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THE ACOUSTICS OF THE BELFRY.

If ringing is to be done in such a way that it can give satisfaction to the band and pleasure to the outside public, it is essential that each man should hear clearly and distinctly his own bell, and also all the bells as a complete ring. This will seem to many readers so obvious as to be not much more than a platitude, but it is a matter which has not received nearly so much attention as it should have done. There are far too many belfries where the bells are too noisy, or where they cannot be heard sufficiently, or where the sound is unequal or is spoilt by other and alien noises.

That a noisy belfry is uncomfortable and unpleasing needs no labouring. There are many rings of bells, good and musical when heard outside, which inside are harsh and disagreeable because of some defect in the structure of the belfry. How can a ringer in such a case get the satisfaction which he desires from the music and rhythm of the changes, and which is one of the greatest attractions of his art?

On the other hand, there are belfries where the sound of the bells is little more than just audible, and, though this defect does not usually repel a ringer so much as excessive noise, the effect on the quality of his work is much more marked. A man cannot ring and strike tolerably well unless he can hear clearly and distinctly his own bell and the others. If he is a skilled ringer and a good striker who has had experience of all sorts of belfries, he will quite likely hear, and hear distinctly, bells which are almost inaudible, but he must have gained his skill in places where the hearing is good. It is almost invariably the case that a band or a man who has learnt ringing in a belfry where the hearing is defective, or has for long practised in one, is faulty in striking and lacking in the knowledge and appreciation of what good striking should and can be. The classic example of this is the old Painswick band of the last century, who, notwithstanding their fine and outstanding feats, had but a poor reputation among the ringers of England. It is much better for a band if there is too much noise in their belfry than too little.

Another defect is the rattle of ropes in guides and pullies; and yet another when one or more bells sound much louder than the others. All these things take away from the pleasure of ringing, and because they hinder good striking take away from the outsiders' pleasure of hearing.

(Continued on page 2.)

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These defects are common enough, and generally ringers do their best to put up with them because they think they cannot be helped. They get used to them and to a large extent ignore them. Ignoring them, they not seldom ignore also the bad habits they foster.

It is unfortunately true that in very many instances any improvement is beyond the power of the ringers. New towers, where the ringing chamber is directly beneath the bell chamber, and when brick and concrete are used in the construction, can hardly fail to be too noisy. The bell chamber floor may be covered with sawdust, but that has little effect, for the sound comes through the rope holes.

When the bells are hung in two tiers the upper ones often sound too faintly in the belfry; when the ringing is done from the ground with two or three floors between bells and ringers, the hearing often is imperfect. The position of staircase and trapdoors, shoots for clock weights, and suchlike, may affect the even sounding of the peal.

Some of these things are practically incurable. They are due to ignorance and indifference on the part of architects and will not be eradicated until the profession has learnt that a steeple may have to be a house for hanging bells in and not merely an external ornament.

Some of the defects are curable, but only by the expenditure of money and the services of qualified advisers and workmen. At a time like this no such improvements can be thought of. All that can be done is to bring to the attention of the responsible persons the necessity when any repairs and alterations are being carried out, when for instance any damage caused by air raids is being made good.

But there are many small things ringers can do themselves. They can test the effect of opening or closing doors on staircases, of adjusting trapdoors, of putting down sacking or sawdust under some of the bells, of oiling pulleys, devising means to stop the rattle of the ropes, and other small things. Chiefly they should not ignore the handicap they suffer from, but recognise it and do their best to see that it does not affect their striking.

GREAT PAUL.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The query in the last article about the chiming of Great Paul by two men was well founded. In 1884 I got leave to go up at 1 o'clock. The levers were beams of wood fastened across each end of the stock, projecting equally on both sides of the bells, but to each of them on one side of it were hung two ropes, so that four men did the chiming.

As a photograph cut from some periodical shows, she has since that been rehung, very much tucked up in an iron stock of horseshoe shape, and you can now hear from outside that she is swinging high enough to clapper on both sides. My picture shows no levers nor wheel, and the gudgeons are at the level of the waist. W. C. B.

THE PEAL AT LEICESTER

The peal of Stedman Triples at Leicester, reported on another page, was rung as a compliment to Mr. Thomas Taylor, the ringer of the tenor, on the eve of his 85th birthday. He has been a ringer at the church for 60 years, and, though he never aspired to be an inside man, he has been an excellent tenor man and has covered many fine peals of Triples, Caters and Cinques. His first peal was in 1901. Later at an informal gathering a cheque was presented to Mr. Taylor, who still acts as steeplekeeper. Those taking part in the peal represented an average of just over 30 years' service as ringers at the Cathedral.

