dench, W. Pasmore, R. F. Deal, T. Groombridge, C. Deane, E. C. S. Turner, C. Roberts, F. Sharpe, P. E. Clark, H. Miles, M. Atkins, F. Perrens, J. E. L. Cockey, J. Strickland, F. Skidmore, J. W. Jones, F. W. Rogers, C. Kippin, D. Cooper, W. Melville, A. Harman, R. Newman, J. Worth, D. Vincent, R. Bullen, R. Newman, W. Farley, F. Collins, C. Potchecary, G. Cecil, J. Prior, L. Fox, G. Hoad, G. Kilby, J. Chapman, W. Williams, D. Clift, W. Hibbert, E. Hartley, J. Bullock and his son, R. Stannard, J. E. Davis, F. Newman, J. Wealdon, H. Hoskins, H. Pitstow, H. Hodgetts, W. Elson, J. Rumley, S. H. Green, D. Wright, H. Reynolds, A. W. Heath, R. Wilson, H. Markwick, R. Allen, W. Allen, W. Osborn, E. Owen, W. Miller, C. Dobbie, W. Hughes, W. C. Cook, W. Austin, H. Alford, A. H. Brown, C. Munday, C. Myer, H. Bishop, W. Dennis, A. Fox, G. R. Goodship, J. A. Trollope and others.

After the toast of 'The King,' given by the Master, had been honoured, a bobbed course of Stedman Cinques was rung on handbells by C. Roberts 1-2, A. Walker 3-4, F. Perrens 5-6, W. Williams 7-8, J. Thomas 9-10, A. B. Peck 11-12.

THE TOAST OF THE ANCIENT SOCIETY.

College Youths' was given by The toast of 'The Ancient Society of Mr. Charles T. Coles, the hon. secretary of the Middlesex County Association. He said: It falls to me this afternoon to propose what I think is, apart from the toast of 'The King,' the most important of the day, the toast of 'The Ancient Society of College Youths.'

I do not propose to dwell at length on the history of the early days of the society; all of us here have read Mr. Trollope's book on that subject, and should be quite conversant with that early history, but I do wish to say that the Ancient Society has been to the forefront of ringing ever since ringing started, and that any history of the society for the first 200 or 250 years of its existence would be almost a history of the Exercise itself, especially here in London. When our thoughts go back to those bygone days, to those early experts, we realise how greatly we are indebted to the College Youths for handing down to us so much of our present-day knowledge of our art.

At the present time our ringing is much more extensively organised. We have our territorial and diocesan societies all over the country, but we look up to the College Youths, not only as one of our chief links with the past, but as being amongst the leaders in progress and in all that makes ringing worth while.

During the last 25 years we have had two great interruptions in ringing. There was the war of 1914-18, and now there is another war. During the first Great War it was not too difficult to carry on and during that war the College Youths kept the society going. The position in this war, especially since the imposition of the ban, is much more difficult, as without bells there is little incentive to attend meetings. But the College Youths were not deterred—they carried on their fortnightly meetings. They were blasted and burned out of their old headquarters at The Coffee Pot, they lost many of their treasures, but they carried on elsewhere. Again Hitler went after them. He said, 'These people are keeping up the morale of the nation and they must be destroyed.' But the College Youths found quarters in the heart of the ruins of East London and still carry on, determined to keep up the continuity of their meetings. We honour them for their courage in such conditions.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

Now what of the future? This is something about which many of us have given a great deal of thought and of which we should like to know more. We may find that ringers will seriously consider organising themselves in one great society, a National Association. Well, this is not the occasion on which to start a discussion on that subject, and I do not wish to do so, but if such a project means that societies like the College Youths lose their identity, I go so far as to say that we want none of it (hear, hear).

Of the future there is one thing we can say for certain, things will not be the same again. We shall not be able to start just where we left off. When one looks round the ruins of this great city and other parts of London and sees the ruins of our churches and our bells, one realises that there will be many changes. We wonder sometimes if there will be any future at all. We shall need co-operation between societies, mutual assistance between ringers, and a sweeping aside of that exclusiveness that all of us, for some reason or other, have at times been guilty of. We must all work together, and in all this we may confidently look to the Ancient Society of College Youths to play a leading part.

I have one other point, perhaps a contentious one. There are certain barriers to membership of this society. I need not specify

what they are. The future will bring many changes. Might I suggest a change in this respect and that these barriers may be swept away?

When one looks at this gathering and realises that about 100 ringers can come from all parts of the country in war time, one perhaps need hardly fear much for the future, and we are grateful to the College Youths for carrying on and giving us this opportunity of getting together and meeting old friends, and, might I add, of getting a good meal once in a while (laughter).

Gentlemen, I ask you to drink to the prosperity of the Ancient Society of College Youths, and I couple with the toast the name of the hon. secretary, Mr. A. B. Peck (cheers).

THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES.

In his reply, Mr. Peck thanked Mr. Coles and the company for the way they had responded to the toast, and gave a summary of the society's activities during the preceding year. Twenty-five meetings, in addition to the annual meeting, had been held, and the Master, hon. treasurer and hon. secretary had attended them all. In addition, 92 members had attended, some of them 25 times. Nine peals had been rung, all by provincial members, and among them three called for special mention. They were the Stedman Cinques at Birmingham, the silent Holt's Original just a year ago, and the silent peal of Minor by the Bullock family.

Sixteen members had passed away during the year, and Mr. Peck asked the company to honour their memory by standing while he read out their names. He added the names of two friends of the society, Messrs. J. S. Goldsmith and W. J. Nevard.

A telegram of congratulation was received from the Barking ringers, and letters of apology for absence from Messrs. E. H. Lewis, J. H. B. Hesse, Rowland Fenn and F. S. Cole, and from Corporals K. Arthur and E. Coward. Mr. Lewis was able to put in an appearance before the day ended.

Mr. Peck paid a tribute to the work Mr. Hughes had done for the society, and said they were looking hopefully to the future and were ready to co-operate with all other societies in an endeavour to get ringing going again when the war is over.

Mr. E. P. Duffield, in proposing the toast of 'Kindred Ringing Societies,' first referred to the fact that, as in national affairs, so in the affairs of their beloved art of ringing, these were days of austerity. The ban on the ringing of bells was naturally imposing a strain upon those responsible for keeping in being and in a state of preparedness their ringing organisations, as it was also rendering exceedingly difficult the maintenance of the ringers' journal, 'The Ringing World.' But times of adversity always had the effect of drawing closer together those who shared common ideals and tastes, and the bond between the ringing societies were never more cordial.

The Ancient Society was honoured indeed that members and friends had assembled there that day from all parts of the country to join in the proceedings of the society's annual festival. Mr. Duffield thought it was entirely a good thing for them to break away for a few hours from their occupations, or should he say preoccupations, and to gain a renewal of strength in fellowship with kindred spirits such as were gathered there.

They rejoiced just now that, thanks to the bravery and devotion of the armed forces of the Crown (cheers), they met at a time when the general situation for the Allied Nations was brighter than for some time past. Whilst it was right that they should rejoice at the good tidings they were receiving, it was nevertheless right for them to remember that the price of the good news had to be paid in the blood and, in some cases, with the lives of their sons and brothers bearing the brunt of battle for us. Some of the latter would doubtless, in normal times, have been with them at their annual dinner that very day.

HARD TIMES AHEAD.

In conclusion, Mr. Duffield spoke of the hard tasks ahead of the ringing societies if change ringing was to be restored to the proficiency it had attained in the past two generations. He shared the views expressed by Mr. C. T. Coles and Mr. A. B. Peck that, in so far as co-operation between the various societies could assist, that co-operation would be forthcoming, and he believed that all who had the welfare of the ringing Exercise at heart would play their parts in getting the bells ringing again so soon as the ban was lifted.

Mr. Albert Walker replied to the toast in a pleasant and witty speech. He said he felt like the man who looked at his mother-in-law and said, 'Look what's been thrust on me!' He had been a member of the society for 46 years and he knew how much the provincial societies did appreciate the efforts of the College Youths to keep going and to maintain their old activities. Country ringers valued the opportunity of coming to gatherings like that one and the opportunity of meeting old friends. He was glad of the new spirit that was abroad, ringers were getting more broadminded and there was less of the rivalry that was not nearly so 'friendly' as it had been called. What was wanted was more co-operation, but it was far better that societies should keep their own individuality than that there should be one central association.

Mr. Walker referred to the discussion on umpires for handbell peals. He said that when they rang the College Youths' peal in Birmingham they had an umpire, but when they met later for Stedman Cinques there were only six of them. But there were six umpires, for not one of the band would have gone on if anything

(Continued on next page.)

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

wrong had happened. We must trust the honour of bands and strive for the best. If there are any bands who want to ring false peals let them do it. They would only be doing themselves harm. The provincial ringers would support the society through thick and thin.

Mr. George Steere, the secretary of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, also replied. He said it was an honour to speak for all the kindred societies. When he was young he was told that if you wanted sociability you should join the Cumberlands, but if you wanted good ringing you should join the College Youths. He had joined the Cumberlands, but wherever he had met the College Youths he had experienced nothing but hospitality and friendship. They looked on the College Youths and admired them, and would go forward with the knowledge that with the help of that society they could look to the future with confidence.

The Master gave the toast of 'Absent Friends' and referred to those who were fighting for freedom, and those whom business had kept away that day. When the war is over they hoped to see their friends once more.

• PAST MASTERS.

Mr. E. A. Young asked the company to drink to the memory of the Masters of the society of 100, 200 and 300 years ago. Of Thomas Gray little was known. He joined the society in 1839, the last of Richard Mills' three years, and was thus a connection with their bi-centenary. He was one of six who joined during those rather lean years (in 1835 there was no member joined and only one in 1837, the festival year). His address is given as Cromer Street. Four well-known ringers joined with him, viz., Bulgin, Sawyer, Balle and Hayworth.

Gray apparently never rung a peal. His name appears in the pence book of the St. James' Society. The peals around the years of his Mastership, of which there were several, were mostly called by Tolladay, Landsell and Cox.

The Master in 1742 was Thomas Overbury. He joined the society in 1718, a year in which the Master's name is missing. Of those who joined with him, three others became Masters, Sir Henry Hicks in 1731, Matthew East in 1733, and Samuel Fielding in 1734-5. Overbury probably never rung a peal, and there was only one peal recorded by the society during his year, Bob Major at St. Margaret's.

Henry Mackworth joined the company in 1641, being seventh on the list. It was before the days of peal ringing. Two brothers, Henry and Robert Mackworth, the sons of Sir Henry Mackworth, of Empingham in Rutlandshire, were Masters in 1642-1643. Henry was the youngest in the long line of Masters of the society; Robert was admitted to the inner Temple in 1640, died in 1717, at the good old age of 97. A great link with the earlier days.

Mr. Young presented the society with a framed medallion portrait of the late Challis Winney, a replica of the bronze which was intended to be installed in St. Clement Danes' belfry.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

Mr. A. A. Hughes, in proposing the toast of 'The Press,' said since our last anniversary we have suffered the grievous loss by death of the founder, owner and editor of our one ringing paper—John Goldsmith—and I do not propose at this meeting to make any personal reference to him except to repeat what a very great loss the whole Exercise has suffered and what a very dear personal friend so many ringers have lost. The details of his life and work have been published in 'The Ringing World,' and all here will have read the account.

The toast is 'The Press,' or, as I prefer to put it, 'Our Press.' We all realise that a paper is absolutely necessary, if only to enable our peculiar art to be properly organised. Take this gathering to-day as a small example—we have with us members and friends from many parts of the country, but how would it have been possible for us to make our arrangements known except through the medium of a paper such as 'The Ringing World.'? This is only one small example and there are so many others I could name.

It is now generally known that 'The Ringing World' was the personal property of John Goldsmith—his to close down or to carry on, as he wished, but he chose to carry on, although, unfortunately, at an appreciable loss. The loss was chiefly due to insufficient support and to some extent, I am more sorry still to say, to bad debts—I mean unpaid subscriptions. It is small wonder, therefore, that at the end his estate was in a very bad way, and I do not think there is any harm now in mentioning the fact that an accumulated debt of about £1,800 was due to the printers.

In February last, Mr. Fletcher, hon. secretary to the Central Council, discovered the state of affairs, and, as you all know, an appeal was launched for the personal benefit of the Editor. Unfortunately, the end came before he was able to enjoy much benefit. Several members of the Standing Committee attended the funeral and later were able to hold a meeting to discuss with the executors and Mr. Jenkins, of the Woodbridge Press, the question of the continuity of the paper. It was agreed that 'The Ringing World' should be carried on for the time being, the Standing Committee agreeing to guarantee the executors against any loss.

Well, the paper has carried on and has been managed entirely by Mr. Trollope. Mr. Trollope is not a journalist, nor has he had any

journalistic training. It is, therefore, all the greater reason that we should extend to him our sincere congratulations on the way he has carried on. He has really done a fine job of work, and the whole Exercise is deeply indebted to him.

I must, however, give a warning; it is no easy job, especially in these times, to carry on a specialised paper such as 'The Ringing World.' It depends almost entirely on the support of ringers, and if sufficient support is not forthcoming, well—the paper will have to cease. We all know, as I said before, that a paper is necessary, and it is, therefore, up to us all to see that sufficient support is forthcoming. I had hoped that we would have been able to place suggestions before the Exercise ere this, but Mr. Fletcher has had a mountainous job in sorting out the accounts, and, in addition, he has taken up another post in Yarmouth which has entailed much work. I, however, understand that he has now practically completed his report, and I hope very shortly we shall have something definite to suggest.

I now give you the toast of 'Our Press,' and couple with it the name of the Editor, Mr. Trollope, with our grateful thanks for all that he has done.

Mr. J. A. Trollope, replying, thanked Mr. Hughes for the kind things he had said and the company for the way they had drunk the toast. He did not know that he deserved it, but he thought he could say that he had tried to do his best. He considered himself very fortunate in this matter. All through his life in business he had been something of a square peg in a round hole, and now in his old age, when he was on the scrap heap, he had found a job for which he was by nature and inclination fitted. That was a great blessing. There were, however, drawbacks. Journalism is a trade which has to be learnt like any other trade, and he had to serve his apprenticeship after he was 60 years old. There were some things he could not do. He could not report speeches. Goldsmith was a trained journalist and gave his skill and knowledge to the service of ringers. They would probably find the difference in the report of that meeting, but he hoped with the help of Mr. Peck to do what could be done.

A NARROW MARGIN OF SAFETY.

Mr. Trollope said he did not think ringers realised by how small a margin of safety 'The Ringing World' had survived the last three years. He was not referring to the financial question. That was serious, but, fortunately, it was not his immediate concern. It was in better hands, and it could, and would, be solved. What he meant was that there was a real danger that the paper would have to cease for want of material. Before the war Mr. Goldsmith had told him that he did not expect to be able to carry on the paper if war did come. All he hoped for was to preserve continuity by a small monthly periodical. The day after war was declared the speaker went to see Goldsmith and they discussed matters. They decided to carry on as long as possible, but the future was very bleak. All the supplies of copy which normally filled the paper suddenly ceased. He would not tell them what plans they made, but he did thank those people who had written letters on different matters. They were most helpful, and he asked anyone who had anything to say to write. If they wished, they could do so anonymously. We know some people do not like anonymous letters, but they are quite legitimate, and he would see that there was no abuse in the use of them. The difficulties of finding good copy did not lessen as time went on, they increased, but he hoped to be able to carry on until better times came.

The annual business meeting followed the lunch. One honorary member, Mr. R. W. Wilson, churchwarden of St. Lawrence Jewry, was elected, and four ringing members, Messrs. J. F. Milner, of Kirklington, F. G. Bullock, of Dagenham, Titus Barlow, of Bolton, and W. C. Cook, of Woodford.

The Master proposed a very sincere vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Hughes who, he said, not only took the society in when they were homeless, but also fed them. The treasurer responded and thanked the Master on behalf of Mrs. Hughes and himself, and said the society would always be welcome at the Bell Foundry.

Mr. R. T. Hibbert was then called to the chair and the society re-elected Mr. Fenn as Master, Mr. A. B. Peck was re-elected hon. secretary, Mr. A. A. Hughes treasurer, Messrs. Waugh and Cecil stewards, and Messrs. Newton and Miles trustees.

A course of London Surprise Major was rung on handbells by E. C. S. Turner 1-2, W. Williams 3-4, C. Roberts 5-6, C. H. Kippin 7-8.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT SWINDON.

An enjoyable meeting of the Swindon Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Association was held at Christ Church, Swindon, on Saturday, October 31st, when eight of the ten tower bells were available for ringing. Ringers attended from several local towers, and some welcome visitors were Pte. S. T. Russell, R.A.S.C. (Rotherfield, Sussex), and Tpr. S. J. Elliott, Northants Yeomanry (Yardley Hastings), also A.C. Jack Roberts, a local ringer now in the R.A.F. Good use was made of the bells, Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Plain Bob and Kent Major being rung on the tower bells, and Grandsire Triples on handbells. Despite the lack of constant practice, it was good to see the ringers had not lost their skill, although some of the striking may have been faulty. Christ Church bells still 'go' as well as ever, and it is hoped more will come along to the next meeting.

DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

In England there are quite a number of detached campaniles, bell-towers and small bell-houses belonging to various churches. Many have, for divers reasons, been demolished and destroyed. In mediæval days they were attached to several cathedrals, as, for instance, Old St. Paul's, Chichester, Salisbury, Worcester, Rochester.

The bells of Old St. Paul's were traditionally gambled away by Henry VIII in 1534, and the campanile at Worcester did not survive the Reformation. That at Salisbury—a most picturesque structure with a wooden spire—survived until 1777. Westminster Abbey had a detached tower, and the remains of the 'five-bell tower' on the north side of Rochester Cathedral are still to be seen. That at Chichester alone remains to this day, and is a fine perpendicular erection, 120ft. high, containing a clock with chimes, a ring of eight bells, and a large bourdon bell. The bells of Oxford Cathedral now hang in a tower some distance away from the cathedral itself, having been removed from the tower and spire when the latter was considered unsafe. A similar instance occurs at Holy Trinity, Coventry, where the eight bells hang in a wooden tower in the churchyard. The bells of St. David's Cathedral (Wales) do not hang in the Cathedral tower, but in the Gateway tower, some distance away.

At King's College, Cambridge, there was a noble ring of five bells hung in a low wooden belfry on the north side of the chapel. The structure was destroyed when the bells were sold in 1754. New College, Oxford, possesses a fine detached tower containing a ring of ten bells. Some of the parish churches of England have similar detached towers, many being most curious in their quaint positions, and their unusual architecture. Thus at Gunwalloe, Cornwall, the tower stands fourteen feet away from the church, and is of two stages with pyramidal roof, and contains three bells. On three sides the walls are formed of the solid rock against which it stands.

Talland tower, formerly detached, is now connected to the church by a recently erected large porch with two entrances. Launceston tower, which contains a ring of eight bells, is also now similarly connected to the church by a room used as a vestry. Herefordshire has quite a number of quaint detached towers of curious design, viz., Bosbury, Pembridge, Yarpole, Richards Castle and others. That at Ledbury is surmounted by a fine spire, 120ft. high. Norfolk, too, has a number of detached belfries, that at West Walton being the finest. It stands 70ft. away from the church, forming a grand entrance to the churchyard, and contains five bells.

Little Snoring has a detached round tower, and a similar one is at Bramfield, Suffolk. One of the quaintest of these detached belfries is at Brookland, in Kent, described as 'three old-fashioned candle snuffers placed one on another.' It is of massive oak framing, weather boarded, and contains five bells. At Warmsworth, Yorkshire, the tower (of the 12th century) stands just outside the hall entrance, fully half a mile from the church. The Rector writes: 'We have no peal, only a terrible bell which rings for a quarter of an hour before Sunday services.'

At Evesham, Worcestershire, is a beautiful detached tower with a roadway through its base, standing in two churchyards, those of All Saints' and St. Lawrence's. It

is a magnificent building begun by Sortes before 1207, and rebuilt in the 15th century as a receptacle for the clock and great bell of the Abbey, as well as to form a gateway to the conventual cemetery, as it still does to the churchyard. It is 110ft. high, 28ft. square, containing a clock and noble ring of ten bells.

East Bergholt, Suffolk, has a quaint 'bell-cage' in the churchyard, a low building with a tiled roof, in which hang five heavy bells hung in pits, complete with headstocks and wheels. Elstow, Bedfordshire, is renowned for its connection with John Bunyan, the famous author of 'Pilgrim's Progress' and other religious works. Here also is a detached campanile which now has a ring of six bells. In Bunyan's day there were five, and he himself used to ring the fourth bell. Carfax tower, Oxford, is all that remains of St. Martin's Church, which was demolished in the 18th century. It has a ring of six bells which are rung on civic occasions.

In the private grounds of Quex Park, near Birchington, Kent, there is the tower called 'Waterloo Tower,' which was erected by J. Powell-Powell, Esq., an enthusiastic ringer, who placed therein a ring of twelve bells. The following list embraces the detached towers of Great Britain, and if there are any omissions I shall be grateful if readers will rectify same. The figures in brackets denote number of bells in the tower, and an asterisk (*) denotes the tower is semi-detached:—

- Bedfordshire.—Elstow (6), Marston Mortayne (5), Woburn Mortuary Chapel (8).
- Berkshire.—*Theale (6).
- Brecknock.—Bronllys (?).
- Cambridgeshire.—Tydd St. Giles (6).
- Cheshire.—*Astbury (6).
- Cornwall.—Chacewater (?), Feock (3), Gwennap (6), Gunwalloe (6), Illogan (6), Lamorran (3), *Launceston (8), Mylor (3), *Talland (6).
- Cumberland.—Kirkoswald (2).
- Devon.—Chittlehampton (8).
- Durham.—Middleton-in-Teesdale (3).
- Denbigh.—Henllan (?).
- Essex.—*Hempstead (?), *Wix (1), *Wrabness (1).
- Glamorgan.—Llanfelach (4).
- Gloucestershire.—Berkeley (8), Westbury-on-Severn (8).
- Hampshire.—Gosport, Holy Trinity (8), *Quarley (3).
- Herefordshire.—Bosbury (6), *Garway (5), Holmer (6), *Kinnersley (4), Ledbury (8), Pembridge (5), Richards Castle (3), Yarpole (3).
- Kent.—*Bilsington (1), Brookland (5), Westgate-on-Sea (?), Quex Park (12).
- Lancashire.—Bradshaw (1), Ringley (1).
- Lincolnshire.—Fleet (8), Flexborough (1), Long Sutton (8).
- Middlesex.—Hackney, St. Augustine's (?), Hornsey, St. Mary's (6), *Twickenham, All Hallows' (nil).
- Northants.—*Irthlingborough (8).
- Norfolk.—East Dereham (8), Terrington, St. Clement's (8), *Terrington, St. John's (6), Little Snoring (5), West Walton (5), Woodrising (1).
- Northumberland.—Morpeth (8).
- Oxford.—New College (10), Christ Church Cathedral (12), Carfax (6).
- Pembroke.—St. David's Cathedral (8+2).
- Suffolk.—Beccles (10), Bramfield (5), Bury St. Edmunds (10), *Elvedon (8+1), East Bergholt (5).

(Continued on page 519.)

THE USE OF SINGLES IN SEVEN-BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 506.)

We saw last week that if we wish to compose a peal of Bob Triples, or one of the kindred methods, without singles, we must first bob a Q Set, which will involve the observation bell. That will join into one round block three independent natural courses, two of which are of one nature, and the other of the other nature.

We used as our example the following:

36254 out.
42536 fourths.
23456 in.

The first two are both odd, the third is even. What we must do next is to join the right twenty-eight out-of-course natural courses to 36254 and 42536; and the right twenty-nine in-course natural courses to 23456. So long as we compose by means of bobs at M, W and R, the courses we add to the first two can never be false with any we add to the third course, although every course we use contains an equal number of odd and even rows.

We picked our initial Q Set as the most suitable for purposes of illustration, but any Q Set would do as well, provided the seventh (the observation bell) is involved.

One of these operations is sufficient to enable us to produce a peal, but we are not confined to one; and if we want our peal to be in equal parts, we shall have to use at least three or five. And we can approach our task from another angle, though, of course, it comes to the same thing in the end.

In our issue of October 26th we explained the construction of Hubbard's Ten-part peal. We will turn back to it, and we will take the first half of it as the basis of a peal without singles. The first half is as follows:—

23456 M. W. R.

45236 — —
24536 — —
52436 — —
64523 — —
56423 — —
45623 — —

These six courses four times repeated will give us the thirty in-course courses we need. They are not all full natural courses, for that cannot be had by bobs alone, but we do get the same rows as we should if they were all full natural courses. If we make a single at any M, W or R, we can double the composition and produce the thirty out-of-course courses, and so get the complete peal.

Or, in any one of the first thirty courses, we can make a bob in which the seventh runs either in or out, and when we complete the Q Set we shall add two out-of-course courses, to which we can add, by means of bobs, the other twenty-eight out-of-course courses. But we cannot use the same calling as in the thirty courses, and so our peal will be somewhat irregular in form.

What we can do is to keep the first thirty courses as a regular five-part block, and by means of a Q Set involving the seventh add to each part the proper proportion of out-of-course courses. These will have to be in full natural courses.

5,040.

23456 M. O. F. I. W. R.

45236 — — — —
24536 — — — —
52436 — — — —
35624 — — — —
63524 — — — —
56324 — — — —
24356 — — — —
32456 — — — —
43256 — — — —
64523 — — — —
56423 — — — —
45623 — — — —

Four times repeated.

In a similar fashion it is possible by means of a Q Set of sixth's place bobs, which involve the treble, to obtain a 720 of Plain Bob Minor without singles. John Holt was the first man to discover this, and he composed extents of both Plain Bob Minor and Plain Bob Triples without singles. He was far in advance of his contemporaries in the knowledge of the in and out-of course of the changes.

Perhaps the most important general truth we have discovered in our investigations into the use of singles in the various classes of seven-bell methods is that it depends almost entirely on the symmetry of the natural courses and B Blocks of the methods, and also on the position at which the bobs are made. We must bear this in mind when we come to the last group of methods with which we have to deal—the group which is represented by Stedman.

THE BAN ON RINGING.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The individual or those responsible for the ban on ringing are, I think, also responsible for the greater part of the damage our churches have suffered.

The order that bells must not be rung for church services, etc., but to be rung only in the event of enemy invasion, immediately made churches military objects, and, putting sentiment on one side, 'Jerry' was quite justified in his bombing of them.

The whole order is a muddle, as now after two years of 'ban' no one seems to know how the ringing to comply with the order will be done or who will do it. Had those responsible made a few inquiries before making the order they would have surely found out how silly the order would be and how difficult to carry out without arrangements and proper aid from ringers, but I suppose having made the order, to save his or their faces, they still say the order is necessary, and ringers will have to abide with that until victory is won, and in the meantime 'Jerry' will still have an excuse to bomb churches.

The dignitaries of the Church seem to take it all for granted, and I am very much afraid that, apart from the ringing clergy and a very small minority, the rest of the clergy do not care two hoots if their bells are rung or not, and that they would not be unduly worried if the ban becomes permanent.

W. G. HISCOTT.
Mount Pleasant, Liskeard, Cornwall.

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All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Joint meeting, Stockport, Bowden and Mottram Branch and Macclesfield Branch, at St. Thomas', Norbury (Hazel Grove), Saturday, Nov. 14th. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea in the school 4 p.m. Handbells during afternoon and evening.—T. Wilde and J. Worth, Hon. Dis. Secs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—The annual branch meeting will be held at Accrington on Saturday, November 14th. Silent tower bells and handbells from 2.30 p.m. Business meeting at 4 p.m. Business important. Election of officers. Bring your own refreshments, cups of tea provided. A good attendance is desirable.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Pinchbeck on Saturday, November 14th. Bells (silent) available from 2 p.m. Service 3.45 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Business meeting afterwards.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glen-side, Pinchbeck.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—Meeting on Saturday, Nov. 14th, at St. Mary's, Acton. Handbells in the church from 2.30 p.m. Short service at 4 p.m. Tea, as the guests of the Rector, followed by business meeting in the Rectory, after the service. The Rector specially asks for a good attendance, and is notifying the local Press of the meeting, so that people may come and hear the ringing. Outstanding subscriptions will be welcomed, and any information of interest relating to towers in membership for 1942.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 1, Listoke Edgehill Road, W.13. Perivale 5320.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—A practice will be held at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, November 14th. Bells (silent) available from 2 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, on Saturday, November 21st. Meet in the vestry 3 p.m.

Handbells will be available. Service at 4.30 p.m., followed by the meeting. Those requiring tea kindly let me know, and I will do my best to arrange for some. All ringers cordially invited.—George R. Newton, 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, November 21st, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—The annual district meeting will be held at St. Peter's, St. Albans, on November 21st. Silent tower bells and handbells from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. at the St. Peter's Institute, Hatfield Road, followed by the business meeting. Please try to come and make this a representative meeting, letting me know numbers for tea.—R. Darvill, Dis. Sec., 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—The next meeting will be held at Yatton on Saturday, November 21st. Bells (silent apparatus) available from 3 o'clock. Tea at 5 o'clock. All ringers welcome.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at St. Chad's, Headingley, on Saturday, November 21st. Handbells available from 3 p.m. Business meeting 4.30 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Newbury on Saturday, November 21st. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m., followed by annual meeting. For tea, please notify Mr. H. W. Curtis, Church Road, Shaw, Newbury, by Wednesday, the 18th, at the very latest.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec., Manor Lane, Newbury.

WANTED.

WANTED, COPIES' of 'Double Norwich' (Snowdon) and 'Duffield' (Heywood).—Reply to Box 52, 'The Ringing World,' Woking.

ACCRINGTON.—On October 31st—in the belfry of St. James' Church, 720 Bob Minor: S. Smith 1-2, K. Hindle (first 720) 3-4, C. Sharples (conductor) 5-6.

DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND

(Continued from page 517.)

Surrey.—Tongham (13 tubes), Lambeth, All Saints' (?). Sussex.—Chichester Cathedral (8+1).

Warwickshire.—Coventry, Holy Trinity (8), *Lapworth (5).

Wiltshire.—Malmesbury Abbey (5), *Wilton (6).

Yorkshire.—Wentworth (?), Wykeham (5), Warmsworth (1).

Stirling.—St. Winan's.

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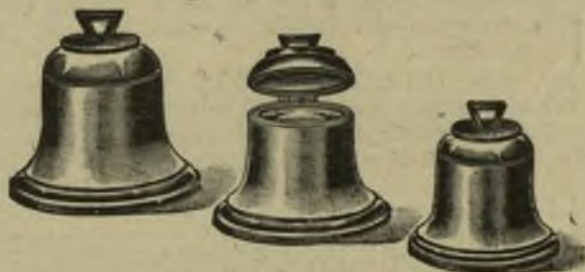
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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20th, 1942.

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LAST SUNDAY.

It was a great duty and a great privilege which was laid on us ringers when last Sunday we were called upon to give expression to the feelings of the people of England over the good news which has come from Egypt. The magnitude of the victory, the great hopes it has aroused, and the stirring events which have followed in its wake, created in the public a deep sense of relief, joy, thankfulness, and resolution, and when the Prime Minister announced at the climax of his great speech on Armistice Day that the ban on ringing would be temporarily suspended the bells of our churches became the symbols and the expression of all that England felt, and all that England hoped for.

The way in which last Sunday's ringing captured the imagination of the people was wonderful. At a time when world-shaking events were taking place, and things were happening which will have an enormous effect on the destinies of mankind; at a time when every journal must have been hard put to it to find room for what it wished to publish, church bells gained and kept a foremost position in the news. Never before throughout the ages have bells been more eagerly listened for, or more thankfully heard, than on Sunday last.

Church bells had come into their own once more, and it was only possible because of their long history and the immemorial influence they have exercised over the people of this land. Nothing else could have had the same effect. Not the fluttering of flags, not the blare of trumpets. And those who remember what happened forty years ago, when the relief of the tiny garrison of Mafeking was announced, will be filled with a profound sense of gratitude at the contrast between the blatant vulgarity then and the ringing of Sunday last. Yet, widely different as were the issues involved, much of the root feeling was the same. The difference was in the form the news was celebrated and the greater sense of restraint, responsibility, and self control which England has learnt through years of peril and anxiety, as well as of success and victory.

But the voices of the bells were far more than an expression of joy at a great victory, or relief at the temporary passing of a great peril. They were an act of thanksgiving, an acknowledgment of the eternal truth that the Most High ruleth in the kingdoms of men, and in the long run appointeth over it whomsoever He will. And they were an expression of the deep resolve of this country that we will not slack our efforts, nor sheath the sword, until evil has been overcome, wrong righted,

(Continued on page 522.)

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and liberty been made secure. As the Archbishop of Canterbury said in his message to the people, the bells called to thanksgiving and to fresh resolves and renewed prayer for God's blessing on our country, our Allies, and the cause we serve.

It was our privilege as ringers to be the ministers of this great act of thankfulness and worship. It was an honour which, we do not doubt, ringers everywhere fully appreciated. The reports of what was done which so far have reached us are scanty, but from what we have heard, and from what has been within our own knowledge, it is certain that the Exercise rose to the occasion. The ringing, judged as ringing, was no doubt poor, but that could not be avoided and was no great matter.

The effect of the events of last Sunday on the Exercise and its fortunes will not be small. We have great reason for pride and thankfulness. Let it not be forgotten that Sunday's celebrations could not have been possible if it had not been for those men who loved the art of change ringing in the old days of peace and for those men who, through these last three sombre years, have been striving to keep things together and interest alive.

We can now look to the future with redoubled confidence. The bells of England have not lost their old hold on the affections and the sentiment of the people of England, and it does not look as if they ever will. It would be a bad day for this land if they did. Let us then go forward with our work. If we keep our hearts high and our faith undimmed we shall see change ringing again enjoying its old prosperity, and we shall have our reward not only in the enjoyment we get out of the art, but in the knowledge that at a great moment in the history of England we, and we alone, can adequately voice the deepest feelings of the people.

SPORT AND CHURCH WORK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On the question of 'sport and ringing as church work' several points occur to me.

As your correspondent, Mr. Bailey, says, many of the leading sports are commercialised and are run as a business with shares and profits. But this cannot be said with regard to church bell ringing, which I insist is primarily church work and that peal ringing is attempted on analysis to improve the quality of ringing.

It is often reiterated by leading ringers that it is better for a band to ring good 'rounds' or 'call-changes' than bad method ringing.

Since I first took hold of a rope I have never heard of bets being made concerning ringing or competitions held which could be construed as a 'match.' Each peal stands or falls on its own merits. Bands and ringers ring on their own individual efforts striving for perfection. Why? There are no onlookers and no applause from the crowd.

The only criticism is the ringers' own conscience as to his effort being good or bad. Again, why? Substitute another word for 'conscience' and you have the answer in most cases.

Surely it is to be a worthy effort in worship and church work. Glorifying God, calling the faithful and reminding the 'others.'

Referring to Mr. P. Amos' letter, in most churches the bells are rung over 100 times a year for services. I doubt the number of peals rung would run into 'two figures' over the same period in the average tower.

Comparisons being odious by repute, may I quote the case of the church organist giving recitals during the week and after service in church, to say nothing of his necessary practices?

No! The whole fact is that church bells can be heard outside and reach so many people's ears, and any suggestion of 'reduced' or 'silent' ringing would not be conducive to good striking. A ringer must hear his instrument and sometimes, unfortunately, the public too. So our responsibility is heavy.

Mr. Yorke says refer to the dictionary as to the meaning of the word 'sport.' Mine says, 'mirth, play; v.i., make mirth, to play.'

How this fits in with service ringing, especially when bells are rung muffled, I fail to see.

F. E. PITMAN.

40, Tweedy Road, Bromley, Kent.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Sunday, November 8, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,
At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD.***A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5039 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 16 in B.

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	*WILFRED WILLIAMS 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	*ISAAC J. ATTWATER 7-8
*DONALD G. CLIFT 9-10	

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.

* First peal of Grandsire Caters in hand. First peal of Caters as conductor. 100th peal by D. G. Clift.

SHAFTON, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BARNLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

*On Sunday, November 8, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,
At 28, CHAPEL STREET,***A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 14 in D.

DANIEL SMITH 1-2	PETER WOODWARD 5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 3-4	RAYMOND FORD 7-8

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

A birthday peal for Mr. Daniel Smith; also for Mr. J. Thackray, of Armley, Leeds.

LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

*On Wednesday, November 11, 1942, in Two Hours and Nine Minutes,
At 57, THE HEADROW,***A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;**

MRS L. K. BOWLING 1-2	WILLIAM BARTON 5-6
PERCY J. JOHNSON 3-4	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 7-8

Arranged and Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

WEST BRIDGFORD, NOTTS.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

*On Wednesday, November 11, 1942, in Two Hours and Five Minutes,
At 9, PATRICK ROAD,***A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being 1,440 Stedman, 1,200 Plain Bob and 2,400 Grandsire.

BERNARD BROWN 1-2	RALPH NARBOROUGH 3-4
MISS EVA W. WEBB 5-6	

Conducted by RALPH NARBOROUGH.

Rung to commemorate Armistice Day.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

*On Thursday, November 12, 1942, in Two Hours and Eleven Minutes,
At 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,***A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15.

*EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE 5-6
*ERNEST C. S. TURNER 3-4	FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW 7-8

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

Witness—John E. Rootes.

* First peal in the method on handbells. First peal in the method on handbells as conductor.

SERGEANT JOSEPH BOOSMA.

Sergeant Joseph Boosma, of the Stepney band, who was reported missing some time ago, is now known to be safe and well, a prisoner in Italian hands.

LONDON BELLS—

What notes more lively can our senses know
Than the loud Changes which melodious flow
From Bride's, Saint Martin's, Michael's, Overy's, Bow,
And thence convey'd along the bordering streams,
Rejoice each village on the banks of Thames.

—Samuel Rogers.

RINGERS EPITAPHS.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—It is unfortunate, but I have not made a collection of ringers' epitaphs, but here are one or two that may interest your readers. To the memory of John Jessup, of Worlingworth, Suffolk, who died in 1825, aged 80, are these lines:—

'To ringing from his youth, he always took delight.
Now his bell has rung and his soul has took its flight.
We hope to join the choir of Heavenly singing,
That far excels the harmony of ringing.'

To another Suffolk worthy at Bildeston is this inscription: 'In memory of Thomas Zephoniah Poole, formerly a member of the Society of Ringers of this Parish, died July 14th, 1831, aged 39 years.

Off on these bells I have joined with mirth,

To celebrate the day of birth,

But now they have passed their sound from me

God called Me into Eternity.'

In the chancel at Wainfleet St. Mary, Lincs, is a slab inscribed: 'Under this stone there is a vault and therein lyes the Remains of Adlard Thorpe, Gent: a Sinner and a Ringer, who departed this life on the 24th of January, 1770, aged 58 years.'

At Scunthorpe, Lincs, the old sexton, Jack Blackburn, is thus commemorated:—

'Alas poor John
Is dead and gone,
Who often toll'd the bell:
And with a spade
Dug many a grave,
And said Amen, as well.'

On a gravestone in St. Nicholas' Churchyard, Nuneaton, Warwickshire: 'To the memory of David Wheway, died 13 October, 1828.

Here lieth a ringer,
Beneath the cold clay,
Who rang many peals,
Both serious and gay,
Through Grandsires and Trebles
So well he could range,
Till death called the "bob"
And brought round the last change.'

At Woolwich: 'Henry Banister died 30 June, 1869, in his 88th year. He was a great lover of the science of change-ringing which he practised in the parish church of Woolwich during a period of 60 years.'

At Pott, near Hastings, a brass tablet immortalises the name of George Theobald, 'a lover of bells' who 'gave a bell freely to grace the steeple.'

On the gravestone of my friend, T. Henry Hardy, in Leicester Cemetery, is engraved a bell and a bar of music, but no inscription beyond his memoriam. When we arranged for the first peal on the then (1922) new 12 bells of St. Margaret's, Leicester, the deceased was to have rung in it. He died suddenly and his place was taken by his father-in-law, the late William Willson. The peal was successful, 5,088 Kent Treble Bob Maximus, which I called, and a few years ago we had a marble tablet erected recording this, and at its foot are the words, 'Rung muffled to the memory of T. Henry Hardy, Ringer and Chorister of this church.'

I have before me a photo of the tablet in Leeds (Kent) Churchyard to the veteran ringer James Barham. It is inscribed:—

'In memory of James Barham of this Parish who departed this life Jany. the 14th, 1818, aged 93 years, who from the year 1744 to the year 1794 Rung in Kent and elsewhere 112 Peals not less than 5,000 Changes in each Peal and call'd Bobs for most of the Peals. And April the 7th & 8th, 1761, Affitted in Ringing 40,320 Bob Major on Leeds Bells in 27 Hours.'

Then follow the names of his wife and children.

ERNEST MORRIS.

Coventry Street, Leicester.

WHAT ARE BELLS FOR?*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—More than any controversy on how much may bellringing be regarded as a 'sport,' the announcement in Parliament to-day that the bells would ring on the Sunday brings up the question what are bells primarily for?

If Hitler orders the bells of Germany to ring to celebrate the destruction of France, the expulsion and near annihilation of the British Army at Dunkirk, the devastation of Greece, or for any other of his many military victories, we feel that it is an abuse of the property of the Church—it is not what bells should be for. If the bloodshed had ceased, a joy to all mothers, German as well as English, there would be reason for the bells. Many ringers will, I expect, refuse to ring for the celebration of a military victory in the midst of this bitter conflict, especially when we were flatly denied permission to ring for Christmas.

HUGH BENSON, Vicar of Sneyd, Stoke-on-Trent.

FABIAN STEDMAN AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES.

(Continued from page 513.)

The rapid development of method ringing very quickly made the 'Tintinnalogia' out of date, and there was need for a new book. Stedman obviously was the person to write it, but this time, it seems probable, the College Youths undertook the financial responsibility and the publication.

In 1677 appeared the 'Campanalogia.' Like the older book, it was printed by W. Godbid, but it was 'for W.S. and are to be sold by Langley Curtis in Goat Court on Ludgate Hill.'

Neither Stedman's name nor initials appears on the title page, but the dedication 'to the Honoured and to his much esteemed Friends the members of the Society of Colledg Youths,' is by F.S., and so there is even less doubt about the authorship than in the case of the 'Tintinnalogia.' W.S. is William Smith, who joined the College Youths in 1659, and was steward in 1678. Stedman himself was steward in 1677, the year the book was published, and, as he was still living at Cambridge, it is likely that Smith carried on the duties for him except at the annual feast, and was appointed by the society to look after the publication of the book.

Who William Smith was cannot be said, for it is almost impossible to identify a man with so common a name. There was a William Smith who in 1661 petitioned for a pension of £50 a year as King's Messenger. He had, he said, been sworn under the King as prince, but now was left out of his place.

As a text book the 'Campanalogia' is an enormous advance on the 'Tintinnalogia' and covers a greatly extended range, but as Stedman necessarily was much influenced by the earlier work and modelled his own on it, a comparison between the two is inevitable. At once we are struck with a great difference both in the literary style, and in the way the subject matter is handled, a difference so great that it amounts to a proof (if further proof is needed) that the two books are by different authors.