The peal was the first peal of Triples on the bells and in the present tower. One was rung in the old tower in 1837.

NORTH MYMMS.—For Christmas morning service, 1,260 Stedman Triples: F. Nash 1, C. Nash 2, T. J. Lock 3, C. F. Sayer 4, A. W. Coles (conductor) 5, C. Nash 6, J. C. Mellor 7, W. Tyler 8.

TEN BELL PEAL.

CLAINES, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(WESTERN BRANCH)

On Monday, December 27, 1943, in Three Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes.

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

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5030 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

*ERNEST WILSON Treble	*DENNIS R. SAYERS 6
GEORGE E. LARGE 2	*RAYMOND C. SAYERS 7
SIDNEY T. HOLT 3	*RALPH W. SAYERS 8
REGINALD WOODVATT 4	CHARLES J. CAMM 9
ALLEN MORGAN 5	FREDERICK G. YATES Tenor

Composed by JOSEPH PIGOTT. Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

* First peal on ten bells. First peal on the ten, the trebles of which were added just prior to the ban on ringing in 1940.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(LICHSTER CATHEDRAL SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, December 18, 1943, in Three Hours,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

DIXTER'S VARIATION.

Tenor 10 cwt.

HAROLD J. POOLE Treble	PERCY L. HARRISON 5
LOUIS E. ALLEN 2	SHIRLEY BURTON 6
HAROLD G. JENNEY 3	HARRY BROUGHTON 7
L/SEAMAN C. W. RAWSON 4	THOMAS TAYLOR Tenor

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Rung on the middle octave.

CRAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, December 27, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAULINUS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

EDWIN BARNETT Treble	FREDERICK J. CULLUM 5
JAMES BENNETT 2	FREDERICK A. COLEY 6
*WILLIAM L. B. LEESE 3	HERBERT A. HOLDEN 7
JOHN E. SPICK 4	PHILIP A. CORBY Tenor

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS.

Conducted by P. A. CORBY.

* First peal in the method on tower bells.

HINTON-ON-THE-GREEN, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(SOUTHERN BRANCH.)

On Monday, December 27, 1943, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION.

Tenor 10½ cwt.

RALPH HARRIS Treble	JOSEPH D. JOHNSON 5
JOSEPH E. NEWMAN 2	*HAROLD STREETS 6
JOHN HALL 3	G. OFFREY J. HEMMING 7
FRANK SADLER 4	ARTHUR J. TAYLOR Tenor

Conducted by JOSEPH D. JOHNSON.

* First peal of Stedman Triples. Rung as the branch quarterly peal.

ADDERBURY, OXON.

THE UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, December 31, 1943, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

WILLIAM LEESE (Oxford) Treble	REV A. G. G. THURLOW
MISS M. CROSS (Reading) 2	(Cambridge) 5
*REV M. C. C. MELVILLE	R. GORDON CROSS (Reading) 6
(Birmingham) 3	FRANK HAYNE (Cambridge) 7
JOHN E. SPICK (Oxford) ... 4	REV ELLIOTT WIGG (Oxford) Tenor

Composed by J. HUNT.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICK.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method as conductor. The first tower-bell peal for the association.

BUCKLAND, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 1, 1944, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes.

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

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... Treble	REV A. G. G. THURLOW ... 5
*WILLIAM C. PORTER 2	R. GORDON CROSS 6
REV M. C. C. MELVILLE 3	J. HOWARD R. FREEBORN ... 7
*NEIL ALLNATT 4	WALTER F. JUDGE Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK.

Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE

* First peal in the method.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, January 1, 1944, in Three Hours and One Minute.

AT THE CHURCH OF BISHOP RIDER,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

JOHNSON'S VARIATION OF MIDDLETON'S.

Tenor 13½ cwt.

ERNEST T. ALLAWAY ... Treble	WILLIAM C. DOWDING ... 5
HENRY H. FEARN 2	FRANK W. PERRENS 6
GEORGE E. FEARN 3	NELSON ELLIOTT, R.A.F. ... 7
DANIEL T. MATEIN 4	FRANK E. PERVIN Tenor

Conducted by FRANK W. PERRENS.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, December 18, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes.

AT THE TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOR STREET, CITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES;

HERBERT C. SPENCER ... 1-2	FRANK E. PERVIN 5-6
FRANK W. PERRENS 3-4	ALBERT WALKER 7-8

GEORGE E. FEARN ... 9-10

Composed by J. E. GROVES. Conducted by FRANK W. PERRENS.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 28, 1943, in Three Hours and Two Minutes.

IN THE BUIFV OF ST. MARTIN'S CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

ALFRED BALLARD 1-2	ERNEST MORRIS 7-8
MISS JILL POOLE 3-4	HAROLD J. POOLE 9-10
PERCY L. HARRISON 5-6	JOSIAH MORRIS 11-12

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

LEEDS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 29, 1943, in Two Hours and One Minute.

AT 57, THE HEADROW,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

MISS L. KATHLEEN BOWLING 1-2	WILLIAM BARTON 5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4	PERCY J. JOHNSON 7-8

Composed by GEORGE LEWIS. Conducted by WILLIAM BARTON.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, December 30, 1943, in One Hour and Fifty-Eight Minutes.

AT 116, ALMA ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty six-scores, ten callings, and one Morris' 240.

JOHN V DAVIS 1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS 3-4
*PERCY W. BRAYSHAW ... 5-6	

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* First peal, aged 14 years.

HARLOW COMMON. — On Sunday, December 26th, 1280 Kent Treble Bob Major: Lewis Whitby 1, Fred Whitby 2, Ben Copping 3, Vincent Tipton 4, Robert Springham 5, Lewis Cordell 6, Stanley Clark 7, William Wheeler (conductor) 8.

HANDLING A BELL.

(Continued from page 570.)

As we have pointed out, the energy used by a man in ringing a bell is derived from his own weight, and the means by which he applies that energy is the 'rope,' which consists partly of the portion of the hempen rope which extends from the wheel to the man's hands, and partly of the man's arms and body.

The action of applying the energy consists partly of lowering the hands by bending the arms at the elbows and shoulders, and partly of dropping the weight of the body by bending at the waist and the knees. If the man is holding the rope correctly and standing correctly, both these actions will have an immediate effect.

The first action—that of lowering the hands—is done by muscular contraction, and here the muscularly strong man has a great advantage. His reserve of potential energy for ringing the bell is no greater than that of the weaker man of the same weight; but he can use it to better advantage; for potential energy remains only potential unless it can be applied. We can find a good illustration of this in the ordinary church clocks. If we ask a ringer what is the force which drives the clock in his steeple, he will answer 'the weights'—and he will be right. No other energy is used to make the clock go than gravity acting on the weights, but by themselves the weights can do nothing; they have first to be put into the proper position—in fact, the clock must be wound up. That takes a considerable amount of energy; it is essential for the going of the clock, but does not in itself help to drive it.

In a very similar way the muscular strength used by the man does not actually supply the energy required to ring a bell, but does make the energy supplied by the man's weight available.

In the other action, that of lowering the body, the man's weight is more directly brought to bear on the rope. There is less muscular action and consequently less fatigue. But only by lowering the hands can the weight of the body be brought to bear quickly on the rope, and this must always be the first movement, the other being used to a greater or less extent to supplement and assist it.

Two important points follow from all this. The first is that, unless the man grasps his sally at the highest convenient point before he makes his pull, he cannot use the energy he possesses to the best advantage. For if his arms are already bent at elbow and shoulder the extent to which they can be bent further is much restricted, and therefore his ability to apply his weight to the rope is much reduced. The second point is that, unless the man stands properly, he cannot, by bending at waist and knees, at once bring his weight on to the rope. Correct handling is not merely a question of graceful style and action, it is a question of applying the energy the man possesses in the best and most economical manner and so as to produce the best results.

It will not do to say that the reserve of energy possessed by any man is much more than is sufficient to ring average bells with modern hanging, and that therefore a certain amount of waste due to faulty handling and stance is of no importance; for to be able to ring and strike a bell properly, or even tolerably, a man must not only be able to exert enough energy, but he must be able

to exert it at exactly the right time, and he must not exert more than a minimum above what is necessary.

Two things, then, are of vital importance. One is the strength of pull a man applies to the rope, and the other is the point of time at which he applies it. Unless he has complete control of these two things, the man cannot call himself a competent ringer. They are quite distinct, and they serve distinct ends; accuracy in one will not compensate for faultiness in the other.