At the time when Stedman was universally in the Exercise thought to have written the 'Tintinnalogia,' I could only account for this difference by supposing that he had developed his style and method by exposition to suit the expansion of his subject matter, and indeed some change was necessary. Ringing could no longer be explained as an abstract thing. That was possible, or at any rate it was possible to a writer like Duckworth, when he was treating of such comparatively simple things as Plain Changes and Grandsire; but the writer must deal with the more complex methods in the concrete if he was to be understood. There are signs that Duckworth realised this, and of London Pleasure on Five Bells he merely writes that 'it being a confused peal, I shall say no more of it, but expose it to the view,' that is give the figures.

Besides, ringers had already begun to adopt a number of conventions which simplified matters from a practical point of view and rendered lengthy verbal explanations unnecessary. In theory men would no doubt have agreed, as they have more or less all along agreed, that any bell can be the whole hunt, one equally with another.

In practice they found that the treble is the most suitable bell for the purpose, and so ceased to bother about any other variations. It was far easier for them to understand a peal or a method as one concrete set of changes which might be varied in different ways, rather than as a set of abstract rules which might have different expressions.

In the 'Campanalogia,' too, we have the convention by which a lead and a bob stand for all that there is in the method. By them the practical ringer may learn all he needs to learn; he need not know anything of 'the mystery and grounds of the peal.' To Duckworth it was so obvious that change ringing is an abstract science that he assumes it all through and almost induces his reader to assume it too. Stedman knew enough of the matter to understand that it was so, but to him it was a thing which needed explaining, and so he tried to explain it—not, it must be admitted very clearly or successfully. He points out in so many words that the **real** things in change ringing take place in the minds of the ringers. The figures you write down are not the **real** things of a method—they are but symbols which more or less adequately represent the method. The sound of the bell is not the **real** thing—it is but the result of the ringing. You talk of moving a bell, or hunting a bell; it is not the material bell you move, but a **real** though abstract bell which exists in your mind and nowhere else. 'Although the art of changes,' he writes, 'is in itself a real thing, yet the notions by which they are reduced to practice on bells are not so,' and again, 'the practick part of the art is performed by imaginary, not real notions.'

That this is essentially true is shown by the fact that the practical ringer habitually looks upon himself as the thing which is moving. 'I was in 3-4,' he says, or 'I followed the third down to lead,' not 'I was striking my bell in 3-4.'

In literary style the 'Campanalogia' reaches a high level, but it is not the style of the 'Tintinnalogia.' The remarkable thing about the latter book is the simplicity of the language. I open it at random. On the first page I turn to there are 296 words, and all except 38 are of one syllable. The 38 are almost entirely inflexious of one syllable words such as 'lying,' 'hunting,' 'mostly'; or such simple words as 'behind,' 'music,' 'consequently,' 'instance,' and the like. An examination of other pages gives a similar result.

Compared with modern prose, Duckworth's sentences are not particularly short, but they are short compared with the long, rolling, involved sentences which were common in the writing of his time; and compared with the sentences in the J.D. and C.M. book of 1702. It would, of course, be absurd to place Duckworth as a writer alongside Swift—the bulk and range of their work is so different—but at any rate they share this economy and simplicity in the choice of words. Nor should we imagine that it is easy to write like this; it is an instance of art which conceals art.

Fabian Stedman did not rise to those heights, but he was a good writer. In his dedication he uses an ornate style. He is addressing the College Youths.—Gentlemen. As your society even ab origine hath deservedly acquired an eminency in many respects above all others of this

(Continued on next page.)

FABIAN STEDMAN.

(Continued from previous page.)

kind, so more especially for the pregnancy of its members in the composing of peals; for when the art of cross-pricking lay enveloped in such obscurity that it was thought impossible that double changes on five bells could make to extend further than ten, and double changes on six further than sixty, then it was that a worthy and knowing member of your society, to dissipate those mists of ignorance and to usher in the bright morn of knowledge, prickt those most applauded peals of Grandsire and Grandsire Bob, which for their excellency have for many years together continued triumphant in practice amidst all others whatsoever, and which indeed have been a great light on the production of that great variety of new peals herein contained, the greatest part of which being also the offspring of your society. I therefore thought fit to usher them into the world under the wings of your protection. Gentlemen, as a member, I hold myself obliged to add my mite to your full fraught treasury of speculative and practical knowledge of this kind, though I confess your acquisition on this account will be very mean, since my want of ability sufficient to undertake a thing of this nature, and also want of opportunity by converse with others to supply my own defects, have rendered this book less acceptable than it might have been done by some more knowing head and acute pen. And although I am conscious that it meriteth not your acceptance, yet I assume the confidence to believe that you will favour it with a kind entertainment among you; and the rather that I know you are too judicious to sentence it without first

(Continued in next column.)

MANCROFT TENOR.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The following extract is from 'The Norfolk Chronicle' of December 13th, 1814, and bears out the old story of the bell being taken by the old ringers to the weigh-bridge on Hay Hill before being taken up the tower, and being found to be 42½ cwt.

(CHARLES E. BORRETT.)

Sheringham.

'The new tenor bell for St. Peter Mancroft was deposited in the tower preparatory to its being hung in place of the old one, which has been taken down and broken up. The new bell is inscribed, "To the King, Queen, and Royal Family, this harmonious peal of 12 bells is dedicated. Thomas Mears, London, fecit 1814." The weight of the new bell is 42 cwt. 2 qr., or about 28 lb. heavier than its predecessor.'

ERSATZ BELLS IN ITALY.

According to a report from Zurich, the Italian government is offering the churches of Italy gramophone records of chimes to be broadcast by means of loud speakers from the steeples in place of the bells which have been taken for scrap metal.

This has caused great dissatisfaction among the clergy and people, and the Archbishop of Milan has forbidden their use in his diocese.

FABIAN STEDMAN.

(Continued from previous column.)

casting into the balance of your indifferent judgement some grains of allowance. The countenance you shew it will silence detractors, and be armour of proof against the fool's bolts which may happen to be soon shot at the author.

This is not in the style of modern prose, but it is good English and quite in place in an Epistle Dedicatory. In the body of his book Stedman could use a style which is straightforward, clear, and businesslike, and that he could modify his style to suit his purpose is proof of his skill as a writer.

(To be continued.)

John Taylor & Co.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

A time like this last week is a time which strains the resources of a journal like 'The Ringing World' to the uttermost. There is so much that ought to be done, such scanty means of doing it, and so little time to do it in. Recent events have greatly increased these difficulties in the case of this paper, but we know that our readers and friends will make allowances for any shortcomings. We shall be glad to have particulars of ringing done last Sunday.

Congratulations to Mr. John Austin, who was born 79 years ago yesterday.

A week or two ago a certain Capt. Keay wrote to 'The Daily Telegraph' suggesting that the 'idle and useless' church bells should be taken for scrap. We wonder if last Sunday he altered his views.

Mr. Pulling's band rang the first peal of Double Dublin Surprise Major at Hersham on November 15th, 1930.

Jasper Snowden died on November 16th, 1885, at the early age of 41.

The Norwich Scholars rang the first peal of Imperial the Third Major at St. Giles' in that city on November 17th, 1760, and the first peal of London Surprise Major at St. Andrew's on the same date in 1835.

What was at the time the longest peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major was rung at Beeston, Notts, on November 18th, 1882. The Burton men formed the band and the number of changes was 7,200.

The Bushey band rang the first peals of Elstree Surprise Major on November 17th, 1934, Eryri Major on November 19th, 1935, and Eastbury Surprise Major on November 20th, 1937.

The first silent peal of Stedman Triples on tower bells was rung at Burton-on-Trent on November 20th, 1886. Mr. Joseph Griffin is the sole survivor of the band.

FOUR HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

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 evening and summer night and all next day, the metal tongues from tower and steeple gave voice to England's gladness.—J. A. Froude.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MISS POOLE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am rather surprised to find no comment in the correspondence columns of your current issue regarding the remarkable handbell performances of Miss Jill Poole. To say they are outstanding is to put it very mildly, for they rank as high as anything we have ever had in the way of double-handed ringing. I should like to offer my warmest congratulations to the young lady and to her parents.

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

Sheringham, Norfolk.

THE PATRON SAINT OF RINGERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have just been asked, 'Who is the patron saint of ringers?' and I had to confess that I did not know. Have we got one? My thoughts at once turned to St. Dunstan, but he only appears to be the patron saint of goldsmiths. No standard work on bells mentions the subject, as far as I can discover.

E. V. COX.

Tedburn St. Mary, Exeter.

MR. JAMES GEORGE.

APPROACHING 89th BIRTHDAY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—If I am spared until Friday, November 27th, I shall reach 89 years of age.

On November 28th, 1925, seventeen years ago, the day after I was 72, I rang the 53 cwt. Bow tenor, Cheapside, London, to a peal of Treble Bob Maximus in the Kent Variation in 4 hours and 7 minutes for Queen Alexandra's funeral.

On April 17th, 1911, over 31 years ago, I rang the 27 cwt. tenor to a peal at Ashton-under-Lyne, which was a record length of Kent Treble Bob Maximus, in 8 hours and 39 minutes, containing 12,240 changes.

These are only two instances where I have rung many of the heavy bells to peals in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, my total of peals now reaching 1,280. On October 21st, 1933, I was one of the band, including Mr. Robert H. Brundle, whose average age was 76½, who rang in the peal of Stedman Triples at St. Olave's, Hart Street, London.

I joined the Ancient Society of College Youths on October 12th, 1889, over 53 years ago.

My hearty congratulations for keeping 'The Ringing World' going with such nice paragraphs and leading articles.

JAMES GEORGE.

Summer Hill Homes, Summer Hill Terrace, Birmingham 1.

VICTORY BELLS.

LAST SUNDAY'S RINGING.

At the suggestion of the Prime Minister in agreement with the authorities of the Church, the bells all over England were rung last Sunday to celebrate the victory in Egypt, and through the medium of the B.B.C. some of the ringing was broadcast throughout the world.

All the B.B.C. programmes, Home, Empire, European and Transatlantic, carried the sound of the bells from Westminster Abbey, St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, Llandaff Cathedral, Armagh Cathedral, and the Parish Church of St. Mary, Prestwich, Manchester.

'Did you hear them in Occupied Europe? Did you hear them in Germany?' asked the announcers.

With the 9 a.m. news the 14 bells of Coventry's bomb-devastated cathedral, of which only the bell tower and the spire still stand, were broadcast.

The City of London has suffered far more loss of bells through enemy action than any town in the country, and some of the rings which are safe have been taken down from the steeples. St. Paul's Cathedral was the only peal left which could be rung, and here a band of College Youths, assisted by Mrs. R. F. Deal, rang Stedman Cinques to the delight of many hundred listeners. The ten at St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill, were chimed.

The Cumberlands rang at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and the Abbey bells were rung by College Youths.

WESTMINSTER.—At St. Margaret's, the newly restored and relung ten bells were raised at the stroke of 9 a.m. and were rung for half an hour to touches of Grandsire and Stedman Caters. Those taking part were Mr. and Mrs. Davis, Messrs. Sanders, Nudds, Belcher, Hoskins, Pye, Digby, Corby, Fox, Bates from Acle, Norfolk, a member of the Forces from Basingstoke and Mr. Hewett (conductor).

THE PROVINCES.

We have received reports from the provinces of the ringing at the following places:

ST. PETER'S, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Among the ringers were Mrs. W. W. Wolstencroft (who in a few days will have reached three score years and ten), Mrs. A. A. Walls and Mrs. J. Clayton; all of whom took part in the Armistice ringing in 1918 by the only full band of lady ringers in the country. A gratifying response was made to the appeal by Mr. Wolstencroft to all old ringers to ring before and after morning service.

BIRMINGHAM.—Ringing started at 9 a.m. at the Cathedral with Stedman Caters, followed by Cinques at St. Martin's. The eight at the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. Chad's were rung from 10.30 to 11. Ten bells were rung at Aston and eight each at Erdington and Edgbaston. Generally in the district the ringers turned up well. There were crowds of people listening to St. Martin's bells in the Bull Ring.

BOURNEMOUTH.—The Vicar of St. Peter's, Bournemouth, and Rural Dean writes to us to express his gratitude for the way the ringers turned up to ring. 'It is particularly gratifying to know,' he says, 'that other towers in this district were well manned and that some of our ringers were able to help at St. John's, Surrey Road, and then return to St. Peter's to ring again for the great civic service held at 11.15.'

BOWDON, CHESHIRE.—Among those taking part in the ringing were three generations—Mr. C. Edwards, Mr. R. Elkins (son-in-law) and Miss Mary Elkins.

BRAINTREE.—At Braintree, Essex, nine ringers took part in 288 and 112 Kent Treble Bob Major and 672 Double Norwich.

BRISTOL.—The bells of St. Ambrose were fully manned and the ringing was excellent throughout. The band included five septuagenarians.

BROMLEY, KENT.—The Parish Church and its bells were among those destroyed in the air raids, but the band joined with that at St. Luke's, Bromley Common, some 15 in all, and rang Grandsire Triples and Bob Major. The ringing was much appreciated by the congregation.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.—Ten girls between the ages of 11 and 14, all trained since the outbreak of war, rang the bells at Burnham. Seven had never heard their bell speak before.

CAMBRIDGE.—At the Roman Catholic Church, three short touches of Grandsire Triples. At St. Bene't's, 120's of Grandsire Doubles. At St. Mary-the-Great, 293 Grandsire Triples, two plain courses of Grandsire Caters and rounds on the twelve. Those taking part were W. Faux, R. Knights, F. Kempton, J. Ward, D. Clift, T. Chenery, F. Hurry, R. Lathbury, J. Quinney, T. Dennis, J. Cross, Mr. Cross, sen., E. G. Hibbins, D. Stewart, G. Ward and C. Smith.

COLCHESTER.—At St. Peter's, touches of Bob Major by A. Burch, G. Burch, G. Boyden, F. L. Bumpstead, W. Chalk, E. P. Duffield, A. Parker, H. T. Pye, G. Rashbrook, V. Kerridge and members of H.M. Forces. Miss White, A.T.S., of North Stonham, and Messrs. E. Gosling, Windsor; Jackson, Stalybridge; Young, Poole; and Beed, of Taunton, also took part.

DEPTFORD.—At St. John's, Grandsire was rung by W. J. Jeffries, P. Zalsberg, A. Bennington, G. H. Daynes, R. Fosdike, E. B. Crowder, C. D. Letser and F. W. Richardson.

DARLEY DALE, DERBYSHIRE.—Ringing began with a good raise in peal, rounds and call changes, followed by short touches of Grandsire Triples. After the service more Grandsire was rung, and finally there was a really good fall in peal. The ringing was uniformly good and was enjoyed by all the ringers and by the congregation.

EALING ringers rang the bells of St. Mary's, Acton, at 9 o'clock, and then went on to Christ Church, Ealing, and St. Mary's, Ealing. Grandsire Triples was rung at these three towers, the striking being reasonably good, except at Christ Church, where the bells are very false. At St. Lawrence's, Brentford, the band rang Grandsire Doubles and Bob Minor. This, by arrangement with the Vicar, was during the service. All the bells went quite well.

FELKIRK, NEAR BARNESLEY, YORKS.—720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: P. Woodward treble, J. T. White 2, R. Hill 3, W. Tibble 4, H. Chant 5, D. Smith (conductor) tenor. Also 600 Plain Bob Minor: R. Ford treble, J. T. White 2, R. Hill 3, P. Woodward 4, H. Chant 5, D. Smith (conductor) tenor.

GLASGOW.—Although six of the members of the St. Mary's Cathedral Society are serving with H.M. Forces, the local band managed to ring the ten bells. A nice 575 of Grandsire Caters was brought round, followed by Stedman Caters until 11 o'clock. The ringers present were W. H. Pickett (capt.), R. O. Street, E. Stafford, E. Bumphrey, R. J. G. Townsend, F. Wilson, E. W. Yates, Sgt. J. Sargent, Sgt. T. Windram, Pte. J. Ewing, all of the local band. The visitors were Paymaster-Lieut. C. G. Lenn, R.N.V.R., Sgt. H. O. Hart, R.A.S.C., and Pte. H. F. Kitchen, R.A.M.C.

HUGHENDEN.—Eleven ringers took part in ringing rounds, Grandsire and Stedman Triples. Mr. J. W. Wilkins, who is just on 80 years of age, cycled over four miles each way. Mr. John Evans also came into the belfry, but unfortunately was unable to ring.

HARLOW COMMON, ESSEX.—720 Bob Minor by Fred Whittey treble, Ben Coppin 2, Lewis Cordell 3, Stanley Clark 4, Edward Rochester 5, Bert Laird 6, William Wheeler (conductor) 7, James Abey 8. Rung with 6-8 covering.

IPSWICH.—At St. Mary-le-Tower a course of Kent Treble Bob Maximus: Phyllis Tillett 1, A. Waddington (Edington) 2, Charles J. Sedgley 3, Hobart E. Smith 4, Harry E. Roper 5, William P. Garrett 6, John F. Tillett 7, William Tillett 8, George A. Fleming 9, William J. G. Brown 10, George E. Symonds 11, Frederick J. Tillett 12. Afterwards Mr. Waddington rang 3-4 to a touch of Grandsire Cinques on handbells.

LAMBERTHURST, KENT.—Two courses Cambridge Surprise, 120 Plain Bob, two 120's Grandsire Doubles: Mrs. Fenner, Miss Hovard, H. J. Hammond, G. Waghorn, E. Woodage, Sergt. R. Hosking, R.A. (Lundulph, Cornwall), Corpl. W. Edgecombe, R.A. (Rilton, Devon), and A. Marshall, J. Waghorn, sen., J. Waghorn, jun., and A. Relfo.

LEWISHAM.—Grandsire Doubles, with the 2nd left out and 6-8 covering, were rung at St. Mary's, Lewisham, both before and after the service of thanksgiving by a mixed band made up as follows: Messrs. H. Warnett, sen., C. H. Walker and J. Bennett, remnants of St. Mary's band; E. Mounter and P. J. Spice, from SS. Peter and Paul's, Bromley (now demolished); G. R. Simmonds, Lee, and another from Huntingdon, temporarily of Forest Hill. As the bells were being lowered a good-humoured police-sergeant appeared in the belfry and announced the fact the ringing time had been 'stretched by half an hour.' The striking was tolerably good, and all went away contented hoping for another (please God, final) victory ring soon.

LINSLADE.—At St. Barnabas'. The ringers taking part were F. Dedman, W. Insley, Mrs. R. Jeffs, W. J. Jeffs, W. T. Jeffs, A. Kemsley, F. Randall, E. Thorp, P. Vickers, and A. Cheshire, an old member of the band, who rang the same bell that he rang for the first quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples on the bells over 42 years ago.

LYME REGIS, DORSET.—The bells were rung on Sunday, November 15th, from 9 to 9.40 a.m., when some twelve ringers mustered, including the Mayor, Mr. W. J. Emmett, who belonged to the old band before the bells were augmented to eight and relung in 1911, and had not touched a rope since. Some boys and one girl, who have been learning on clapperless bells since March last and practising handbells for twelve months, were also able to take a share—a thrilling experience for them. The change ringing band, being one short for Triples, some Minor and Doubles were rung with extra covering bells. The rigging, of course, showed evidence of lack of practice, but comments from the general public outside afterwards were kindly, and, perhaps, the joy of hearing of the bells sounding again overshadowed any impression of defect.

MITCHAM, SURREY.—At the Parish Church, 336 Grandsire Triples was rung: L. Nicolas 1, J. R. Davison 2, C. Potchecary 3, H. Tourle 4, G. West 5, R. Hall 6, W. S. Smith (conductor) 7, W. Sparkes tenor.

NEWMARKET.—At St. Mary's, 720 Plain Bob Minor: Lieut. A. E. Dockerill (Harpenden) 1, R. Heath 2, S. Forwood 3, S. Howlett (R.A.F.) 4, A. E. Austin (conductor) 5, R. C. Sharpe tenor. S. Brown and W. Webb, from Exning, took part in other touches of Plain Bob.

NEWPORT, MON.—At 9 o'clock hymn tunes were chimed, and at 10 o'clock, the ringers having mustered in full force, the bells were raised and kept going until service time at 11 o'clock. The ringing consisted of Grandsire and Stedman interspersed with Queens and firing.

(Continued on next page.)

VICTORY BELLS.

(Continued from previous page.)

NORTON, STAFFS.—720 Cambridge Surprise Minor, 240 Oxford Treble Bob and a plain course of Kent. The following took part: J. E. Wheelton, W. C. Lawrence, G. E. Lawrence, S. B. Bailey, W. Corfield, J. Walley, J. Ryles, J. W. Walker and C. S. Ryles. The inhabitants of the village were delighted to hear the bells ringing again.

NUNEATON.—Owing to enemy action there was no ringing in Nuneaton. At the Parish Church of St. Nicholas a temporary floor in the ringing chamber was hastily put in, but as there is a crack in the tower from top to bottom the architect would not allow ringing to take place, so the bells were chimed in 'rounds' and 'Queens' for half an hour prior to the civic service. Those taking part were Miss G. Buss, Mrs. H. Billington, G. J. Stoneley, W. Horton and S. Chapman (of Nuneaton), Corpl. C. E. Rayson, R.A.F., J. Draycott, H. Beamish, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Beamish and Margaret Beamish (of Chivers Coton). Three generations of the Beamish family were represented, grandfather, father and daughter, aged 7 years. The bells were also chimed at the conclusion of the service. At All Saints', Chivers Coton, where the church was totally destroyed by enemy action, leaving the bells undamaged, it was not possible to ring, as all the ropes perished in the fire which swept up the tower. Frantic efforts to obtain ropes were unavailing, and finally rope suitable for the chiming apparatus was procured and installed. J. E. Moreton, J. Draycott and Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Beamish played hymn tunes and call changes here.

OXFORD.—An informal committee meeting of the Oxford Society was held on the day following the Prime Minister's announcement, and arrangements were made to ring as many of the city's bells as possible. Notices were inserted in the local papers and the Cathedral fixed as a rallying point. At 9 a.m. on Sunday a good muster assembled at Christ Church, about 35 being present by 10 o'clock. A course of Stedman Cinquses revealed a certain amount of rustiness, but a further two courses showed a marked improvement.

During the ringing those present were divided into three bands, and at 10 o'clock these dispersed. Band A, under Mr. W. H. B. Wilkins, rang Grandsire Doubles and rounds at St. Aldate's from 10 to 10.30, then Grandsire and Stedman Triples at St. Ebbe's from 10.30 to 11. Band B (Mr. V. Bennett) went to Carfax for Grandsire Doubles from 10 to 10.30, and then rang Triples at St. Giles' for the 11 o'clock service, while Band C (Mr. R. A. Post) rang Grandsire Doubles and rounds on the heavy six at St. Mary-the-Virgin's for the University Sermon at 10.30, and then Grandsire and Stedman Triples at All Saints' before the civic service at 11 o'clock. Here also several members of the O.U.S.C.R. who have joined since the ban rang some remarkably good rounds, showing the value of the silent practices at New College. There was still a surplus of ringers, so yet a fourth band was sent along to ring rounds at St. Thomas' for matins.

Band B, together with half of A, now made their way to Magdalen College and kept the grand ring of ten going until time was up. Rounds and Stedman Caters were rung. Meanwhile Band C, with the other half of A, had adjourned to Merton, where in spite of the difficulty in ringing on a narrow gallery with an opening 26ft. square in the centre and a drop of 60ft. to the chapel floor below, the noble eight were set going to some quite tolerable rounds and Grandsire Triples. Two touches were enough, and the party finally went to New College, where well-struck touches of Grandsire and Stedman Caters were brought round. The bells were lowered just in time for the clock to strike 12. Throughout the morning, early starts at the various towers were facilitated by people going ahead to raise the bells while the previous ones were being lowered.

OVER, CAMBS.—1.264 Bob Major: W. Bavin 1, B. Norman 2, D. Adams 3, F. Warrington (conductor) 4, A. W. T. Ginn 5, R. Thoday 6, A. J. Ginn 7, C. Robinson 8.

PORTSMOUTH.—The bells of the Cathedral and St. Mary's, Portsea, were rung by a joint company of both towers. A goodly company of ringers now in H.M. Forces and stationed in the district shared in the ringing and represented the following towers: Kettering, Hawhurst, Lyndhurst, Wellington (Salop), Wisbech, Friezland (Yorks), Hitchin, Stoke (Suffolk), Reigate and Lyme Regis. The ringing at the Cathedral included 504 Stedman Triples: J. D. Harris 1, F. A. Burnett 2, F. W. Rogers 3, W. Tate 4, T. R. Taylor 5, L. P. Cook 6, F. W. Burnett (conductor) 7, C. Shepherd 8.

PULBOROUGH.—Six members of the Royal Observer Corps. A. V. Corden (Head Observer), A. C. Greenfield, A. Holden, H. C. Greenfield, S. C. Greenfield and L. Stilwell, assisted by H. J. Doick and F. J. Killick, all members of Pulborough belfry, rang five 120's Grandsire Doubles with three conductors. The striking was excellent considering the long silence, and the ringers were congratulated by the Rector in his sermon.

PUTNEY.—At St. Mary's, touches of Grandsire Trioles: T. Bolton, C. Cassell, G. Collis, W. T. Elson, A. Jones, J. Kent, W. Malins, A. N. Smith (Glasgow) and A. Williams. Some of the ringers had previously assisted at All Saints', Fulham.

ST. ALBANS.—At St. Peter's, courses of Grandsire Caters and Bob Royal were rung by A. Dale, R. Darvill, G. W. Debenham, R. Ewer. (Continued in next column.)

GENOA.

Genoa has lately been much in the news through the air raids of the Royal Air Force. The only time when the town was attacked in previous wars by British forces was in the early days of the last century, when it was occupied for some time. There was a very old tradition that when a place was captured by an army, all the church bells were the perquisite of the officer commanding the artillery, who could carry them away unless they were redeemed by a money payment. Something of the sort seems to have been done at Genoa, for one of the bells at Liversedge in Yorkshire has this inscription: 'These eight bells were cast in 1814 and 1815 with brass ordnance taken at Genoa.' It does not say they were cast from looted church bells, but it is pretty certain it was so; any broken bells would be called 'brass ordnance.' On Tower Wharf are two bronze cannon and on the carriage of each is an inscription: 'This gun was made at Woolwich from ordnance taken at Cherbourg, 1758.' There is evidence that six church bells at Cherbourg were looted and brought to the Tower, where they remained for some time.

At the end of the Napoleonic wars a Colonel Lemoine, who had been in command of the artillery in the attack on Genoa, was reminded of the custom which had existed for years in the artillery that the bells of a captured town became the property of the commanding officer of artillery on the spot. He went back to Genoa, and, making inquiries, found that there were upwards of ninety churches in the town each with an average of five bells, which, according to the price given by the man who had charge of most of them, were worth thirty thousand livres Genoese, or seven thousand pounds sterling. It was a fortune worth trying for, and so partly to uphold an established privilege, but mainly as he admitted on his own account, he thought he would try to secure it. He wrote to a man named R. H. Crewe, who evidently was a person well informed in such matters, for his advice. Crewe made extensive inquiries, and thought that on the whole the claim could not be sustained. So the matter dropped. Lemoine evidently hoped to get the money from the English Treasury as prize-money, for, of course, after peace was signed there would have been no chance of actually taking possession of the bells, even if his claim had been allowed. The correspondence on the matter is in the archives of the War Office.

VICTORY BELLS.

(Continued from previous column.)

Mrs. Fergusson, H. Gale, T. Hull, S. Jones, S. Sayers, T. Seymour, V. Sinclair, T. Southam, F. Southam, F. Spicer and Miss West, also Messrs. Hoare and Long, of Watford, and Dobson, of Plymouth.

The Cathedral bells are dismantled and could not be rung, but handbells were rung before both morning and afternoon services. The sixes at St. Stephen's and St. Michael's were rung.

STOKE POGES.—Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Kent Treble Bob Major were rung as well as some call-changes and firing. The following local ringers were present: Mrs. A. D. Barker, Miss M. Overshott and Messrs. L. Albrow, A. D. Barker, W. J. Bateman, W. L. Gutteridge, E. C. Hartley, H. S. Hawkins and W. Henley, also four visitors, J. M. Gayford (Little Waltham, Essex), F. G. Groombridge (Chislehurst, Kent), C. A. Levett (All Saints', Hastings, Sussex) and C. Woodlands (Bolney, Sussex).

STONY STRATFORD.—At St. Giles', at 9.30, several 336's of Grandsire Triples and shorter touches were rung. At 11.30, 224 Grandsire and other touches. Plain Bob Minor, Grandsire and Stedman were rung on the six at Cosgrave. The eight at Wicken and the five at Passenheim were also rung with the help of visitors.

STREATHAM.—At St. Leonard's Parish Church, 504 Grandsire Triples: E. Wright 1, C. A. Button 2, E. L. Miles 3, E. E. Bish 4, T. W. Welbourne 5, L. G. Franks 6, J. W. Chapman (conductor) 7, S. Gardner 8. Also touches of Stedman Triples with J. Euston taking part.

SWINDON.—An excellent band assembled at Christ Church at 10 a.m., and ringing continued until a little after service time. The bells were raised in peal with Mr. Alfred Lawrence, now in his 88th year, trebling-up, and this grand old man showed he is still a good ringer. Although a good band capable of ringing Royal was present, the ringing was confined to Grandsire Caters and resulted in some very good ringing. Nearly all the bells in the Swindon district were rung.

WALTHAMSTOW.—At St. Mary's, touches of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Kent Treble Bob Minor and Plain Bob Minor. Two veterans, Messrs. R. V. Maynard and J. H. Wilkins, aged 86 and 82 respectively, took part. As the 8th and 9th bells were obstructed by a heavy iron shutter, brought down by bomb blast, the ringing had to be confined to the front six bells.

WILLENHALL, STAFFS.—At St. Giles' call changes were rung and Stedman Triples and Grandsire Triples with 9.8.10 covering. The following ringers took part: A. E. Read, E. Hortin, I. Evans, J. T. Davis, W. T. Edge, A. Evans, J. Luck, Rev. A. F. Sargent, A. Davis, S. H. Coley, H. Ludford, R. Sidebotham and C. Wallater. The ringing appeared to be greatly appreciated by the inhabitants.

WRINGTON.—Sixteen ringers turned up and rang the ten bells, including a good touch of Grandsire Caters.

YATELEY, HANTS.—Several touches of Grandsire Triples were rung, finishing up with a well-struck 504 by the following: F. Bunch 1, W. G. Bunch 2, A. T. Hearmon 3, C. Bunch 4, G. Butler 5, A. Goodall 6, S. Riddell (conductor) 7, J. Palterman tenor.

THE PRESS AND THE BELLS.

WIDESPREAD INTEREST.

The way the general public and the national press received the news that the ban on ringing was to be lifted last Sunday was wonderful, heartening and almost unbelievable. At a time more crowded with world-shaking events than any period since the fall of France two and a half years ago, church bells were given a foremost place in the news, and everywhere people were looking forward to hearing once again the music of the parish steeples.

When the news of the great victory in Egypt came through, many men wished that the triumph could be celebrated in the time-honoured manner, and some ventured to put their wishes into words. Here is a typical letter which appeared in 'The Eastern Daily Press':—

Sir,—Surely the Government might relax for one day the ban on the ringing of church bells so that we may, in the manner of our fathers, show our gratitude to Almighty God for the great victory he has vouchsafed to us.—T. W. Purdy (Colonel). Aylsham, Nov. 5th.

Many others, while fully sympathising with what Col. Purdy had written, feared that any celebration might turn out to be premature. They remembered the brilliant victory at Cambrai during the last war and its lamentable sequel. Their views were ably expressed in an editorial in the same journal. It is worth reproducing:—

'Though there was a notable lightening of people's spirits yesterday when the news of the Eighth Army's success became generally known, we doubt whether more than a few will think with Col. Purdy that the time was ripe for a victory peal to be rung on church bells all over the country. People with long memories will recall with some bitterness the disappointments that so quickly followed similar exhibitions of exuberance on one or two occasions in the last war. And we think it would ill accord with the present mood of sober determination to indulge in any demonstration that might give an impression that even so brilliant a victory is regarded as anything but a first step along the long road to final triumph.'

DOUBT AND CAUTION.

'Had Col. Purdy suggested that it was time that the Government reconsidered its decision to silence the church bells for their normal use of calling people to worship, we should have been glad to have lent our cordial support. There is something lacking in an English Sunday while the bells are silent, something that we can ill spare at a time when we should be all the better for a challenging reminder of the deeper issues in this war against the forces of evil. It is surely an unseemly thing in a country which is still Christian at heart that the bells that were meant to call us to worship should be kept perpetually in reserve so that in emergency they can only sound a call to arms. Some day—and that we hope not too far distant—the bells of all churches in the country will ring out in a joyous peal for victory. Meanwhile, could we not be allowed to hear them serving their normal purpose of calling the faithful to worship and prayer?'

MR. CHURCHILL'S SPEECH.

But the Prime Minister's great speech in the House of Commons altered everything. He explained in detail what had happened, and at the climax of his speech he used these words: Taken by itself the Battle of Egypt must be regarded as an historical victory. In order to celebrate it, directions are being given to ring the bells throughout the land next Sunday morning, and I should think many who will listen to their peals will have thankful hearts.

Then the country knew on the highest authority that the victory was not merely a brilliant success, but the smashing victory for which we had so long been waiting and longing. Small wonder that the country took the raising of the ban as the symbol of the greatness and completeness of the triumph, or that a great newspaper like the 'News Chronicle' should label its comments on Mr. Churchill's speech, 'The Bells will ring.'

During the following days the Press comments on the matter were many. Like the usual references in newspapers to bells and ringing, they were seldom well informed, but that signifies little. The great thing is the evidence of the strong hold church bells have on the affection and sentiment of the people of England. For us ringers it is a most encouraging sign.

B.B.C. BROADCASTS.

The B.B.C. broadcast an excellent account of what Sunday's ringing meant in the Continental service late on Thursday evening, and the subject of bells was introduced into the programme of Saturday evening and reproduced two or three times on Sunday. Mr. Cyril Johnston was the principal speaker in this short item, with Mr. J. A. Trolope as his backer-up.

'The Evening News' evidently took some trouble to get its facts right. Here is what it said on November 12th:—

Bells or no bells, the Ancient Society of College Youths, famous old fraternity of the bellringing craft in London, has been meeting every fortnight at Mears and Stainbank's in Whitechapel Road, to keep up their change ringing practice with handbells.

In the past fortnight, also, there has been practice ringing on the bells of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, with the clappers fixed and the bells thus silent.

It has not been decided at the moment, I understand, what change ringing there will be in the City, and immediately outside. St. Paul's

Cathedral has its retained band of ringers. Its bells were being examined to-day. St. Botolph's bells can be rung, but those of St. Sepulchre's, Holborn, are probably not in fit state for ringing.

Outside the City there are peals of bells at Westminster Abbey, St. Margaret's, Westminster, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and St. Leonard's, Shoreditch. These are believed to be in ringing condition.

The City, of course, has lost many historic peals through enemy action. The twelve-bell peals of St. Bride's, Fleet Street; St. Giles', Cripplegate; and St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside; the ten-bell peal of St. Clement Danes; and half a dozen or more eight-bell peals have gone since the ringing ban was imposed in June, 1940.

One of the problems of arranging a change ringing programme is man-power. In the Ancient Society, which keeps up the old craft in and around the City, were many young enthusiasts who have gone into the Services now. Their places cannot be taken by unpractised helpers.

ST. PAUL'S BELLS.

On the following day 'The Evening Standard' proclaimed in a heavy headline that 'St. Paul's bells cannot be swung,' but it contradicted the assertion in the text:—

Mr. A. A. Hughes, who is both a member of the Society of College Youths and of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, which has been making London's bells since the sixteenth century, is confident the bells of both St. Paul's and Westminster will ring out a full chime of peacetime strength.

He said: When we held the 305th anniversary luncheon of the society last week, 104 of our members were present, so that we can still ring quite a number of bells.

'This business of ringing the bells is not quite as simple as the Government's instruction makes it appear to be. Our telephone is going every ten minutes, and the calls are all coming from churches which want their bells put in order at short notice.

'It just cannot be done—there you are, another message from the country has just been put in front of me. They want ten clappers installed to-morrow.'

Last Saturday both 'The Times' and 'The Daily Telegraph' printed a statement from Mr. E. H. Lewis, who wrote as the president of the Central Council. Mr. Lewis' letter, as it appeared in 'The Telegraph,' was as follows:—

MR. E. H. LEWIS' STATEMENT.

'May I, through you, ask the public to be indulgent in their criticisms of any ringing which may be on Sunday morning. Ringing is an art which requires much practice, and for nearly two and a half years there has been none except in a few towers upon silent bells. Many bands will be short-handed, as their members are in the Forces. Those who are left will do their best, but the quality of the ringing cannot be as good as we could wish.'

The Sunday morning papers followed the lead of the daily papers in giving prominence to the ringing. In a leaderette 'The Sunday Times' sounded a note of warning which perhaps was needed by some people.

'The church bells, which have been silent since May, 1940, will ring to-day to celebrate our victory in the Battle of Egypt. From time immemorial this has been the traditional expression of the people's joy. But there is always a danger in war-time that its meaning will be stretched too far. For that reason we doubt the wisdom of ringing the bells to-day; and our view is shared by many. There has been a brilliant triumph in Egypt and a far-reaching strategical stroke in French North Africa. But the main conflict is still ahead and this is a day of prayer as well as of thanksgiving.'

Mr. J. L. Garvin began his weekly article in 'The Sunday Express' on much the same note. 'We are pealing our bells this morning partly in rejoicing, but much more in thanksgiving. When the steeples are quiet again for some time, we must leave celebrations of yesterday behind us. We must look to the widening and rising tasks of a wholly new epoch of the war.'

THE LATE JOHN JAGGAR.

AN APPRECIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—John Jaggar and myself have been lifelong friends for over 60 years. When I took up ringing and had learnt to ring on the six bells at Winsill, Burton, he became my tutor and conducted my first peal at St. Paul's in December, 1885. In 1886 the first peal of New Cumberland Surprise was rung, composed by John Jaggar, conducted by W. Wakley, in which I took part.

He was never happy only when he had a few novices round him, and was continually arranging Saturday afternoon outings to various towers to get all the practice they could.

On Saturday, October 31st, I received a telegram from his son asking me to come, as he had passed on.

It was a blow to me. I always looked forward to meeting him at the Johnson dinner.

One by one they pass on. How soon my turn will come I don't know. I have lost a good friend in John Jaggar.

JOHN AUSTIN.

38, Lysons Avenue, Gloucester.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

THE QUESTION DISCUSSED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—When, shortly after the death of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, you decided to end the Ringers' Conference, I expressed the hope that a discussion of some of the subjects on the agenda might be carried on, and in this connection I was hopeful that we should hear more of the suggested National Association.

Some months earlier a letter had appeared in 'The Ringing World' asking that such an association should be formed *immediately* (the italics are mine), and the writer added, '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.' With the sentiments expressed in the last sentence I heartily agree, but I am not at all sure that the immediate formation of a National Association would make our chances any better than they are at present, nor did the writer give us any information on this aspect of the case.

A desultory correspondence on the subject followed, and the opening of the Ringers' Conference in the early weeks of this year gave a good opportunity of staging a discussion of the whole subject. With this in view I drew up a resolution expressing confidence in the present organisation of the Exercise, and the belief that it would be capable of overcoming post-war difficulties. As I anticipated, this caused a discussion on the subject of a National Association, but what might have been an interesting, even an instructive, debate was interrupted by the sad death of Mr. Goldsmith and the shutting down of the conference.

NEED FOR INVESTIGATION.

Now, Mr. Editor, the matter cannot be left there. If our present method of organisation is in any way weak, discussion might bring out means by which it can be strengthened. If it can be bettered by the formation of a National Association, well, let us find out about it, but so far we have been given little information which will convince many people.

Amongst the points put forward by your correspondents, or by contributors to the conference debate, were many that may be commented upon. It was suggested that all the present societies should be formed into one society, and that all the funds should be handed over. This, of course, assumes unanimity, and we were not told what was to be the penalty to be imposed on any society not 'joining up.' Nor were we told, even if unanimity was obtained, how we could by this means improve the position in towers which are always a source of worry to associations—I refer to towers where bands are not up to full strength, or are lacking in initiative. Could we go to the full-time secretary (paid) of our National Association and ask for two or three ringers to be sent to St. Mary's Church, —?

All of us with experience of association work know full well that the strength (or weakness) of any society lies with its affiliated towers, and it is at that source that improvement must be looked for. Ringers at the towers must be recruited *locally*; the organisation of those towers must be an affair of the *area* in which they are situated, and so we come back to the present method of diocesan or territorial associations, divided into districts according to circumstances. What advantage could be obtained by running these districts through a central office? The full-time secretary would never have time to visit all the districts in the country, and would never be able to acquaint himself with the differing conditions prevailing. These differences are, as we all know, considerable. The Executive Committee, too, would have to be a large body to contain representatives of all districts, and would, therefore, become too large to be *executive*. We should quickly come back to district or divisional organisation, and the central office, with its full-time secretary (paid) would be useless, except perhaps to send out circulars which, would be of value to few, if any, of the local societies.

FINANCE.

Now as to finance. Even if we had unanimity amongst existing societies (which is doubtful) on the question of merging funds, which means well-to-do societies sharing with poor societies, there is the question of the future. One correspondent mentioned 40,000 members at 1s. per annum, giving an income at £2,000. This shows a rosy picture, but where does the figure of 40,000 come from?

In his report to the Central Council meeting in 1936, the hon. secretary gave the following figures: Number of affiliated societies 49, including six non-territorial societies. Of the 43 territorial and diocesan societies two had no annual subscribing members, and the remaining 41 had an aggregate membership of 21,860. It is fairly safe to assume that the majority of members of the six non-territorial societies, i.e., College Youths, Cumberland, Ladies' Guild, University Societies, etc., and of the two societies with no annual subscribing members, were also included in the membership of the 41 remaining societies. It is also safe to assume that the figure of 21,860 was swollen to a great degree by ringers who were annual subscribing members of more than one association. Thus the possible membership of a National Association is, at a reasonable estimate, much less than half of that mentioned by your correspondent, and the financial prospect is not nearly so rosy.

(Continued in next column.)

NORWICH BELLS.

Recently references were made in 'The Eastern Evening News' to some of the bells in Norwich churches, and the statement was made that the ring of six once in the tower of St. Mary's, Coslany, had been broken up and melted down. This led to an explanation from the Vicar, the Rev. C. H. Flack. He wrote:—

I note that in 'Over the Tea Table' in last night's 'Evening News' (October 17th), 'Whiffler' mentions the bells of St. Mary's Church, and says he thinks these were eventually sold and melted down.

May I be allowed to correct this last statement. The bells, after standing on the floor of the belfry for many years (one of them was hung, however), were sold in 1937 to St. Catharine's Church, Mile Cross, where they are now hanging in the tower. Before the ban on bellringing came in, they were 'chimed' (not rung) every Sunday at St. Catharine's.

They are a very old and I believe valuable peal, made in Norwich, and as you say of a very sweet tone, though very small. I think many people will be relieved to know that they are still in existence, and not melted down.