So far as the ringer is concerned the point at which the bell speaks is decided by the time at which he makes his pull—by that and by nothing else—and therefore if the man is to be a good striker it is essential that he should know exactly when to make his pull. Perhaps the word 'know' is not the really correct one. Let us say that the man should *feel* what is the minutely correct time to pull. We exclude from the ranks of really competent ringers all those who have no other standard of striking than that their sally should follow the preceding one at a definite visual interval. Something better than that is needed if a man is to be anything like a decent striker except by accident.

There are two points connected with the bell itself which must be noted. The first is that the speed at which the bell swings is decided by gravity conditioned by the way the bell is hung and the state of the bearings. The ringer himself has no control and cannot affect the bell's speed in any way. We are writing from a practical point of view. We are not prepared to dispute with a man who should maintain that the more or less amount of energy added by the ringer's pull must in theory affect the rate at which the bell travels. We put aside the case of very light bells hung in ball bearings. We are quite sure from practical experience and observation that an ordinary bell when rung up always travels at the same speed, and that the difference in the rate of striking is decided by nothing except the length of the arc in which the bell moves. The ringer cannot control the speed of the bell; he can control the length of the arc in which it swings.

The second thing to note is that the bell always speaks at a definite point in its upward swing and at a time when it is entirely beyond the control of the ringer. That point cannot be hastened by extra pulling when the bell starts its downward swing, nor by checking during its upward swing. Some people think it can, and we have heard it argued that, not only the time of speaking, but the intensity of the blow can be affected by hard pulling and hard checking. We are quite sure that view is wrong. The only thing the ringer can control is the exact time at which the bell starts its downward swing and on that he should concentrate his attention.

But a moment's thought will show that, though this point of time must be an absolutely definite one for the ringer, it is not a fixed one. The definitely fixed point is the one at which the clapper makes contact with the bell, and to reach it at the exact instant the bell, when it is travelling in a large arc, must start earlier than when it is travelling in a shorter arc, and the ringer must be able to adjust the time of his pull to the difference.

We begin to realise now what very minute portions of time are involved in good striking. This has been pointed out before. In the preface to the last edition of Henry Hubbard's 'Campanalogia,' published in 1876, there is a note (which we may perhaps attribute to the

suggestion of Jasper Snowdon, who helped the author), 'It is almost incredible what extremely small portions of time are forced upon the observations in change ringing. Assuming a quarter of a second to elapse between the striking of any two bells (which supposition is very near the truth), it will appear that an error of a quarter of that space, too quick or too slow, would be distinctly felt and heard by an experienced ringer, and hence the sixteenth part of a second becomes an appreciable quantity.' Add what we said just before and we get some idea of the degree of accuracy and delicacy of handling and pulling which is needed in really good ringing. In fact, in the very best striking (which is as rare as it is delightful to listen to) there comes a stage when it is not so much a question of measurable intervals of time as of expression; just as it is in the case of good instrumental music.

Such excellence cannot be taught; it can only be acquired by the man or the band which strives earnestly for the highest and after long practice. It requires complete co-ordination of arms, and eyes, and ears; and one essential is that the bell shall be so handled that it responds instantly to what is passing through the ringer's brain, in the same way that the ivory keys do to what is passing through the brain of the pianist.

(To be continued.)

DEATH OF MR. G. P. HAWKINS.

The death is announced of Mr. G. P. Hawkins, of Hawley, who in the days of the old Winchester Diocesan Guild was well known in Hampshire as ringer, conductor and composer. He was a pupil of Mr. Frank Bennett and among his peals was the first in which Mr. Alfred Pulling took part, one at Yateley in which all the ringers were men born in the parish and baptised in the font round which they rang, and the first peals on Yorktown and Yateley bells. He and his brother did much to advance ringing in North Hants.

ST. MARY MATFELON, WHITECHAPEL.

THE STORY OF A PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The last paragraph of your article on this church says, 'Whitechapel bells were difficult to ring owing to the sway of the tower,' etc. I can well vouch for this, having on one occasion had the pleasure of ringing the tenor to a peal.

Before taking my present position at St. Margaret's Church, Leicester, I was for many years employed by a firm of leather merchants, and on several occasions journeyed to London on business, one of the calls being in Whitechapel Road, about opposite to St. Mary's Church. Mr. C. T. Coles once fixed up a peal for me there on a Thursday evening, it being one of the very few churches the late W. Pye had not up to then rung a peal in. On ascending the tower various members of the band tried their ropes, and I noticed none took the 7th or tenor. Asking if any special ringer wanted the tenor and receiving a negative reply, I tried it. It was just right length and I set it first pull, so decided to ring it. Thinking it a simple job to ring it behind a peal of Stedman Triples, I never even rolled my sleeves up, nor took off my collar, which was a stiff starched one.