I do not know how long it is since they were rung at St. Mary's, but over 40 years ago, I'm certain. The tower became unsafe many years ago, and they were removed. When the church was restored in 1909 they were not rehung (except one as mentioned). The church was closed for services in 1892 and when restored was used mainly for Sunday School purposes. In April this year after St. Augustine's was damaged we were very glad to take refuge at St. Mary's and used it until June, when it was badly damaged by fire, and we were obliged to return to our other less damaged church.

Such is the story in brief of this beautiful church; twice filled with water in time of flood—there was 3ft. of water in it in 1912—and now damaged by fire, 'She's been wholly unlucky' as they say.

RUISLIP.—On Friday, November 13th, at Bell Haven, Acacia Avenue, a quarter-peal of Minor, 1,260 changes, consisting of 720 Plain Bob, 360 Double Bob and 180 St. Clement's Bob: G. M. Kilby 1-2, Cpl. K. Arthur, R.A.F. (conductor) 3-4, Cpl. E. Coward, R.A.F. 5-6. Rung as a compliment to Mr. Kilby on the occasion of his 60th birthday. First quarter-peal of Minor on handbells by all.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

Another optimist suggested 5s. per annum as subscription, which would entitle one to membership of the association and a free 'Ringing World.' Judging from the circulation of the paper (I think the pre-war figure was about 2,500), the free copy would not induce many to pay the five shillings. And of those who do not buy the paper, how many would pay 5s. per annum? Ask any secretary or treasurer of his experiences, and you will get the answer.

We were also told that a National Association would do away with the pin-pricking between rival associations. This evil does not only exist between associations—it exists between ringers and between bands. At the same time, instances can be quoted where associations work together amicably at border towers, and these are possibly much more numerous than the instances of pin-pricking.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

We were also given a gloomy picture of the future of 'The Ringing World' without a National Association, but I will leave that subject except to say that the paper is still being published and looks like going on.

One doubtful correspondent asked what additional advantage could be got from a National Association, and answered the question himself by referring to the saving of the non-resident life member's subscription. Well, I think he is right. This *would* be saved, and as far as I can see would be the only advantage gained by anybody.

The question of support from the clergy is of the utmost importance. The tendency in recent years is for societies to become 'diocesan,' and this undoubtedly draws the clergy. It is extremely doubtful if a change would be of benefit in this direction, indeed, it is most likely to be otherwise.

There is also the position of the University Guilds. These have done, and are doing, excellent work, but would they be allowed to exist as branches of a National Association? I think not. Our old societies, the College Youths and the Cumberlands, would no longer exist, or would they? And if they did, would they be considered outcasts? They could hardly be considered as branches, and there seems to be no place for them in a National Association.

Before we consent to scrap our existing organisation we must be careful that what we have to put in its place is sure to work. We could not go back. We are at present reliant on a great deal of voluntary work; could we rely on this if somebody or other was getting a nice fat living out of ringing? The hundred or more district secretaries, *those who do the work*, could hardly be expected to carry on if they were placed under the orders of a full-time paid secretary. Alternatively, the cost of paying district secretaries would wreck the whole scheme.

Of course, if the Exercise could afford to pay a host of officials, secretaries, masters, instructors, etc., to say nothing of the expenses of a very large executive committee when attending meetings, we might get some sort of a National Association. C. T. COLES.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-. For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

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LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, on Saturday, November 21st. Meet in the vestry 3 p.m. Handbells will be available. Service at 4.30 p.m., followed by the meeting. Those requiring tea kindly let me know, and I will do my best to arrange for some. All ringers cordially invited.—George R. Newton, 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, November 21st, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—The annual district meeting will be held at St. Peter's, St. Albans, on November 21st. Silent tower bells and handbells from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. at the St. Peter's Institute, Hatfield Road, followed by the business meeting. Please try to come and make this a representative meeting, letting me know numbers for tea.—R. Darvill, Dis. Sec., 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—The next meeting will be held at Yatton on Saturday, November 21st. Bells (silent apparatus) available from 3 o'clock. Tea at 5 o'clock. All ringers welcome.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ash-ton.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at St. Chad's, Headingley, on Saturday, November 21st. Handbells available from 3 p.m. Business meeting 4.30 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Newbury on Saturday, November 21st. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m., followed by annual meeting. — T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec., Manor Lane, Newbury.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch. — Meeting for practice at Brierley Hill (D.V.), Saturday, Nov. 21st, 3 p.m. Bells (8) available ('silent'). Tea 5.30 p.m., in School-room. Handbells and social evening to follow. — Bernard C. Ashford, Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the Watford district will be held at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, on Saturday, Nov. 28th. Handbells 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 5.30 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. E. Jennings, 50, Rudolph Road, Bushey, by Nov. 26th.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A ringing meeting will be held at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, Nov. 28th. Bells (silent) available between 2 p.m. and just before black-out.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION and THE EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—A combined meeting will be held at Tunbridge Wells on Saturday, Dec. 12th. Further announcement next week. — T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

TRURO CATHEDRAL.—Monthly practices are held on the first Saturday of each month. Silent tower bells and handbells from 2 p.m. All ringers welcome.—W. H. Southard, Penheard, Bodmin Road, Truro.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The present address of Mr. William A. Stote is 47, Cedars Avenue, Coundon, Coventry.

BIRTH.

CECIL.—On Tuesday, Nov. 10th, at Chownes Mead Maternity Home, Haywards Heath, to Julia, wife of G. W. Cecil, a son.

THE FUTURE OF CHANGE RINGING.
FROM THE WOODSTOCK RURI-DECANAL MAGAZINE.

Unfortunately we must again face the gloom of the black-out, but it is not so hard to endure as the continued silence of our church bells. To many people it was the one reminder that God is worshipped in our land, and that Sunday is the day when all Christians are called to worship Him. There are people who dislike the sound of church bells. Miss Dorothy Sayers in the foreword to one of her novels writes: 'It seems strange that a generation which tolerates the uproar of the internal combustion engine, and the wailing of the jazz band, should be so sensitive to the one loud noise that is made to the glory of God. England, alone in the world, has perfected the art of change ringing, and the true ringing of bells by rope and wheel, and will not lightly surrender her unique heritage.'

That was written in 1934. She has too lightly surrendered her unique heritage. God alone knows how much the call of the bells did to many people, even if they did not obey the call, the sound did not let them forget altogether. The decision to silence the call is a blow struck at the art of bellringing, perhaps we should say of change ringing, for anyone can jangle the bells as is customary on the Continent. No doubt in towns and large villages it will survive, for there will be a sufficient number of old ringers, but in many of the several hundred little villages of Oxfordshire there will be no more change ringing, for its continuation could only be preserved by getting hold of the most intelligent boys and young men and encouraging them to learn this very difficult art. It would have survived conscription, for with ringers in the army and air force in every district, and men coming home on leave, ringing would have continued, if irregularly. To begin again and create an interest, that will be the difficulty.

VILLAGE BELLS.

How soft the music of those village bells
Falling at intervals upon the ear
In cadence sweet! now dying all away,
Now pealing loud again and louder still,
Clear and sonorous as the gale comes on.—

Cowper.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27th, 1942.

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These famous bell-founding firms have kindly consented to this adaptation of their advertisements to meet the pressure on our space, due to the compulsory reduction in the number of our pages this week.

WILL THE BAN BE LIFTED?

One result of the ringing for victory has been a renewal of the hope that the ban on church bells will be lifted. It has all along been abundantly evident that very many people have regretted that it ever was imposed. To the regular churchgoer the absence of the familiar sound gives an impression that something important is wanting in the service, and even among the general public there is a strong feeling that there is something lacking in an English Sunday when the bells are silent. This was well expressed in the leading article of the 'Eastern Daily Press' we reproduced last week.

Whether these hopes will be realised we cannot say. The Exercise would gladly welcome any raising or modification of the ban, but it is only right to recognise that there are some important objections to it, now it has been on so long.

It was a mistake in the first place to reserve the bells for the purposes of warning. We do not question the right of the Government to do so. We do not think that there is anything in the argument that the bells ought not to be used for the purpose because they are church bells. We do not think it has in the slightest degree led to the bombing of our churches. But we are quite sure that, as warnings, the bells would be completely ineffectual and useless. Even if efficient means were found of sounding them immediately they were needed, the range of their sound is very limited and would reach only a tiny fraction of the country. Last Sunday week, when the whole country was listening, there were millions who never heard them.

We must not blame the persons responsible overmuch. The ban was imposed at a time of the direst national peril, how dire we did not know at the time. The authorities had to make provision against all sorts of evil chances, and to make use of any means that lay to their hand. It is no great wonder that someone suggested as a warning the bells of the churches, the ancient alarm signals. But though the bells still hang in the same old towers, and have not changed during the centuries, the conditions under which they would be used have altered enormously.

It is not unlikely that the authorities realise that a mistake has been made, and we doubt if much trust is now put in the capacity of the bells to fulfil their appointed office. But authority seldom likes to admit it has made a mistake; and once the ban was imposed there was always the great danger that, if it were lifted, people would get the impression that the perils, against which it was

(Continued on page 534.)

intended to provide, had passed away. That, we fully believe, is the reason why it has not been removed, and why it is most unlikely it will be removed.

It is strange, and perhaps significant, that so few people know how the bells would be rung, or what they would be rung for. Almost everybody assumes that they would be rung as a general warning to the country if the enemy attempted to invade this island. That was not the reason given in the original order. It was to give notice, not to the general public, but to the military and police authorities in the immediate vicinity, if there was any attempt to land enemy troops by air. Such landings would naturally be in more or less remote districts, and the ringing would be confined to an attempt to summon all the force available to meet it. There would be no such general clashing of bells as the imagination of the public expects. We ringers know full well that long before that could happen, in fact long before the belfry doors could be unlocked, the wireless could, if it were necessary, spread the news through the length and breadth of the land.

For any lifting or modification of the ban the Exercise will be deeply thankful; but we must not expect too much. We have waited so long that we can afford to wait, if it is necessary, a little longer until the time of final victory. The recent celebrations would not have had the great effect they did, and the general public would not have known how much church bells mean in the national life, if it had not been for the long silence. The Exercise made a very great effort and rose to a great occasion, but if general ringing were permitted now with dispersed and depleted bands, there would be no small risk of an anticlimax.

HANDBELL PEALS.

PALMERS GREEN, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, November 16, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,
AT 21, STONARD ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16.

MRS. J. THOMAS	1-2	JOHN THOMAS	5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ...	3-4	WALTER J. BOWDEN ...	7-8

Composed by G. HAWKINS. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 21, 1942, in Two Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

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

Tenor size 15 in C.

MISS MARIE R. CROSS ...	1-2	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ...	5-6
JOHN E. SPICE	3-4	R. GORDON CROSS	7-8

Composed and Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

The first peal in six Major methods by all the band except the conductor, and for the Guild. A birthday compliment to Mrs. Cross.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Sunday, November 22, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*G. BROMLEY (St. Cath's) ...	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE (New College)	5-6
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE		*JEAN M. BUCKLEY	
(St. John's)	3-4	(Lady Margaret Hall) ...	7-8

Composed by G. WILLIAMS. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Major.

FABIAN STEDMAN

AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES.

(Continued from page 525.)

The 'Campanalogia' contains many passages which throw light on the evolution and development of change ringing. They illustrate the fact, too, that two and a half centuries have not materially altered the fundamental nature of the art.

'Since the ringing of changes requires the peal of bells on which the changes are to be rung to be first raised up to a sett pull (which compass is most proper for the ringing of them) therefore the learner's first practice must be to raise a bell true in peal, to ring it at a low compass, and also to cease it true in peal; wherein consists the chief ground of this art which depends on the ear, and therefore much judgement is required therein. And, to speak the truth, most practitioners are in these days somewhat deficient herein, the ringing of changes having generally diverted the learner's fancy from the practice of raising, round ringing and ceasing, by which means we have in a manner lost one excellency in pursuit of another.

'In raising a peal of bells, all the notes ought to strike round at one pull, but, mistake me not; I do not mean at the first pull; for at small bells 'tis usual to sway them all round at the first pull without striking, at the second pull to strike them at the fore-stroke, and at the third pull at the back-stroke. In raising a peal of more weighty bells 'tis usual to strike them double at the fourth pull.'

'Before the young practitioner can be capable of ringing changes, he must be extraordinarily well skilled in the managing of a bell at a sett-pull, which is absolutely requisite for this reason: in the ringing of changes his mind will be so busied and wholly taken up with the consideration of the course and method of them and his eyes continually wandering about to direct his pull in the following of other bells, that unless he has extraordinary skill in the managing his own bell, and can set it in a manner hoodwink, he will be apt either to drop or overturn it, or else, on the other hand for want of skill, his eye and mind will be so fixed on his own rope and bell that he cannot at the same time mind the course of the changes, and then no wonder if he is in a wood which consequently follows; and indeed hence partly 'tis that the learners in their first practice do oftentimes toil and moid themselves to so little purpose.'

To understand this quotation we must remember that the bells had no stays and sliders. To ring a bell at a sett pull was to ring it up to the balance, and to set it was to hold it there on the rope. It was easy enough to overturn a bell.

Stedman's first chapter is devoted to what he calls the speculative part of his subject, and deals at some length with permutations in general and their wonders. He gives what is a variant of the familiar story of the nails in a horse's shoe. 'A man having twenty horses contracts with a brickmaker to give him one hundred pounds sterling conditionally that the brickmaker will deliver him as many loads of bricks as there are several teams of horses to be produced out of the aforesaid twenty to fetch them, and not one team or set of six horses to fetch two loads. The brickmaker might be thought to have made a very advantageous bargain, but the contrary will appear. For there are thirty-three thousand seven hundred

and sixty several teams of six horses to be produced out of twenty.' Stedman also remarks that some people wonder how so few as the twenty-six letters of the alphabet can serve for all the words that are needed, and proceeds to show how almost inconceivably enormous is the number of the possible combinations of them.

The subject matter of the 'Tintinnalogia' is compressed into a small space, and the rest of the 'Campanalogia' is devoted to new methods. They include 'fifty-three London peals upon five, six, seven and eight bells composed by F.S.,' some Nottingham peals, some Oxford peals, seventeen peals composed at Cambridge by Mr. S.S., and a dozen peals composed at Cambridge by unnamed authors.

The inclusion of the Nottingham and Oxford peals, as well as the older Reading Doubles, tells us what otherwise we could only have guessed at, namely, that the development of the art was going on steadily in other parts of the country besides London and Cambridge. We should have expected composers at Oxford because there were ringers among the varsity men there, and, indeed, the methods they produced were quite as important in the development of ringing as any composed elsewhere; and we can hardly doubt that both at Bristol and Norwich there was a good deal of activity. Bristol, the second city in the country, was full of churches and bells, and was the seat of one of the oldest ringing societies. Norwich was the third city in size and importance, and there, some time during the seventeenth century, was begun one of the most famous companies in the history of the Exercise.

Elsewhere I have dealt in some detail with the different methods given in the 'Campanalogia.' It is sufficient now to point out that they show that most of the modern rules and standards were being accepted and stabilised. We have already the adoption of the treble as the normal whole-hunt; the division of the method into courses, each course consisting of equal and similar leads; and bobs as special calls to produce different lengths and made in the modern fashion. The necessity for symmetry in the construction of the leads is implicitly recognised; and throughout there is an evident attempt to break away from the rigid forms of the old Plain Changes, to use the system of hunts in a freer manner, and even to dispense with it altogether. In a word, we have modern ringing in the making. The influence of the older style is most strongly shown by the fact that bells are still allowed to strike many more than two consecutive blows in a position.

Seven and eight-bell methods now appear for the first time. Grandsire Triples is given with the correct bob under the title of College Bob Triples, from which we may perhaps assume that the College Youths were the first to practise the method. By making bobs we are told it will go 350 (this in modern language is bobbing a Q Set). With two extremes it will go 700, and with four

(Continued in next column.)

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ACTON.

A very pleasant meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex Association was held at St. Mary's, Acton, on Saturday, November 14th.

Nearly 40 ringers and their friends were present from Acton, Bushey, Chadwell Heath, Crayford, Ealing (Christ Church, St. Mary's and St. Stephen's), Harrow, Heston, Herne Hill, Hillingdon (St. John's), Ruislip, Twickenham, Walthamstow, Watford, Wembley, Willesden and Westminster (St. Margaret's).

Members and friends were welcomed at the church from 2.30 p.m. by the Rector, the Rev. Percival Gough, who had made novel and informal arrangements. Parishioners were invited to hear the ringing, and a good number were present. The high altar was illuminated, and instead of a set service, handbell ringing commenced at the chancel steps, and was continued at intervals, interspersed by suitable hymns, and occasional remarks by the Rector. Some good ringing in most of the standard methods was carried out, and later, at the suggestion of the Rector, another band commenced ringing at the west end of the church. The effect of the two sets of handbells in the lofty and spacious church was quite pleasing.

Towards the close of the ringing, a short address was given by the Rector, who then called on the secretary to make a few remarks. The latter apologised for the absence of the vice-president, Mr. J. A. Trollope, who was at that time preparing for a broadcast in 'In Town To-night.' The secretary also referred to the recent sudden death of Miss I. L. Hastie, of Ealing, who had given so much help in ringing at Acton and other local churches, and whose loss is greatly deplored; and to one or two members of the association, posted as missing, though they had just learned with pleasure that Mr. Norman Manning, of Chiswick, is alive and well, though a prisoner of war in Italy. The ringing concluded at the request of the Rector, who had not previously heard twelve bells rung, with a course of Stedman Cinques by Messrs. Barnett, Cashmore, Coles, Jennings, Mayne and Turner.

Tea was served at the Rectory, and at its conclusion a very warm vote of thanks to the Rector was proposed by Mr. C. T. Coles, general secretary of the association, and was carried with acclamation, the Rector replying in his usual genial manner. It was left with Mr. Coles to draft a resolution, strongly supported by the Rector, urging the lifting of the ban—this to be sent to the appropriate authorities, via the Central Council.

Black-out brought a very pleasant and informal meeting to a close, and it might be added that the Rector's welcome and hospitality, in spite of present conditions, could hardly have been exceeded even in peace time, and is greatly appreciated by the association. The only note of regret was at seeing the beautiful Parish Hall, where so many pleasant meetings have been held, a blackened and burnt out ruin.

Last Sunday morning handbells were rung at Acton Parish Church both before and during the service. The Rector, in his sermon, spoke of the lessons which could be learnt from the immemorable legends connected with bells and kindred subjects.

BOYNE HILL.—In the belfry of All Saints' Church on Friday, November 13th, in 45 minutes, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. 1,260 changes: W. Walker 1-2, G. Martin 3-4, W. H. Judd 5-6, J. Eldridge (conductor) 7-8. Rung for the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. C. Smith, which took place on the 12th, the ringers all wishing them many happy returns.

FABIAN STEDMAN.

(Continued from previous column.)

1,400. 'But by making intervening bobs it will go 700 complete triples without any extremes. Any bell may be made half-hunt.'

The most interesting of the eight-bell methods are Bob Major (which is said to have been composed by F.S.) and Imperial Bob. The latter is the modern Norfolk Surprise with seconds and sevenths added when the treble is leading and lying. Its genesis is pretty obvious. The treble was hunted through the other bells, but with a Treble Bob path instead of a plain one; and the extreme bells, instead of lying still as in the Plain Changes, dodged as much as possible in pairs.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Congratulations to Mr. James George, who reaches his 89th birthday to-day. In the victory ringing Mr. George was able to chime at Bishop Ryder Church in Birmingham.

During the victory ringing at St. Mary's, Dover, a telegram from a Dover man in New York was handed round with congratulations and best wishes. Each ringer signed his name on the back so that it could be reported to U.S.A. as a memento of the occasion.

Benjamin Annable and a band of College Youths rang the first peal of Royal at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, on November 22nd, 1725.

William Pye called a peal of Spliced London, Bristol, Cambridge and Rutland Surprise Major at Willesden on November 22nd, 1932; and on the same date in 1934 the Australian tourists rang Stedman Triples at Darling Point, Sydney.

The City Scholars rang 6,012 Grandsire Caters at St. Giles', Cripplegate, on November 23rd, 1732. Three men were needed for the tenor.

The first peal on the twelve at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, was rung on November 23rd, 1775.

The Bushey men rang the first peal of Bushey Surprise Major at Bushey on November 23rd, 1933, and on the same date in 1935, at Claybrook, Mr. F. H. Dexter called the first peal of Claybrook Surprise Major.

The first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus on handbells was rung at Sheffield on November 24th, 1816, and the first peal of Albion Major on the tower bells at Liversedge on November 24th, 1837.

On November 25th, 1737, Philemon Mainwaring turned in the 28 cwt. tenor at West Ham to 15,120 changes of Bob Major, and on the same date in 1907 Mr. Alfred Pulling called the first peal of Guildford Surprise Major at Holy Trinity, Guildford.

John Carter called the first peal of Handsworth Royal at Aston on November 26th, 1910.

The London Scholars rang 6,204 Grandsire Cinques at Cornhill on November 27th, 1729.

Sixty years ago last Wednesday the College Youths rang 6,384 Double Norwich Court Bob Major at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields. Mr. F. E. Dawe is the sole survivor of the band.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN H. SWINFELD.

WELL-KNOWN BURTON RINGER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is with the deepest regret that I am informed of the passing of Mr. John H. Swinfeld, of Burton-on-Trent, which occurred on Wednesday, November 18th, passing away in his sleep at 12 noon at the age of 79.

Thus the Midland Counties Association loses another of its old stalwarts, Mr. Swinfeld having joined soon after its formation in 1883, and during his long connection followed the association's activities with keenest interest and support. For many years he represented us on the Central Council, and he very rarely missed a meeting, whether local or general. He was a bitter opponent of those who would split the association into diocesan guilds, and was not averse to saying so. His ringing friends cover a wide field, not only in the Midland Counties area from Earl Shilton and Hinckley District where he originated, to Burton-on-Trent where he joined the famous Surprise ringing band and had resided for many years, but also in many other parts of England where he had visited. He had rung no less than 448 peals for the Midland Counties Association. I am sure all members of this association join me in our deepest sympathy and sincerest condolence to his son, Maurice Swinfeld, and other members of the family on their sad loss.

ERNEST MORRIS, General Secretary.

RINGING A TUNE.

At Wroxton in Oxfordshire I lately witnessed in the belfry what struck me as a rather unusual performance, namely, a tune, not chimed, but rung upon the bells. They were five in number, the tenor weighing 14 cwt.

The tune is called 'Shepherds, Hey!' and was, I am informed, formerly used in those parts as a Morris dance.

The ringers began with a few rounds, then they rang the tune through some half a dozen times, concluding with a few more rounds. Perhaps the most remarkable point about the performance was that all the bells, with the exception of the third, had to be set and pulled off again several times during each repetition of the air, yet notwithstanding this, both time and accent were most skilfully preserved by the ringers

Shepherds, Hey!

312
314
312
345
3524
354
312
3145

THE BAN ON RINGING.

DEMANDS FOR REMOVAL.

The ringing for victory has been followed quite naturally by renewed expressions of hope that the ban on Sunday service bells will be lifted. Last week 'The Church Times' wrote:—

'The country as a whole and churchmen in particular are grateful to the Prime Minister for bidding the church bells break their enforced silence on Sunday. The time has surely come for some modification in the ban on church bells. If no other invasion warning can be supplied it should be possible to devise an easily recognisable alarm signal, to be rung on the bells, which would be distinguishable beyond possibility of error from the regular call to worship. In some places the break with habit may have done no harm. In others the loss of the accustomed summons has had a definitely bad effect on church going.' The journal also printed a letter from a correspondent on the subject.

In 'The Guardian,' the Rev. M. H. Huthwaite wrote: 'Why not ring the church bells every Sunday at least? Why keep the bells silent? I have never understood it. It is surely bad policy in every way. If it is necessary to give warning of invasion by bells, that can be done. We do not ring a tocsin for divine service or at midnight. If a warning by bells is requisite it can be given, but why stop our bells? Cannot the military or other authorities be instructed about this? The people of Britain desire to keep their bells.'

In 'The Spectator,' 'Janus,' who writes the weekly 'Note Book,' said: 'Having felt some slight questioning about the wisdom of last Sunday's bellringing as savouring of exuberance, I admit that the authorities were completely right. The sound of the peals from different villages banished all doubts on the spot.'

'The return of the bells made us all realise for the first time how much we have been missing, though if we had remembered our own poets—almost any one of them—we should have needed no reminder of what bells mean. Is it really a strategic necessity that they should still be silent? No one can pronounce an invasion attempt impossible, but it is not to-day among the probabilities, and, in any case, church bells are not the only mechanism of warning conceivable. One thing must be balanced against another, and the military authorities must, of course, decide. I would plead for a reconsideration—and a verdict in favour of the bells.'

SOME OFFICIAL OPINIONS.

'Reynolds News' had the following:—

'The Government, I understand, is considering the substitution of some other form of alarm for church bells in the event of invasion. Last Sunday's victory bellringing showed that this manner of giving alarm might easily prove unreliable were an invasion to take place.'

'A sort of shuttle-service which I made yesterday between the various Ministries concerned, produced no concrete reply to my query whether a decision had actually been reached upon the subject, but I was led to understand that "the matter was under consideration in high quarters."

'The Ministry of Home Security admitted that they had issued the original order prohibiting the ringing of church bells, but said that their responsibility had ended there. Various departments of the War Office indicated that the decision would be taken elsewhere.'

'Most of the officials to whom I spoke were disposed to agree, at any rate personally, that the ringing of church bells as an invasion alarm was unlikely to prove effective.'

'Many churches have been blitzed. In many others the bells are out of order through disuse. In any case the bells need handling by experts who may not be easily available. Detachments of the Home Guard throughout the country, who in most cases would do the actual bellringing, are well aware of the difficulties which would confront them in the event of invasion.'

'Alternative forms of alarm are looked on as likely to be most effective.'

DEATH OF MR. JESSE TUCKWELL.

We regret to report the death of Mr. Jesse Tuckwell, of Stratton St. Margaret, who passed away on November 10th at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, following an operation. Deceased, who was 63 years of age, had been unwell for nearly a year, but was improving, and was staying with his son in Birmingham when he was taken seriously ill and passed away as stated.

Jesse Tuckwell was a ringer at Stratton St. Margaret for 40 years and a faithful member of the Church and Parochial Church Council. He was also a member of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association. He had rung several peals of Minor and one peal of Triples.

The funeral took place at Stratton St. Margaret on November 14th, and the crowded church testified to the respect in which he was held. The ringers present were Messrs. W. H. Trueman (chairman), W. B. Kynaston (secretary, Swindon branch), C. J. Gardiner and S. Palmer, of Christ Church, Swindon, and Mr. T. Moulden, of the local band. Following the interment a course of Grandsire Doubles was rung on handbells by C. J. Gardiner, W. B. Kynaston and W. H. Trueman. Much sympathy is expressed with the widow, son and daughter in their bereavement.

VICTORY BELLS.

MORE ACCOUNTS OF THE RINGING.

Several accounts of the ringing for victory on Sunday, November 15th, reached us too late for insertion in our last issue.

ABERAVON, GLAM.—The eight bells were rung from 10.15 a.m. to 11 in Queens, Whittington and Grandsire Doubles with 4.6.8 covering by seven local men and a very welcome visitor, J. Turner, R.A.F., of Birmingham.

NEW ALRESFORD, HANTS.—Grandsire Doubles with two covering bells was all that could be attempted. Those taking part were G. Allen, W. Wearing, W. Smith, S. McCutcheon, H. Shav, Sergt. Thomas (Neath) and H. Newnham.

BATH.—Touches of Grandsire Doubles were rung at St. Mark's, Grandsire Triples at St. Michael's and Grandsire Caters at the Abbey. There were several visitors. Thanks were afterwards accorded by the Archdeacon and other Vicars to the ringers.

BASINGSTOKE.—All the eight bells were rung at both St. Michael's and All Saints', Grandsire Triples at the former, and the band included one ringer who has scarcely touched a rope since the last war, and two members of H.M. Forces. The bells were also rung at the following towers in this district: Preston Candover (5), Oakley (6), Whitechurch (8), Overton (6), Silchester (5), Sherfield (6), Wootton St. Lawrence (6), Sherbourne St. John (6) and Monk Sherborne (5).

BEACONSFIELD, BUCKS.—Ten ringers, including two of the six members who are serving in H.M. Forces, took part in rounds, Stedman and Grandsire Triples and Plain Bob Major.

BILLINGSHURST, SUSSEX.—Touches of Grandsire were rung by Messrs. T. Adams, W. Wicks, P. Wood and R. Wood, and four of the band who were home on leave, A.C.2 R. Knight, Corpl. Redman, R.A.F., Driver Emery, R.A., and Trooper R. P. Wood. Before ringing the ringers stood in silence as a mark of respect to Sergt. F. Alfrey, R.A.F., one of the local band, who was killed on November 15th.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD, HERTS.—At the Parish Church of St. Michael, touches of Grandsire Triples were rung by Miss D. Wacey, T. Ward, R. Wood, H. M. White, H. Bull, W. T. Prior, F. Bird and W. Wilkinson.

BLAGDON, SOMERSET.—186 and 168 Grandsire Triples: R. Winter 1, F. Filer 2, C. Andrews 3, T. Saint 4, E. Croker 5, W. Saint 6, W. F. Webb (conductor) 7, A. Board 8. Also three six-scores with S. Crowker, E. Crowker, jun., and F. Board and F. Light taking part.

BOYNE HILL.—At All Saints' Church, several short touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major by A. Fawdry, W. H. Judd, C. Smith, T. Goodchild, W. Walker, J. Eldridge, G. Martin, A. Martin, H. Baldwin, J. Bales, E. Pugh, P. Squib and A. Perrett. The latter two, who are in the Forces, were home on 48 hours' leave.

BROUGHTON ASTLEY, LEICESTER.—At St. Mary's Church, touches of Bob Doubles by J. Brunt, Special Police Sergt. Len Bodycote, Home Guardsman H. Fretter, C. Cooke, D. Cooke and H. Bird.

BURFORD, OXON.—Grandsire, Stedman and Plain Bob were rung by members of the local band.

CARDIFF.—The St. John's ringers were joined by several members of the Llandaff Cathedral band, who with two members of the Forces and visitors made up a company of some 15 ringers. Several touches of Grandsire Caters and Triples were rung, conducted by E. Coombes and A. Rowley. The bells were lowered in peal, and the 'go' after such a long period of idleness was excellent.

CHELTENHAM.—There were full bands at all the churches, due largely to the efforts of Mr. William Dyer, the Ringing Master at the Parish Church, who interviewed all the available members of the Cheltenham company, a number of unattached ringers, and many visitors to the town who were pre-war ringers. In this way the services of no fewer than 27 ringers were secured for the Parish Church, and another band which rang at Charlton Kings from nine to a quarter to ten, and at Leckhampton from 10 o'clock to 11.

CIRENCESTER, GLOS.—At the Parish Church, the twelve bells were rung in rounds for the 9.30 service, and for the A.R.P. service at 11.15 three bobbed courses of Grandsire Caters: A. W. Baldwin, aged 79, 1, Corpl. W. G. Cook, R.A.F. 2, H. C. Bond 3, F. J. Lewis (conductor) 4, A. Painter 5, W. Godwin 6, H. L. Cooke 7, H. Lewis 8, W. H. Hayward 9, F. F. Bloxham 10, At Holy Trinity Church, Watermoor, a touch of Grandsire Triples and a course of Stedman Triples was rung for the 10 o'clock service.

CRAYFORD.—Eighteen ringers turned up and touches of Grandsire, Plain Bob and Stedman Triples were rung.

DARTFORD, KENT.—At Holy Trinity Church, call changes and Grandsire were the order, and, considering the long spell without practice, the ringing was quite good. Those taking part were R. A. Jenkins, H. Hovard, J. Wheadon, R. Summerhayes, E. Fullen, P. Mills, H. Raynor, Mrs. J. F. Bailey, J. E. Bailey and T. Easterby, a visitor of St. John's, Deptford.

DOVER.—There was no shortage of ringers in Dover, 16 being present, and touches of Grandsire Triples, rounds and call changes were rung by H. J. Sanders, C. George, G. Eagles, R. George, C. Hardeman, W. Turner, T. Robinson, C. Turner (conductor), St. Mary's: C. A. Richards, F. G. Young, H. Young, St. James': and the following military ringers stationed in the area: C. G. Stevens (Chalfont St. Peter), C. Morgan (Llangelly), L. Sergt. Gilliver (Enderby, Leicester), H. Moon (Beckington, Somerset) and E. F. Cannock (Baffi, Somerset).

EASTBOURNE.—At Christ Church, the ringers were F. Dalaway, H. Dalaway, W. Erridge, Miss B. Rayfield, Jack Sharpe, F. Waymark, B. Smith, E. Gower and C. Gatland. The striking was very good considering five of the ringers had not touched a rope for over 12 years.

EDINBURGH.—At St. Cuthbert's, which had a prominent place in the broadcast, the eight bells were rung by four men and four women. The Provost of the Cathedral phoned the Scottish Command, who went to some pains, and there were 15 sailors, soldiers and air-men in the belfry on the Sunday morning. Their home towers are dotted all over England.

GREAT TEW.—Touches of Grandsire Doubles were rung and then touches of Triples were brought round and some first-class striking was much enjoyed: Pte. F. Clifton, B. Morley, L. Larmer, W. Cross, V. Hitchman, L. Clifton, C. Skelton, R. Lustan, H. Pratt and R. Taplin. At Little Tew the six bells were chimed, Grandsire Doubles and hymns were played by Miss Joan Warr and Mr. P. Taylor.

HALESWORTH.—The eight bells were raised at 9 a.m., and various touches of Bob Major, Triples, Queens and Whittingtons were rung before and after matins by Mesdames G. Money and H. Rogers, Messrs. A. H. Took, F. C. Lambert (conductor), J. O'Neill, C. C. Goodwin, J. Nunn, J. Jolly, W. Barber, W. Kemp, J. Thurlow, S. Ekins, H. Jillings and Lieut. H. Rogers, R.A.O.C.

HARWICH.—Owing to the tower being unsafe, handbells were rung in the church by St. Jennings 1-2, C. J. Ellis 3-4, G. Thompson (conductor) 5-6, W. Felgate 7-8, A. Alderton 9-10.

HELMINGHAM, SUFFOLK.—At Helmingham, the local company rang courses of Bob Major, Cambridge and Stedman Triples, which were much appreciated by listeners in the locality. Before starting the band stood for a minute's silence as a mark of homage to their late captain (George Whiting), and to those who have died in the defence of their country. The Rector also spoke feelingly of Mr. Whiting on the first occasion of the bells being rung since his death.

HIGH WYCOMBE.—Ringing began punctually at 9 a.m., when the full ring of 12 were raised and touches of Stedman Cinques, Caters and Triples were rung. Nearly all the local ringers attended and a few visitors, including Mr. and Miss Goodship, Mr. and Mrs. Cox, a couple of Service ringers, and a particularly warm welcome was extended to Mr. F. West, of Saunderton.

ICKLETON, CAMBS.—At the Parish Church, 630 Grandsire Triples by L. Lilley treble, P. Webb (conductor) 2, A. Fleet 3, R. Clements 4, L. Flitton 5, G. Lilley 6, W. Flitton 7, W. Smoothy tenor.

KINGSBURY, MIDDLESEX.—Call changes on the eight and Bob Minor were rung by Mr. and Mrs. Botham, Messrs. Collier, Hartley, Kersey, Soars, Yeashley and Cpl. Winkfield.

LAMBETH.—Punctually at 9 a.m. the bells of Lambeth Parish Church were raised and the eight bells set going mainly to call changes, until 10 a.m. Then the band proceeded to St. Stephen's, Rochester Row, Westminster, where call changes were rung on the eight until 11 a.m. The following were the ringers: Miss B. Mills, T. W. Wyatt, W. Hardy, Corpl. J. Hardy, R.A.P.C., F. Holland, R. Kemp, C. M. Meyer, J. Taylor and A. Stow.

LAUNTON, OXON.—Immediately the clock chimed nine the bells were raised in peal, and 720 Grandsire Doubles was rung: J. Ancil treble, J. Marriott, jun. 2, F. Sharpe 3, H. Massey 4, E. Castle 5, R. Gregory tenor. Afterwards the bells were kept going until 11 o'clock, when they were lowered in peal. Only short touches were rung to enable all available ringers to ring, and those taking part, in addition to the six mentioned above, were J. Marriott, sen., R. A. Castle and H. Gregory. The ringing was very greatly appreciated by the parishioners.

LEICESTER.—At St. Margaret's, the 12 bells were rung from 9 to 11 o'clock. As a prelude the 'Morris family' rang a six-score Grandsire Doubles on the front five: Miss Margaret Morris (daughter) treble, Pte. Bob Davison (affianced) 2, George Stedman Morris (uncle) 3, Ernest Morris (father) 4, Josiah Morris (grandson) tenor. Then four courses Grandsire Caters, two courses Grandsire Cinques and a touch of Stedman Triples. A special feature was rounds and call changes on the 12 bells by six serving members of the Forces from Durham, Stepney, Sileby, Handsworth (Birmingham), West Hartlepool and six ex-Service men. Nineteen ringers were present and all took part in the ringing.

LEYTONSTONE.—At St. John's Church touches of Bob Major and Grandsire and Stedman Triples were rung, the striking being fairly good.

LINCOLN.—About sixteen or seventeen ringers met in the Ringers' Chapel, and as soon as the last stroke of nine had sounded the bells began in rounds. A quarter-peal of Stedman Cinques was then rung in 50 minutes; and, but for a 'hitch' in the last course, would indeed have been worthy of peace-time ringing. The band was as follows: G. Flintham treble, C. McGuinness 2, K. W. Mayer 3, D. R. White 4, L. Snell 5, L. Pook 6, T. Pyle 7, G. Mavor 8, J. A. Freeman (conductor) 9, H. Lowman 10, J. Walden 11, A. H. A. Marcon tenor. To end the ringing a course of Grandsire Caters was rung and the bells were rung down in peal. The following also took part in the day's ringing: G. Chester, C. Chester, P. M. Freeman and Miss Dorothy Vessey. At St. Giles', Grandsire Triples and Grandsire Doubles with 7.6.8 covering, by J. Chambers, S. Chambers, N. Chambers, B. Hancock, G. Humphreys, J. Hodson, Rev. E. O. C. Halahan (assistant priest), F. Metham, Mrs. Metham, Jean Metham, H. Marcon and a member of the Forces from Grantham.

(Continued on next page.)

VICTORY BELLS.

(Continued from previous page.)

LYMINSTER, SUSSEX.—At St. Mary Magdalene, touches of Grandsire Doubles by the local band: A. Elliott, W. Aylmore, J. Netley, H. Hunt, G. Lee, G. Snow and T. Wells.

MOSSLEY, LANCASHIRE.—Two plain courses of Kent Treble Bob Major and call changes. The bells went well.

NETHERTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.—At St. Andrew's Church, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, 252 Grandsire Triples, 168 Stedman Triples, 360 Bob Minor. The following took part: J. W. Smith, H. Hill, A. Prestidge, sen., W. Davies, J. Davies, T. Townsend, H. Hubbard, R. Davies (conductor).

NORTON SUBCOURSE, NORFOLK.—At St. Mary's Church, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor in 24 minutes: A. Walpole 1, B. Barber 2, S. Copling 3, S. Fenn 4, G. Walpole (conductor) 5, D. Long tenor.

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME.—At St. Giles' at 10 a.m., rounds on ten, a touch of Grandsire Triples and then rounds, Queens and firing on the ten. The following ringers took part: Charles Morley, Frederick A. Forster, George Hobbrook, Albert Vaughan, A. W. Lloyd (Evesham), Second-Lieut. Kenneth Thacker, R.A.O.C., Leonard Bourne, Arthur Evans, Thomas Jackson, Stanley Forster, R.N., William Allman and Andrew Thompson. Among the visitors to the belfry was Miss Johnston, of Gillett and Johnston, Croydon.

NORWICH.—Bob Major on the back eight and Grandsire Caters were rung at St. Peter Mancroft, Bob Major at St. Giles' and Doubles at St. Miles'. The Rev. A. G. Thurlow chimed the five at the Cathedral. At least 19 ringers took part.

PENTRE RHONDDA.—504 of Grandsire Triples by the St. Peter's (Pentre) Society: H. Crabb treble, G. Wines 2, J. Evans 3, T. Page 4, W. Page 5, F. Lasbury 6, J. Lovett 7, W. Roberts tenor.

PLYMOUTH.—At St. Andrew's Church, touches of Grandsire Triples and Caters and several sets of rounds on eight and ten to enable everyone present to have a ring. Proceedings began with a good rise of the front six, and concluded with a splendid fall of the back eight in peal. The Vicar, the Rev. C. A. Martin, was in the belfry to welcome the ringers, and among those present were Sgt. L. Haines, R.A.A.F., of St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, Australia; T. W. Lewis, R.A.F., of Worcester; a ringer from St. Columb Minor, Newquay, Cornwall; Messrs. F. Purse and S. Harris, of Charles' Church, Plymouth; Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Oatway, of Tideford, near St. Germans, Cornwall, who cycled the ten miles to Plymouth to ensure a ring; and Messrs. G. H. Myers (capt.), T. G. and H. F. Myers, A. Mitchemore, J. Gluyas, S. O'Shaughnessy, A. S. Weatherly and G. R. Marshall, of the local company.

PRITTEWELL.—Grandsire Triples and Plain Bob Major and rounds, Queen's, tittums and firing on the ten bells. Fifteen persons in all took part.

ROTHERFIELD.—Touches of Grandsire Triples and a plain course of Stedman by C. Brasier, E. Bishop, sen., E. Bishop, jun., F. Hammond, H. Hammond, H. Hinson, A. F. Lewry, H. Smith and A. Miles. Miss Orlebar, from Mayfield, Sussex, took part in the ringing.

SELBY.—At the Abbey, rounds and Queens on the ten bells and touches of Grandsire Triples. Fourteen ringers were present, including some who had not been in the tower for some years. Amongst those who rang was Mr. Fred Cryer, an 84-year-old veteran, who has been ringing nearly 70 years.

SOLIHULL.—287 Grandsire Caters: W. Leeson 1, H. Bragg 2, J. N. Jukes 3, C. W. Bragg 4, E. C. Shepherd 5, H. Shepherd 6, J. Bragg 7, S. Bragg 8, R. Bragg 9, V. W. Rigg 10. Further Cater ringing followed, and the bells were lowered in peal. The ringing was excellent. The band contained Home Guards, wardens and other members of civil services.

SOUTHWARK.—The bells of the Cathedral have been taken down from the tower, but at St. George's members of the Metropolitan Police Guild rang three touches of Grandsire Triples, including one of 336 changes, for morning service: Chief-Insp. T. W. J. Walters, P.S. Wilminston, P.S. Mead, P.S. Dott, P.S. Gwilliam, P.S. Phillips, P.C. A'ers, P.C. Bagworth. Mrs. N. S. Bagworth also assisted.

STOCKPORT.—At St. George's, twelve ringers assembled at 9.15, and touches of Grandsire Triples and Caters and a course of Bob Royal were rung, concluding with alternate Queens and rounds on ten bells. The ringers included Messrs. A. F. Bailey, H. W. and E. Jackson, F. Twigg, H. Meakin, P. Laffin, C. Bell, T. Simpson, A. Barnes, and two R.A.F. men, Messrs. Roberts, of Swindon, and Boyes, Northampton, who are stationed in the district.

NORTH STONEHAM.—The bells were raised at 10 a.m. and at once pitched off into rounds on the ten, in which several of the learners took part. This was followed by Bob Major and Grandsire Triples and Caters and more rounds, and, on the whole, the striking was fairly good. The back eight were then lowered in peal. In all 20 ringers were present. 12 of the local band, six from the tower of St. Mary's Southampton, whose bells were partly destroyed by enemy action in 1940. They are now back at the Loughborough Bell Foundry awaiting developments. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and interest shown by the whole neighbourhood on hearing the bells again.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—Eleven ringers took part in call changes, Grandsire and Stedman Triples. The ringers were Miss G. Collison, Miss K. Young, W. Collison, sen., B. V. Collison, F. White, H. Markwell, G. Turner, D. Findlay, A. Battin, R. Rush and E. J. Ladd (hon. secretary).

DETACHED TOWERS.

EAST BERGHOLT AND OTHERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In the article in this week's 'Ringing World' (November 13th) about detached towers of England, Mr. Ernest Morris mentions East Bergholt, Suffolk, and says the bells are complete with wheels. This is not so, unless the wheels have been added since 1935, in which year I personally saw the bells being rung. Also at Swaffham Prior, Cambridgeshire, is an instance, which, although not strictly a detached tower, is probably very unique. Situated in the churchyard are two churches, one has a tower which is in ruins, but the body of the church is all right and the services are held in it. In the other the body is in ruins, but the tower contains six bells, which, I think, are still ringable.

H. L. MARTIN.

60, Birdwood Road, Cambridge.

THE STORY BEHIND.

Dear Sir,—It would be interesting to know the story behind the erection of some of the towers mentioned in Mr. Morris' interesting article. In many cases the reason for the erection of a detached tower is obvious, but I feel sure there are cases where the towers have been erected as a result of disputes or for some reason not so obvious.

Two cases where I believe this applies are Bramfield, Suffolk, and Quex Park, Birchington. At Bramfield, I have heard the story that the tower was built as a result of a dispute between two sisters who wished to leave money to the church, and at Quex Park I believe the tower was erected after a dispute between J. Powell-Powell and the Birchington church authorities.

Perhaps some of your readers may be able to give more details in the cases I have mentioned or quote further cases.

J. E. BAILEY.

20, Swaisland Road, Dartford.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT EASTWOOD.

The November meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Eastwood (Rotherham) on November 14th, and members were present from Bushey, Felkirk, Wath and a good muster of the local company. Miss Kirton, who is now living at Wombwell and learnt to ring at St. Mary's Church, Nottingham, was a welcome visitor.

After handbell ringing and silent tower bell ringing in the afternoon, tea followed at 5 p.m. and the business meeting, the Vicar, the Rev. A. M. Cook, presiding. The Vicar offered a hearty welcome to all. This was the first time he had had the opportunity of meeting them, but he hoped he would meet them many times in the future.

The Vicar was thanked for his warm welcome and for presiding; and Mr. Briggs for all the arrangements he had made, including a good tea.

Further ringing followed on the silent tower bells and the handbells. Touches of Bob Minor were rung on the tower bells, and the methods rung on the handbells ranged from Doubles to Major.

It was decided to hold a committee meeting at Barnsley on Saturday, December 12th, to make arrangements for the annual general meeting in January, 1943.

RINGERS' EPITAPHS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The only evidence I have that the following quaint epitaph is to a ringer is very slender. I was told many years ago by the man who rang the tenor to the first peal on our bells in 1876, after they were augmented from five to eight, that Peter Isnell taught his father to ring. As he was the parish clerk it was probably true.

Here lieth the Body of

PETER ISNELL,

(30 Years CLERK of this PARISH). He lived respected as a pious and a mirthful Man, and died on his way to Church to assist at a wedding on the 31st day of March, 1811, Aged 70 Years. The Inhabitants of Crayford have raised this stone to his cheerful memory—and as a tribute to his long and faithful Services.

The Life of this Clerk was just threescore and ten,
Nearly half of which time he had sung out Amen;
In his Youth he was married like other young men,
But his Wife died one day, so he chaunted Amen:
A second he took—she departed—what then?
He married and buried a third with—Amen;
Thus his joys and his sorrows were Treble—but then,
His Voice was deep Bass as he sung out Amen.
On the Horn he could blow as well as most men,
So his Horn was exalted in blowing Amen.
But he lost all his Wind after threescore and ten,
And here with three Wives he waits till again
The Trumpet shall rouse him to sing out Amen.

E. BARNETT.

Crayford.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

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All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the Watford district will be held at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, on Saturday, Nov. 28th. Handbells 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 5.30 p.m.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A ringing meeting will be held at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, Nov. 28th. Bells (silent) available between 2 p.m. and just before black-out.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, December 5th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—The annual meeting will be held at Long Ashton on Saturday, December 5th. Bells (silent apparatus) available 3 o'clock. Divine service 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 o'clock, with business meeting to follow.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Stoke-on-Trent on Saturday, December 5th. Tea at 6 p.m. in the Church Room to all who kindly notify T. W. S. Churton, 1, Birks Street, Stoke-on-Trent, before December 1st. Business meeting after tea. The fifth annual dinner will be held at the Borough Arms Hotel, Newcastle-under-Lyme, on Saturday, December 19th, at 6.30 p.m. Tickets, 5s. each, may be obtained on application with remittance, to Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs, not later than November 28th.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at St. Giles', Norwich, on Saturday, December 12th. Bells (8, silent once more, alas!) 2 p.m. Service 3.30. Preacher, Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow. Tea in the Cosin Room, Stuart Hall, near St. Andrew's Church, 4 p.m., followed by business meeting. Please send names for tea to Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich, by Monday, December 7th.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION and THE EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—A combined meeting will be held at Tunbridge Wells on Saturday, December 12th. Tower of St. Peter's open from 2.30 p.m., where eight silent bells are available. Service at 4 p.m. Tea in Parish Hall at 4.45 for those who let Mr. B. Collison, 169, Queen's Road, Tunbridge Wells, know not later than Wednesday, December 9th.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

LLANGENDEIRNE CHURCH BELLS.**LITTLE KNOWN BELLFOUNDERS.**

To the Editor.

Sir,—In the issue of 'The Ringing World' of April 3rd, 1942, I addressed a query to you about who were the Coneys, who had cast two of the bells in 1679? I mentioned that I could find nothing about them, and I noticed with regret that no reader could give me any enlightenment about these founders.

I received a letter from Mr. F. Sharpe, of Launton, and he mentioned that I had made an interesting discovery, and that he looked in vain each week to see some reply. As I mentioned in my letter to you, Mr. Editor, I had the impression that they were English founders, and also when casting these bells were short of letters, also of knowledge of Welsh spelling.

In the summer I went to Swindon to see my mother, and went one day to Devizes to see friends. I inspected all the churches, and at St. John's, with its beautiful Norman work, I was very interested in the initials W.C. on the 3rd and 8th of the ring of eight in the tower. These bells were by Roger Purdew II. (1649-1688), and on reading up the history of the Purdues I found that a William Coney was an assistant with R. Purdew II. from 1677 to 1679. Also the Trans. Bristol and Gloucester Archaeological Society, xxvi., page 301, gives Coney at St. Mary's Crypt and Leonard Street, Stanley, Gloucester.

I also discovered another bell of Coney's in Wales at Llanfihangel-y-Creiddyn, an out of the way village near Aberystwyth. This bell is inscribed 1686: Morgan Lloyd, Gent. W.C.: T.C. Henry Parry: Felix Rees Churchwardens.

The conclusion which I have come to is as follows: When Coney left Roger Purdew II. in 1679, he set up in business on his own account, and became an itinerant founder, and he was joined by his brother Thomas. They were given commissions to cast bells by the gentry of the parishes which they visited, and Thomas Lloyd, of Allt-y-cadno, was well known as a large estate owner and also was High Sheriff of the county at one period. Also Llanfihangel-y-Creiddyn, Morgan Lloyd is named as a gent., and there is no doubt that he engaged the Coneys to cast the bell. His bells are well cast, which is evidence of the good training which he had with the Purdues.

The church plate at Llangendeirne is also very interesting and worthy of mention. Its silver chalice is typical of the Commonwealth period and bears date letter of 1656, maker's mark H.B., and bears inscription: 'Pokilum Ecclesie, Llangendeirne, 1656.' Beneath the foot is inscribed the 'the B Cupp,' B.D. 1505 (Blood Cup).

Examples of church plate bearing two dates not unknown: Paten at Ballingham, Herefordshire, bears dates 1574 and 1718; the latter year it was remade.

In the late fifties of the last century this church was restored and the floor was lowered. During excavations 300 skeletons were found buried under the floor, presumed to be the victims of the plague which raged in Carmarthen in 1653-4. The remains were afterwards buried in the churchyard.

EDWARD J. THOMAS.

Elephant and Castle, Spilman Street, Carmarthen.

IVER HEATH.—On Sunday, November 15th, 1942, at Seaford, Slough Road, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: George N. Kilby 1-2, Frederick W. Goodfellow (first quarter-peal in the method on handbells) 3-4, Ernest C. S. Turner (conductor) 5-6, Edward G. Coward 7-8.

RUISLIP.—On Wednesday, November 18th, at Bell Haven, Acacia Avenue, 720 of St. Clement's Bob Minor: G. M. Kilby 1-2, Corpl. K. Arthur, R.A.F. (conductor) 3-4, Corpl. E. Coward, R.A.F. 5-6. First extent in the method by all.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4th, 1942.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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THE FUTURE.

The ringing for victory showed beyond all possible doubt that the bells of England have not lost their old hold on the affections and sentiment of the people of England. We have a complete answer to the men who feared that advantage of the long silence would be taken by those who object to ringing to forbid the general use of church bells or to subject it to severe restrictions. Just the contrary has happened, and perhaps never in their long history—certainly not within living memory—have the bells been more gladly heard than recently. Not only so, but there is a very widespread hope and demand that the ban shall be removed now, and without waiting for final victory.

We have never feared that any general restriction of bellringing would be likely to be imposed by authority, and though we were agreeably surprised at the amount of interest evoked by the victory ringing, we have never doubted that church bells have a very secure place in the affections of Englishmen.

All this is a matter for pride and confidence, and the Exercise is fully entitled to congratulate itself on the way it played its part in the victory celebrations. But there is a great need for uttering a warning, lest what can be a great help to us prove a snare and a stumbling block.

The time will come—it may come fairly soon—when we shall have again to resume our places in the belfries and carry on again our work as ringers. When that happens we can be sure of a cordial and ready welcome from the general public, but we should not let recent events deceive us. After a short time, perhaps a very short time, we shall be faced again with the same problems we have always had to contend with. We shall have the same complaints we have always had, and it may be all the stronger because of the reaction which will naturally follow the first wave of enthusiasm.

This will by no means be on account of fickleness in the public fancy, but by reason of an extraordinary quality the bells themselves possess. The great majority of people are at different times moved and impressed by the sound of church bells, but the number of those who admire bells as musical instruments is quite small. The influence of bells on men is not on account of their tone or musical qualities, but because of the mysterious power they have of voicing and stimulating feeling and sentiments. When men feel strongly, or when they are in a contemplative mood, bells have an irresistible appeal, but those occasions are comparatively rare, and the bells which sound so lovely and so grand on one day can quite easily be an almost intolerable nuisance on another day.

(Continued on page 542.)

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Such an occasion as we have just had is not likely to re-occur to any of us more than once. We shall be called on to ring for final victory and for peace, but the conditions for which we should prepare ourselves are those of ordinary life. We must remember that the public which will hear us will not be a public keyed up by the thought of a great victory, but a public in its ordinary moods, and containing not a few critics and not a few objectors. Ringers and ringing will once more be on their trial, and if the art is to prosper it is most essential that the quality of the ringing should be as good as possible. That is the thought which should be in every ringer's mind, and everything else should take a second place.

HANDBELL PEALS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Friday, November 27, 1942, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT SOMERVILLE COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*WILFRID F. MORETON (St. John's) 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE (New College) 5-6
†JOAN HOWLDSWORTH (St. Hilda's) 3-4	‡MARGARET D. TELFORD (Somerville) 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First handbell peal away from the tenor. † First peal on an inside pair. ‡ First attempt for a peal.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY

On Saturday, November 28, 1942, in Two Hours and 18 Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor size 15 in C.

*JOAN HOWLDSWORTH (St. Hilda's) 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE (New College) 5-6
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE (St. John's) 3-4	†WILFRID F. MORETON (St. John's) 7-8

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Triples. † First handbell peal of Triples. The first peal of Grandsire Triples for the Society.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BLACKBURN BRANCH.

At the meeting held at Accrington on November 14th members were present from Blackburn Church, Oswaldtwistle and Waterfoot. The local band was well represented and about half a dozen members of the Accrington Grammar School Society. Several touches were rung on the 'silent' tower bells and on handbells before the start of the meeting at 4 p.m.

In the absence (through the pressure of urgent business) of the branch president (Mr. T. Wilson), Mr. L. J. Williams was elected chairman. He extended a cordial welcome to the visitor from Waterfoot and said he was pleased to see a good attendance, and hoped they would soon meet under happier circumstances. The following officers were then elected: Mr. L. J. Williams, president; Mr. F. Hindle, re-elected secretary; and Mr. C. W. Blakey to serve on the committee.

Two new members, K. Hindle and J. Howe (both from the Grammar School Society) were elected.

The meeting closed with votes of thanks to the Vicar and wardens, local ringers, etc., the next meeting being left for the secretary to arrange.

Cups of tea were provided in the school, followed by another couple of hours in the tower.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was interested in Mr. Morris' article on detached towers of England. I wonder whether he could give a list of churches with central towers where the ringing takes place on the floor of the church. Those I know of are: Ickleton, Cambs, 8; Anstey, Herts, 6; Thurlough, Beds, 6; Meppershall, Beds, 5; Fairford, Glos, 8; Staunton, Glos, 6; Algarkirk, Lincs, 6.

A. E. AUSTIN.

Sunny View, Woodditton Road, Newmarket.

FABIAN STEDMAN AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES.

(Continued from page 535.)

The question has been asked why Stedman went to London to get his books printed. He was a printer, why did he not print them himself? The answer, and the really sufficient answer, would probably be that he did what was most convenient at the time. But there are obvious reasons why he did not himself produce the book. He was not a master printer, and there is no reason to suppose he had at his disposal the apparatus necessary for making a book—the type, the press, and the service of bookbinders. And if he had, he would not have been allowed by law to use them. Not only had every book to be licensed before being printed, but the number of master printers was strictly limited, and, as I have already said, the trade was practically the monopoly of the Stationers' Company of London.

Outside the metropolis, the only printing presses were at the two Universities, and they existed in face of the prolonged and bitter opposition of the London Company. In 1637 an order was issued by the Court of the Star Chamber, which appointed various licensers for various classes of books and limited the number of master printers to twenty, and the number of type foundry to four. The triumph of the Parliament in the Civil War did not lead to the freedom of the press, and, although John Milton in his 'Areopagica' had given unanswerable arguments for liberty, his words failed to move his puritan associates.

In the King's Library at Bloomsbury there is a first edition of J. White's 'Rich Cabinet,' and bound up with it a pamphlet entitled 'A Brief Treatise concerning the regulating of printing, humbly presented to the Parliament of England by William Ball, Esq.' It was published in the year 1651, and advocated 'the regulating of Printing and Printers, not only for the welfare of the Publique, but even for the good of themselves (if not exhorbitant in their desires) if the number of Printing Houses in London were stinted and none of them suffered to be without the liberties of the City of London. If the number of printing presses were limited. If the number of apprentices were also limited; part whereof I have collected out of former Ordinances and have partly proposed somewhat of mine own.'

After the Restoration the restrictions on printing were tightened up, and an Act of Parliament was passed in 1662 which repeated most of the regulations of 1637. Sir Roger L'Estrange (1616-1704) was appointed licenser and given most extensive powers. All printing offices in England and sellers of books and pamphlets were under his control; he had authority to enter their houses and search; and he had the sole privilege of writing, printing and publishing anything in the nature of a newspaper. In 1663, soon after assuming his duties, he made a midnight raid on many publishing offices. In one, owned by John Twyn in Clothfair, he found a seditious book being printed. Twyn was arrested on a capital charge, convicted and executed. The 'Tintinnalogia' bears L'Estrange's imprimatur, but the 'Campanalogia' does not. It does not, however, mean that the second book was not licensed, for the Licensing Act did not expire until 1679, and therefore covered both books.

Roger L'Estrange's activities brought him intense unpopularity, and he was one of the persons exempted by name from the Act of Idemnity at the beginning of the reign of William and Mary. He died in 1704, and was buried at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields. He was a younger son of a very ancient Norfolk family, for centuries settled at Hunstanton. John L'Estrange, the author of 'The Church Bells of Norfolk,' was a collateral descendant of his.

Fabian Stedman, therefore, had no choice in the matter of printing and publication, and he had to face the financial problems involved. In the next century he probably would have issued the books by subscription. In the seventeenth it was more usual for the bookseller to pay the author a lump sum for the copyright and then make what he could by selling copies to the public. In the case of the 'Tintinnalogia' it is likely that Duckworth, who was not a poor man, cared little what money or fame the book would bring him, and, after he had written it, he handed it over to Stedman to do what he could with it; and Stedman had enough influence with the College Youths and the London ringers to make the book a commercial success.

The law of copyright was very vague. Once a man had parted with his manuscript he usually had no control over his book. The publisher issued reprints, if he thought he could sell them, without referring to the author for any corrections or additions, and pirated editions were common and difficult to check.

Stedman suffered much at the hands of pirates. As we have seen, 'White' thieved from the 'Tintinnalogia' and spoilt the matter he took. The 'Campanalogia' fared as badly. Two books published about this time contained chapters on ringing; one the 'Husbandman's Magazine,' the other Lambert's 'Countryman's Treasure.' I have seen neither nor been able to find out whether any copies are extant, but it is pretty certain that they were cribbed from Stedman.

In 1684 was published a book called 'The School of Recreation,' which was a text book on various sports, and included a chapter on ringing. The title page reads as follows: 'The School of Recreation, or the Gentleman's Tutor in those most Ingenious Exercises of Hunting, Racing, Hawking, Riding, Cock-fighting, Fowling, Fishing, Shooting, Bowling, Tennis, Ringing and Billiards. By R. H., London. Printed for H. Rhodes next door to the Bear Tavern, near Bride Lane in Fleet Street, 1684.'

R. H. was a man named Howlett, of whom I know nothing. Rhodes was probably the same as a man who previously had a booksellers' shop at the sign of the Bible at Charing Cross. He it was who started a company of players which seems to have been the beginning of the famous Drury Lane Theatre. He was acquainted with some of the College Youths, and one of his leading actors, Cave Underhill, joined the society in the same year this book appeared. It therefore seems likely that, when he was producing 'The School of Recreation,' Rhodes told Howlett, his hack writer, to include ringing; and Howlett took the 'Campanalogia' and copied out just as much as he thought fit for his purpose.

In any case, whether Howlett had ever been inside a belfry himself or not, there is nothing in his chapter that he did not steal from Stedman. Like 'White,' he tried

(Continued on next page.)

FABIAN STEDMAN.

(Continued from previous page.)

to cover up his thefts by altering the wording, and by an assumption of knowledge which can hardly have deceived anyone who had only glanced at the 'Campanologia.'

Stedman gives, besides the older methods, fifty-three 'London' peals, his own composition, and several Nottingham, Oxford, Cambridge and Reading peals. Howlett reproduced some of Stedman's methods, and this is what he says: 'I shall next collect what London peals I think most harmonious and agreeable, without troubling myself to go to Oxford, or Nottingham, or Reading to enquire after their different method of peals, as indeed needless, and my reason is this, because I think the same rules for peals that are suitable to our London genius may challenge likewise an acceptance among other cities, provided their steeples are furnished with as many and as good bells, and their belfries with as ingenious and elaborate ringers as here in London.'

The chapter begins as follows: 'Since this recreation of ringing is become so highly esteemed for its excellent harmony of music it affords the ear, for its mathematical inventions delighting the mind, and for the violence of its exercise bringing health to the body, causing it to transpire plentifully and by sweats dissipate and expel those fuliginous thick vapours which idleness, effeminacy and delicacy subject men to: I say for these and other reasons I was induced to bring this of ringing into the company of exercises in this treatise.' And the chapter ends with a sermon, the burden of which is that ringers should go to church. 'The saints' bell of the church sounds in thy ears, and calls thee to attend the priest, who now signifies his entrance into the Holy Place, and invites thee to join him in prayer and praise.' 'Do not let Sunday morning's peal engage thy presence then, and the ale house have thy company afterwards.'

We should like to take this exhortation at its face value, but it does not ring true. We cannot forget that the pious writer had stolen from Stedman just as much as if he had put his hand in his pocket. Perhaps some of the College Youths pointed out to Rhodes that ringers did not ring a Sunday morning peal, and the incongruity of the sermon in a book like 'The School of Recreation,' which treated of such things as racing and cock-fighting, would be noticed even by a seventeenth-century reader. The writer half apologised for it, and in the following editions it disappeared.

Stedman, as I have pointed out, used in his opening sentences a much more ornate style than in the body of his book. Howlett tried to go much further. Compare the two following; the first is Stedman's, the other is Howlett's:—

'These clear days of knowledge that have ransackt the dark corners of most arts and sciences, and freed their hidden mysteries from the bonds of obscurity, have also registered this of ringing in the catalogue of their improvements; as well the speculative as the practick part, which of late years remained in embryo are now become perfect and worthy the knowledge of the most ingenious.'

Not very good writing, perhaps, certainly not up to the author's usual standard. But Stedman had something to say, and said it. He wished to point out (what was the truth) that, at the time great advances had been made in science, and that ringing had shared in the pro-

gress, and was now worthy of any man's attention. Howlett's paraphrase is merely bombast:—

'Art being a curious searcher and enquirer into the hidden and abstruse arcanas of difficulties, having found out that dark and remote corner of obscurity wherein the nature of those cross-peals lay at first involved hath exhibited by its proselytes the ensuing demonstration of that which before lay mantled up in doubt. And to effect this these favourites of art have, like ingenious architects, made order and method the basis on which the whole superstructure depends.'

When Howlett comes to deal with any technical part of ringing, his ignorance is at once apparent. He dare not trust himself far from Stedman's words, though he does what he can to keep up the pretence of being an original author; but every deviation from the 'Campanologia' is for the worse, and usually alters or obscures Stedman's meaning.

There is a fine copy of the first edition of 'The School of Recreation' in the King's Library at Bloomsbury. Several other editions were published. The sports treated of varied; billiards is omitted, but fireworks, military discipline, the science of defence, and singing are added. In 1710 two separate editions were printed, one for A. Bettesworth at the Red Lion on London Bridge, the other for H. Rhodes at the Star at the corner of Bride Lane. Except for a few details, these are identical, and it looks as if Bettesworth's edition was a pirated one, and Rhodes, who really owned the copyright, issued his as a counter-blast.

Other editions were issued in 1732 and 1736, by which time the chapter on ringing, which remained unaltered, was quite out of date. Copies of all these editions are in the British Museum, which has also a perfect copy of the 'Campanologia.' It belonged at one time to Osborn, who in 1846 bought it from a Mr. Kerslake, a bookseller, of Bristol. Previously it had been in the library of Sir Francis Gwyn, of Ford Abbey, Derbyshire.

(To be continued.)

QUEX PARK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I think Mr. Bailey's information is at fault when he says that Quex Park tower was built as the result of a dispute between J. P. Powell and the church authorities at Birchington.

The Rev. John Price Alcock, who was Rector of Birchington before coming to Crayford, told us on more than one occasion that it was a matter of regret to Mr. Powell and 'one of my predecessors' that the tower at Birchington Church was too small to hold a peal of twelve bells, so he did the next best thing, he built a tower in the park to house them.

Remembering, as I do, Mr. Alcock's keen interest in parochial history leaves no doubt in my mind as to how the tower came to be built and the bells installed.

That there was complete harmony between J. P. Powell and the church authorities is, I think, shown by the rule he made when the bells were opened, and which still obtains, that the bells are not to be rung during service hours at Birchington Church.

Strangely enough, Mr. Alcock, before coming to Birchington, was Rector of Brookland, Kent, with its curious detached tower and peal of five. He also spoke of this, but as a youngster Brookland's five did not impress me like Quex Park twelve and I have forgotten whatever he may have said about them.

E. BARNETT.
Crayford.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I, for one, associate myself with Mr. C. T. Coles in all he says in his letter in respect to the so-called National Association. I have been looking forward to seeing someone come along to tackle this question. I heartily congratulate him.

G. RADLEY.
18, Macers Lane, Wormley, Hoddesdon.

RINGING A TUNE.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The tune 'rung' on five bells was rung at Geddington by the old band of ringers who were all elderly men, 45 years ago when I was a lad, and had been rung by them on special occasions for many years.

I have a copy of the MS. book of the leader, Mr. William Cooper, which includes this tune. It is given thus: 'To be rung on five bells all bells up. Shepherds Aye, 312, 314, 312, 3145 repeat, 3524, 354, 352, 3145 repeat.' I have taken part in this and it was rung here up to the last war.

A great part of this MS. has obviously been copied from 'Campanalogia,' by J. D. and C. M., a copy of the 1733 edition of which is in Kettering, having come to Mr. A. Henman, one of the ringers there, from an ancestor, Mr. Starmer, who was also a ringer. It would be interesting to know if this MS. was taken from the copy at Kettering, or, if not, how it was obtained.

I also have another MS. book, which belonged to a Mr. March, of Lowick, dated 1801, which is practically the same. On the front page of both is, 'The word Extreme as used in some of the following peals is the most proper signification in regards to the change, but there is now, and has been for some time past, a word called Bob instead of Extreme, upon what account the word was changed we know not, but nevertheless for fashion's sake we always use it.'

I also have a copy of 'A Key to the Art of Ringing,' by Jones, Reeves and Plakemore, which also belonged to Mr. March, which shows there was interest in the art in the villages of this district at that time.

ROBERT G. BLACK.

Geddington, Kettering.

A NATIONAL RINGERS HOSTEL.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Reading some of Sir William Beveridge's plans for the future set me thinking, and wondering, whether the Central Council would produce plans for a specific project, viz., a 'National Hostel' in London for members of our art. It could be commenced in a small way, and, if successful, eventually reach the standard of a good hostel giving accommodation for visitors staying in London overnight, etc. We have among our members the talent for designing, supplying and constructing. On suitable land for enlargement a start could be made firstly with an office, wherein the London societies could hold their meetings, and thus enable co-operation for the future, secondly rooms to house the Central Council Library, then accommodation for visitors, editorial offices for 'The Ringing World' after its reconstruction and eventually to the status of a licensed hostel. Here, then, is an opportunity for the sponsors of a National Society to direct their efforts, etc., to a National Ringers' Home.

PRO BONO.

THE LATE MR. JOHN H. SWINFELD.

As announced in our last issue, Mr. John H. Swinfield, of Burton-on-Trent, passed peacefully away on Wednesday, November 18th, at 12 noon, at the age of 79. He had a heart attack in May last, which was followed by others, but was not confined to bed until the last fortnight. The death of his wife on the last day of 1938 was a great shock to him—they had been married over 50 years—and this, coupled with the ban on ringing, his one great hobby, considerably aged him. He leaves one son and two daughters to mourn his loss.

He was laid to rest in Burton Cemetery following a service in St. Paul's Church, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Canon W. H. Winterbotham. Floral tributes were sent from officers and members of the Midland Counties Association; Mr. E. Denison Taylor and Mr. J. Oldham, of the Loughborough Bell Foundry; and also St. Paul's Society.

As a last tribute of respect a course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the open grave by J. W. Cotton (Overseale) 1-2, M. Swinfield (Burton) 3-4, E. W. Beadsmoore (Ashby) 5-6, J. Paget (Derby) 7-8.

Mr. Swinfield had rung 448 peals from Doubles to Cinques for the Midland Counties Association, as well as others for different associations, of which no account has been kept. He began his career at Earl Shilton, and around that district he was well known in every belfry. In those early days they had a good handbell tune-ringing band and used to tour the district giving selections. After leaving Shilton he settled at Burton-on-Trent, assisting at both St. Modwen's and St. Paul's. On the retirement of the late Mr. E. I. Stone as captain of St. Paul's, he was elected to the post, a position he held to the end.

About 1923 Mr. Swinfield with the late Mr. C. Draper organised the 'Wednesday band,' and their remarkable long period of successes—especially with peals of Stedman Triples—is well known, almost every known composition (over 230 different ones) being rung. They did not confine themselves entirely to this method, but on occasions rang Treble Bob, Little Bob, 5,728 Forward Major, 5,760 Duffield Major, the latter being the longest so far in these methods yet rung.

Mr. Swinfield could not tolerate bad striking or slovenly ringing, and those responsible for such could be sure of a chiding at the conclusion of touch or peal. He was ever ready to help young ringers and visitors to St. Paul's, Burton, were always sure of a warm welcome. His passing so soon after his old friend and colleague, John Jaggard, leaves a big gap in the M.C.A. ranks which will be difficult to fill.

The family desire to thank all those who sent floral tributes and letters of condolence.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Congratulations to Mr. John W. Jones, who reaches his 77th birthday to-morrow.

Alderman William Horrington, who is captain of the band at St. Mary's, Abergavenny, has been elected Mayor of the town for the second time. His first term of office was in 1929, and he has been a councillor for 22 years.

William Doubleday Crofts, of Nottingham, a noted eighteenth century ringer, died on November 29th, 1899, aged 67.

On November 29th, 1738, at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, the College Youths rang the first peal of Double Grandsire Cinques, and on the same date in 1934 the Helmingham band rang the first peal of Marina Surprise Major.

The first peal of Yorkshire Surprise Maximus was rung at Ipswich on November 30th, 1929, and the first peal of Wembley Surprise Major was rung at Aldenham on November 30th, 1935.

The extent of Spliced Surprise Major on the three-lead course plan, 5,760 changes, was rung by the Middlesex Association at Willesden on December 1st, 1931. There were nine methods in the peal.

The first peal of Ealing Surprise Major was rung at Christ Church, Ealing, on December 1st, 1934.

Sheffield men rang the first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal on handbells on December 3rd, 1811.

The first peal of Stedman Triples which we definitely know was true was rung by the College Youths at St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, on December 4th, 1803.

The first peal of Melbourne Surprise Major was rung at Warfield on December 5th, 1935.

Fifty years ago yesterday 7,072 changes of Superlative Surprise Major, with the tenors together, were rung at Christ Church, Southgate. It was the longest length in the method at the time, but Washbrook, who rang the tenor and conducted, made a mistake in the composition and it was false. Some of the leads were in the Burton variation.

THE APPEAL OF BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I would like to congratulate you very heartily on your leading article headed 'Last Sunday' in 'The Ringing World' of November 20th. It was quite one of the best I have read in the years that I have taken the paper, and one that it would have rejoiced the heart of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith to see.

You are absolutely right in saying that on emotional occasions nothing expresses the feelings of the British people so well as bells. And when they have been denied the sound of bells for 29 consecutive months, this is doubly true. Like those families who have left these islands to make their homes in distant lands and who long to hear the bells of their old home church.

It is often said that to appreciate a thing fully one must go without it for a considerable period. During the ban this has certainly been true of ringers and public alike with regard to ringing. 'It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good.'

I should like to suggest that those who have your article should show it to the bishops, priests and deacons, to the intent that they hang it in their church porches and bring it to the notice of their church-going people. Apart from other results, it might be a powerful stimulant to the recruiting of ringers—a thing we should all have at heart at this moment.

A. E. F. TROTMAN.

A PROBLEM OF ACOUSTICS

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Can any reader of 'The Ringing World' throw any light on this problem?

The bells of St. James', Barrow-in-Furness, are hung in the tower about 60 or 70 feet from ground level. Above them is the very high steeple terminating in a sharp point. The church stands on a hill. People living in all directions away from the church say that the bells could not be heard until coming quite close to the church on November 15th.

Previous to the blitz there was a floor above the bells (about 15ft.), which was covered with sheet lead. This was blown down when a nearby land-mine went off. Now one can look from the bells right up to the weather-cock at the top of the steeple.

Would the absence of this floor account for the shortening of the distance to which the sound of the bells will travel?

JAMES E. BURLS.

2. Rand Villas, North Seale, Barrow-in-Furness.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

At the meeting on November 21st, twenty-four members were present, including Mr. Frank Smallwood from Worcester, Mr. F. Warrington from Over, and Mr. A. W. Brighton, who had not been seen at a meeting for many years. The Master, Mr. E. G. Fenn, presided.

Mr. C. W. Roberts presented the balance sheet for the previous year, which had been audited by himself and Mr. E. C. S. Turner. He congratulated the society on a very sound financial position. The accounts were passed.

THE BAN.

DEMANDS FOR REMOVAL.

There is much evidence of a widespread desire that the ban on ringing should be suspended. 'The Church Times' printed two letters on the subject, one from Mr. W. Potts, of Banbury, who said: 'Your suggestion in last week's issue that some easily recognisable alarm signal might be rung on the bells, reminds me that in this town of Banbury a hundred years ago the fire alarm was sounded by the simultaneous ringing of the treble and tenor bells, the remainder of the peal remaining silent, awaiting their conventional use. Are we less inventive than our grandfathers?'

The other was from the Rev. W. C. Roberts, Rector of Sutton, Beds: 'We have been told over the wireless that the bells are not to ring again until there is another victory. If the bells are rung, and for earthly victory, and are silent at Christmas, it will be a real scandal—in the literal sense of the word.'

'Urbanus,' who contributes a weekly column to the same paper, had a good deal to say last week about bells, and all of it good. Here are some extracts:—

'People are still talking about the bells which sounded forth from church towers in celebration of our great victory in the Battle of Egypt. Indeed, there is more talk now, ten days after the event, than there was at the time. The bells had been so long silent that we were content just to listen happily to their exultant music as it came tumbling from the belfries. None of us was critical. The ringers had been nearly three years without practice, and in most places, I hazard, it was very much a scratch team that was got together for the joyful occasion. In few belfries could any serious attempt have been made to ring a proper peal.'

'To be sure, some folk thought ill of the ringing. They held it to be tempting Providence to ring the bells for victory until the final triumph of arms had been achieved. And, of course, there were those who dislike bell music at all times. They deserve our pity, not our censure. All, however, seem to agree that the ringers performed a remarkable *tour de force* in making the belfries resound so grandly. It looks as though the legend about it taking ten years to make a ringer needs to be revised.'

'Perhaps because bellringing is a peculiarly English art it means much to the English people. English literature and especially English poetry abounds with allusions to the sound of the bells, which must be incomprehensible to the foreigner.'

'Now that the silence of the belfries has been broken, what about Christmas? Two years ago the "highest military authorities" successfully resisted the "strong representations" then made by Archbishop Lang in favour of the order prohibiting the use of the bells except as tocsin being relaxed on Christmas morning. Circumstances have greatly changed, and it may reasonably be argued that, if national security was not impaired by the bells being rung after due notice on November 15th, it will not suffer damage if the ban is lifted at Christmas.'

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT NORBURY.

A joint meeting of the Bowden, Stockport, Mottram Branch and Macclesfield Branch was held at St. Thomas', Norbury, on Saturday, November 14th, when 45 members and friends were present from St. Peter's, Ashton-under-Lyne, Bowden, Stockport (St. Mary's and St. George's), Reddish, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Disley, Poynton, Sutton and Manchester, together with a good number of local ringers.

The meeting opened with service in the church and was followed by tea in the school, where the Rev. W. Humphreys, Rural Dean, welcomed the ringers.

At the business meeting the members stood in silence to the memory of the following members who have passed away since the last meeting: Mr. W. Wilde, Denton; Seaman Raymond B'ench, Christ Church, Macclesfield (Merchant Navy); Seaman John Hassall (Royal Navy), Bowden, and the wives of two members, Mrs. Garside, Mossley, and Mrs. Langley, Hazel Grove.

An airgraph received by Mr. P. Laffin from Mr. C. K. Lewis was read to the meeting.

Mr. A. Barns proposed the following new members: Miss Elkin, Mesers. Peter Vincent, John Vincent, Gordon Vincent and Mrs. Vincent. It was decided to hold a meeting at St. George's, Stockport, in February, 1943. There was also a discussion on the Guild not carrying on its annual meetings as was decided at the last committee meeting.

After the meeting the handbells were brought into use, the ringing being opened with a course of Bob Major and a course of Grandsire Triples by the Vincent family, Peter (aged nine) handling 1-2 like an old stager. During the evening the following methods were rung: Grandsire Triples, Caters and Cinques, Stedman Triples, Bob Major and Royal, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Major.

The members welcomed the following visitors: Messrs. J. S. Roberts, of Swinton, R.A.F.; T. R. Boys, St. Peter's, Weedon, Northants, R.A.F.; Mr. J. Hunt, and Mr. H. Shaker (hon. secretary), Lancashire Association.

WHAT ARE BELLS FOR?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I be permitted to congratulate you on your leading article on the victory and thanksgiving ringing, which I think expresses the thoughts and aspirations of most of us?

It is also, I think, the answer to those who in peace time regarded ringing as a source of annoyance and a nuisance and often sought to have them silenced.

Referring to the Rev. Hugh Benson's letter, my view is that it is a matter of perspective. I agree that the ordering by Hitler of the church bells of Germany to celebrate destruction or devastation of countries he has overrun is an abuse of church property, but Hitler's system also stands for the disintegration of the mind and soul as well as the destruction of the body, and his so-called 'victory peals' can only be regarded by right thinking Christian people as celebrating a victory of evil over good.

We are fighting for freedom and liberty of the individual—mind, body and soul—so we regard our victory in Egypt as the first big step to final victory for good over evil and use our church bells in thankfulness and praise that He has strengthened us and made it possible.

F. E. PITMAN.

40, Tweedy Road, Bromley.

A BLESSING IN DISGUISE?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is surprising how after an enforced silence in ringing members come together on an occasion like November 5th.

Here, in Thame, many members of the young band that existed before the war are serving with the armed Forces.

After the welcome news that the ban had been lifted for the Sunday morning, we could only muster four ringers at the outside—at least we thought so—but by Saturday evening nine men had promised to come, and that number arrived punctually at 10 o'clock on Sunday morning for an hour's ringing.

At least two of these ringers had not handled a bell for upwards of twenty years, and although there was a certain amount of rustiness, the ringing, on the whole, was good.

The ban on ringing, painful although it is to us regular ringers, may prove a blessing in disguise if, after the war, the enthusiasm as was shown generally on this occasion could be maintained.

H. BADGER.

Thame, Oxon.

ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—No official announcement appears to have been made that the bells of St. Martin-in-the-Fields were broadcast on Sunday morning, November 15th, yet it is understood a touch of Stedman Caters was put 'on the air' between 11.15 and 11.25 a.m. on that day.

It would be of interest to know if any of your readers who may have been 'listening in' during that period heard the bells, and, if so, in which programme they were included.

G. W. STEERE, Hon. Secretary,
Royal Cumberland Youths.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT PINCHBECK.

The quarterly meeting of the Elloe Deaneries Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild was held at Pinchbeck on November 14th, when ringers were present from Spalding, Pinchbeck, Surfleet, Donington, Deeping St. Nicholas and Algarkirk.

The service was held at St. Mary's Church, at which an address was given by the Vicar, the Rev. E. C. Gee, and Miss P. F. Worthington presided at the organ. After service the company adjourned to the Bull Hotel, where an excellent tea had been prepared by Mrs. Hargrave.

The business meeting followed, under the chairmanship of the Rev. E. C. Gee, president of the branch. A letter from Messrs. John Taylor and Co. was read, which stated that they could not promise when the 'George Ladd' memorial tablet would be completed, as they were at present engaged on work which was of much greater urgency. Unless it could be fitted in between other work, it may have to wait until after the war.

March 13th, 1943, was the date fixed for the annual meeting at Spalding. It was proposed by Mr. R. Richardson and seconded by Mr. R. Smith (treasurer) that the expense of the tea be met out of the Guild funds. The proposition was carried unanimously.

Mr. J. T. Brown proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. E. C. Gee for conducting the service and giving such an excellent address, and to Miss Worthington for presiding at the organ, also to the organ blower, of whom, he said, 'we should do badly without.'

Afterwards members spent a pleasant hour or so ringing and listening to the handbells, which the Guild Master had carefully transported from Surfleet on the carrier of his bicycle, accompanied by Mrs. Richardson on her bicycle, a unique occurrence.

THE USE OF SINGLES IN SEVEN-BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 518.)

When we are dealing with problems of composition, of all the methods in common use Stedman Triples is the most difficult to write about in general terms. A man must be very skilful indeed, or very daring, before he can venture to say, without qualification, what can be done in that method; and, still more so, to say what cannot be done.

This does not mean that the general laws of composition do not apply to Stedman Triples as they do to other methods. They apply just the same. But the peculiarity of Stedman Triples is that, in its case, conditions are so very varied and so many factors have to be taken into consideration, that it is difficult, and often impossible, to state a problem in terms which will cover every possible instance. The problems of composition are not so much difficult to solve as elusive to grasp. This word 'elusive,' which was first applied to the method by Sir Arthur Heywood, fairly describes the nature of the subject. As a result it has been the custom to treat different styles of peals in the method as if they were independent groups.

Three of these groups have been fully investigated, and it is generally known what can be done in Twin-bob peals, Multi-bob peals, and (to a lesser degree) Odd-bob peals. Outside these three groups is an unknown and uncharted wilderness, which does not seem very inviting, but which may contain treasures for the future discoverer.

The first reason for this elusiveness is the absence of a fixed treble. In Grandsire and Plain Bob, and similar methods, the path of the treble divides the total number of rows into a definite number of leads and natural courses, which, with certain qualifications, are mutually exclusive. As we have seen, the problem of composing a peal of Grandsire Triples consists in joining together a definite number of either P Blocks or B Blocks, and so long as we do join together the proper number of either, we need have no fear that there will be any repetition of rows in the interiors of the leads. Provided we use Q Sets in the proper manner, all we need concern ourselves with is the rows with the treble at the lead.

When we are dealing with a method like Bob Major or Double Norwich we need not concern ourselves with any other rows than the 120 natural course-ends with the tenors together, or the 720 natural course-ends when the tenors are parted.

That sort of thing does not exist in Stedman Triples. In that method there is no one set of rows which are naturally marked out as the proper course-ends. Even when (as is usual) the course-ends are rows with the 7th at home, there are 720 of them, any one of which is capable of filling the post, while only 60 actually are required.

The number of sets of 60 course-ends which can be formed out of a total of 720 is enormous, far greater than is possible to deal with.

Great as is this number and, therefore, vast as is the variety of the ways in which sixty separate natural courses can be pricked, it is almost certain that no one set can exist which will contain the full 5,040 rows. Mr. W. H. Thompson about thirty years ago published a proof of this, and, though his earlier proof turned out to be a faulty one, no one has ever found a flaw in his amended statement, and it must be allowed to stand as sound.

Composition, therefore, in the sense of joining together natural courses by bobs arranged in Q Sets (which is the normal form of composition in most methods) is not possible. Bobs must be used not merely as links in the chain which joins separate blocks, but also as a means by which false Sixes can be eliminated, and we must find some other unit than the natural course as the basis of our peals. Such a unit can be found in the B Blocks—the block which is formed by making bobs at every six-end. The links by which such blocks are joined together are omits and singles, and the peals which can be obtained are interesting and valuable as compositions, but, owing to the excessive amount of dodging, are worthless for practical purposes. We should not, however, lose sight of the fact that it seems not impossible that this defect might be largely modified or even done away with altogether. This is a point which, so far as we are aware, has not yet received the attention of composers. The great difficulty in the way of having anything like a fixed observation bell would also strongly militate against these peals being of any great practical value.

So far, the style of peal which has produced the best results in Stedman Triples is the Twin-bob; of which Thurstans' Four-part is the best example.

Twin-bob peals are founded on twelve round blocks, each block consisting of five courses, and every course containing bobs at S and H. Bobs at S are made at the third and fourth Six-ends, and bobs at H at the fifth and sixth Six-ends.

123456	S.	H.
256431	x	x
531462	x	x
362415	x	x
615423	x	x
123456	x	x

Twelve round blocks similar to this one will contain 5,040 rows, and when we have selected the right twelve we form our peal by joining them together into one large round block.

To do that we do not use Q Sets of bobs in the ordinary way, but we remove certain bobs at S to L (5-6) and certain bobs at H to Q (7-8). And we shall find that we need singles for the final link.

(To be continued.)

'SIMPLY'

'The Sentinel' is well known as an inset to parish magazines. Recently its editor was asked what is the difference between change ringing and chiming. Here is his answer—

Change ringing, or changes, consists simply of altered melodies produced by varying the order of a peal of bells, while the term 'chiming' has a double meaning:—

(1) To play a tune on bells by means of hammers, or swinging the clappers, the bell remaining unmoved. This is opposed to *ringing* in which the bells are *rotated*—i.e., swung round.

(2) The term 'chime' is also used in reference to a carillon, i.e., a set of bells so arranged as to be played by hand or machinery.

If change ringing is 'simply' what it is said to be, it seems a pity ringers should make such a fuss about it. But it is rather strange that the editor of a magazine like 'The Sentinel' did not think it worth taking a little trouble to find out the facts.

BELLS AND RINGING.—A melodious peal of bells is not perhaps less captivating than the finest toned instrument ever yet invented; and much may be said on the merits both of the theory and practice of ringing.—Quoted by the 'Clavis.'

Every age leaves something for posterity to investigate and every age will experience something that is inscrutable.—'The Clavis.'

DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 519.)

In giving descriptions of these towers I think it best for convenience sake to take these in counties as per the list given on page 517.

The first is Elstow, Bedfordshire, famous for its connection with John Bunyan. The church, dedicated to SS. Mary and Helena, has a noble detached tower on the north-west, with low spire, containing a clock and six bells, five ancient ones rehung in 1909 and a new treble added. It was here that John Bunyan used to ring the original fourth—now fifth—bell, and this bell still exists to this day. It is unusual in its inscription, being what is described as an alphabet bell, and was cast in Leicester, but is undated. This is how it reads:—

“+ A B C D E F G * V B C D E * H S I A M *”

and it weighs 7 cwt. 1qr. 10lb.

Among the noted bellringers of England, perhaps there is none so ‘picturesque’ as John Bunyan, the author of ‘Pilgrim’s Progress’ and other works. He was born at Elstow in 1628, and—like his father—followed the trade of a tinker and brazier. He was a lad of spirit and imagination but not—he solemnly assures us—ever drunken or unchaste, although given to swearing. At the age of 20 he found a respectable young lady willing to marry him, and, although neither his prospects nor hers were brilliant, they duly married. Bunyan tells us that all she brought him were two books which belonged to her father, and these were ‘The Plane Man’s Pathway to Heaven, wherein every Man may clearly see whether he shall be saved or damned,’ by Alfred Dent, a Puritan minister; and ‘The Practice of Piety,’ by Lewis Bayle, Bishop of Bangor. Bunyan settled down with his wife at Elstow. They read these books together, and she would often be telling him ‘what a Godly man her father was, and how he would reprove and correct vice, both in his house and amongst his neighbours; what a strict and holy life he lived in his days, both in word and deed.’ For a long time Bunyan’s mind and conscience were bewildered among his puritanical books and conversations. The aspect of religion thus presented to him tended to make his conscience ‘tender’ about what he should or should not do, without giving him an insight into the principles or power of Christianity.

The Rev. Dr. Brown in his ‘Life of Bunyan’ thus describes this period of religious perplexity:—

‘When a man comes under the dominion of conscience, and is a stranger to love, conscience is apt to become somewhat of a tyrant: a false standard is set up, and things right enough in themselves seem to become wrong to the man. Bunyan had hitherto taken pleasure in the somewhat laborious diversion of ringing the bells in the tower of Elstow Church. He began to think this was wrong, one does not quite see why: still, having this misgiving about it, he gave up his bellringing, but not the love of it.’

Bunyan’s own words from ‘Grace Abounding’ say:—

‘Now you must know that before this, I had taken much delight in ringing, but my conscience beginning to be tender, I thought such practice was but vain, and therefore forced myself to leave it, yet my mind hankered. Wherefore I should go to the steeple house and look on though I durst not ring. But I thought this did not become religion either, yet I forced myself and would look on still. But quickly after that I began to think how if one of the bells should fall? Then I chose to stand under a main beam that lay athwart the steeple, from side to side, thinking there I might stand sure. But then I should think again, should a bell fall with a swing it might first hit the wall, and then rebounding upon me, might kill me for all this beam. This made me stand in the steeple door; and now, thought I, I am safe enough, for if a bell should fall then I can slip out behind these thick walls, and so be preserved notwithstanding.

‘So after this, I would yet go and see them ring but would not go further than the steeple door, but then it came into my head, how if the steeple itself should fall?, and this thought, it might fall for aught I know, when I stood and looked on did continually so shake my mind that I durst not stand at the steeple door any longer, but was forced to flee for fear the steeple should fall on my head. Another thing was my dancing. I was a full year before I could quite leave that.’

Bunyan afterwards joined a Baptist congregation at Bedford, of which he was called to be minister in 1655. After the Restoration he got into trouble for offences against the law relating to religious conformity by preaching, and was imprisoned from 1660, with one brief interval, till 1672. During this enforced seclusion from his usual work, he wrote several books, including the biographical ‘Grace Abounding,’ and in a subsequent short imprisonment in 1675 he wrote the immortal ‘Pilgrim’s Progress,’ which has made his name known throughout the world wherever the English tongue is spoken. In this allegory he speaks of bells being in the Heavenly City. He says of the two pilgrims approaching it:—

‘They had the City itself in view, and they thought they heard all the bells therein to ring to welcome them thereto.’

At Marston Mortaine, in Bedfordshire, the Church of St. Mary has a massive detached tower standing fifty feet away from the church. It contains a ring of five bells, and these, like ‘Bunyan’s bell,’ are all ‘alphabet’ bells, and came from the famous Leicester foundry of Hugh Watts, churchwarden of St. Margaret’s and Mayor of the city. The letters are all fine Gothic capitals, and the bells are dated 1610, bearing Watts’ shield with the device of three bells and a crown.

The timbers of the bell frame are exceedingly large and strong.

(To be continued.)

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VICTORY BELLS.

MORE ACCOUNTS OF THE RINGING.

Last Sunday the Prime Minister began his broadcast with a reference to the victory ringing. Mr. Churchill said:—

'Two Sundays ago all the bells rang to celebrate the victory of our desert army at Alamein.'

'Here was a martial episode in British history which deserved special recognition. But the bells also carried with their clashing, joyous peals our thanksgiving that, in spite of all our errors and shortcomings, we have been brought nearer to the frontiers of deliverance.'

'The British Empire, and, above all, our small island, stood in the gap all alone in the deadly hour. Here we stood, firm though all was drifting. Throughout the British Empire not one community faltered. All around was very dark.'

'Here we kept the light burning which now spreads broadly over the vast array of the United Nations. That is why it was right to ring out the bells and lift our heads for a moment, in gratitude and in relief, before we turned again to the grim and probably long ordeals which lie before us.'

BANSTEAD.—The eight bells at All Saints' were raised at 9 a.m. and kept going to Grandsire Triples until matins at 10.30. It was fortunate that three young members of the band were on leave from H.M. Forces. Several touches were rung, concluding with a well-struck 504. Those taking part were Cadet Rating M. E. Pitstow, R.N.V.R., Pte. A. Adams, R.A.O.C., Corpl. J. Hobson, Grenadier Guards, A.C.2 C. Harris, R.A.F. Regiment, Miss Winifred Adams and Messrs. A. E. Cheesman, H. Cheesman, T. Norman, E. Wooloff and H. N. Pitstow (conductor).

BARNWELL, LEICESTERSHIRE.—Fourteen ringers (young and old) took part in the ringing. Included in the band were three generations, Charles Belton, Richard Belton and Tom Belton, who was on a short leave for the occasion.

BARKING, ESSEX.—At St. Margaret's, touches of Grandsire Triples and some call changes: G. and E. Faulkner, G. Cottis, S. Holgate, F. G. Newman, E. Lucas, W. Robbins, Corpl. E. G. Moore, C. Fenn and Pte. A. Vavas Welcome (Bath).

BRAMSHOTT, HANTS.—The bells were rung before the 9.30 Communion service and again at 10.15. The ringers were the Rev. E. A. Berrisford, the Rev. I. J. Best, Miss M. Pope and Messrs. F. Johnson, E. Baker, C. N. Pearson, A. Booker and S. Adams.

BROXBORNE.—Over a dozen ringers turned up. Starting off with set changes for a short time, the bells were kept going until 11 o'clock with several short touches of Grandsire Triples by Miss Gladden, Miss Long and Miss Radley, C. Gouldsmith, E. Gouldsmith, D. Hammond, A. Langridge, J. Luxon, W. Pedder, F. Perrin, W. Mumford, G. Radley, G. Cornhill and P. Radley. Mr. A. Langridge and Mr. G. Cornhill, who are serving in the Forces, were both home on leave.

BRUTON, SOMERSET.—Rounds and call changes were rung, the band being one short for Grandsire Doubles: R. Clarke, L. Lucas, C. Reakes, F. Symonds, T. White, H. White and W. Tiley.

CARMARTHEN.—At St. Peter's, touches of Grandsire and Bob Major with rounds and call changes were rung by J. Curtis (captain), Roy Worden (Bristol), L.-Corpl. E. J. Thomas (Home Guard), J. Morris (Llanstephan), Corpl. J. Potter (Home Guard), J. Mayhook (late Welsh Regiment), L.-Corpl. C. Jones (Home Guard), and L.-Corpl. D. Curtis (Home Guard).

CHURCHILL.—At 10 a.m., several 120's Grandsire and Plain Bob until 10.55, when the bells were lowered in peal: G. Gilling, E. J. Avery, R. Dare, C. Reason, S. Avery, T. Roynon, J. Roynon, G. Griffin and F. Sugg, all the pre-war band except K. Gatehouse, who is serving with the S.L.I.

CLIFTON.—The bells of the Parish Church were destroyed in an air raid. The ringers joined with the band at Emmanuel Church. The bells were raised and lowered in peal, and rounds, Queens and firing rung along with several 120's of Grandsire Doubles, with 4.6.8 covering, conducted by W. J. Rawlings and H. W. S. Gregory. Others taking part were H. S. Gregory, W. H. Cole, W. Webb, D. Powell, Mrs. Bowles and Miss Salter.

COOKHAM.—The bells were rung from 10 till 11 a.m. before morning service and several different touches were rung, including Grandsire and Plain Bob. The bells were in perfect working order, and the Vicar, the Rev. B. H. Hayward Browne, referred to this fact in his sermon. The ringers were Messrs. T. J. Fowler, R. Fowler, E. Tuck, K. Tuck, G. Head, W. Ing and the Misses Joan Caught, Jean Jordan, Joan Tubb and Jessie Tubb.

COVENTRY.—In addition to the chimes broadcast from the Cathedral, 12 ringers took part in rounds, Doubles and touches of Minor at Allesley Church. At Keresley, eight ringers turned up and the bells were rung in rounds and Doubles before and after the morning service. The peal of eight at Stoke, Coventry, were rung from 10 to 11 a.m., plain courses and short courses being successfully accomplished. Nothing more ambitious than Grandsire was attempted. The fact that over 30 ringers turned up at the three churches where ringing is possible augurs well for the future.

COSELEY, STAFFS.—The bells of the Parish Church were raised in peal at about 9.40 a.m., and touches of Grandsire Triples were rung with a number of plain courses and call changes until before the service, when the bells were lowered in peal. Those taking part were W. Jeavons, S. Baker, W. Fisher, W. Grinsell, A. Baker, D. Holden, F. Holden, A. Cope, H. Caddick, L. Barnett and D. Whatmore.

CRANLEIGH.—After a good rise in peal, several good touches of Grandsire Triples were rung.

CREWE.—At Christ Church, Crewe, touches of Grandsire Caters, Stedman Triples and Bob Royal by members of the local band: H. F. Holding, T. Holding, W. T. Holding, W. Edge, J. H. Riding, G. Packer, G. Crawley, F. Stenson, H. Overton, J. Price, W. Kerr, R.A.F., and R. D. Langford.

DAYBROOK, NOTTS.—Two successive attempts for a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples were lost owing to rope troubles. During the second quick splice two of the band left, but the remainder stayed to complete a 720 Bob Minor on the back six: T. Elson treble, A. Paling 2, W. Johnson, V.C. 3, F. Bradley 4, J. A. Barratt 5, T. Groombridge, jun. (conductor) tenor.

DISS, NORFOLK.—Thirteen ringers took part in touches of Bob Major, Oxford Treble Bob Major and Double Norwich Court Bob Major: C. J. More, T. Ford, G. Archer, D. Whiting, E. G. Bennett, F. Roper, A. G. Harrison, W. Elsey, A. Elsey, C. Baker, F. Roope, W. Cheuery and G. Kemp. The Rector visited the tower during the ringing and thanked the ringers, and the inhabitants of the town greatly appreciated hearing this grand old peal of bells again.

DURHAM.—Good striking rather than bad method ringing was the order. The Cathedral eight (tenor 30 cwt.) were rung to call changes throughout the allotted period. The following ringers were present: H. Oliver (Bell-Major), G. Metcalf, A. Henderson, E. Allison, C. Vasey, J. Temple, J. Hopper, J. G. Smurthwaite and F. Elliott (since joined Army).

EARLS COLNE.—Touches of Bob Major by G. Bishop, O. Laver, J. Turner, F. Claydon, W. Scillitor, F. Ridgwell, C. Saywood, W. Arnold and E. Bowlhill. Two soldiers billeted in the village took part in a few rounds.

EXETER.—The bells of St. Thomas' Church were rung from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. to rounds, Grandsire Doubles and Grandsire Triples, the ringing being much enjoyed by the ringers and the congregation. Eleven ringers took part, among them Sergt. C. Hosgard, who was home on leave. At the Cathedral it was considered safe to ring only the 'Thomas' octave owing to bomb damage. The eights at Heavitree and St. David's were rung.

FARNHAM, SURREY.—At St. Andrew's Church, 448 Grandsire Triples by J. W. Wells 1, J. Read 2, C. Wells 3, S. Meadows 4, H. Kemp 5, T. Upshall 6, R. Hasted 7, A. E. King 8. Two courses of Bob Major, in which O. Hoyle and G. Upshall took part, and short touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, in which C. Edwards, H. Hughes and J. Knight took part. All the ringers belong to the local band except Messrs. Hoyle and Knight. All the ringing was conducted by R. Hasted.

FURNESS DISTRICT OF LANCASHIRE.—At least ten towers were manned in this district with the help of visitors and ringers who emerged from their retirement. It is safe to say that full peals were ringing throughout this scattered area. Alverston had quite a decent ring, with good striking, although no elaborate methods were attempted. Ambleside and Hawkshead, up among the mountains, and Kendal, the gateway to the North, all were going. Broughton and Milom, too, on the Cumberland side. Peals of six were heard at Kirkby and Cartmel. Dalton mustered 12 and Barrow two full teams, one for rounds and Queens and the other for Triples and Major.

GEDDINGTON.—Grandsire Doubles were rung by R. G. Black, J. B. Hudson, A. Warren, J. Crick, C. Cooper and G. Black, the latter being over 80 years of age.

GORLESTON.—The eight bells were rung by local men, assisted by J. G. W. Harwood, W. Lee, R. Tooley and G. W. Fletcher.

HASTINGS.—At All Saints', touches of Grandsire Doubles and Triples, and at Christ Church, Blacklands, Grandsire Doubles and Triples and Stedman Doubles: Miss B. Gallop, Mrs. J. Downing, W. Joiner, W. Bradfield, A. Easton, B. Funnell, S. Driver, H. Braund, T. Carlton, J. Gallop, J. Pogden, J. Gasson, T. Hinkley and J. Downing. The go of the bells at both towers and striking was excellent.

HYTHER.—Touches of Grandsire Triples and call changes by A. Amos, W. Bidnell, W. Frigate, P. W. Jones, R. Marshall, W. J. Prebble, W. Parls, A. Swan and C. Swan, of the local band, and the following visitors: S. Baker, C. Munn, — Richards, Ernest W. Vowles and Frank Halsted.

HENLOW, BEDS.—The bells were rung from 9.30 to 11 o'clock in Grandsire Doubles by A. Gentle, K. Wilton, A. Dibley, L. Bwaters, P. Tompkins and P. Thompson.

KEWSTOKE, NEAR WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—All the pre-war band put in a punctual attendance, the bells were raised in peal and nine 120's of Grandsire Doubles were rung by G. Prescott, S. Thomas, W. Blake, W. Hart, W. Thomas, J. Weakley and C. Millier.

GREENSTAD GREEN.—At St. James' Church, two touches of Bob Minor: A. Saunders, O. Laver, F. Ridgwell, F. Claydon, Miss H. G. Snowden and E. Bowhill.

HENBURY, GLOS.—All the local ringers took part in ringing rounds, Queens and firing and Grandsire Triples. The band were Mr. J. Gould, Mrs. G. R. Gould, C. Russell, H. Bromfield, C. Harding, A. A. Hilliar, V. J. Williams, C. Gould and F. Lewis. Mr. C. Harding cycled over 10 miles each way to attend.

HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX.—At St. John's Church, touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Grandsire Caters were rung, while most of the bells were raised and lowered in peal. The following ringers took part: Messrs. Honor and Pratt (both of whom have rung at St. John's for over 50 years), Smith, Goodfellow, Baldwin, Over, Mitchell (home on leave from the R.A.F.), Coles, Venn, Easton, Bannister and Mayne, together with Mrs. Goodfellow and Mrs. Mayne. The younger generation were also present in force and will no doubt refer to the occasion in years to come.

KETTERING.—Fourteen ringers from town and district rang the ten bells from 9 to 10.15 a.m. in rounds, Grandsire and Stedman Caters. The quality was not up to peace-time standard, but it was good to hear the bells again. Those taking part were Messrs. R. F. Turner, A. E. Payne, C. W. Bird, J. Bell, A. Henman, E. Chapman, A. Warren, R. G. Black, H. Baxter, R. Gilbey, P. Innis, — Clarke, C. Cooper and C. D. Nichols. The back eight were rung for the Civil Defence Service from 11 to 11.30.

KINGTON MAGNA, DORSET.—The bells were rung in well-struck call changes before morning service and were rung down in peal in the presence of the congregation immediately before singing a hymn of thanksgiving for victory. While the bells were being lowered the collection was taken. It proved to be the largest in the records of the church. Here may be found a tip for churchwardens!

LELANT, CORNWALL.—The bells were rung between 9 and 10 a.m. by Messrs. J. Cock, H. P. Hurrell, J. Thomas and the Rev. and Mrs. A. S. Roberts.

LOWESTOFT.—Two members of the local band, assisted by strangers including three or four sailors, rang for morning service.

MAPLETHORPE, Lincs.—The bells were kept going to rounds and Grandsire Doubles for 1 hour from 10 to 11 by H. Hall, R. Mason, G. H. Dunnington, G. Hall, J. H. Michael, W. Freeman and a soldier from Suffolk. The striking was surprisingly good and the fall in peal was up to Maplethorpe standard. The six at Alford and the three at Marshchapel were also fully manned.

MALVERN WELLS.—The band at the Abbey School were unlucky in not being able to join a tower-bell band and having no ring of their own. But they made the best of their bad luck. The single bell, not hung for ringing, was chimed for five minutes by Miss Dorothy Richardson, and the handbells were then rung to Plain Bob Minor and Major at the back of the school chapel. The band was June Weall 1-2, Janet Peat 3-4, Dorothy Richardson 5-6, Elizabeth Dickinson 7-8. The last has only been learning three weeks.

PORTMADOC.—At St. John's, the eight bells were rung in rounds and Grandsire Doubles: H. Roberts (conductor), J. McMillan, G. C. Williams, S. C. Evans, H. Wakefield, T. Kirkhone and P. Roberts.

PRESTON, SUFFOLK.—A touch of Oxford Treble Bob was rung by F. Dav, F. Hunt, H. Hollocks, C. Pryke, R. Chambers, T. Hollocks (Monks Eleigh) and H. Whymark (Monks Eleigh).

RUISLIP.—Touches of Grandsire Triples were rung by W. Bunce, sen. 1, J. Bunce 2, G. M. Kilby 3, Col. K. Arthur 4, Col. E. Coward 5, W. S. Beaumont 6, T. Collins 7, H. Ive tenor. Mr. A. Hunter and Miss Joan Bravbrooke also took part in the ringing, which, considering the lack of practice, was excellent and much appreciated by the congregation.

SUNDRIDGE.—The clappers were hastily restored to their right place and a band collected from far and near. No change ringing was attempted, but the striking was good throughout. Two beginners, John Finch and Bob Bateman, heard the bells they were ringing for the first time and kept their places very well.

TALGARTH.—Nine ringers turned up, including one home on leave, and Grandsire Doubles and call changes were rung. The ringers were congratulated on the striking.

WALSALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.—The twelve bells were fully manned, and although nothing spectacular was attempted, the ringers (assisted by four visitors, who took occasional turns) were satisfied that they had lost little of their skill. The ringing terminated at 11 a.m. with a good course of Stedman Caters. Other towers in the district were fully manned.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 3 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

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ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, December 5th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Buckingham to-morrow, Saturday, December 5th. Handbells. Service 3.30. Tea and meeting immediately following. All welcome.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at St. Giles', Norwich, on Saturday, December 12th. Bells (8, silent once more, alas!) 2 p.m. Service 3.30. Preacher, Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow. Tea in the Cosin Room, Stuart Hall, near St. Andrew's Church, 4 p.m., followed by business meeting. Please send names for tea to Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich, by Monday, December 7th.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION and THE EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—A combined meeting will be held at Tunbridge Wells on Saturday, December 12th. Tower of St. Peter's open from 2.30 p.m., where eight silent bells are available. Service at 4 p.m. Tea in Parish Hall at 4.45 for those who let Mr. B. Collison, 169, Queen's Road, Tunbridge Wells, know not later than Wednesday, December 9th.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. William James Carter is now Wolstanton Workmen's Club, 46, High Street, Wolstanton, Stoke-on-Trent.

A LETTER FROM CANADA.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On Sunday, September 6th, several touches of Grandsire Triples were rung on the bells of the Cathedral, Vancouver, as a tribute to Mr. W. Bond, being his 79th birthday. Mr. Bond was present and able to take the tenor after recovering from a severe illness, which had kept him away from the bells for several weeks. Those taking part were Mr. Silvester, J. Watts, R. Pitman, J. Pitman, Mr. Hird, R. Tapper, Mr. Bell, A. C. Limpus and Mr. Lake, who came over from Victoria. I am also sorry to announce that Mr. George Foster, the conductor of the first peal in Canada, is now in the Royal Columbian Hospital at Saperton, B.C., suffering from a severe breakdown in health. We are hoping for his quick recovery.

A. C. LIMPUS.

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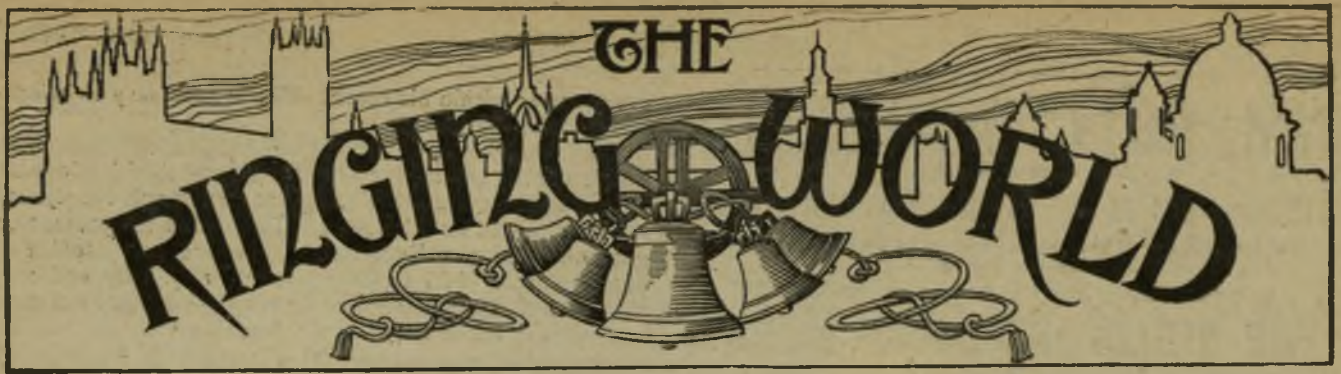
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11th, 1942.

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A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

The letter from Mr. C. T. Coles which we published on November 20th has not brought the amount of comment and criticism which some people quite naturally expected. But that does not mean an absence of interest in the matter on the part of the Exercise generally. On the contrary, among the controversial questions which from time to time occupy the minds of ringers, a National Association has always held a foremost place. Sixty years ago and more the question was debated. It is probable that sixty years hence it will still be debated.

What, however, has happened is that most of our readers evidently think that all that can now profitably be said about the question has been said in the various letters we have published during the last twelve months or so, and that in his very full summing up Mr. Coles has not left much scope for an effective answer. Mr. Coles writes with the authority which properly belongs to a man who has not only long held a prominent position among ringers, but has had the experience which comes to one who for more than a quarter of a century has been the general secretary of a leading territorial association. What he says carries weight.

It is most likely, therefore, that interest in the matter will for the time being die down, but we are strangely at fault in our judgment if it should turn out that the last has been heard of the matter. It will crop up again, not perhaps for some years, but sooner or later.

The reason is that it is intimately connected with a principle which is very essential to the life and well-being of the Exercise. There are two tendencies that for long have been working among us, and both are good and necessary. One is to promote the formation of bands which are definitely attached to particular churches as part of the parochial organisation, and exist for the Sunday service ringing. This tendency carried to its logical conclusions would mean the elimination of the unattached ringer, and also of those loosely connected groups of men who are often called 'cliques.' On the other hand there is the feeling that the Exercise is a body of men with common interests and common aims, and therefore should have a common organisation in which all barriers between bands and societies are swept away.

These tendencies are contrary to each other, but both of them are good and useful. Most good and useful things when pushed too far become obnoxious, and in this particular instance we need both the tendency which would confine a ringer's activity to his own church and belfry and the tendency which would throw open to him

(Continued on page 554.)

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every tower within his reach. One is necessary to balance and correct the other.

We have spoken of what is, we believe, the real motive power behind the demand for a National Association, but of course there are other things naturally and consciously in the minds of its advocates. They think the present organisation of the Exercise is defective and capable of improvement. Mr. Coles has dealt very fully and very ably with that point, and we do not desire now to express any opinion about it. But we do think that suggestions for improving our organisation are worth making and should be carefully and sympathetically considered. Because a thing exists now is no reason why it should go on existing if it can be bettered; and, on the other hand, to change things merely for the sake of change is to court disaster. The true life and development of the Exercise and the art of change ringing mean the due adaptation of everything to changing and altered circumstances. Everything that is valuable in the idea of a National Association can perhaps be attained without any drastic or radical destruction of our present system.

HANDBELL PEALS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Sunday, November 29, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,
 AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*JOAN HOULDSWORTH (St. Hilda's) 1-2	WILLIAM L. B. LEES (St. John's) 5-6
JOHN E. SPICE (New College) 3-4	PATRICIA A. SCADDEN (St. Hilda's) 7-8
†WILFRID F. MOREYON (St. John's) ... 9-10	

Composed by H. J. TUCKER. Conducted by WILLIAM L. B. LEES.
 * First peal on ten bells. Also first peal on ten bells for the society and as conductor.

BOURNEMOUTH, HANTS.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, November 30, 1942, in Two Hours,

AT 11, EXTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor size 15 in C.

MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS 3-4
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Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

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THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, November 29, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirteen Minutes,
 AT 42, CLAY LANE,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

EDWIN A. BARNETT 1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4	EDWIN BARNETT 7-8

Composed by HENRY DAINS. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER
 Umpire—Edwin Jennings.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, December 4, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,
 AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16½.

*MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	MRS. E. K. FLETCHER ... 5-6
*JOHN THOMAS 3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7-8
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 9-10	

Composed by J. GROVES. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal of Stedman on handbells. Fiftieth handbell peal as conductor.

THE BELLS OF ST. PETER'S, ST. ALBANS.

By H. V. FROST AND MRS. URSULA FERGUSON.

The existing ring of ten bells at St. Peter's are well known to many ringers, but there can be few men now living who can remember when there were twelve.

St. Peter's has an interesting history, being one of three churches built by Abbot Ulsinus a hundred years or so before the Conquest, the other two being St. Michael's and St. Stephen's, both six-bell towers.

In 1254, during a thunderstorm, the tower, which was the highest point in the city, was struck by lightning, and the top of it destroyed.

No mention is made of bells until in 1552 'Saint Peter's in the town of Saynt Albones' was reported to possess a chime of four bells. Twenty-one years later the churchwarden's account shows a payment 'to the ringers at the Coming of the Queen (Elizabeth) through the town into Gorhambury.'

In the same year Samuel Taylor was paid by the churchwardens for repairing and hanging the great bell. They must have had further trouble with it for Samuel Taylor had another payment for hanging and mending the clapper. Perhaps Queen Elizabeth's arrival had evoked too great enthusiasm among the ringers, and when she came again four years later they were more careful. On this occasion the ringing cost the wardens 8s. when 'the Queen's Majesty came to the Bull,' and later another 5s. 4d. 'for ringing two days at the Queen's Majesty last being here.' One wonders why there is such a marked difference in the rate of pay. The bells must have been an expensive item to the churchwardens in those days. They had to pay for a Joyous peal (amount unstated) on the occasion of the arrest of Anthony Babington in 1587, while the ringing for the Armada cost them 4s. 8d. as well as a sum to 'W. Grimsell, the paritor, for a note by him to ring for our good success against the Spaniards.'

Enthusiasm for ringing was now growing, and it was evidently felt that the time had come to increase the number of bells, for in 1605 a new treble was added at the cost of £7 6s. 8d., the churchwardens having to provide 12d. worth of beer for that occasion. But all this was apparently not very satisfactory, for in 1628 they decided to have the bells recast into five, which was done on the spot. This still did not completely satisfy the requirements, for three years later one of them had to be cast again, and a sixth bell was added.

In 1658 these bells were rung once more at the expense of the parish, at the proclaiming of the Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell's son, Richard. After this the ringers became an almost annual expense, ringing being paid for when General Monk came through the town the next year and, of course, the following one on the coronation of

Charles II. The churchwardens of those days must have been economical men for, in 1666, they made one peal on the bells do for the two victories against the Dutch. In 1685 they rang to celebrate the defeat of Monmouth, and in 1690 for the Battle of the Boyne.

It would be interesting to know just what happened to the bells at this time for, after ringing to celebrate

Marlborough's victory at Ramillies in 1706, they were in such a bad state, 'being all except one broke, cracked, or otherwise maimed, spoilt or useless,' that the parish decided that 'for the honour & ornament of God's house & the reputation & pleasure of the Parish that they be cast into eight bells & have a proper quantity of metal add'd to make them a compleat & musical sett.' This very laudable object was put forth by the Vicar, Dr. Robert Rumney, who, for 28 years, was the incumbent of the parish. But



THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER, ST. ALBANS.

praiseworthy schemes such as these are by no means always easy to achieve. Enthusiasm waned, for exactly a year later the parish decided to moderate the plan and to provide for only 'six new musical bells of the same weight as these, or as near as may be'—moreover, there is a sinister hint of a parish levy to meet the cost. However, the Rev. Dr. Rumney was a persistent man, and at the same vestry got a further order passed enabling him to add two more bells if they could be paid for voluntarily. Dr. Rumney must have been a great lover of bells and thoroughly enjoyed participating in all the plans and arrangements for his new bells. Three of his still remain, the third, sixth and tenor, cast by R. Phelps in 1729. What a Christmas that must have been for him, culminating in a visit by the College Youths on December 27th for a peal of Bob Major 'on the Augmentation of the bells from six to eight.' It was conducted by Benjamin Annable.

In 1756 the parish decided to rebuild the belfry with a higher floor. The work was done, but nearly thirty years later the tower was found to be unsafe. William Agglington, a local carpenter (and a ringer) got the task of repairing it. In 1785 the vestry directed that the estimate for the underpinning of the tower was to include 16 pairs of 'broad timber, 2½ft. x 4ft., and a cross side to every other pair.' Altogether nearly £2,790 was spent, or rather wasted on providing the tower with wooden foundations.

During this period two peals were rung, one of Treble Bob Major by the College Youths on May 23rd, 1763, and the other, exactly two years later, being Grandsire Triples by the St. Albans ringers. In 1788 two more

(Continued on next page.)

ST. PETER'S, ST. ALBANS.

(Continued from previous page.)

bells were added, cast by John Briant, of Hertford. They were given by Mr. Cornelius Nichol, a man who for over a quarter of a century or more played a prominent part in the history of the parish. In that year two peals were rung on them—Bob Royal by the College Youths and Grandsire Caters by the Trinity Youths.

Barely a year went by before it became obvious to any but the most biassed that Mr. Agglington's efforts at tower strengthening were not successful. The Vicar, the Rev. Thomas Doyley (evidently a new-comer and viewing the structure with the cruelly clear eye of a 'fur-reigner'), called the attention of the parish to the danger. Moreover, he called in an expert, a Mr. Norris, whose opinion bore the stamp of authority, for he was surveyor to no less a building than Christ's Hospital, London. His report was a masterpiece of non-committance. He said that he 'was of the opinion that so long as the timbers used in the body of the piers remain good & sound, the tower may be safe, but should they decay, he doubted the tower's standing, and was sorry to say from the appearance of some of the timbers that were exposed to view should fear they were proceeding to that state.'

The parish demurred. A week later the Vicar took matters into his own hands and informed the parishioners 'that the settlement in Saint Peter's tower, piers, etc., are much spread since Mr. Norris' last report. . . . Under these circumstances he thinks himself obliged, though most reluctantly, to discontinue the performance of divine service in the church until he received notice from the churchwardens that it is in a proper state for the same. He recommends it to the Vestry immediately to take into consideration the securing of the body of the church, the aisles & chancel, by taking down the bells, the top of the tower, etc., before it is too late; he likewise recommends unanimity.'

The vestry, overawed, retired to the White Horse. After due refreshment their courage returned. They temporised. They suggested that it would be a good idea to plaster over the bad parts at once.

This was the beginning of a battle between the Vicar, the vestry and various authorities about the safety of the tower which was to be waged for the next ten years, the vestry yielding ground inch by inch until the question was settled for them by the tower itself, for on November 21st, 1801, the belfry floor collapsed and fell into the church.

When the tower was rebuilt in 1805 the seventh bell was recast by John Briant, of Hertford. Mr. Agglington must have been an old man when he conducted a peal of Grandsire Triples in 1810, forty-seven years after his name first appeared on a peal board.

The years between 1814, when the bells rang for the proclamation of peace, Napoleon being at that moment confined on Elba, and 1867 are blank and dark; nothing is known of what happened at that time. Then the Ancient Society of College Youths held their 230th anniversary in this town on July 1st, 1867, when the following members rang in this steeple a true peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal, comprising 5,000 changes, in three hours and 27 minutes, being the first peal in that method on these bells: Henry Haley treble, William Cooter 2.

Thomas Hattersley 3, Edwin C. Langdon 4, Robert Jameson 5, James Pettit 6, Richard Hopkins 7, Matthew A. Wood 8, Edwin Horrex 9, John M. Hayes tenor. The peal was composed by H. W. Haley.

At this time there lived a man who must have been a real lover of ringing; more than that, he must have had an absorbing enthusiasm. John Lewis lived in the parish and, although a staunch Nonconformist, he rang with the St. Peter's band. In May, 1868, he gave two bells and so increased the ring to twelve. It must have been an exciting day for the old gentleman when the two new trebles made by Warners rang out for the first time. But excitement is not good for old people, and in this case proved too much for Mr. John Lewis, who died a few days later. Thirteen years later the tenth and eleventh were cracked, and in October, 1881, they were recast by Taylors, who took John Lewis' trebles in part payment. Thus the twelve were reduced to ten again to the great disgust of his son Henry Lewis, who was not approached in the matter. No peal of over 5,000 changes was ever rung on the twelve, but a board records that Holt's Original was rung on the large eight and conducted by Henry Haley.

In 1883, a year before the founding of the Herts Association, a joint company of College Youths, Cumberland Youths, and Bennington and St. Albans ringers opened the ten bells after restoration. Five years later the St. James' Society rang a peal of Stedman Caters, conducted by the Rev. C. P. P. Davies. That year, 1888, was a good one for peal ringing in St. Albans, and the names of W. H. L. Buckingham (a descendant of William Agglington), J. C. Mitchell, C. F. Winney, G. W. Cartmel, E. P. Debenham and Henry Lewis often appear. John Cox's 5,021 of Grandsire Caters and a 5,040 Bob Royal by Walter Buckingham seem to have been great favourites with them.

In 1893 Lord Grimthorpe restored the church and tower and added the panelling to the ringing chamber, a fine example of linen fold carving.

In 1929 a peal of Bob Royal, conducted by T. J. Hull, was rung to mark the bi-centenary of the original eight bells. In recent years a Masonic peal of Stedman Caters was rung, conducted by H. Goodenough, of the Cathedral Society, also peals of Oxford, Kent and little Bob Royal called by George Debenham, and Cambridge Royal in 1938 by H. V. Frost.

In 1942 there died another admirer of St. Peter's bells, Mr. L. A. Dorant, who left a legacy of £200 for the improvement of the bells. Of course, under the present conditions it is still too early to say what form this improvement will take. From time to time there have been suggestions that the trebles should be replaced, but as the old twelve did not enjoy a high reputation, and the weight of the tenor (21 cwt.) is somewhat light for that number, views are divided. With modern bell founding and the present-day practice of removing all the bells to the foundry for tuning, no doubt a better twelve would result. As a peal of ten they have a very good reputation, and the tower was a favourite venue of the old London ringers, as the peal boards in the spacious ringing chamber denote.

EVENING—

Though the day be never so longe,
At length the belles ringeth to evensong—
Stephen Hawes (c. 1500).

DEATH OF MR. R. G. KNOWLES. LOSS TO WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The Worcestershire Association has suffered a great loss by the death of Mr. R. G. Knowles, of Madresfield, which occurred on September 22nd. He had been in failing health for some time, and his absence from recent committee and general meetings caused concern to his friends, but latest reports were somewhat more assuring. Early in September, however, he suffered bereavement by the death of his wife after 55 years of married life, and 16 days later he passed peacefully away.

The whole of his life had been devoted primarily to the service of his native parish, for in addition to an unbroken membership of the band of ringers at St. Mary's, Madresfield, he had been churchwarden and was formerly clerk to the Parish Council; while for about 30 years he worked at his trade as a carpenter and wheelwright for the Malvern Urban District Council.

But his outlook was very much wider than merely parochial. With Mr. W. Short, he shared the distinction of being the oldest surviving members of the Worcestershire Association, having been elected in 1887, five years after the association's foundation. On the formation of the three branches in 1911, he became the first secretary and treasurer of the Western Branch—an office which he held for 15 years—and his pioneer work in this connection will stand as a memorial to him. Since then he has successively been Master of the association, 1928-32; Central Council representative for nine years, and latterly a lay vice-president. Again he shared the well-deserved honour with Mr. Short. They were the first to be elected as 'freemen' of the association.

Mr. Knowles rang 337 peals, 327 of them for his home association, and he conducted 57. They ranged from Grandsire Doubles to Cambridge Royal and Stedman Cinques. As a teacher he was particularly painstaking and capable, and although perhaps not exactly brilliant in debate, he yet held very decided ideas and opinions, which always proved of solid worth. Above all, he was lovable as a man, and a constant and sincere friend. He leaves capable pupils to carry on his work, but his passing leaves a gap.

Born and married at Madresfield, he was laid to rest on September 26th in the shadow of the church which he had served so faithfully. Travelling difficulties prevented ringers from distant parts of the county being present, but among other members of the Western Branch at the funeral were Mr. S. T. Holt (Master), Mr. C. Camm (Branch Master), Mr. E. E. Barber (auditor), Mr. W. Ranford and Mr. G. J. Lewis.

A course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells over the grave, and wreaths were sent from the association and the Western Branch.

THE OLDEST RINGER.

Dear Sir,—It would be interesting to know the age of the oldest ringer who rang the victory bells on Sunday.

Mr. John Brunt, who rang the treble to touches of Bob Doubles at St. Mary's Church, Broughton Astley, is 85 years of age. He has rung here for 70 years, commencing as a lad 15 years of age, having during that time rung the bells on all notable occasions, such as Jubilees, Coronations, Mafeking and victory peals. He is captain of the ringers an honorary life member of the Midland Counties Association and has been parish clerk since 1899.

Our ringers wish with your co-operation to congratulate Miss Jill Poole, the accomplished daughter of our esteemed police inspector, on her remarkable handbell ringing performance.

Also our very best thanks to 'The Ringing World' for an increasingly interesting paper and every good wish for its future.

H. BIRD.

Station Road, Broughton Astley, Leicester.

MR. JAMES GEORGE'S THANKS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have received so many congratulations on my 89th birthday that it is impossible to acknowledge them each personally. Will those who sent me such nice wishes kindly accept my thanks sincerely. I consider your two last leading articles are much beyond expectation.

JAMES GEORGE.

Summer Hill Homes, Summer Hill Terrace, Birmingham 1.

MINOR AND DOUBLES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—From time to time we see published in 'The Ringing World' details of peals rung by past and present members of the Exercise.

Rarely do we see in the lists any peals of Minor or Doubles.

I have often noticed and wondered why at practices and meetings the 'experts' will spend a lot of time getting a touch of London or Cambridge, but when asked to assist with a touch on six for the novices before the bells are lowered, there is always a train to catch or someone is waiting outside.

Is it undignified to ring or have in your records anything less than eight-bell performances?

'QUERIST.'

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Among the London churches ruined in the air raids was St. Mary's, Islington. The body of the building was completely destroyed, but the tower was left standing, and many ringers have wondered if the bells are safe. These doubts were set at rest on Victory Sunday, when it was possible to chime hymn tunes on the bells. Whether it will be safe to ring them is, of course, uncertain. St. Mary's belfry holds an honourable position in the history of change ringing.

Last Wednesday, Mrs. Wolstencroft, of Ashton-under-Lyne, reached her 70th birthday. She took up ringing at the outbreak of the last war and was the eldest of the band of ladies to ring at the Armistice. During 21 years she has not missed ringing for a single Sunday service except when on holiday.

Fifty years ago the first peal of London Surprise Major in the Oxford Diocese was rung at Hughenden, Bucks. It was rung after about 40 practices and attempts, and was a very creditable performance by all the band. The present survivors are J. Evans (conductor), S. T. Goodchild, Fred Biggs, of High Wycombe, and W. E. Yates, Marlow.

On December 6th, 1731, the second peal of Stedman Triples was rung at St. Michael's, Coslany, Norwich.

Squire Proctor's men rang 6,048 changes of London Surprise Major at Bennington on December 6th, 1870, and on the same date in 1931 Mr. Alfred Pulling called the first peal of Reverse Dublin Surprise Major at Ewell.

James Barham's band rang 10,080 Double Bob at Harrietsham on December 8th, 1746.

On December 8th, 1885, the College Youths rang 11,111 changes of Stedman Caters at All Saints', Fulham. It was the record length in the method at the time.

The first peal of Darlaston Bob Caters was rung at St. Philip's, Birmingham, on December 8th, 1894, and the first peal of Edinburgh Surprise Major at Leiston on December 8th, 1923.

The Ipswich men rang the first peal of New Cambridge Surprise Maximus on December 8th, 1928.

John Cox, one of the best known ringers of the nineteenth century, was born on December 9th, 1813.

On the same date in 1833, the Painswick men rang 10,224 Kept Treble Bob Maximus; and in 1924 the Willesden band rang the first peal of Winchester Bob Major.

George Gross called the first peal of Real Double Bob Caters with a band of Cumberland Youths at St. Magnus' on December 10th, 1770.

The first peal at St. Paul's Cathedral was rung on December 10th, 1881.

The Cumberlands rang 5,136 Oxford Treble Bob Maximus at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, on December 11th, 1841; the first peal of Aston Royal was rung at Aston on December 11th, 1909; and on the same date in 1926 Mr. C. T. Coles called at Walthamstow a peal of Spliced Erin, Grandsire and Stedman Caters.

IMPORTANT.

Christmas Greetings for publication in the Notice Column of our Christmas issue must be sent to us during the next few days.

ST. ANDREW'S, PLYMOUTH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was delighted to see in 'The Ringing World' the account of the ringing at St. Andrew's, Plymouth, as I had been informed by several persons that these bells, a fine ring of 10, had been destroyed by enemy action. It was most gratifying to me to know it was not so, as we rang the first peal on them on one of our ringing tours (arranged by the late Rev. M. Kelly) on Monday, October 5th, 1903. Amongst those of the band who have passed on are the Revs. F. E. Robinson and C. W. O. Jenkyn, Messrs. J. W. Taylor, H. Baker and W. W. Gifford. Those still with us are myself, A. W. Brighton, G. N. Price, C. R. Lilley and Canon Coleridge.

I was always very interested in this peal, having been staying the week-end with Mr. Gifford after the usual peal at St. Martin's, Salisbury, on the Saturday, where I had it dinned over to me by my host. 'Now, George, this is one of my life's ambitions to ring a peal on St. Andrew's, Plymouth, bells.' And a very fine peal we rang. Canon Coleridge rang the tenor behind in his most perfect style. Other peals rung during the week were Superlative at St. Austell, Stedman Triples and Superlative at Cardynham, Double Norwich and Stedman Triples at Lanhydrock, Stedman Triples at Liskeard, Superlative at Stonehouse, and Treble Bob Royal at Charles Church, Plymouth.

In this peal I and Canon Coleridge changed ends, described by a local during the week as 'the little 'un on the big 'un, and big 'un on the little 'un.'

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

1, Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh.

THE BAN ON RINGING.

WILL IT BE LIFTED?

There is still a persistent and widespread demand that the ban on the use of church bells should be modified or removed altogether. In the House of Commons on Tuesday in last week, Mr. A. P. Herbert (Ind., Oxford University) asked the War Minister whether in the light of recent events he would reconsider the decision to use church bells as a military signal and adopt some arrangement which would not deprive the community of the bells.

In reply, Sir James Grigg said the question was now being considered.

Later in the week Mr. Atlee informed Mr. Driberg (Ind., Maldon) that the question of permitting bells to be rung on Christmas morning was being considered.

Asked how soon consideration was likely to be, he replied, 'I cannot say.'

Mr. Stokes (Labour): 'In view of the fact that in many parts of the country the bells are not heard at all, and that they are of no use as invasion signals, why not use the sirens as invasion signals and allow the bells to be used normally?' (cheers).

The Dean of Winchester, preaching in his Cathedral, said: 'We can look forward to the time when the bells will ring again. I confess that I wish the Government would think out some fresh method for giving notice of attempted invasion—it surely cannot be beyond the wit of man—and let us ring our church bells every Sunday, and I am sure that the bellringers of England would say the same. I believe it would be of great benefit to public morale and religion, and remind us that we had entered on a new phase of our struggle; and I wish the Church authorities would concern themselves with making representations to this effect.'

PRISONERS OF WAR.

We are glad to hear that official information has been received that Mr. Dennis Brock and Mr. Kenneth Spackman, previously reported missing, are now prisoners of war in Italian hands.

Mr. Dennis Brock is a member of the band at Sunbury-on-Thames, and Mr. Kenneth Spackman a member of the band at Radbourne Cheney, Swindon.

HISTORY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In 'The Ringing World' for November 13th, 1942, in the leading article History, paragraph 2, you say that there was only one period in the history of the people and the Church of England when change ringing could have appeared. I should much like to see this developed and explained.

Also the paragraph on top of page 510 in the same article about the alienation of change ringing from church services and its restoration. (Rev.) E. W. BLYTH.

Northrepps Rectory, Cromer, Norfolk.

[The rise of change ringing and the relations of the Exercise to the Church during the centuries form a most fascinating study for the historian of change ringing. It would need a full book to deal adequately with it, but we will keep Mr. Blyth's request in mind.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

RINGING TUNES.

AND OTHER MATTERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have not found opportunity before to reply to a query raised about an extract from the churchwardens' accounts at Sefton, Lancs. I confess that I was quoting from memory something read nearly 40 years ago, and though I thought that my recollection was correct, I should be quite prepared to learn that it was inaccurate in some detail. Unless I am mistaken, the extract in question appeared in 'The Liverpool Diocesan Gazette'—or whatever its official title was at that period—between June, 1902, and April, 1906. If any of your readers have the opportunity or the curiosity to search through those back numbers it will be interesting to know the result.

While I am writing, I ask leave to comment briefly on two other points arising out of your correspondence columns.

With regard to ringing tunes on bells, some years ago three of us here—or occasionally four—used to ring tunes on our five bells. As there are few sacred melodies on five notes except chants, it was generally chants that we rang. In the last war, when ringing at night was prohibited, we rang 'Now the day is over' at sunset on New Year's Eve.

A clerical neighbour asked me the same question that was put to Mr. E. V. Cox. My reply was that, as bellringing was a form of church music, our patron would be St. Cecilia. All the same, I like Mr. Cox's suggestion of St. Dunstan. In the one case ringers would share their patron saint with the Goldsmiths' Company, in the other with the Company of Musicians.

I may add that on the same ground—that ringers are performers on musical instruments—I do not think the word 'sport' any more applicable to ringing than it would be to playing a cornet or beating a drum. 'Recreation' appears a more appropriate term.

F. L. EDWARDS.

Kington Magna Rectory.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

IS UNIFORMITY DESIRABLE?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I add a contribution to the discussion on the possibilities of forming a National Association, which Mr. Coles has reopened, hoping that no one will assume I am strongly pro- or anti-anything? The subject is an interesting one, which, if it achieves nothing else, may focus some attention on a few of the failings of our present system.

In the first place, there seems to be a tendency to regard the National Association idea as a sort of revolution to overthrow the present system lock, stock and barrel. This conception of a National Association is, to my mind, quite wrong. I assume that those responsible for putting forward the idea of a National Association have one object in view, namely, the improvement of ringing organisation, with a view to increasing our efficiency both in quantity and quality.

The fundamental principle of a National Association is surely uniformity. I cannot recall seeing this point discussed at any length before, and yet as I see it this is the whole kernel of the National Association argument.

Is uniformity desirable? Before we can discuss a National Association we have to answer that question. Unfortunately, it is not easy to decide by speculation what sort of uniformity we should get with a National Association. If it is uniformly bad, then obviously there is no argument. We have to assume, therefore, that a National Association will produce a uniformity, which will mean improvement in the quantity and quality of ringing, in those places where it is at present not very high, up to something like the standard of the best under our present system.

The question which naturally follows is how is this uniformity to be achieved? It is, perhaps, dangerous to make comparisons, but we have to face the fact that there is a very considerable difference in the efficiencies of our various organisations, and if the pooled experience of all societies were applied to the whole country uniformly, ringing would probably benefit. If this is the idea behind a National Association it is worthy of our serious consideration and possibly our support.

To many ringers the measure of an association's success seems to be under the heading, 'Total worth of the society,' in the balance sheet. Naturally the National Association idea causes considerable anxiety lest this item should disappear into a common pool. If by uniformity all societies have the same organisation they should all become financially sound, although it might be necessary for the more prosperous ones to give the less fortunate ones a little assistance at first.

'The Ringing World' is a problem which has been brought very forcibly to our notice by the lamented passing of Mr. Goldsmith. The circulation of the paper is the keynote of success or failure of any scheme which is put forward to ensure its continuity.

Could a National Association bring about an improvement in the circulation of 'The Ringing World'? By making the paper an official weekly journal it is quite possible it could. There are quite a number of ringers who regard 'The Ringing World' as a sort of luxury for the experts, not intended for the ordinary ringer. Nothing could be further from the truth, of course, but it is quite possible that these men would take more kindly to the ringing paper if they knew it was the official journal of an organisation of which they were members.

A full-time paid secretary and a host of paid officials seem to be an essential feature of a National Association according to many, but I fail to see that this is at all necessary.

Ringing is not a life or death, minute-to-minute commercial proposition, demanding a man on the spot, and I feel sure there are many ringers who could quite adequately undertake the duties of secretary to a National Association in their leisure time.

Presumably ringers and ringing will still be the same under any system. There can be no question of sweeping away the organisations, which have taken half a century or more to build up, and replacing them with a National Association.

All that concerns us is which way our enthusiasm for ringing can best be harnessed to produce the greatest efficiency.

Is the formation of a National Association from our present societies the answer?

J. E. BAILEY.

20, Swaisland Road, Dartford.

DETACHED TOWERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very interested in the correspondence in this week's issue, November 27th, of our journal, 'The Ringing World,' regarding detached towers and dual parishes. There is a very fine detached tower at Ledbury Church, Herefordshire, and a finer one, 'The Campanile,' at Evesham.

The peculiar thing about this tower is it stands in the same churchyard as do two separate churches, All Saints' and St. Lawrence's. I've no doubt that some of our Worcester Guild brethren—especially that stalwart worthy, Alderman James Hemming, 'father' of the Worcester Guild, or at least one of them, could tell us some history of this unusual happening.

W. FRANK STENSON.

142, Minshull New Road, Crewe.

THE USE OF SINGLES IN SEVEN-BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 548.)

The study of the composition of Stedman Triples is to some extent complicated by the way peals and touches are written out. In ordinary methods we prick compositions by the lead-ends and course-ends. We imagine we do the same thing in Stedman, but we do not do so really. In Stedman we prick by six-ends, but the equivalent of a lead of Plain Bob or Grandsire is not a six but a twelve, and a twelve consists of the twelve rows from the backstroke blow of the whole pull on the lead of one quick bell until the handstroke of the whole pull on the lead of the next quick bell.

This is the real unit of a course of Stedman Triples. There would have been many advantages if the plan had been adopted of pricking the method by the rows when the quick bells are leading and of taking as the course-ends the backstroke row of the observation bell's whole pull when it is quick. There are obvious practical reasons why our present plan was adopted, and there is no sufficient reason to change it now, but when we try to bring Stedman into line with other methods, we must recognise that the custom is really only a makeshift. The very early composers did look on the twelve as the proper unit, and so did Fabian Stedman, which accounts for the particular way in which the method starts. This has been somewhat of a puzzle to composers, who consider the method as consisting of alternate quick and slow sixes much in the same way as a Spliced course might consist of the alternate leads of two separate methods. C. D. P. Davies, for instance (who knew a lot about Stedman), says, 'For some reason best known to himself—probably in order to make the first three rows identical with those in Grandsire—Fabian Stedman, the inventor of the method, caused rounds to occupy the position' of the fourth row of a quick six. Stedman, however, was theoretically correct and was following the proper rule.

Last week we pointed out that when we are composing peals of Stedman Triples on the Twin-bob plan our material consists not of 60 independent natural courses or P Blocks, but of twelve independent round blocks, each block consisting of five courses, and every course with bobs at S and H. The first thing, therefore, we must do is to set down the twelve blocks correctly. This can be done quite easily. (We use the fourth row of the six as the course-end.)

A 123456	B 432156
234516	543216
345126	154326
451236	215436
512346	321546

We first set down 123456 as the natural course-end of the plain course. We then transpose the first five bells cyclically giving us the Group A. Then we transpose each of these natural course-ends by 43215, which gives us the group B. Notice that the rows in B are in cyclical relationship, but in the reverse order to those in A.

If from each of these natural course-ends we prick a 5-course block, each course being called S.H., we shall have fifty courses; but the whole peal contains sixty, and

in none of these fifty is the 6th in fourth's place. We need, therefore, two more 5-course blocks. They are:—

		S.	H.
C 152643	D 125634	x	x
324615	453612	x	x
541632	231645	x	x
213654	514623	x	x
435621	342651	x	x

The sixty natural course-ends we have now produced are what are called Hudson's course-ends. They get their name because they first appeared in a peal composed by William Hudson, of Sheffield, in the year 1832.

123456 S. H.

635412	x	x
152643	D x	x
423165	D x	x
536142	x	x
264153	x	x
345126	x	x

652134	x	x
324615	D x	x
145362	D x	x
256314	x	x
461325	x	x
512346	x	x

The peal is in ten equal parts, and we have given two parts to show clearly the construction. By means of in-course singles (or doubles as they are in this instance called) to each one of the blocks in the group A is added one of the courses in block C, which has the effect of joining together the five 5-course blocks A and the 5-course block C. A similar process joins together the five 5-course blocks B and the 5-course block D; and two extra in-course singles join the two big blocks into one.

This plan of joining together five separate round blocks by splicing into each one member of a single 5-course block by means of singles, is a device which has been much used in Stedman Triples.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

THE QUESTION OF OVERLAPPING.

Dear Sir,—Many people will value greatly the most able vindication by Mr. C. T. Coles of the existing organisation of the Exercise. It is, perhaps, unfortunate that the master mind of some dictator could not have decided about 70 years ago that territorial associations should all be diocesan or all county, but in the absence of an applicable decision in this matter we must accept the organisation as it exists, with perhaps slight modifications to be adopted locally by mutual agreement where territories overlap.

Presumably the worst example of overlapping is in the London area, where to my mind the pin-pricking to which Mr. Coles refers exists far more between individuals (in fact, a very few individuals) than it does between associations. Recent 'straws in the wind' have indicated that a far better atmosphere can be brought about in London ringing circles by a continued application of the goodwill which has been more apparent since the war began. Certainly of the younger generation generally I believe it can be said that there is little desire to perpetuate the feuds of our elders and betters.

The experience of Sunday, November 15th, 1942, tends to indicate that there has been a general exaggeration of the possibility of organised opposition to ringing greater than existed in 1939. Where there is a good deal of fuss by neighbours about ringing it is usually because the bells are too noisy, and if it is too much trouble for ringers to see about blocking up the louvres they deserve to get complaints, and if I lived near a noisy tower I would be one of the loudest complainants. Therefore, this supposed chief function of the National Association (to deal with opposition to ringing) may possibly be superfluous, and if it is not, an active Central Council could fulfil the function equally well. Those who are dissatisfied with the Central Council have the remedy in their own hands.

Rathmore, High Street, Sutton.

P. A. CORBY.

DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 549.)

Bedfordshire's other example of a detached tower is at Woburn. The Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin was pulled down in 1868, and a mortuary chapel erected on its site with the materials, but the tower remains. This is an embattled structure of two stages, standing at a distance of six yards from the site of the north aisle of the former church, and is about 92ft. high, with pinnacles at the angles, and an open cupola with a cross and vane. The tower was built or rebuilt in the 17th century by Sir Francis Staunton, Kt., with the materials of the Parish Church of Birchmore, and in 1830 it was again rebuilt by John, 6th Duke of Bedford, K.G., under the direction of Mr. E. Blore, and contains a ring of eight bells, two of which were given by the ninth Duke; four were recast in 1664 and a fifth in 1724. The back six are all by T. Mears, 1829, and two trebles by Mears and Stainbank, 1877. The tenor is 12 cwt. 3 qr. 19 lb. In 1829, when the church tower was being rebuilt, and the five bells taken down to be recast, the saints' bell mentioned in the 1651 inventory, and which hung in an 'open cupola supported by eight pilasters' on top of the tower, was removed—with the five bells from the old Town Hall—to the Park Farm, from which it was subsequently stolen. The bells hang in two tiers, 3, 5, 7, 8 below and others above. The belfry is well preserved.

At Theale, Berkshire, Holy Trinity Church has a semi-detached tower containing a clock and six bells. The west front of this church is a much reduced copy of Salisbury Cathedral, and the tower to some extent reproduced from the old bell tower in Salisbury Close. It was erected in 1822. The Rector states that the tower is joined to the rest of the church by a large room which is called the 'Library' why, he does not know, as there are certainly no books there. The tower stands to the south of the church—rather to south-east, and was added after the rest of the church was built, and since then an apse has been added.

Although not in England, I have included Bronllys, near Talgarth, Brecon. Here are six bells, augmented and rehung by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. in 1939. This detached tower is about six feet away from the north-east end of the church, and is 50ft. high by 13ft. square inside, and is a plain building with sloping roof. It was restored about two centuries ago, the bells at that time having been removed from the decayed tower and left for several years lying under the yew tree in the churchyard. The bells now form a ring of six with a tenor 7 cwt. 21 lb.

Tydd St. Giles, Cambridgeshire, has a detached embattled tower containing six bells. The tower stands many yards from the south-east angle of the chancel. Its two lower stages are decorated, and its upper stage Per-

pendicular styles of architecture. In 1888 Mears and Stainbank added a treble in memory of Canon Scott, and at the same time recast the old five bells. The tower was restored and reopened June 4th, 1888, the weight of the new ring of six being 34 cwt. 1 qr. 12 lb.

At Astbury, Cheshire, the semi-detached tower and spire have a ring of six bells. It is stated to be 'a source of wonder to visitors because it stands almost apart from the building like a campanile.' It is the original Norman tower, since refaced and adorned with a string course and buttresses, and it owes its isolated position to the fact that when the Norman nave and chancel were demolished, the builders of the Early English church moved over towards the south, leaving only a narrow aisle on the site of the Norman nave, and this process was repeated by the 15th century builders, who deserted the Norman site altogether, and thus left the tower standing alone with narrow passage between it and the church. At a later date this space was roofed over and incorporated in the church, thus linking the two together again. There were bells here in pre-Reformation days, and a certificate of the Sheriff of Cheshire, 1548, states that there were four bells at Astbury. During the first half of the 17th century they were recast by Paul Hutton, the Congleton bellfounder. They were again recast in 1925 when two additional bells were added. At the same end of the church on the opposite side is a small tower, actually forming the west entrance, with two rooms above it, formerly used by villagers as Peel or refuge chambers for the women and children during cattle raids by the Welsh. The cattle were driven to the moated Peel Farm, about half a mile from the church. The spiral stairway, by which these chambers are approached, also gives access to the almost flat-leaded roof of the nave, so that refugees were not cramped into the tiny space of two rooms, but were able to roam all over the large area of the roof.

BEENHAM, BERKS.

AN ANNIVERSARY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—December 1st is the fifty-fourth anniversary of the first recorded peal at Beenham, Berkshire. It was in 1888. A peal of Minor in seven plain methods and rung at the first attempt. The ringers were George Webb treble, Hubert Hatts 2, Arthur Richardson 3, Thomas Bidmead 4, Joseph Hatts (my father) 5, Joseph Richardson (conductor) tenor. He also made and inscribed the peal board. A really good peal.

I well remember Canon Coleridge coming to Beenham with his band two or three years before and showing how it was done. Five were in the choir. Arthur Richardson went to Canada many years ago. I trust that he is still living. Heartly Christmas greetings to all ringing friends when the time comes.

HUBERT HATTS.

100, Greys Hill, Henley-on-Thames.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Saturday, November 14th, at St. Mary and All Saints' belfry, a quarter-peal of Plain Bob Major, 1,260 changes, in 44 minutes: H. Wingrove 1-2, D. Fletcher 3-4, V. Look 5-6, W. Lee (conductor) 7-8. First quarter-peal as conductor on handbells.

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VICTORY BELLS.

ALDERSHOT.—Twenty-one ringers took part in touches of Grandsire Triples and Plain Bob Major and a good course of Kent Treble Bob Major. Among them were the Misses A. Fisher, H. Mills, E. Southby, F. Stewart, Mrs. A. G. Ghey, Mrs. P. L. Eldridge, Mr. and Mrs. M. Hodgson, Mr. J. Amos, Mr. W. Viggers, Gunner C. W. Denyer, R.A., Miss R. Lovegrove, Mr. D. Scott, Sergt. E. Aldridge, Royal Marines, L.-Corpl. L. Fox, Pioneer Corps, Mr. H. Hobden, Private E. J. Taylor, R.A.S.C., and Mr. Marsh.

ARELEY KINGS, STOURPORT.—Grandsire Doubles was rung by J. Martin 1, J. Webster 2, R. Lucas 3, T. Elcox 4, E. Coley (conductor) 5, G. Lewis tenor. Mr. Elcox, who is 87 years old, began his connection with the church as organ blower; for many years tolled the bell for funerals and the 8 a.m. service; and graduated to change ringing after two years as 'refreshment boy' to the band. Since those early days he has seen the church rebuilt and the bells twice rehung.

ASHBRITTLE, SOMERSET.—The bells were rung to 120's of Grandsire Doubles from 9.45 to 10.15 a.m. by P. Alderman, S. Alderman, J. Bristow, S. M. Bristow, D. C. Enticott, J. H. Manning and W. Stevens. Some of the ringing was up to peace-time standard. The bells of other churches in the district were either chimed or rung.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD.—Twelve ringers attended, some giving up their day duties for nights to enable them to be present. Rounds and call changes were first rung on the ten, then a touch of Grandsire Triples and Grandsire Caters. The striking was excellent.

BLETCHLEY, BUCKS.—At St. Mary's Church several touches of Grandsire Triples by A. Crane, J. Marks, R. Pearson, H. Pearson, H. Morris, R. Sear, F. Sear, T. Clare, S. Smith, with H. Sear (conductor). Gunner Fairhead, of Egham, Surrey, also assisted.

BRONLLYS.—Seven ringers turned up and call changes were rung until 11 o'clock.

BURLESCOMBE, DEVON.—The bells were rung to rounds and call changes from 9.45 to 11 a.m. The bells of neighbouring churches were also rung.

CURDRIDGE.—Grandsire Triples rung by J. D. Barker (Curdridge), Admiral J. W. Carrington, O.B.E., D.S.O. (Curdridge), T. Hall (Curdridge), R. Ryves (Shedfield), E. Whiteman (Bishop's Waltham), L. Davis (Bishop's Waltham), Mr. Ryves (Curdridge) and W. C. Gates (Bishop's Waltham). Mr. Alfred Pook, one of the oldest ringers at Curdridge, 'stood in' to help ring the rounds.

DEDDINGTON, OXFORD.—A good muster turned up, the bells were raised in peal, and some well-struck touches of Grandsire Doubles were rung, as well as rounds for the younger members.

DUNMOW, ESSEX.—At St. Mary's, two 360's of Plain Bob, with 6.8 covering, by G. Pitts, F. Harrington, G. Schleister, G. Saunders, T. Goodey, W. Smith (conductor), A. T. Smith and Mr. and Mrs. L. Wright.

GAINSBOROUGH DISTRICT.—At Lea a good 720 of Bob Minor was rung by George L. A. Lunn 1, J. A. Lunn 2, Mrs. E. Gray 3, J. Dixon 4, N. B. Thurlby 5, H. Morgan (conductor) 6. The same band and several others rang Bob Major and Grandsire Triples at All Saints', Gainsborough, for 30 minutes, and then went to Willingham, where Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and Bob Minor were rung. Stow, Corringham, Upton, Springthorpe, Blyton, Brigg, Messingham, Haxey, Owston Ferry and Epworth bells were rung by their local bands as well as the numerous rings of one, two, three and four bells in the district.

HENSINGHAM.—Rounds, call changes and firing by the Vicar, the Rev. F. Gibson, J. E. Brown, J. R. Eilbeck, J. F. Hartley, H. Forsyth, R. Johnstone, W. Bramwell and J. Boodle.

HEREFORD.—At the Cathedral the back eight were raised in peal, rounds were rung on the ten, a touch of Triples and the ten ceased in peal. It was all fairly good ringing. The ringers taking part were four of the old band, Mr. Davies, Mr. Hurcomb, Mr. Gibling and Mr. Symonds, Mr. Harrison and Mr. Williams, of the new band, Mr. Cousins and Mr. Cave, a visitor to Hereford and three airmen from Credenhill.

HILLINGDON.—At St. John's Church, 14 ringers took part, including Mr. J. J. Pratt, captain, and Mr. W. Honor, who have been ringers at Hillingdon for over 50 years. Mrs. G. Goodfellow, the only lady member of the band, also rang, and Mr. F. Smith, steeple-keeper, who was congratulated on the 'go' of the bells.

HITCHIN, HERTS.—At St. Mary's, touches of Double Norwich, Stedman and Grandsire Triples by A. E. Symonds, L. Fidler, C. Hare, G. Wolfe, T. Castle, T. R. Scott, E. W. Day, H. Else, E. Winters and Miss Hartell, also C. Howard, of Barley. Mr. C. Cannon, an old ringer, was also present.

HUSBORNE CRAWLEY.—Although four of the ringers are now serving and one has died on active service, a band of old hands was mustered on November 15th. One of them was Mrs. A. Rust, wife of Canon A. Rust, who is president of the Bedfordshire Association and who also assisted. Mrs. Rust had not touched a bell rope for 20 years, but did her job well in a belfry not too easy to ring in.

ISLEWORTH.—Call changes and Queens were rung on six and eight bells by the Misses K. Brooks, P. Peck and J. Unwin and Messrs. H. Brooks, G. Dodds, P. and A. Thirst, D. Salvage, E. and M. Shelock, D. Chamberlain and F. Bishop. Miss J. Unwin and Messrs. P. and A. Thirst heard their bells for the first time.

ISLE OF WIGHT.—Great enthusiasm was shown by the ringers in the Isle of Wight, and most of the bells were rung, including those at Ryde, Godshill, Arreton and Brading. The combined bands of Carisbrooke and Newport, numbering 15 in all, rang Grandsire and Stedman Triples at the former church at 9 a.m. and repeated the performance at Newport Parish Church for the service at 10 a.m.

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.—Short touches of Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Double Norwich were rung by S. H. M. T. and D. A. S. Symonds, W. R. J. Poulson, W. Faiers, F. Boreham, F. F. Mortlock, A. F. Turner, W. Jarvis, L. Pryke and I. Offord. The striking was exceptionally good. Just before the thanksgiving service in the afternoon a touch of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells by W. Jarvis, M. T. Symonds, S. H. Symonds and D. A. S. Symonds.

LUTON, BEDS.—Touches of Stedman Triples by Messrs. L. A. Goodenough, A. J. Smith, J. Herbert, A. Rushton, H. Wood, A. Rookwood, D. Newman, J. Kendall and A. King, of the local band, and Messrs. H. Burton, R. Kendall and F. Harris, visitors.

MARTOCK, SOMERSET.—One of the local band, Mr. T. Gale, a man within a year or two of 80, travelled from Bath (40 miles) that morning on purpose to ring and returned there again after the ringing. Other ringers taking part were H. B. Perrott, F. Strickland, W. Gould, A. Dyer, F. Farrant and J. Jetten.

NORBURY, HAZEL GROVE.—A touch of Bob Major and a course of Kent Treble Bob by J. Dean, W. Shaw, Mrs. J. Fernley, Pte. J. Fernley, A.C.C., H. Langley, R. E. Jones, J. W. Hartley, W. Fernley and E. Bennett.

PINNER.—A plain course of Grandsire Triples was rung, followed by several extents of Grandsire Doubles, with 4.6.8 and 7.6.8 covering. The ringing was quite good. Ringers present were R. Colver 1, Cpl. E. Coward 2, — Smithson 3, Cpl. K. Arthur 4, M. Pendry 5, — Ware 6, T. Collins 7, H. Straiford 8. Also present were Messrs. E. Ware, H. Culverwell and Harris. At 9.45 some of the band left for Ruislip, leaving the remainder with others to ring call changes for the 11 o'clock service.

RHYL, NORTH WALES.—Grandsire Doubles (4.8 behind) and Grandsire Triples interspersed with Queens, Whittington, Tittums and firing by Messrs. Evans, Clarke, Collis, Bailey, T. Evans, Griffith, G. Wilson, J. Wilson, Mrs. A. Osborne and Miss L. Chorlton.

RICKMANSWORTH.—Grandsire Triples was rung on the back eight, and rounds and call changes on the ten by Messrs. J. E. H. H. and J. A. Jones, A. E. Millett, E. Hookham, W. A. Howlett, J. Smedley, E. Nobbs, J. Good, T. Gander, T. Reeves, C. Lord and F. W. Elliott. Mr. Charles Lord, who is 86, was one who took part in ringing for the Relief of Mafeking. With one exception, through illness, the whole male strength was present in the belfry.

SELSTON, NOTTS.—Grandsire and Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob by J. Dobbs, C. Cottam, G. Rawson, L. Rawson, F. Cooke, L. Jaques, M. Jaques, T. Hand and W. Dobbs. The bells were in fairly good order.

SEFTON, NEAR LIVERPOOL.—The bells of St. Helen's were rung one hour before service and a short time after by W. Thorley, S. Flint, R. Guy, G. Smith, A. Williams, W. Deacon and G. Skelland. The ringing included a 720 Plain Bob Minor and several touches of Kent Treble Bob.

SHEFFIELD.—Every member turned up at the Cathedral. The ringing commenced with 'firing' and rounds, followed by Grandsire Cinques. Being Lord Mayor's Day, thousands of people congregated in and around the Cathedral. Numerous congratulations were received and public interest was most marked.

SHEDFIELD.—The Bishop's Waltham, Curdridge and Shedfield bands amalgamated and rang at the three towers between 9 and 11 a.m., a conveyance being provided. All three are in an area of about ten miles. The Shedfield bells were rung for the first time since being augmented to eight and rehung.

STANSTED, ESSEX.—Touches of Stedman and Grandsire Triples and Kent Treble Bob Major by I. Cavill, W. Prior, T. Waits, H. Watts, G. Jordan, T. Jordan, A. Jordan, F. W. Thorby and F. P. Morton.

STANMORE.—Touches of Grandsire Triples by George A. Hughes, sen., W. O. George A. Hughes, jun., R.A.F., E. Leversuch, H. Moxom, G. Cheshire, W. Wenban, C. Wenban, D. Cattell, Mrs. G. Savill and Mr. F. Bullock, of Watford.

STORRINGTON.—The Storrington band went to Thakeham and rang rounds and call changes for the 10 o'clock service. They returned to Storrington and rang five 120's Grandsire Doubles for the 11 o'clock service. The ringing was very good and was much appreciated.

SUDBURY.—At St. Peter's, touches of Bob Major by G. Dixon, G. Gridley, H. Herbert, R. Fenton, A. Fitch, A. Haynes, L. Johnson, C. Clark, G. Howell and D. Elliott.

TILEHURST, READING.—At St. Michael's, short touches of Grandsire Triples by the local band: H. Bower, A. Barnes, E. Chapman, Miss E. Collins, H. Green, A. Haines, H. Hunt, E. Langley, J. Lewendon, D. Sellar and R. N. Runham (conductor). Regret was felt that Mr. H. Goodger, the veteran ex-captain, was unable to be present owing to ill-health.

(Continued on next page.)

VICTORY BELLS.

(Continued from previous page.)

TERRINGTON ST. JOHN, NORFOLK.—720 Bob Minor: G. Hockley 1, T. Bunting 2, C. Utteridge 3, G. Bunting 4, W. Cousins (conductor) 5, C. Cousins 6. Other short touches were rung, including 360, in which the treble was rung by J. W. Rodwell.

TRING.—The bells were rung in rounds, call changes and Grandsire Doubles by the old members and visitors, including two members of the R.A.F. and two ladies. The Doubles were rung on the back six with 1.2 leading: F. J. Reeve 1, H. Bull 2, E. H. Lewis (president of the Central Council, conductor) 3, a member of the R.A.F. 4, H. Heley 5, N. Brackley tenor.

TRURO.—At the Cathedral the bells were rung from 9 to 10 a.m., and from 10.30 to 11 a.m. The ringing consisted of Grandsire Triples and rounds. The striking was very good, the ringers having had a three hours practice the day previous with clapper stays on. As the bells have been raised and lowered each week the 'go' was excellent. Twenty-two ringers were found and all turned up ready to start on the stroke of nine. At 9.45 ten ringers left the Cathedral to ring at Kenwyn from 10.15 to 11 a.m.

TUNSTALL, KENT.—The Tunstall band were at their post in the belfry by 9.30, and after two and a half years without practice on the ropes rang changes in various methods without a hitch. The following members were present: Mrs. Freda Bushel, Mrs. G. H. Spice, Miss B. Spice, Messrs. W. Spice, sen., W. Spice, jun., G. Webb, G. Kenward and G. H. Spice.

TWINEHAM.—A quarter-peal (1,260) of Grandsire Doubles by G. A. Packham treble, E. Willey 2, E. F. Packham 3, C. H. Wickens 4, G. Packham, sen., tenor.

WADHURST, SUSSEX.—Only four service ringers were left, but by the help of two old ringers and a visitor the bells were raised and lowered in peal and rung to rounds and call changes.

WALKDEN, LANCOS.—Two touches of Grandsire Triples were rung, 504 and 336, as well as Queens. The following took part: John Denner, Miss A. Potter, Mrs. M. Brundritt, J. Boyer, R.A.O.C., B. Welsby, James Denner, A. Burton, J. Potter (conductor), H. Prescott (Kearsley) and J. Kershaw (Pendlebury).

WEST GRINSTEAD.—Touches of Grandsire Doubles on the front five by W. Weaver, V. Turrell, F. Turrell, C. Longhurst and W. Denman. The bells were lowered in peal.

WEST WICKHAM, KENT.—For the morning service at the Parish Church the six bells were rung by R. Holton, P. Davis, R. W. Parker, W. A. Hughes, H. Mackinder and W. Hollamby. The ringing drew many appreciative comments from the congregation, although it was confined to call changes.

WHITEBOURNE, HEREFORDSHIRE.—A few six-scores of Grandsire Doubles were rung by the following members of the local band: J. H. Griffiths, F. Davis, C. Davis, George Jones (conductor), S. Lewis, E. Jones and R. J. Caswell.

WILLESDEAN.—Grandsire Doubles and Bob Minor by Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Lankester, Messrs. A. Cutler, F. Barrett, G. Chalkey, H. Kilby and E. H. Kilby.

WINCHESTER.—The Cathedral band met at 9 o'clock, and the bells were fired three times (three 21's) with Queen's changes between, followed by a touch of Grandsire Triples. The ringers then went across to St. Maurice's Church, where touches of Grandsire Doubles and Bob Minor were rung until 10 o'clock. A return was then made to the Cathedral, where a touch of Grandsire Caters was rung from 10.16 until 11 o'clock. The Dean visited the ringing chamber and welcomed the ringers. He congratulated Mr. Andrews on his 50 years of service.

WINFARTHING, NORFOLK.—Touches were rung on the bells of St. Mary's Church from 9.15 a.m. till 10 a.m., including a 360 of Bob Minor by H. Woodrow treble, C. Ashford 2, A. Elsey 3, C. Baker 4, G. Kemp 5, W. Elsey (conductor) tenor.

WORCESTER.—Members of the Cathedral band and many visitors met at 9 a.m. The bells were raised and ringing continued until 9.45 a.m. Attempts were made for Grandsire Caters, which did not meet with much success. After a short service further ringing took place until 11 a.m., when several ringers left for St. John's tower, while others visited St. Swithin's and brought round a short touch of Treble Bob Minor.

YATTON.—All the local ringers, thirteen in number, were present. The bells were raised in peal, and Grandsire Doubles and Triples were rung, also Queens and firing until 11 o'clock.

YEOVIL.—Grandsire and Stedman were rung by J. E. Baker, E. Norman, S. Ricketts, E. Barrington, H. Hurst, C. Jeans, T. Marks, T. Setter, F. Smith and three visitors. Mr. Norman is 81 years of age and has been a ringer for 60 years.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

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All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at St. Giles', Norwich, on Saturday, December 12th. Bells (8, silent once more, alas!) 2 p.m. Service 3.30. Preacher, Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow. Tea in the Cosin Room, Stuart Hall, near St. Andrew's Church, 4 p.m., followed by business meeting.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION and THE EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—A combined meeting will be held at Tunbridge Wells on Saturday, December 12th. Tower of St. Peter's open from 2.30 p.m., where eight silent bells are available. Service at 4 p.m.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—A practice meeting will be held at Daybrook, Notts, on Saturday, December 12th, at 3 p.m. Tower bells (silent) and handbells available.—F. Salter, Dis. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Institute, Bushey, Saturday, December 19th. Handbells from 3.30. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

WOODBIDGE, SUFFOLK.—Tower bells (silent) Saturday, December 19th, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Change ringers and beginners welcome.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, December 19th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—The annual district meeting will be held at All Saints', Hertford, at 3 p.m., on December 19th. Tower bells (silent), together with handbells. This being the annual, please do your best to be present. Tea at 4.15 p.m. A card by the 16th will greatly help for tea arrangements.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 19, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon.

SILVER WEDDING.

At St. Matthew's, Holbeck, Leeds, on Saturday, December 8th, 1917, by the Rev. C. C. (now Canon) Marshall, M.A., Percy John Johnson to Annie Flockton. Present address, 53, Shire Oak Road, Leeds 6.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18th, 1942.

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Price 3d.

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These famous bell-founding firms have kindly consented to this adaptation of their advertisements to meet the pressure on our space, due to the compulsory reduction in the number of our pages this week.

RINGS OF TWELVE BELLS.

In the interesting and instructive article by Mr. Frost and Mrs. Ferguson on the bells of St. Peter's, St. Albans, we are reminded that the church for a time had a ring of twelve bells. The authors say it did not enjoy a high reputation, and that is rather an understatement, for, by the testimony of those who heard them, the trebles were a miserable failure, and there were few regrets when they were taken away in the year 1881. Recently a legacy has been left of £200 for the improvement of the bells, and the suggestion has been made (at present it is no more than a suggestion) that the trebles should be replaced.

Since 1881 many improvements have been made in bell founding, and among them the English founders have discovered how to control the overtones of small bells. At one time bells of less than a certain weight, or higher than a certain note, could never be made to harmonise with larger bells, and though the strike notes were correct, they always sounded wild and out of tune. That difficulty has been overcome, and a ring of twelve in correct tune with a tenor of no more than 21 cwt. (as at St. Peter's) could be guaranteed by any one of the three leading founders.

What the authorities at St. Peter's will decide to do remains to be seen, and we do not presume to offer comment or advice. But the general question of rings of twelve is worth a little thought. Is it a good thing to have twelve bells in a steeple, either from the point of view of the outside public, or of the ringers?

This is one of those questions about which much can be said on both sides, and about which varying and contradictory opinions may legitimately be held. But there are some conclusions to which experience seems to lead us.

So far as the outside public (which includes everyone who is not a ringer) is concerned, the only value bells have lies in the effect they produce on the listener, and therefore the question amounts to this—Does a ring of twelve bells sound better and has it a greater appeal than a ring of ten or even of eight? To that the answer must be, No, it has not unless in very exceptional circumstances. An ordinary ear will not notice the difference between ten and twelve, and probably the only effect of the two extra trebles is to confuse the sound and obscure the rhythm.

There are some heavy rings like that at St. Paul's Cathedral, where probably the two small bells do add to the effect on the outsider, but it is not easy to judge.

(Continued on page 566.)

The number of those who have heard the ten there must be very small. But it is not of such heavy rings we are thinking, but of those with tenors less than 30 cwt. Nor are we considering the effect on ringers. A man who is accustomed to ringing in a twelve bell tower can train his ear to the rhythms of Cinques and Maximus, and take a delight in them. The ordinary listehers; even the ordinary ringer, has no such training, and the majority of them would be hard put to it to tell how many bells were being rung.

The effect of bells on the listener does not depend on the number that is being rung. We must not forget that those rings which through the ages have touched the hearts and feelings of the people, and of which poets have sung, are not the heavy bells of great churches, but the humble fives and sixes of the village steeples. There are, of course, great and noble rings with fine reputations, like the bells of Mancroft, for so long the pride and joy of the citizens of Norwich; but magnificent as they are, they do not by contrast in any way lessen the charm of the village bells.

It is difficult to come to any other conclusion than that to increase a ring to twelve does not in any way add to the effect the bells have on the general public, even when they are rung as they should be, and that, unfortunately, is not often.

Why then, it may be asked, do parishes spend money to increase the number of their bells if it has no good result? The answer is, partly because of the laudable desire to have the very best and fullest that can be got, and mainly because of the great reputation twelve-bell ringing has always had among ringers. If there had been no change ringing there never would have been any rings of twelve. This is a matter of history, and not of mere speculation.

But is the possession of a ring of twelve a good thing from the point of view of the ringers? That is a question about which a lot can be said, but for which at present we have no space.

HANDBELL PEALS.

IVER HEATH, BUCKS.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, December 6, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT SEAFORD, SLOUGH ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 15.

GEORGE M. KILBY 1-2	† ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 5-6
* FREDERICK W. GOODFELLOW 3-4	EDWARD G. COWARD ... 7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER

* First peal in the method on handbells. † 100th handbell peal.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 8, 1942, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT 3-4	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 7-8

Composed by J. R. WERRING. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER

VILLAGE BELLS

Sweet village bells, your tones most truly show
The mingled cup of human joy and woe;
Your jocund sounds attend us when we wed,
And mournful knells bewail us when we're dead.

FABIAN STEDMAN.

AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES.

(Continued from page 544.)

Neither White's 'Rich Cabinet' nor Howlett's 'School of Recreation' has any value as a text book on ringing, and neither is of any use as evidence of the development of the art at the time of its publication; for neither contains anything that was not taken from the 'Tintinnalogia' or the 'Campanalogia.' But both are interesting as showing the popularity of bell ringing among all classes during the closing years of the seventeenth century, and it is not unlikely that there were other similar publications issued at the time which have now been completely forgotten. There was one, more worthless even than those two, which for its oddity may claim our attention for a minute or two.

About the year 1705 was published 'The Shepherd's Kalendar,' or the 'Citizen's and Country Man's Daily Companion.' It is a little book of 157 pages, and contains a chapter on ringing. In the preface the author tells us that 'in this Laboured Work you will find so many Useful and Profitable Things, that I am persuaded to be constrained to acknowledge that you never before found the like (of what Volume soever) and I have digested them into so Easie a Method that any ordinary Capacity may Comprehend what has so long been handled in Ambiguous Sentences, Dark, and Abstruse, to keep all but those who are very learned in Ignorance.' What these so many and profitable things are we may learn from the title page, where they are enumerated as 'many Things that are Useful and Profitable to Mankind, with above Two Hundred Wonderful Curiosities, never before Published. Also a Discourse of the Eclipses of the Sun and Moon with Rules to know when they will happen. Infallible Signs of the Weather. To know when Wet or Dry. and when sudden Storms arise. Hot or Cold Weather by living Creatures. A Curious Observation never made Publick before.

'An Account of the Lucky and Unlucky Days throughout the Year. The Mosaic Wand to find out Hidden Treasures. The Calculations of Nativities and to Resolve all Lawful Questions.

'To which is added:

'The Countryman's Almanack, Directing when to Bleed and Diet the Body; a Treatise of Bees, Warrens, and the ordering of Cattle, Hawks, and how to Kill Vermine. The Measuring Land and Timber. The Art of Ringing. The true Value and Worth of a Single Penny; or a Caution to keep Money.

'Being above Forty years' Study and Experience of a Learned Shepherd.'

A treatise on ringing seems strangely out of place among such a motley company, but it is a sign of the popularity of the art. The Learned Shepherd promised to give a plain and easie Introduction to the Most Curious Art and healthful Exercise of Ringing Musically on 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9 Bells, but he badly keeps his promise. He goes no further than 'The Old Doubles and Trebles on Six Bells,' which is a plain course of Bob Minor. He thus begins his chapter—'Since a knowledge of this Art has been much desired by many, and is a very Healthful as well as Pleasant Exercise, I have placed an Introduction in this so useful a Book of Rareties, though at first sight it may appear a Digression

from the rest; however since I have designed this Work to fit every one as near as may be, I cannot but Conclude that this will be desired by many and cannot be hurtful to none.'

After a statement of the number of changes to be had on different numbers of bells there follows a short discourse 'Of Peals.' 'The Musicalness of the Changes not being very Intelligible to Ordinary Ringers, and the best many times puzzled and at a loss to find them out, the more Judicious Professors conclude it necessary to cast peals that so Musical Notes might the better strike the Fancy and lead them to a more feasible and easier to a true understanding in Ringing, rendering it (for their Encouragement) the more taking and delightful, for every Peal on Bells Tuned to the Principals of Musick express the Notes, for in a Peal of Six Bells you have exactly the six Musical Notes, viz., La, Sol, Fa, Mi, Re, Ut. But to make them charming and harmonious they must be struck with skill and deliberation, gradually striking or leading with the lowest Note, and so rising up to the highest and then down to the lowest, causing the Fourth Bell to Hunt up to the Seventh and then dodg'd unless prevented by the Treble and so any other of the number Seven, so that in the complete number of Changes of the first striking there shall not be rung over twice the same. And in this doing you must have a Musical Ear and a Steady Hand to observe the least Defect and mend it by dodging or falling in course as the Bells hunt up or down by putting in between or taking place in a complete Harmony.'

I should imagine that this paragraph is the biggest piece of nonsense that ever has been written seriously about change ringing. Evidently the writer had read the 'Campanalogia,' and was trying to condense it and paraphrase it without in the least understanding it. In fact, to quote his own words, I am persuaded to be constrained to acknowledge that he was no learned shepherd at all, but some hack writer who was given the job of filling up so many pages, which he did by jumbling together odds and ends of sentences from Stedman without regard to their context or meaning.

The next thing our author deals with is Cross Peals. 'Having,' he says, 'already laid the Ground Work for plain peals to introduce the Learner, I now proceed to Cross Peals. These are so termed because of their Intricacy or Cross Method, wherein divers Notes moving as it were at once, Cross each other, some moving up and others down at the same time; and that the Learner may the easier find it out and comply with it, let him observe that one Note, the Hunt, is a guide to the rest; making one constant motion and uniform throughout the Peal, differing from that of the other Notes through keeping a Continual Motion through the several Notes stricken, viz.—From the leading to the striking behind and so thence to the Lead, which Motion up and down is reckoned the compleat Course, tho' some Peals on Five Bells, as the Old Doubles, etc., consist only of single Courses every single Course admitting 10 Changes, and twelve Courses are a compleat Peal; other Peals on Five Bells, as the London Paradox, etc., consist of Double Courses, 20 Changes going to every Course and 6 Double Courses to the Peals; but on 6 Bells there are double and single Courses, viz., 12 Changes to every Single Course as in Grandsire Bob, etc. The Change in which the Hunt leaves leading is

properly the first Change in every Course, and in Cross Peals all the Courses agree in three Respects, (1) in the Motion of the Hunt, (2) in the Motion of the remaining Notes, (3) in the making of the Changes; which being exactly taken Notice of may serve as a certain guide to the Rest; some few Changes in each Peal excepted.'

This is copied from the 'Campanalogia,' and in its original form and context is an accurate and clear description of a lead of a method. Whether it conveyed any meaning to the Learned Shepherd's readers may well be doubted.

New Doubles is given, and descriptions more or less muddled of Doubles and Singles on Four Bells and 'the Peals called Old Doubles and Singles on Five Bells.' In this there is the curious direction that 'the Treble moving down out of the Fifth Place, the bell that comes into it must Remain Silent till the Treble Hunts up to it again'; and this, I think, proves that our Learned Shepherd was a fraud. For Stedman, in his description of The Wild Goose Chase, wrote, 'the bell that moves up into 6th place when the Treble moves down from thence, lieth still there until the Treble displaceth it.' Now the word 'still' had then more than one meaning (as it still has). It might mean 'silent' or 'without sound'; or it might mean 'quiet' (without sound or movement) or it might mean 'constantly' or without intermission. When Stedman wrote that 'the bell . . . lieth still,' he was using an expression which has always been quite familiar to ringers, and which no practical ringer would misunderstand. It may mean, etymologically, either that the bell was not to move out of that position, or that the bell was to be in that position for the whole of the given time—which things in practice are the same. But it could not have meant that the bell was to be silent, and since the Learned Shepherd read it so, it shows he did not understand anything about the art, but was copying unintelligently.

The book, as a whole, is mere trash, and is one of those publications which are printed to be sold to uneducated and credulous people. The name was copied from a popular work which was first printed in France in 1493 and was translated into English and reproduced several times. It is a quaint book with a quantity of astronomical, and other information, but, of course, nothing about ringing.

I know of only one extant copy of the Learned Shepherd's book. It belongs to Mr. E. M. Atkins and was picked up some years ago on a secondhand bookstall. The book is entered in the catalogue of the British Museum Library, but I am informed that the copy has been missing since the year 1879.

(To be continued.)

A NATIONAL RINGERS HOSTEL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am rather surprised that no one has written about the proposal of 'Pro Bono' that there should be a National Ringers' Hostel. It seems an excellent idea, and I can see only one objection and that is the cost. It takes a lot of money in these days to do anything, and I don't see quite where it is to come from.

I have been told that Sir Arthur Heywood once thought of taking a public-house in London and putting a reliable ringer into it, so it could be a centre where ringers could meet, and where ringers from the country could stay. Can you tell us, sir, if there is any truth in this?

MAURICE WHITE.

[We have no knowledge of any definite action in this way by Sir Arthur Heywood, and we do not believe he ever mentioned such a thing publicly. Quite likely he mentioned it casually in conversation, for we have heard the same story more than once.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

BELFRY GOSSIP.

On December 13th, 1794, the Cumberlands rang at Shoreditch 5,200 changes of what they called Cumberland Treble Bob Royal. There is not much doubt that it was one of the earliest peals of Kent Treble Bob.

The College Youths rang 8,008 changes of Grandsire Cinques at St. Saviour's, Southwark, on December 15th, 1735. It was the first on the twelve bells and remained the longest in the method for many years. There were three men at the tenor, but John Cundell rang the eleventh single handed.

On December 15th the Junior Society of Cumberland Youths rang 5,886 changes of Stedman Cinques at Christ Church, Spitalfields, and five days later, on the same bells, the Senior Society beat it with 6,334 changes.

The first peal in Africa, Grandsire Triples at Woodstock, was rung on December 15th, 1904.

The anniversaries of the first peals in three Surprise Major methods fall on the same date—York, at Nupeaton in 1933; Erith, at Erith in 1934; and Newbury, at Bushey in 1938.

What was claimed as the first 720 of Stedman Minor was rung at St. Martin's, Birmingham, on December 16th, 1819.

The first peal of Canterbury Pleasure Major was rung at Warnham on December 17th, 1888. The method has been well described as 'Bob Major spoiled.'

On the same date in 1923 the Lancashire Association rang the first peal of Palatine Surprise Major, and in 1937 the Helmingham men rang the first peal of Monewdon Surprise Major.

The first peal in the City of Exeter—Grandsire Triples at St. Sidwell's—was rung on December 18th, 1875, and the first peal in five Spliced Surprise Major methods at Willesden on December 18th, 1928.

Four notable anniversaries fall on December 19th. Bob Triples by the College Youths on the old ring of eight at St. Saviour's, Southwark, in 1730; the first peal of Stedman Triples on handbells in 1853; Clifton Surprise Royal at Bristol in 1922; and 7,392 changes of Cambridge Surprise Maximus at St. Mary-le-Bow in 1925. The truth of the handbell peal was afterwards challenged.

The Brighton men rang the first peal of Champion Surprise Major at St. Peter's, Brighton, on December 20th, 1894.

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES R. LILLEY.

WELL-KNOWN DEVONSHIRE RINGER.

We much regret to announce the death of Mr. Charles R. Lilley, of Perry Farm, Highweek, Newton Abbot, which occurred on December 10th. Mr. Lilley was 68 years of age. The funeral was at Highweek Parish Church on Monday last.

MR. DENNIS BROCK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—After many anxious weeks of waiting, his many friends will have received with thankfulness and joy the news that Mr. Dennis Brock is safe in Italian hands. He is one who has been in the fray right from the word 'go,' and appears to have received rather more than his share of the fortunes of war.

MALCOLM MELVILLE.

The Knowle, Lichfield, Staffs.

WHAT ARE BELLS FOR?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I voice a protest against the attitude of mind and spirit expressed in the letter to you from the Vicar of Sneyd, Stoke-on-Trent, in your issue of the 20th ult.?

It was with pure joy of doing it that I rang in a band of ringers, including two Service men, in response to the country's wish to witness our success in Egypt. Why?

Because it was the medium handed down to us by our history and make-up in our national character.

The Vicar's idea of our great nation being similar to the 'swine of Germany,' indeed the 'Huns' and still the 'Barbarians,' proved in this war by experience! Let him find out from some of our boys now prisoners when it is over, because he evidently has not caught the feeling or spirit of our people to express himself thus.

The bells rang out a message that that victory was indeed a turning point to victory over mass-murder, pillage, robbery, rape, etc. They gave and give messages to our people in a way that no other medium in our life can give in spite of radio, gramophone, etc.

If it were possible to find out the percentage of bells which did not ring this message, I am sure our poor vicar would be very, very much shocked, because it would not be a decimal point of 1 per cent.

Does not he appreciate that our boys are fighting (and the Allied Nations, of course) to enable him to preach the gospel in future?

Can he imagine his future under Germany, Italy and Japan? Let him think of China in her suffering to help him to obtain the right attitude and spirit—spirit, I repeat, to welcome those waves of pure joy emanating from the bells, bells, bells.

His letter made me very sad indeed.

IVAN STANWAY.

2, Ryles Park Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire.

THE BAN ON RINGING.

DEMANDS FOR REMOVAL.

The demand for the removal or modification of the ban on ringing shows no signs of weakening, and very many people would welcome the news that at least on Christmas morning the bells will be heard again. Up to the time of writing the Government has not announced its decision, but it cannot be delayed much longer.

In Parliament last week Mr. Atlee, replying to Mr. Driberg (Ind., Maldon) and Mr. Stokes, said that the whole question of ringing church bells at Christmastide and as a warning in the event of invasion was being considered.

Miss Rathbone (Ind., English Universities) asked, if church bells were considered as joy bells, would it not be rather a mockery to have them rung when the men, women and children of the nation that gave us the Bible were being massacred.

Mr. Granville (Ind., Eye) asked Mr. Atlee when investigating the question to take into consideration the fact that in the event of small raids on this country, the civil population in some places had no idea of the warning to be received.

Mr. Atlee promised to take that into consideration.

In his Diocesan Magazine, the Bishop of Lincoln wrote: 'It is right that we should connect the ringing of bells with good news, and doubly right, therefore, that they should be rung at Christmas, announcing the good news of the birth of the Prince of Peace. But remember, He is not the Prince of Peace at any price, but of peace with honour.'

IMPORTANT.

Owing to the Christmas Holidays all letters for publication in next week's issue must reach us not later than the first post on Monday morning, December 21st.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The Master, Mr. E. G. Fenn, presided at the meeting of the College Youths on Saturday week, supported by the treasurer, secretary and Messrs. F. E. Collins, R. F. Deal, W. T. Elson, H. Hoskins, E. Jennings, G. M. Kilby, C. Kippin, H. Langdon, C. M. Meyer, H. G. Miles, G. N. Price, C. W. Roberts, J. H. Shepherd, J. A. Trollope and E. A. Young.

The Master warmly welcomed Mr. A. R. Macdonald from Gloucester, Mr. P. Owen, of Brockley, and Mr. H. N. Pitstow, of Banstead. A welcome visitor was Mr. C. T. Coles, general secretary of the Middlesex Association.

Mr. Ernest Morris, of Leicester, sent another gift for the society's library, a copy of the last edition of the 'J. D. and C. M. Campanalogia.' Mr. Morris wrote asking for information as to curious and extraordinary approaches and entries to belfries and towers. It was decided that it should be left to individual ringers to reply to Mr. Morris.

Mr. F. E. Collins gave a month's notice of a motion to delete or amend the rule about umpires at handbell peals.

Seasonable greetings were received from Mr. Harold Warboys, who is somewhere in the Middle East.

The question of Christmas ringing was discussed, and it was decided, if the ban was again lifted, to work on the same lines as those taken on November 15th.

WILLIAM ALPS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. E. Barnett's interesting account of the old parish clerk's headstone recalls to my memory that the late William Alps used to sing the Amen Obituary. He had the deep bass required to do justice to the 'Amens.' I often wondered where he had obtained such a quaint morsel of folk-song. Alps would also break into 'A starry night for a ramble' and sing it well.

E. ALEX. YOUNG.

Bromley

INFORMATION WANTED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Replying to Mr. A. E. Austin's query on central towers where ringers stand in open church in full view of congregation, I may say that for some time past I have been collecting data on these. Also on towers that form west or south porches where the congregation pass through the rope circle, and churches where ringers stand among pews. Also 'built-in' west towers open on three sides exposing the ringers on each but the wall side. When complete I intend to form into a readable whole and submit articles similar to those I have recently done. In the meantime I should deeply appreciate it if any readers will write direct to me giving details of towers with unusual features as above.

ERNEST MORRIS.

24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ST. ALBANS.

The annual meeting of the St. Albans District of the Hertford County Association took place at St. Peter's, St. Albans, on November 21st. During the afternoon the tower was open for dumb bell practice, but few took advantage of it and only six bells were rung—it was presumably too much of a come-down after the open ringing of the previous Sunday.

At 4.30 p.m. a short but very helpful service was held, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. A. M. Fergusson, followed by tea in the St. Peter's Institute and the business meeting.

It was decided to hold future meetings every two or three months, the next being in St. Albans, if possible at St. Michael's.

The secretary's report mentioned the meetings held during the year, membership and subscriptions, the latter being rather a sore point as far as ringing members were concerned, although quite a number had made up arrears. The thanksgiving ringing of the previous Sunday had been well done in the district as far as had so far been ascertained, and the secretary was attempting to compile full details.

The district officers were re-elected, namely, Mr. R. Darvill, secretary, and Messrs. A. Day, A. Lawrence, H. J. Hazell and Mrs. Fergusson on the committee.

A letter from the St. Albans Cathedral Society was read. It stated that the Cathedral Society had received a most unsatisfactory reply to a resolution sent to the General Committee, and that as a result they had decided to withdraw from the association. They also claimed that their resolution had not been fully published in the Press or association reports, and that their final letter of resignation had been ignored. The resolution in question was as follows:—

'That this society is of the opinion that the General Committee as at present constituted under Rule 5 of the association is not a fair representation of regular Sunday service ringing bands with eight or more members who support the association, and, further, they consider that only ringers who belong to a band and are regular Sunday service ringers shall be eligible to hold office in the association.'

The matter was put to the meeting for discussion, and Mr. Cartmel, the general secretary, made a full statement of the points raised. The resolution had been carefully considered by the committee, but they could not agree to it. It was brought up again at the annual meeting at Easter, 1941, but there was nobody present from the Cathedral to put it forward. No letter of resignation had been received to his knowledge, and the latest situation as far as he knew was that the Dean was trying to arrange a meeting to clear the matter up.

Various opinions were then expressed by other members, and it was decided to ask the secretary to acquaint the Cathedral Society with the feelings of the district.

The business meeting closed with votes of thanks to those responsible for arranging the meeting. Handbell ringing then followed until 7.30 p.m. and included Grandsire Caters and Stedman Triples, with a demonstration from Hatfield of a hymn tune on four bells and some tune ringing.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was interested in Mr. Austin's remarks about churches with central towers where ringing takes place on the floor of the church. Although I do not profess to be an expert on these matters, I can add a few more churches to the ones Mr. Austin mentions.

These are Melbourne, Derbyshire (8); Leckhampton, Glos. (8); Alfriston, Sussex (6); Branscombe, Devon (6); Wheathampstead, Herts (6); also, I believe, Bramshott, Hants (6), and Playden, Sussex (4).

These are apart from those churches with wooden and stone belfries over the east gate of the nave, containing one, two or three bells, most of which are rung or chimed from the floor of the church. One very interesting and probably unique case I have come across is at Foots Cray, Kent (5), where owing to the nave having been extended westwards at the restoration of the church last century, the wooden belfry is almost in the centre of the nave. The five ropes drop in a rough circle in the centre of the nave, and the ringers have to stand in the corners of the pews to ring. No doubt there are other such interesting cases in other parts of the country.

P. N. BOND.

THE PATRON SAINT OF RINGERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Edwards suggests that the patron saint of ringers is either St. Cecilia or St. Dunstan. He could hardly have thought of two more dissimilar persons. What about King David? He is often represented in stained glass windows and old illuminated manuscripts as playing upon a chime of bells. But perhaps he is not eligible.

I should like Mr. Edwards to tell us what are the qualifications for the office, who has the appointment, and what are its privileges and duties. If we were living in mediæval times or in some of the Latin countries, I suppose we should expect the holder of the office to see that ropes did not break during peal attempts, or bobs get missed at inconvenient times.

'CHURCHMAN.'

DEATH OF MR. ROBERT PICKERING.

WELL-KNOWN STAFFORDSHIRE RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Robert Pickering, which occurred on Wednesday, December 9th, at the age of 67 years.

The funeral was at Tettenhall Church on Saturday, December 12th, and was conducted by the Rev. J. Bickley (curate-in-charge), assisted by the Rev. Wilfred Goode (Vicar), who was on leave from his duties as chaplain to H.M. Forces. Six local ringers, Messrs. B. Dalton, H. Dalton, T. Taylor, J. Taylor, E. J. Southwick and F. S. Southwick, acted as bearers, and other ringing friends present were Messrs. H. J. Lookley, E. Genna and H. Knight. Among the many floral tributes were one from the Tettenhall ringers and another from Mr. H. Knight.

Mr. Pickering began his ringing career at St. Mary's Collegiate Church, Stafford, in the early '90s, and on August 29th, 1896, called his first peal, one of Grandsire Triples. Towards the end of 1896 he migrated to Wolverhampton, his occupation being that of a 'clicker' in the boot trade. On December 31st he found his way into St. Peter's tower, where he helped to ring in the new year. He soon became a member of St. Peter's company and for several years held the office of tower secretary. In 1914 he joined H.M. Forces, and in due course was promoted to company sergeant major. While serving in France he was badly gassed, which left a mark on his constitution to this end.

After the last war, by special request of the Vicar of St. Michael's, Tettenhall, Mr. Pickering had charge of the ringing there, and trained a young band, who in due time rang several peals of Grandsire Triples, of which he was justly proud. Of a total of 225 peals, two were outstanding, viz., 7,019 and 11,563 Grandsire Caters; two other noteworthy achievements were Holt's Original and Thurstan's Four-Part, both being rung strictly non-conducted.

Mr. Pickering's list of peals includes Grandsire Doubles to Cinques, Stedman Doubles to Cinques, Plain Bob Minor to Royal (many of which he conducted), Double Norwich Major and Caters, Superlative, Cambridge and London Surprise Major. Two, Grandsire Triples and Stedman Caters, were rung on handbells.

At the age of nine years he began to learn tune ringing (under the conductorship of a bandmaster), and with his young colleagues went to Belle Vue, Manchester, getting into seventh position in the list of many contesting bands. When he arrived in Wolverhampton, he not only joined the existing handbell band, but was instrumental in building up what eventually became the well-known St. Peter's handbell quartette.

Mr. Pickering joined the Stafford Archdeaconry Society in 1894, and later held the office of Ringing Master and for several years was a member of the special committee.

He leaves a widow and daughter to mourn their loss.

VICTORY BELLS.

ACORINGTON.—A total of about 20 ringers turned up at St. James' Church and several touches were rung. Three members of the Grammar School Society rang open tower bells for the first time. Two of the band cycled to Church Kirk, where only five of the local band were available (the others being in the Forces), and rounds, call changes and firing were rung on the back seven.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, with the two tenors covering, by G. W. Peverell 1, J. Smith 2, T. J. Brown 3, J. West 4, G. H. Taylor 5, R. B. Robinson (conductor) 6, W. H. Wilson 7, G. Hutchinson tenor.

HARROW WEALD.—Grandsire Doubles and Triples by Miss F. Clayton, Miss E. K. Fulton, Messrs. H. Butler, H. G. Hart, W. Horrod, F. Vincett, F. Wilcox, H. Butler, jun., and N. Genna.

HESTON, MIDDLESEX.—Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major and Kent Treble Bob Major. All the regular ringers were present, viz., C. S. Bird, H. C. Chandler, H. Cooper, E. R. Gladman, W. T. Godfrey, F. Humphreys, A. Jones, W. A. Lewis, G. W. Morris, M. W. Norman, Miss P. Norman, W. Sparrow, W. H. Stevens, W. W. Webb, with Mr. Harris, of Sudbury.

KEGWORTH, LEICESTERSHIRE.—The bells augmented to eight by Messrs. Taylor and Co. in September, 1940, were heard for the first time and turned out to be a splendid success. Rounds and call changes were rung, change ringing not being attempted in order to ensure good striking. Four lady ringers took part, including two who rang for victory in 1918.

NANTWICH.—Grandsire Triples before and after the morning service by E. J. Boffey, F. Ollier, H. Chesworth, R. Mowforth, J. E. Brough, A. Crosby, W. Thomas, W. Sutton (leader), and R. T. Holding from Crewe. Also a member of the R.A.F. took part in the felling of the bells.

SHILDON, COUNTY DURHAM.—720 Bob Minor, with two tenors covering, by S. Bryant 1, J. Smith 2, G. Hutchinson 3, J. West 4, J. Pentland 5, R. B. Robinson 6, J. Beck 7, J. Henderson tenor.

WISTASTON.—Touches of Grandsire Doubles by H. Jones, E. Clark, F. Barnard, J. Hamersley, F. Porter and A. Crawley (conductor). There were full bands at the following towers in the Crewe district: Acton, Marbury (under F. Chapman), Wrenbury, Wybunbury and Warrington.

NOTE.—The account in our last issue of ringing at Bishop's Stortford should have been headed Bishop Hatfield, Herts.

THE USE OF SINGLES.

IN SEVEN BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 560.)

We have pointed out that the material for constructing peals of Stedman Triples on the Twin-bob plan consists of twelve independent 5-course round blocks, every course containing bobs at S and H. And we have shown how these twelve blocks are joined together in Hudson's peal.

That peal is one of the most important and outstanding compositions in change ringing; but it is useless for practical purposes, because it is put together by means of in-course singles, and in-course singles are not now allowed in actual ringing. The value of the peal therefore is not so much in itself, but because it serves as the starting point from which other peals may be obtained. That actually is the role it played in the development of the method.

The first question which naturally arises is, Why not join together these twelve round blocks by bobs instead of by in-course singles? We can set down the sixty in-course natural courses of Bob Major or Double Norwich in twelve 5-course blocks, each course containing bobs at W and M, or I and F; and having done so we can proceed to join them together by omitting some of the bobs, or making extra ones. We cannot join all of them together (the Law of Q Sets forbids it), but we can go a long way towards it, and with the help of two ordinary singles, we can complete the job. Why not do a similar thing with these twelve 5-course blocks of Stedman Triples?

The answer is that unfortunately it cannot be done. There is no place in any one of the blocks of Hudson's peal where either the making or omitting of a bob will put the bells into the corresponding part of another block.

The next question is, Why not set down the sixty natural course-ends we worked out, and treat them as we should the sixty natural course-ends of Bob Major? We look on each one of the latter as representing an independent natural course, and these natural courses we join together by bobs arranged in Q Sets. Why not do the same in Stedman Triples? Again the answer is that it cannot be done.

The sixty natural courses of Bob Major are mutually exclusive. That means that not one of them has a row which is also included in another natural course, and therefore unless we use the same part of the same course twice over, we cannot have falseness. But it is otherwise in Stedman Triples.

If from every one of Hudson's course ends we prick a full natural course, we shall find that we have not got the full 5040 rows, but that the third Six of every course reappears as the seventh Six of another course; and the fifth Six of every course reappears as the twelfth Six of another course. Thus in the whole sixty natural courses there are 120 Sixes which appear twice, and 120 Sixes which do not appear at all. Unless we can find some means of eliminating the duplicate Sixes and replacing them by the missing Sixes, Hudson's course-ends are useless for composing peals. This we cannot do, and leave the sixty as independent blocks in the way that the sixty natural courses of Bob Major are independent blocks.

We will illustrate this by an example. Here are the third Six of the plain course 1234567, and the seventh Six of the course 3652147 (we take the fourth row of the Six as the course-end).

3467251	7364251
4376521	3746521
3475612	7345612
3746521	7436521
7345612	4735612
7436521	4376521
4735612	3475612

And here are the fifth Six of the plain course and the twelfth six of the course 6423157.

4751326	1457326
7415236	4175236
4712563	4712563
4175236	7415236
1472563	7142563
1745236	1745236
7142563	1472563

These Sixes are all brought up plain, but in our treble 5-course blocks and in Hudson's peal, every third Six and every fifth Six is brought up bobbed, while every seventh Six and every twelfth Six is brought up plain. That gets rid of the false Sixes, which is half of what we want.

It also does another thing which is very fortunate. The new Six which the bob introduces in place of the duplicate, is one of the missing ones which we need to include. It appears in what is called an irregular form, and if we followed it with a plain Six we should find ourselves outside the natural courses based in Hudson's course-ends and in a hopeless position. But if we make a second bob the bells are put, not indeed into the original natural course, but into another one of Hudson's set.

A similar thing happens if we bob the fifth Six. It must be followed by a bob at 6, and the two will eliminate a duplicate Sixes and introduce one of those that are missing.

It follows that if in every natural course bobs are made at S and H we shall get rid of falseness, and we shall get our true twelve 5-course blocks.

Having got our true material, the next thing is to see how it can be used. Hudson, as we saw, employed in-course singles, but their use is barred to us. We may not add any bobs, for that would put us outside our selected natural courses. Nor may we omit any bobs, for that would at once produce false rows. What then can we do?

(To be continued.)

RINGING AS SPORT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Some of the writers in 'The Ringing World' agree with your view that there is sport in ringing and some disagree. You can count me among the latter; I prefer to call it the joy of ringing. I was recently reminded of this by an old friend, who wrote that what with the 'joy' of having another pull even with a scratch band, he could not come to see me on Victory Sunday.

WILLIAM KEEBLE.

Severalls Hospital, Colchester.

DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.
(Continued from page 561.)

Cornwall has quite a number of detached towers, some of which are very quaint in their style of architecture. I am not able to give details of Chacewater tower, but at Feock the tower is the oldest part of the buildings, being of 13th century date. The church itself is at a considerably lower level, forty yards east of the tower, which is at road level. The churchyard falls steeply away to the sea. The tower contains three bells with chiming apparatus by Warner, and here are two out of the fifty mediæval bells now remaining in Cornwall. The tower is used as a store for gardening and grave digging tools.

At Gwennap, the Church of St. Wenneppa has a detached tower with pyramidal roof, and contains six bells. A similar instance occurs at Gunwalloe, where the Church of St. Winwalloe has a tower standing 14ft. from the west end of the church, and this contains three bells. The tower is of two stages, and on three sides the walls are formed of the solid rock against which it stands.

At Illogan, the church of the same name (St. Illogan) has an embattled tower with pinnacles, standing at some distance to the north-west from the body of the church. It contains a ring of six bells, all recast by Mears and Stainbank in 1889 at the expense of Mrs. Bassett, of Tehidy, in memory of her late husband, G. L. Bassett, Esq. The tenor is 8 cwt.

Lamorran Church has an ancient tower standing detached in the south-west corner of the churchyard. It contains three bells, two of which are dated 1732, and the other undated. The tower is supposed to be part of a monastic house that formerly existed here. The walls are of great thickness and now covered with ivy.

At Launceston, the Church of St. Mary Magdalen has an embattled western tower of the latter part of the 14th century, 84ft. high, with pinnacles, and containing a clock and eight bells. The old six bells were cast in 1720 by Abraham Rudhall, of Gloucester, but the tenor was recast in 1870 and the treble in 1874 by Mears and Stainbank, who in 1901 added two new trebles, making the octave. The tower was formerly detached, but is now connected to the church by a room erected by the fifth Duke of Northumberland (d. 1867) for municipal purposes. It is now used as a vestry.

The Church of St. Mylor, Mylor, has a detached belfry some distance away, containing three bells, recast 1888 as a memorial to the Rev. J. W. Murray, Vicar, 1868-74, the original dates (1637 and 1634) being reproduced. The old bell of Trefusis Church, dated 1767, has also been presented to the church by Lord Clinton. At Talland there is a semi-detached tower of three stages, 55ft. high, and at a higher level than the church, to which it is connected by a large porch with two entrances. The ringing chamber is partly cut out of the rock on which the tower stands. It contains a ring of six.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Institute, Bushey, Saturday, December 19th. Handbells from 3.30. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

WOODBIDGE, SUFFOLK.—Tower bells (silent) Saturday, December 19th, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Change ringers and beginners welcome.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, December 19th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—The annual district meeting will be held at All Saints', Hertford, at 3 p.m., on December 19th. Tower bells (silent), together with handbells. This being the annual, please do your best to be present. Tea at 4.15 p.m. — G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 19, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon.

BIRTH.

CROSS.—To Marjorie, the wife of Geo. H. Cross, on Thursday, December 10th, the gift of twin daughters.

DEATH.

LILLEY.—On Dec. 10th, Charles Richard Lilley, of Perry Farm, Highweek, Newton Abbot, aged 68.

HANDBELLS AT GIBRALTAR.

It will be remembered that Mr. Charles Dean, of Croydon, was instrumental in sending a set of handbells for the use of men in H.M. Forces stationed at Gibraltar. He has now received a letter from the Rev. W. F. E. Burnley, Chaplain to the Forces, which shows that the bells have been put to good use.

'Dear Mr. Dean,—The enclosures will give some indication of the use to which your handbells are being put and of the interest they are providing. I hope that you will have as happy a Christmas as is possible in these difficult days, and that it will not be long before church bells can hail victory and peace.—W. F. E. Burnley, C.F.'

The enclosures are a photograph of a group of handbell ringers and the following notice:—

'Too H Gibraltar Group meets as usual to-morrow evening at 8 o'clock at 186, Main Street, when a talk on "Bellringing" will be given by the Rev. F. E. Burnley, C.F., assisted by a group of friends who will give a demonstration of handbell ringing. All interested are invited whether members of Toc H or not.'

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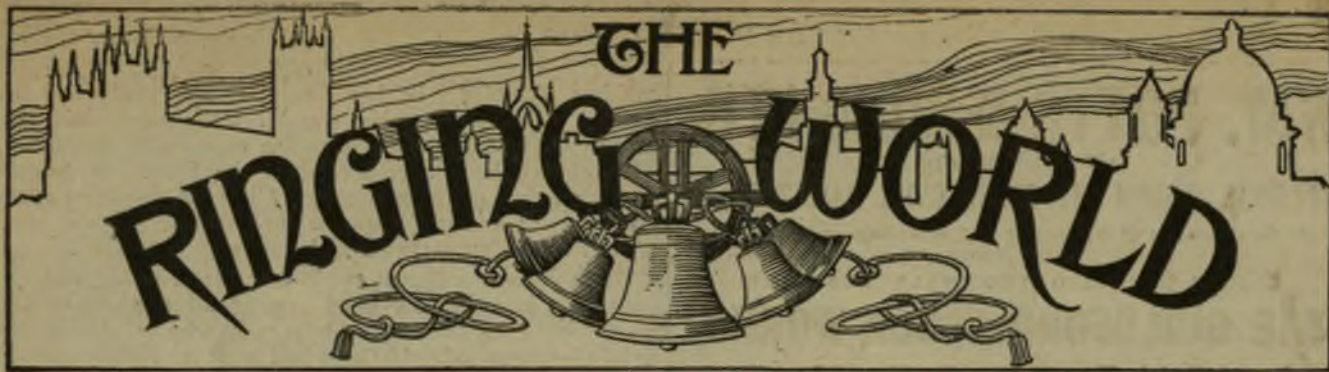
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25th, 1942.

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CHRISTMAS BELLS?

Ever since the ban on ringing was first imposed it caused widespread disapproval, and many attempts were made to get it removed or amended. The recent ringing for victory led to a great increase in the protests, and much pressure has been put on the Government. From the pulpit by leading clergymen, in the press, and in the House of Commons, many voices have been raised to demand that the bells shall be rung again for their normal Sunday use, or, if that were impossible, at any rate for Christmas.

These demands have not been met with a flat negative as were the earlier demands, but the answer week by week has been that the matter was being considered, and a statement would be made; but when the House of Commons adjourned for the Christmas recess no decision had been reached, and at the time of writing we still do not know whether we shall be allowed to ring for Christmas or not.

To very many people this indecision must seem strange and incomprehensible. The ban was imposed in the first instance because the military authorities thought it necessary to reserve the use of the bells for warning in the event of invasion by air-borne enemy troops. That was a clear and definite purpose, and the authorities must know whether they still rely on the sound of bells as an efficient warning. We suspect that they do not, for if they did, they surely would have made quite certain that means of ringing would be immediately available at every tower and they would have discovered by searching tests whether it would be effective. Neither, so far as we are aware, has been generally done. Though the first idea of the ban, and the early opposition to its removal did undoubtedly come from the military authorities, we find it difficult to believe that they now have any particular interest in the matter.

Why, then, should not the ban be lifted, and whence comes the present opposition and indecision? About that we can only conjecture, but we believe, ourselves, that the deciding factor is the opinion of the Prime Minister, and that if we are not allowed to ring, it will be because he does not think it advisable in the present circumstances.

This does not mean that we think Mr. Churchill is to be numbered among those who would like to see bell ringing stopped or curtailed. Quite the contrary. He is a man who has shown that he understands the past life of the nation, and in the intervals when political circumstances have prevented him from assisting himself in the

(Continued on page 574.)

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making of history, he has turned to the study and the writing of history. He showed that, more than any other man who has spoken on the matter, he understood what church bells once meant in the life of the people and what they might still mean. The ringing for victory was the immediate response to his suggestion, and proved how accurately he had gauged the matter.

But the extraordinary success of that ringing and the enormous interest it evoked among all sections of the people were in themselves a reason why it should not lightly be repeated. If there had been no silence and no victory ringing, the bells might now be used in their normal manner, sending out their weekly messages and proclaiming the good news at Christmas and Easter to those who have ears to hear them. But for the moment to the great majority of people they are associated with other things, and might easily lead men to suppose (unconsciously in most cases) that the worst is over, and there is less reason for effort and resolution. The worst may be over—we trust it is—but the end is not yet in sight, and those in authority may well hesitate before they sanction anything which might create an impression, among even a section of the community, that any relaxation is allowable.

Here we feel sure is the reason for the delay. We ringers, all of us, will rejoice if it is found possible to allow us to ring once more; but, if not, we must rest content with the assurance that England and humanity need the sacrifice.

A NEW SILENT APPARATUS.

MR. H. NUTT'S INGENIOUS INVENTION.

(By the Rev. F. F. Rigby, President of the Lancashire Association.)

An interesting and ingenious apparatus has been fitted by Mr. H. Nutt in the tower at Friezland, near Oldham, Lancashire. Its purpose is to allow the tower bells to be swung without sounding, correct striking being assured by the changes being rung on a set of fixed handbells in the ringing room. True, the effect of ringing the bells is rather odd, for the sound of the handbells seems small and out of all proportion to the energy expended in ringing the tower bells. Nevertheless, the experiment has been worth while, and is much better than ringing silent bells.

On the outside of each wheel is fitted what may best be described as a flat bell complete with clapper. In actual fact, this bell consists of two frames shaped like a trapezium, the two frames being only about an inch apart, and acting as guide rods to the clapper. The movement of this second clapper in the frame is similar to that of the ordinary bell clapper, which, of course, is prevented from swinging. When the second clapper hits the 'sound bow' of the flat bell, a momentary electric circuit is created, the handbell in the ringing room being part of the circuit. Thus each handbell strikes with every revolution of the corresponding tower bell.

Mr. Nutt has spent many hours in perfecting his apparatus, which he has now patented. Anyone interested can have the opportunity of ringing the bells, as practices are held on the last Saturday afternoon of each month, with the exception that the December practice is on the 19th.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have read the articles and letters in your paper on the above subject with much interest, and have felt much inclined to write you stating my views on the matter.

But after reading what you so admirably and plainly say in the fourth paragraph of your leading article of last Friday's issue, I feel there is not much more that can usefully be said.

I have always felt that our associations should be diocesan. The present organisation may be defective in some respects and capable of improvement. But would a National Association do so? I think we should lose much of the effect of local influences, which mean so much to us, especially in country parishes.

W. L. DUFFIELD.

Long Stratton, Norwich.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.
THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 10, 1942, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

At 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF SPLICED CAMBRIDGE AND SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR,
5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

*EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE 5-6
*ERNEST C. S. TURNER 3-4	FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW 7-8

Composed and Conducted by HAROLD G. CASHMORE.

Umpire—John E. Rootes.

* First spliced peal in two Surprise methods. The peal contained 2,528 changes of each method with 76 changes of method, and is the first peal in these two methods to be rung on handbells.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 12, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

In the Choir Vestry of St. Peter's Church,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 15 in C.

MISS JESSIE C. CHICK... .. 1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS 5-6
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4	FRANCIS S. WILSON 7-8

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

Rung on Miss Jessie Chick's birthday as a compliment to her and also on honour of the 77th birthday anniversary of Mr. John W. Jones, of Newport, Mon. (December 5th). Miss Chick entertained the party to tea after the peal.

BIRMINGHAM.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, December 12, 1942, in Three Hours and One Minute,

At 86, SCRIBERS LANE, HALL GREEN, 28,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

FRANK E. PERVIN... .. 1-2	J. FRANK SMALLWOOD 7-8
FRANK W. PERRENS 3-4	GEORGE F. SWANN 9-10
ALBERT WALKER... .. 5-6	GEORGE E. FEARN 11-12

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 16, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

At 57, THE HEADROW,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

*MISS L. K. BOWLING 1-2	PERCY J. JOHNSON 5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4	WILLIAM BARTON 7-8
JOHN AMBLER 9-10	

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by WILLIAM BARTON.

* First peal of Royal. A compliment to Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Johnson on the celebration of their silver wedding.

RADLEY, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, December 17, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

At the School House,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

WILFRED F. MORETON 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE 5-6
MISS MARIE R. CROSS 3-4	*F/O CHRIS. T. BROWN, R.A.F. 7-8

Composed by MORRIS J. MORRIS. Conducted by Miss M. R. CROSS

* First peal.

MARRIAGE OF MR. HAROLD CHANT.

On November 21st at St. Peter's Church, Felkirk, the marriage took place of Mr. Harold Chant to Miss M. Sykes. The ceremony was performed by the Vicar, the Rev. — Barlow, at 8.30 a.m., and was quiet and private, only the parents and close friends of the bride and bridegroom being present.

Mr. Chant is well known among Yorkshire ringers. He is hon. treasurer of the Barnsley and District Society, and Ringing Master of the Southern District of the Yorkshire Association. At present he is in the R.A.F.

VICTORY BELLS.

BAGSHOT.—Grandsire Doubles and call changes were rung by Mrs. Welton and Messrs. V. Welton, G. Bryant, J. Corbett, H. Hall, E. Hall, E. Marsh, H. Hunt, F. Rose, G. Wigmore, C. Haines and F. Nye.

BALCOMBE, SUSSEX.—Ten ringers took part in some good rounds, finishing with a good touch of Minor. The bells were then lowered in peal.

DRAYTON, NEAR TAUNTON.—Ringing began at 9 a.m. and continued until 12 noon at intervals, those taking part being P. H. Lock, B. Attwell, R. Dabinett, W. Male, S. Dabinett, T. Locke (conductor), F. Harris, E. Dabinett and C. Sandford. Mr. Sandford, who is 70 years old, had not rung for 20 years.

ELLESMERE, SHROPSHIRE.—Owing to several ringers being away with H.M. Forces, etc., only seven were present, and change ringing could not be attempted, there being one short for Stedman Doubles. The back seven, however, were kept going in call changes from 9 until 11 a.m. by the brothers Stone (both home on leave), A. Allen, W. Higginson, sen., T. Butler, sen. (conductor), and two visitors working in the district, to whom the thanks of the band are tendered.

HANDSWORTH, SHEFFIELD.—Bob Major by Miss L. Kelly, Mrs. D. Kelly and Messrs. R. Birch, J. H. Brothwell, J. G. Brothwell, F. Cardwell, W. H. Taylor, J. Haywood, L. Haywood and J. E. Turley. The conductors were L. Haywood and J. E. Turley. The striking was fairly good and several touches were rung.

LIVERPOOL.—The twelve bells at the Parish Church have been removed from the tower and only handbells could be rung. At St. Francis Xavier's R.C. Church a considerable number of ringers were present, and the eight bells were kept going until 11 a.m. in call changes, 'firing' and Bob Minor with 6-8 covering. An unusual incident occurred here a few minutes before the ringing ceased when the conductor, Mr. T. W. Hammond, called out asking if there was anybody present who had not had a 'pull'. A gentleman, about 50 years of age, thereupon removed his jacket and took the rope offered him by the ringer of the third whilst still ringing, nobody questioning his being a ringer. It immediately became obvious, however, that this gentleman had no knowledge whatever of ringing a bell. As there were several small children seated nearby, what might have been a serious accident was averted by a qualified ringer taking the rope from him and bringing the bell under control again. At Garston and Woolton, courses of Grandsire Triples and call changes were rung, and the handy ring of eight at St. Nicholas', Halewood, was fully manned.

LITTLE MUNDEN, HERTS.—Touches of Oxford Treble Bob by W. Williams, A. Woolston, S. Head, A. Phillips, A. Carter and E. Overall.

A REGRETTABLE PICTURE.

'CHILDISH ANTICS.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A few days ago, when I opened a copy of the 'Daily Mirror,' I was amazed to see a photograph of two young girls swinging in distinctly ungraceful attitudes upon bell-ropes, several feet from the floor. Upon reading the note which accompanied the picture, I was still more amazed to be informed that this was a learners' class in progress in a Buckinghamshire tower, and that the incident illustrated formed part of the syllabus. When I first learnt to handle a bell, some 14 years ago, one of the things which was impressed firmly upon my mind was the fact that one should never lift one's feet from the floor while ringing; and I feel sure that the opinion of competent ringers will be that I have been correct in pointing out this fact to the not inconsiderable number of pupils whom I have taught to handle a bell since that time.

We ringers should be grateful to the 'Daily Mirror' for its interest in our art, and its repeated requests that the ban on ringing might be lifted. These facts make it the more to be regretted that the paper's representative should have been so misinformed as to be led to believe that the childish antics depicted form part of the instruction required to produce a capable ringer.

Catterick, Yorks.

R. D. St. J. SMITH, C.F.

IT IS ALL WRONG.

Dear Sir,—Last Tuesday's copy of an illustrated daily paper contains a picture representing—to quote the Press description—'learning the peal of the bells in Burnham (Bucks) Church.'

It is also stated that 'it takes 18 months to learn how to control bells' and 'part of the lesson is to swing on the bells like this'; the photograph showing two girls clinging to the top of the sallies and suspended in mid-air.

It seems hardly credible that Mr. G. Gilbert, who is mentioned as their instructor in change ringing, could have countenanced such statements as those quoted: giving such an inaccurate, not to say ridiculous, impression to the general public. It is certainly not in the interests of the art that such an unedifying photograph should have been staged and published. One of my girl recruits, on being shown the picture, said at once to her mother, 'That is all wrong'! And she could control her bell efficiently in rounds after less than six months' practice, without any curious gymnastics.

The Vicarage, Lyme Regis, Dorset.

C. CAREW COX.

[We have received several other letters about this picture. — Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

FABIAN STEDMAN AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES.

(Continued from page 567.)

In the year 1677, when the 'Campanalogia' was published, Fabian Stedman was still living at Cambridge, but shortly afterwards he moved to London, where he spent the remaining part of his life. Direct evidence is lacking, but it seems that through the influence of his friends among the College Youths he obtained a post in the audit of Excise under John Birch, and we get one or two glimpses of him in the Treasury Books.

In 1690 he and George Birch are mentioned, evidently as the two principal clerks in the office, when they are granted an allowance to cover a tax. The younger Birch (who afterwards called himself Bruere) and Stedman were closely associated for a long time. In 1691, when John Birch died, the two carried on without an official head and themselves did the audit for six months. Nine years later the two sent a joint petition to the Treasury asking for an increase of salary, and giving as the reason the great increase in the business of the office owing to new taxation. The petition was favourably received and the then Auditor General, Sir Basil Dixwell, was ordered to pay them £60 per annum, which had been allowed for additional salaries. Previous to that Bruere's salary seems to have been £100 and Stedman's £60.

George Bruere evidently died before Fabian Stedman. The long connection of the two with the audit of Excise and their close personal friendship is shown in Stedman's will; Bartholomew Bruere is a legatee and John Bruere a witness.

During the early part at least of his life in London, Stedman continued active in the art and as a member of the Society of College Youths. In 1682 he filled the office of Master. Later on, as he became more advanced in years and as his early friends passed away by death or retirement, he gradually dropped out of the active life of the Exercise and by the beginning of the new century was little more than a name and a memory among ringers. Whether he did any further work as a composer we do not know. If he did, his compositions are lost and forgotten, and the 'Campanalogia' remains his permanent contribution to the development of change ringing. He died in November, 1713, and was buried in the church of St. Andrew, Undershaft, in the City of London.

No tombstone or any other monument to his memory exists in the church, but that is only what we should have expected. Very few of those who were buried in the City churches or graveyards had any memorials and most of those which were erected were displaced to make room for others. So, too, were the bones of the dead. They were constantly being dug up to make space for newcomers, and where what remains of Fabian Stedman now lies, no one can say.

The identification of the Fabian Stedman of the Excise audit and the Fabian Stedman of Cambridge is not absolute—few things of the kind ever are—but it seems to be beyond all reasonable doubt. The evidence is as follows:—

In the year 1901, Mr. Owden Stedman sent to the Ancient Society of College Youths an abstract of the will

of a Fabian Stedman who died in 1713, and was buried at St. Andrew's, Undershaft, with a request for any particulars of the testator's birth and life. The matter was put in the hands of Mr. Robert A. Daniell, who made extensive inquiries both in Cambridge and London. He had the original document photographed and a copy was printed in 'The Bell News' of November 7th, 1903. He searched the parish registers of St. Benedict's, Cambridge, and other churches in the town, and the accounts of St. Andrew's, Undershaft.

There was little result of his labours, but he was convinced that the two Fabian Stedmans were the same. Other people thought differently. Stedman, they pointed out, was born in 1631, and so would have been nearly fifty years old when he was supposed to have received an appointment in the Civil Service; and eighty-two years old when he died, and apparently he was carrying out his duties up to the end. That a printer in a provincial town should, at that time of life, receive a Government appointment seemed to them to be most unlikely, and indeed almost impossible.

When they are examined, there is not much in these objections. I have already given what I think sufficient reasons for putting Stedman's birth, not in 1631, but ten or twelve years later, and if these reasons are sound then the chronological difficulty disappears. And there is nothing much in the other part of the objection. There was then nothing like our modern Civil Service. The Crown appointed the heads of departments and they in turn appointed whom they would as clerks and subordinates. Anyone could have been made a clerk in the audit office, provided he was competent and had the necessary influence behind him. That Stedman was competent there is no doubt, his book shows that. And he did not lack influence. He was highly esteemed by the College Youths, and there were several men among them who could and would speak a good word for him.

And there is a further link in the chain of evidence which, if it is thoroughly sound, would put the matter beyond all doubt. The head of the Excise in London at the time was a man named John Cooke, and there were two men named John Cook who were members of the Society of College Youths, one of whom joined in 1654 and the other in 1655. Now, if one of these was the Controller of Excise (and there is no reason why he should not have been), the matter is clear. Stedman came up to London for the annual feast in 1677, for in that year he was steward; the 'Campanalogia' had just appeared; and his reputation was at its height. What more natural than that the College Youths should wish to keep him in London so that they could have the benefit of his company and of his experience in the art of ringing? And who would be so likely to find him the necessary job as the head of the Excise?

There remains the evidence from the name and from the will. The name Stedman is, as I have already said, not an uncommon one; but judging from the parish registers in the seventeenth century, it was rare in London. Identity of name is, of course, no proof of identity of person, but we should hardly expect to find two men living at the same time, of similar character, and both called by the unusual name of Fabian Stedman. It has been suggested that they may have been father and son, but the suggestion is pure conjecture, and creates many more difficulties than it removes.

The will is dated October 17th, 1713, and was written by the testator's own hand. It is also his own drafting, for there is a touch which betrays the amateur. He left 'to the poor of the parish where I was born ten pounds, and to the poor of the parish where I shall die five pounds.' No doubt it was all perfectly clear to his executor and the other persons concerned, but surely a lawyer would have put in the name of his native parish. For us it would have cleared up several points which are now in doubt.

The testator was a bachelor, or childless widower, and a man quite well-to-do. He left fifty pounds to Christ's Hospital, and various sums to his sister and her children and grandchildren, but specially excluded the husband of one of his nieces from any benefit. He remembered the clerks in his office, the porter and doorkeepers, the watchman and yard keeper—everyone in fact that was connected with him, even the maid who cleaned his office. To Mrs. Phœbe Wickens, a widow, and her daughter he gave each one hundred pounds, and we may suppose that he lodged with those two ladies. The balance of the estate went to a nephew, the son of a sister who apparently was already dead.

The wording of the will follows the usual form of such documents, and there is little scope for the expression of any individuality; yet we cannot help feeling that this is the sort of will we should have expected the author of the 'Campanalogia' to have made, and this is the way in which we should have expected him to have written it.

The general impression we get of Fabian Stedman from what we know of him, is of a quiet, intellectual man; thoroughly reliable and conscientious in his

duties; kindly in his nature, unambitious, and a bachelor by disposition. In his active lifetime he and his book had a great reputation among ringers, but it is the usual fate of such to be unduly disparaged by the next generation, and the authors of the J.D. and C.M. 'Campanalogia' speak rather slightly of Stedman's 'Campanalogia.' His fame, however, survived, and, after a time, began steadily to increase until his was the best known name in the whole of the annals of change ringing. The climax was the memorial raised to him on what was believed to be the tercentenary of his birth. Following a suggestion of Mr. John S. Goldsmith, a sum of more than five hundred pounds was raised entirely by the Exercise, and the bells of St. Benet's, Cambridge, were restored and a commemorative tablet erected in the church. There have been many memorials erected from time to time to the memory of distinguished ringers, but none on the scale of this, erected to the memory of a man whose active career was spent so long ago as the reign of King Charles II.

DEATH OF MR. EDGAR RIVERS.

The death is announced of Mr. Edgar Rivers, which took place on December 8th at the East Suffolk Hospital after a serious operation.

Mr. Rivers had been for many years a member of the Sproughton band, and, being a good-ringer and striker, will greatly be missed by his companions.

IN PRAISE OF STEDMAN.—Throughout the whole province of Change Ringing there is no more delightful method than that of Stedman. Ringers of methods of all degrees of intricacy find in it a continual freshness and charm. If we are to seek for the grounds of such a well-deserved popularity, we shall probably be right in ascribing it chiefly to the varied nature of its work; while at the same time its music has a peculiarly smooth and mellow cadence.—C. D. P. Davies.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

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MUFFLES,
Etc.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

The handbell peal of Stedman Cinques at Birmingham on December 12th was rung for Mr. James George's 89th birthday, Nov. 27th, and on the 44th anniversary of the wedding day of the conductor and Mrs. Albert Walker. It was Mr. G. F. Swann's 150th peal of Stedman Cinques, 109 of which were on handbells. It was also the 200th handbell peal by the St. Martin's Guild, formed from the old St. Martin's Society in 1889.

Congratulations to Mr. Charles E. Borrett, who reached his 68th birthday on December 21st.

Sixty years ago on December 16th the North Staffordshire Association was founded.

The first peal of Crayford Surprise Major was rung at Crayford on December 21st, 1935. Mr. T. Groombridge, jun., conducted.

Barham's band rang a peal of New Morning Exercise Major at Leeds, in Kent, on December 23rd, 1775.

Sir Arthur Heywood was born on Christmas Day, 1762.

Not many peals have been rung on Christmas Day, but in 1762 Barham's band, at Leeds, rang 6,720 changes of London Court Bob Major.

The day after Christmas has always been a favourite day for peal ringing, and among the notable anniversaries are the following:—

1749: 6,336 Bob Maximus at St. Saviour's, Southwark, by the London Youths. The tenor was rung single-handed by the elder Samuel Moggeridge.

1760: The first peal of College Exercise Major, by the College Youths, at St. John's, Hackney.

1782: London Union Triples by the London Youths at St. Giles-in-the-Fields.

1831: 15,168 Kent Treble Bob Major at Elland in Yorkshire.

1885: 8,064 Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Leiston.

1894: The then longest peal of Superlative Surprise, at Crawley, conducted by Mr. James Parker. This was beaten on the same date in 1910, by 9,728 changes at Clent, in Worcestershire.

1901: The record peal of Stedman Cinques, 11,111 changes, at St. Martin's, Birmingham.

1923: The record peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal, 10,440 changes, at Walthamstow.

The Editor extends hearty Greetings and Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year, to all readers; and expresses his sincere thanks to the many friends who have given him help and sympathy in the difficult and trying circumstances of the past year.

AFTERTHOUGHTS ON THANKSGIVING SUNDAY.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Much has happened in a short while in the ringers' world. The National Press and the B.B.C. give news items of bells and ringers in the past few days. Therefore, the conclusion must be that the public were ready and anxious to hear the bells rung again, because surely it is an old axiom, in press circles at any rate, that the public only wants to read what it is interested in.

I only know what took place in my own locality on Thanksgiving Sunday, but there can be no doubt that ringers answered the call to duty (a short one in both senses) to celebrate the nation's victory in war. No doubt other and louder voices than mine will be raised to ask the powers-that-be to reciprocate and allow (subject, of course, to the war situation not worsening in the meantime) the bells to be rung on Christmas morning, say for the same period, to remind the country and others who care to listen of the significance of the day and to give pleasure to those near and far on this greatest of all days.

So far as my personal impressions go, for me Thanksgiving Sunday was a great occasion. The pleasure of meeting old friends, some of whom I had not seen for several years, was indeed good to behold. I am sure, judging by the keen spirit and willing co-operation exhibited on Thanksgiving Sunday in this small part of the ringing world, that ringing and ringers will come into their own again in the post-war era, laying a foundation which will make a finer Exercise and fulfil the hopes and desires expressed in the ringers' journal in the dark months gone by.

When all is said and done, 'tis an ill wind that blows nobody any good!

'IN SLOW.'

THE LATE MR. C. R. LILLEY.

As briefly announced in our last issue, the death occurred on December 10th of Mr. Charles R. Lilley, who passed away in a private ward of Newton Abbot Hospital. He leaves a widow and a son, Mr. J. E. Lilley, who is also a well-known Devonshire ringer.

Charles Richard Lilley was born on April 8th, 1874, at Candlesby, in Lincolnshire, where his father for many years was churchwarden. His great-grandfather, William Fant, was a ringer at Freiston, and Mr. Lilley inherited his ringing books. It was in his native county that he himself learnt to ring, and his first peal was in 12 methods of Doubles at Wrangle in 1894. His first peal as conductor was on August 7th, 1897, at Bennington, where he called seven 720's of Bob Minor.



THE LATE MR. C. R. LILLEY.

In 1897 Mr. Lilley moved to Bedford and came into contact with the late Charles Clark, and together they were very active in peal ringing, among the performances being the first peals of Kent Treble Bob Royal and Bob Royal on the augmented ring at St. Paul's, Bedford.

From Bedford Mr. Lilley moved to various places, and when in Oxfordshire he took part in Washbrook's record length of Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Kidlington on May 22nd, 1899. The number of changes was 17,024 and the time taken 11 hours 12 minutes. In 1913 he went to live at Shrewsbury, where at St. Alkmund's he called the first peal of Stedman Triples in the town. He was appointed Ringing Master and steeplekeeper at St. Chad's, and after the twelve bells were restored and recast by Messrs. Taylor and Co. he conducted several peals in the tower, including Grand sire and Stedman Cinques and Plain Bob and Treble Bob Maximus.

His later years Mr. Lilley spent in Devonshire, where he did a lot of teaching and called several peals. Since the war started he formed a handbell band at Highweek, where he lived, and by this means was able to score a peal on every day in the year, including February 29th and Christmas Day.

From 1924 to 1926 Mr. Lilley represented the Shropshire Association on the Central Council.

DETACHED TOWERS.

'THE STORY BEHIND.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Replying to Mr. Bailey's letter in your last issue, I hope, with your kind permission and as space allows, to give 'the story behind' most of the detached towers mentioned in my article. Nearly all of those are quaint and very interesting. As regards the two sisters legend, this occurs in instances where two churches are in one churchyard, which at some future date I will give full details. Another instance is that of Ormskirk, Lancashire, where it is said the church was built by two sisters, daughters of Orme, a famous pirate, who, failing to agree over the question of tower and spire, built both! A happy way of settling the dispute, the one of compromise:—

'Sister,' said one, 'tis my desire

The church should have a tapering spire,

To point to realms where sin's forgiven,

And lead men's thoughts from earth to Heaven.'

The other sister wanted a tower, and so:—

The other said, 'I like a tower,

It speaks of strength, of might, of power—

An emblem of the Church's strength

To overcome the world at length;

To show that 'gainst the Church, though frail,

The gates of Hell shall not prevail.'

The outcome of the dispute was that they made 'Orme's-Kirk' unique by erecting a massive tower 84 feet high and 37 feet square; and also a low octagonal tower with a graceful spire reaching about 25 feet above the summit of the other tower. The latter contains a ring of eight bells.

Re Mr. Martin's note on East Bergholt, it was an error on my part to say the bells have wheels—they have not. A photograph of both exterior and interior of this quaint bell-house is given in my book, 'History and Art of Change Ringing,' together with a note on certain change ringing done there. I also give account of Swaffham Prior churches in the same volume.

ERNEST MORRIS.

ST. PETER'S BELLS, ST ALBANS

THE RING OF TWELVE:

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I be allowed to supplement further information to the article published in last week's 'Ringing World,' gathered from authentic correspondence in my possession.

The St. Peter's Society is the 'child' of the St. Albans Society of Change Ringers, founded in 1876. From the first report of the society, read at a meeting of members on January 9th, 1877, I quote:—

'A year having now elapsed since the above society was formed, its officers desire to tender their best thanks to those who have kindly contributed to its funds, and they forward to them their balance sheet. From this it will be seen that the sum they have in hand amounts to £15 11s. 11d. . . . The chief calls upon its funds have arisen from the engagement of the services of experienced instructors in the art of campanology. Under the able tuition of Mr. Haworth, of London, who was assisted in the beginning of the year by Mr. Wood, noted members of the celebrated band of College Youths, the society has every reason to be satisfied with the progress it has made, the ringers having on several occasions rung over 500 changes. The officers believe that the society is now on a firm footing, and if progress is made during the coming year in proportion to that which is now drawing to a close, the St. Albans Society of Change Ringers will, they trust, soon attain to a prominent position among the ringing societies of Hertfordshire.—Signed, Henry Lewis.'

Financially, the society was strong, the subscriptions in 'the first year amounting to £51 4s. 6d. Instructors' expenses amounted to £21 12s. 7d.

The Master of the society was Mr. Henry Lewis, and the secretary Mr. E. P. Debenham. The high hopes expressed in their first report did not come to fruition, and resort eventually was made to 'stone'. This continued until the County Association and the Cathedral Society were formed, when the earlier society was merged into the present St. Peter's Society. Under the instruction and genial influence of Mr. E. P. Debenham, the whole band gave their attention to change ringing, and soon became a very capable asset, as peal boards record.

The peal of twelve that once hung in the tower was also mentioned in the article. I never heard the twelve rung, but the son of the donor told me that the two trebles were 'burnt bells,' but what a 'burnt bell' is neither he nor I ever knew. As various views have been expressed as to the quality of the twelve, I append a copy of a letter sent by the donor of the trebles to his son Henry.

'St. Albans. May 9th, 1868.

'My dear Henry,—I hope we shall be able to arrange for the opening of the peal of 12 next Tuesday week, but I am not certain at present. Mr. Haley was here yesterday chipping a little more out of our 4th of the ten, as it had become slightly too sharp again. All the jackdaw rubbish is cleared away and thrown over the dumb left, so that the place where the bells are is quite clean. The tenor clapper has been made a little heavier. We had a touch on the 12 last night for Mr. Haley to hear. They sounded like a great band of music. We had not first-rate ringers in, but the best we could get considering it was Friday night: Mr. Haley 1, G. Hatton 2, Francomb 3, Myself 4, William 5, Hull 6, Lawrence 7, Baptist 8, Old George 9, T. Woolfield 10, Waller 11, Ellis 12. Mr. Haley came into the churchyard afterwards and they rang the first eight, which was very fine, so altogether it has proved very successful.

'I will let you know when the opening is to be and will write to Mr. E. Barry. I want to get six of each Cumberlands and College Youths, but I fear there is a little misunderstanding between them just now, so that I may be compelled to ask one party exclusively. I hope not!

'The town appears delighted with the addition, so far it is gratifying to me. With kind regards to Messrs. Barry and Mr. Willis, etc.

'I am, my dear Henry, your loving Father, John Lewis.'

I regret I cannot trace all the men who rang the first touch mentioned, which I could have done earlier in my ringing career, but G. Hatton was a watchmaker in business in St. Peter's Street; Hull was a painter. Old George was George Richardson, upholsterer, of Chequer Street. Woolfield was connected with the Dudding family. T. Waller was the sexton (not officially appointed) and became an excellent ringer.

G. W. CARTMEL.

HUGH REGINALD HAWEIS.

(Continued from page 569.)

Such seasons are not without real danger—more than once the lightning has melted and twisted the iron hasps about the tower, and within the memory of man the masonry itself has been struck. During the long peals of thunder that come rolling with the black rain clouds over the level plains of Belgium, the belfry begins to vibrate like a huge musical instrument, as it is; the bells peal out, and seem to claim affinity with the deep bass of the thunder, whilst the shrill wind shrieks a demoniac treble to the wild and stormy music.

All through the still summer night the belfry lamp burns like a star. It is the only point of yellow light that can be seen up so high, and when the moon is bright it looks almost red in the silvery atmosphere. Then it is that the music of the bells floats furthest over the plains, and the postilion hears the sound as he hurries along the high road from Brussels or Lille, and, smacking his whip loudly, he shouts to his weary steed as he sees the light of the old tower of Tournay come in sight.

HUGH REGINALD HAWEIS.

A VICTORIAN WRITER ON BELLS.

In our account of Lord Grimthorpe we said that he was one of the influences which made English modern bells the best in the world, though not in the way he intended; and the same may be said about another man, the Rev. H. R. Haweis, who differed in almost every way from Grimthorpe, except that he, too, was generally accepted in his time as an authority on bells.

Hugh Reginald Haweis, who came of a clerical family, was born at Egham, in Surrey, on April 3rd, 1838. In his childhood and boyhood he was afflicted with a severe malady from which he ultimately recovered, but which left him a cripple and little more than a dwarf in stature. From his early days he had a great aptitude for music, and that continued to be one of his main interests throughout his life. After going to Cambridge, he took orders and was curate at St. Peter's, Bethnal Green, for two years. In 1866 he was appointed incumbent of St. James', Westmorland Street, Marylebone, and remained there until his death in 1901.

At St. James' he soon attracted attention by the unconventional style of his services and his somewhat theatrical manner of preaching. He became a popular preacher and lecturer, and wrote many books and magazine articles chiefly on music and theology, which, though not particularly profound, appealed to a wide circle of readers. His most popular book was 'Music and Morals,' a revision of magazine articles, which was first published in 1871, and went through sixteen editions, the last appearing in 1891.

Like many other visitors to Belgium, Haweis was attracted by the carillons of the Low Countries, and he devoted time and writing to an attempt to introduce them into this country, much as the late W. W. Starmers tried to do in later years. But while Haweis appealed to a far wider circle than Starmers did, he had nothing like the technical knowledge and skill the other possessed.

One or two carillons and one or two rings of Belgian bells actually were put up in England, mainly through Haweis' influence. Among them were the carillons at Boston, Cattistock, and Eaton Hall, and the octaves at St. Augustine's, Kilburn, and Lower Beeding in Sussex. Boston bells have been recast and the carillon done away with; Cattistock bells were destroyed by fire about three years ago; Kilburn bells have been partly recast, retuned, and altered out of recognition by Taylors; Beeding bells remain, but as a ringing peal they are a decided failure.

One section of 'Music and Morals' was devoted by Haweis to bells, and it can be read now with interest, though seldom with agreement. It is written in the somewhat inflated style which was natural to the man, and for which the modern reader should make allowance.

He begins his chapter half-way up the tower of a Belgian cathedral, which may be Antwerp or Malines, but probably was a fancy construction made up from impressions of several towers.

The long winding staircase seems to have no end. Two hundred steps are already below us. The higher we go the more broken and rugged are the stairs. Suddenly it grows very dark, and, clutching the rope more firmly, we struggle upwards. Light dawns again through a narrow Gothic slit in the tower—let us pause and look out for a moment. The glare is blinding, but from the deep, cool recess a wondrous spectacle unfolds itself. We are almost on the level of the roof of a noble cathedral. We have come close upon a fearful dragon. He seems to spring straight out of the wall. We have often seen his lean, gaunt form from below—he passes almost unnoticed with a hundred brother gargoyles—but now we are so close to him our feelings are different; we seem like intruders in his lawful domains. His face is horribly grotesque and earnest. His propor-

tions, which seemed so diminutive in the distance, are really colossal—but here everything is colossal.

This huge scroll, this clump of stone, cannon-balls, are, in fact, the little vine tendrils and grapes that looked so frail and delicately carved from below. Amongst the petals of yonder mighty rose a couple of pigeons are busy making their nest; seeds of grasses and wild flowers have been blown up, and here and there a tiny garden has been laid out by the capricious winds on certain wide hemlock leaves: the fringes of yonder cornice is a waste of lilies. As we try to realise detail after detail the heart is almost pained by the excessive beauty of all this petrified bloom, stretching away over flying buttresses, and breaking out in column and architrave, and the eye at last turns away weary with wonder.

A few more steps up the dark tower and we are in a large dim space, illuminated only by the feeblest glimmer. Around us and overhead rise huge timbers, inclining towards each other at every possible angle, and hewn, centuries ago, from the neighbouring forests, which have long since disappeared. They support the roof of the building. Just glancing through a trap door at our feet we seem to look some miles down into another world. A few foreshortened, but moving specks, we are told are people on the floor of the cathedral, and a bunch of tiny tubes about the size of a pan-pipe really belong to an organ of immense size and power.

At this moment a noise like a powerful engine in motion recalls our attention to the tower. The great clock is about to strike, and begins to prepare by winding itself up five minutes before the hour. Groping amongst the wilderness of cross beams and timbers, we reach another staircase, which leads to a vast square but lofty fabric, filled with the same mighty scaffolding. Are not these most dull and dreary solitudes—the dust of ages lies everywhere around us, and the place which now receives the print of our feet has, perhaps, not been touched for five hundred years? And yet these ancient towers and the inner heights and recesses of these old roofs and belfries soon acquire a strong hold on the few who care to explore them. Lonely and deserted as they may appear, there are hardly five minutes of the day or night up there that do not see strange sights or hear strange sounds.

As the eye gets accustomed to the twilight we may watch the large bats fit by. Every now and then a poor lost bird darts about, screaming wildly, like a soul in Purgatory that cannot find its way out. Then we may come on an ancient rat, who seems as much at home there as if he had taken a lease of the roof for ninety-nine years. We have been assured by the carillonneur at Louvain that both rats and mice are not uncommon at such considerable elevations.

Overhead hang the huge bells, several of which are devoted to the clock—others are rung by hand from below, whilst somewhere near, besides the clock machinery, there will be a room fitted up like a vast musical box, containing a barrel, which acts upon thirty or forty of the bells up in the tower, and plays tunes every hour of the day and night.

You cannot pass many minutes in such a place without the clicking of machinery, and the chiming of some bell—even the quarters are divided by two or three notes or half-quarter bells. Double the number are rung for the quarter, four times as many for the half-hour, whilst at the hour a storm of music breaks from such towers as Mechlin and Antwerp, and continues for three or four minutes to float for miles over the surrounding country.

The bells with their elaborate and complicated apparatus, are the life of these old towers—a life that goes on from century to century, undisturbed by many a convulsion in the streets below. These patriarchs, in their tower, hold constant converse with man, but they are not of him; they call him to his duties, they vibrate to his woes and joys, his perils and victories, but they are at once sympathetic and passionless; chiming at his will, but hanging far above him: ringing out the old generation, and ringing in the new, with a mechanical, almost oppressive, regularity, and an iron constancy which often makes them and their grey towers the most revered and ancient things in a large city.

The great clock strikes—it is the only music except the thunder that can fill the air. Indeed, there is something almost elemental in the sound of these colossal and many-centured bells. As the wind howls at night through their belfries, the great beams seem to groan with delight, the heavy wheels which sway the bells begin to move and creak; and the enormous clappers swing slowly, as though longing to respond before the time.

At Tournay there is a famous old belfry. It dates from the twelfth century, and is said to be built on a Roman base. It now possesses forty bells. It commands the town, and the country round, and from its summit is obtained a near view of the largest and finest cathedral in Belgium with its five magnificent towers. Four brothers guard the summit of the belfry at Tournay, and relieve each other, day and night, at intervals of ten hours. All through the night a light is seen burning in the topmost gallery, and when a fire breaks out the tocsin, or big bell, is tolled up aloft by the watchman. He is never allowed to sleep—indeed, as he informed us, showing us his scanty accommodation, it would be difficult to sleep up there. On stormy nights a whirlwind seems to select that watchman and his tower for its most violent attacks: the darkness is often so great that nothing of the town below can be seen. The tower rocks to and fro, and startled birds dash themselves upon the shaking light, like sea-birds upon a lighthouse lantern.

(Continued on page 579.)

ALL HALLOWS', BARKING.**A FAMOUS CITY CHURCH.**

One of the churches destroyed in the great fire raid on the City of London during the night of the last Sunday of the year 1940 was All Hallows', Barking, by the Tower. It was a church well known to the general public, but though it had a ring of eight bells they had not been used for some long time.

Saint Erkenwald, the fourth Bishop of London, founded a monastery for women at Barking, in Essex, and appointed his sister the first abbess. He endowed it with fifteen acres of land to the west of the Tower of London, and there in the year 675 a church was built which was served from the abbey, and so got the name of All Hallows', Barking.

It was rebuilt and altered several times, and most of the building, which was standing a few weeks ago, belonged to the Perpendicular style of Gothic architecture.

On January 4th, 1649, a man in the neighbourhood had twenty-seven barrels of gunpowder in his shop, which caught fire and blew up, causing great loss of life and damage to the surrounding property. The glass in the church was shattered and the tower so damaged that it was considered unsafe, but for some time nothing was done.

At a vestry meeting, held on May 12th, 1657, the churchwardens, for the second time, appealed to the vestry on account of the dangerous condition of the tower, and the subject was again deferred for further consideration.

On April 17th, 1658, the churchwardens brought before the vestry drafts and plans for a new tower, as well as a plan for repairing the old one, with a statement of the cost.

After much debate the vestry selected the draft from Samuel Hyne, a bricklayer, and resolved that the work should forthwith be put in hand. The old steeple was ordered to be pulled down and the new tower to be built at the west end of the nave instead of at the west end of the south aisle. The rebuilding seems to have given trouble from want of means and the difficulty of raising funds, and at a vestry held on July 12th, 1659, the churchwardens were authorised to mortgage certain estates and so get sufficient money to go on with. The whole sum collected was £730 16s. 3d., made up as follows—

	£	s.	d.
Parish Stock, balance in hand	279	15	0
Collected among inhabitants	201	1	3
Mortgaged Property	250	0	0

£730 16 3

The expenditure included £417 for the bricklayer, £105 for new bells and frame, £61 10s. for the carpenter, and £20 for a clerk.

The new tower was of brick, from the design submitted by the bricklayer; and it looked like it, for it was a plain, not to say ugly, building. But those were the days of

the Commonwealth, when art was somewhat under a cloud.

There had been five bells in the old tower, and they were hung in the new, with addition of a sixth. Who was the founder, we do not know.

All Hallows' escaped the fire of 1666, but very narrowly. 'I lay down in the office again,' wrote Samuel Pepys, 'being mightily weary and sore in my feet, with going till I was hardly able to stand. About two in the morning my wife calls me up, and tells me of new cries of fire, it being come to Barking Church which is at the bottom of our lane. I up, and finding it so, resolved presently to take her away, and did, and took my gold which was about £2,350. Home, and whereas I expected to have seen our house on fire, it being now about seven o'clock, it was not. I find, by blowing up of houses and the great help given by the workmen out of the King's yard sent up by Sir W. Pen, there is a good stop given to it as well at Marke-lane end as ours; it having only burned the dyall of Barking Church and part of the porch, and was there quenched.'

Rings of six do not figure much in ringing records, and we have no account of any performance at All Hallows' during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, except that the Rambling Ringers went there on December 27th, 1733, and rang two 720's—one Treble Bob, the other Plain. But the names of two men fairly well known in the history of ringing occur in connection with the church. By his last will Michael Darbie left £50 to the parish to buy three gowns every Christmas for ever for three poor men or women. There is nothing to identify him absolutely with the bell founder, but the dates agree.

Until the late catastrophe there still remained in the church an elaborate wrought-iron sword-rest which recalled the connection of Slingsby Bethel with the parish. Bethel was a member of the Society of College Youths, he was Sheriff of London, and in 1756 Lord Mayor.

In 1813 the church was restored at a cost of £5,313, raised by voluntary subscription, and a new ring of eight bells with a tenor of 19 cwt. was supplied by Thomas Mears, of Whitechapel, at a cost of £370, exclusive of the old metal.

The first peal on the bells was one of Grandsire by the Junior Society of Cumberland Youths rung on March 23rd, 1813. The first peal of Major was by the College Youths on May 22nd, 1815, and was composed and conducted by the younger George Gross, who was temporarily at variance with the Cumberland Youths.

After Gross had returned to his old society he called for them Reeves' peal of Oxford Treble Bob, containing 8,448 changes, which remained the longest length on the bells.

These three peals, and one of Bob Major rung on December 1st, 1823, were recorded on boards in the belfry.

All Hallows' bells had been out of ringing order for many years, and there had been little or no ringing on them since before the last war.

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DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 571.)

At Kirkoswald, Cumberland, the tower of St. Oswald's Church stands on top of a hill, two hundred yards distant from the church. It contains two bells, which can be heard for a long distance.

I was wrong in stating in my list of towers (p. 317) that Chittlehampton, Devon, had a detached tower. This is not so, the fine Perpendicular tower being attached to the west end of the church. Devon has, however, a detached tower at Newton Abbot. The embattled tower of the old chapel of St. Leonard—which was demolished in 1836—still stands at the east end of Wolborough Street. It is of Early English period and is about 80 feet high. It was restored in 1874 and contains a clock and eight bells placed there in 1887, in commemoration of Queen Victoria's Jubilee. St. Mary's Church, Wolborough, standing on an elevated position more than half a mile south of the town, is an ancient building with a west tower also containing eight bells.

Durham has its detached belfry at Middleton-in-Teesdale, where the tower of the old church stands away on the north side of the new church. It contains three bells, one of which, with an invocatory inscription, is dated 1557.

At Henllan, Denbigh, the tower is separate from the church, but I cannot say how many bells there are therein.

According to the 'Church Bells of Essex,' Hempstead in that county had 5+1 bells. The tower fell on January 28th, 1882, and since that time No. 1 and No. 4 bells have hung in a shed in the churchyard: the tenor had its cannon broken in its fall, and this and the clock bell are still unhung in the churchyard. The 2nd had a piece broken out of the rim. As early as 1552 there were here 'iiij belles in the steple by estimation of xli^e weight the Sanctus bell xxx^{li} weight ffor the w^{ch} belles there is owing to the sayde Robert Mordaunt at this Daie xx^{li} xvjs^s jd ob: as it shall apere by the church boke.'

At Wix, Essex, there is a detached wooden 'bell-house' situated in the centre of the churchyard. It has one bell cast by John Danyell, of London. In 1552 we read 'Wycks—such ornaments as be remayning still in oure church and churchyarde. It iiij bells in the stepyle wth a litile bell in the chawncel.' Two handbells were sold to 'Thomas Chawes the peterer dwellyng in Lawforde,' and the account adds 'which money wth the said bells are dd. to Nicholas Steward to the King's use, and the residew of the p'myses which do remayne are dd. to the churchwardens ther for dyvyne s'vyce.'

At Wrabness, Essex, the church of All Saints is a plain building of rubble, consisting of nave, chancel and south porch. The 'belfry' is a picturesque ivy-clad structure, standing detached in the churchyard and containing one bell. It weighs 4 cwt. 2 qr. 17 lb., its note E, and was cast by J. Warner and Sons in 1854.

Essex also has a semi-detached tower at Epping, St. John-the-Baptist. The site of this church, which was erected in 1889 and constituted the parish church in lieu of All Saints at Epping Upland, is that of the Mass Chapel erected by William I. by charter (1177). Henry II. granted the chapel to the Monks of Waltham Abbey. In 1547 Edward VI. seized all 'free' chapels, and this was included. It was thereupon vested in trustees and

subject to the Bishop of London. The present church is in the Gothic style of the 14th century and its square tower with projecting clock contains a fine ring of eight bells. Tenor 20 cwt. in E flat. The tower, although an independent building, is joined to the main fabric of the church by a low vestry. The east window, reredos, organ and rood screen, as well as the tower, were presented by E. J. Wythes, Esq. Before the tower was built there was one bell, cast by William Whitmore, of Watford, inscribed: 'William Lord Graye of Warke, 1650,' and it used to hang in a frame on a shed at the south-west of the new church. William Lord Graye purchased the Manor of Epping in 1635. He died in 1674 and is here buried.

The church of St. Cyfelach, Llangyfelach, Glamorgan, has a detached tower to the south side which belonged to an earlier church. It contains a ring of 4 bells.

Gloucestershire has two examples—Berkeley (10 bells) and Westbury-on-Severn (6 bells). With regard to Berkeley tower there is a tradition that it was built apart from the church by order of Lord Berkeley, so as to be further away from his castle, the top of the tower being liable—in case of war—to be used as a point of vantage to any foe. Originally four bells from the famous Gloucester foundry of Rudhall, they were increased to six by T. Mears in 1842. In 1900 these bells, being in bad repair, were restored and two trebles added, and all rehung in an iron frame by T. Blackbourne, of Salisbury. To these a further two were added as a war memorial by and to members of the Gloucester and Bristol Association, making the present ring of ten. At Westbury-on-Severn, the church of SS. Peter and Paul has a detached tower on the north side, 50 feet distant from the church. It has a wooden broach spire 153 feet high, and contains a clock presented in 1845, and six bells, all cast in 1711 by A. Rudhall, the tenor being recast by John Rudhall, 1825. In 1887 these were rehung and one recast at the expense of the Misses Crawley, of Hempstead. On the south-west buttress of the tower is an 18th century sundial inscribed 'Fugax est ætas,' and lower down, incised on stone, radiating lines of a mediæval dial which marked the canonical hours of prayer. A singular network of great oak beams form the skeleton of the octagonal spire. Damaged by terrific storms in 1662, it was shingled in 1664, and again in 1680 with staves of disused cider barrels which the churchwardens bought and utilised for the purpose. The tower was built in 1270. In 1937 the spire was re-shingled, to the cost of which the Pilgrim Trust contributed. Let us hope the inscription on the treble bell will soon again be fulfilled:—'LET VS RING FOR PEACE MERRILY A.R. 1741.'

Holy Trinity, Gosport, Hants, built in 1696 and since enlarged, is of brick with stucco dressings of Ionic order, has a detached tower at the north-west angle, erected in 1889 by the Rev. W. L. Nichols, and containing eight bells and a clock. The bells are by Mears and Stainbank (1890), with a tenor 9 cwt. 11 lbs. The present Vicar says: 'Our detached campanile was built away from the church for the reason that the swaying caused by the bells would have weakened the fabric of the church itself, and I very much suspect that the authorities would not allow it to be built on. There is no passage between it and the tower. The belfry would have been better had there been six bells instead of eight. One

(Continued on next page.)

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — A meeting will be held at Newcastle-under-Lyme, on Saturday, Jan. 2nd, at 3.30 p.m. Handbells available. Tea will be arranged, at Burgess Cafe, 5 p.m., for all who notify me not later than Dec. 29th.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The annual meeting will be held at headquarters, Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City, on Saturday, January 2nd, at 6.15 p.m. prompt.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

GREETINGS.

Christmas greetings and good wishes for 1943 to all ringing friends.—From ringers of Bagshot, Surrey.

Greetings and all good wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all ringing friends from Mr. and Mrs. James E. Davis, 118, Sarsfield Road, Balham, S.W.12.

To ringing friends and acquaintances: Christmas and New Year greetings. — (Gnr.) C. W. Denyer, R.A. (Aldershot).

Old days, old times, old friends, old pleasures! It's joy to think of these and to wish you new joy in the same old way. — Mr. and Mrs. F. I. Hairs, Burgess Hill, Sussex.

Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Harris send greetings and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all friends, especially those whom they met and hope (D.V.) to meet again on the Bristol tours.—Woburn, Beds.

The Methods Committee send greetings to all members of the Central Council and other friends.—Ernest C. S. Turner, J. A. Trollope.

Kind thoughts and seasonable greetings to all my old ringing friends, with very happy memories of pleasant times spent in days long since past. — From Chas. J. North, Norton Cottage, West Street, Selsey-on-Sea, Sussex.

To all ringing friends, far and near, a happy Christmas is the sincere wish of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Pulling, Royal Grammar School, Guildford, Surrey.

Swansea and Brecon Guild.—Southern District. — To all members and friends, best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.—E. Stitch, 21, Cambrian Place, Port Talbot, Glam.

All best wishes for Christmas and the coming year to all our ringing friends, at home and overseas, from all at Glyn Garth, Surfleet.

Harry Hoskins offers Christmas greetings and best wishes to all ringing friends at home and abroad.

Sincere greetings to all my ringing friends, and may our hopes and dreams come true, viz., Christmas bells again, 1942.—W. Spice, sen., Tunstall, Kent.

Greetings and best wishes for Christmas and a peaceful New Year to all ringing friends, from Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Swann, 5, Heathlands Road, Sutton Coldfield.

A quiet Christmas and a happier New Year to all ringing friends is the sincere wish of A. Harman, 27, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead.

Christmas and New Year greetings to all ringing friends from Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

To all my friends, best wishes for Christmas, and may the New Year bring peace and happiness.—Fred Price, 174, Marsh Lane, Erdington, Birmingham, 23.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all my ringing friends.—B. Rayfield (Miss).

The Bristol Branch of the G. & B.D.A. send sincere greetings for Christmas and the New Year to all our members now serving with H.M. Forces, and Godspeed for a safe and speedy return to home and ringing.—A. Bennett, Chairman; W. S. Emery, Hon. Secretary.

To all College Youths and friends at home and abroad, greetings and best wishes from Ernest G. Fenn, Master; Alfred B. Peck, Hon. Secretary; Albert A. Hughes, Hon. Treasurer.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all friends, from Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Coles, 21 Vincent Road, Highbury Park, E.

DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

(Continued from previous page.)

bell has special wheels to take the rope round two corners and the result is there is not enough room for comfortable ringing.

At Quarley, Hants, the three bells are hung in low frames in the churchyard. They are tolled from the vestry by strings and pulleys. One is an ancient 'Ave Maria' recast by Mears and Stainbank; another is also a mediæval one with similar inscription; and the third says 'Love God 1636 I.D.'

One isolated Hampshire tower not given in my first list is that at Foxcott, formerly a separate parish, but now included in Andover. The church—not dedicated—was a building of flint with stone quoins in the Early English-Lancet style, with a south-west tower and octagonal spire containing a clock and two bells. The chancel and nave were taken down and re-erected at Charlton, but the tower was left standing. Of the two bells, one is hung and this is inscribed 'James Wells Albourn Wilts me fecit 1808'; the other is not hung and stands on the floor. It is inscribed '+ Iohannea, the letters meaning 'Johannes' and the whole is backward. The cross is that as used by Robert Norton, of Exeter, about the year 1400.

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