W. Pye came in very late and his first remark was, 'Whose on tenor?' to which Mr. Coles said, 'Ernest.' He did not make any further comment, but took the 7th and away we started. All went well for a short spell when—down went 7th and I followed (a train had gone by underground and tried to take the church with it!) After several spells like this I noticed a watch hanging on the wall, and every now and then it swung like a pendulum. As the peal progressed, sweat began to pour off me, and the periodic lurches of the tower as trains went by began to tell on my strength.

At the third quarter-peal end, Mr. Coles, who was ringing treble and conducting, said to me, 'Are you all right, Ernest?' I did not answer—just nodded—grimly determined to do or die. I simply must not let Leicester down. Every course I watched the 7th in slow, in quick, and thought—that's one less. In the very last course I felt that if the tower shifted again I should collapse, and—lo and behold—it did, but leaning on the rope (I had no strength left in my arms) I made one last desperate effort and we got the peal. My stiff-starched collar was like a wet rag, and so was my shirt—my condition was indescribable.

It was a standing joke for years after, and although Mr. Coles promised to fix me a peal at Whitechapel any time I liked—needless to say, I never took on again.

ERNEST MORRIS.

Leicester.

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45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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the office for 4s. 3d. per quarter payable in advance.

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'The Ringing World.'

The peal of Double Norwich at Crayford was rung on the twenty-sixth anniversary of Mr. F. J. Cullum's first peal. He rang the same bell on both occasions.

The peal of Reverse Bob Royal, rung at Sittingbourne on December 23rd, was the first in the method on ten bells and on handbells. Tower-bell peals of Reverse Bob Royal were rung in the eighteenth century, the first by the College Youths at St. Margaret's, Westminster, in 1761.

SILVER BELL FOR 'ARK ROYAL'

THE FIRST LORD AT CROYDON.

Presented by officers and men of the old 'Ark Royal,' a silver bell weighing over two hundredweights was cast on December 17th by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston for the new 'Ark' in the presence of the First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. A. V. Alexander.

Accompanied by his wife, senior naval officers, the Mayor and Mayoress of Croydon (Councillor and Mrs. A. L. Boddington), Sir Herbert Williams, the Town Clerk (Mr. E. Taberner) and Dr. and Mrs. Newnham, the First Lord toured the factory, chatting to the workers and signing autographs.

As he entered the main workshop he was saluted by a guard of honour, composed of officers and ratings who had served on the old 'Ark Royal.'

The approximate cost of the bell will be £600, which will be provided by canteen funds. Made of sterling silver, the bell will be engraved with the 'Ark Royal' badge and will probably have a list of the ship's former commanders and the actions in which she has fought inscribed on it.

The party were entertained to lunch in the works canteen by Mr. and Mrs. Cyril F. Johnston.

After lunch, the First Lord went back to the workshops and the machinery was stopped while he spoke to the workers.

At the beginning of the war, the political parties in the country had to combine 'for the plain primeval reason of saving our necks,' he said. 'We should be incredibly foolish if we did not take advantage of the lesson 'strength in unity' to combat the peace-time problems of unemployment, poverty and ignorance.'

'We must have a nation as willing to get together and fight these things as it was to save its neck when the enemy was about to land.'

The story of the gallantry and daring of the officers and crew of the old 'Ark' was an inspiration to all.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT CHILDWALL.

At a meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association, held at Childwall on December 11th, ringers were present from West Derby, St. Luke's and St. Nicholas', Liverpool, Woolton, Huyton, St. Helens and the local company.

The Vicar, the Rev. R. M. Hunter, conducted the service and gave an address. A full choir of men and boys led the singing. Tea was provided by some of the ringers and their wives. Apologies were received from Messrs. R. W. Cave and J. Ridyard. Mr. G. H. Hurst, of St. Helens, was elected a ringing member, and Mr. J. Tomsett's election prior to a peal was ratified. It was agreed to hold the next meeting at St. Francis Xavier's on January 15th if suitable arrangements can be made. The Rev. D. P. Roberts thanked the Vicar, the organist, the choir and the ladies.

THE GIRALDA BELLS, SEVILLE.

To the Editor.

RINGING AT TOLEDO.

Dear Sir,—Having some years ago visited the Cathedral of Toledo, where I ascended the tower and saw the bells, I should say that the conditions there are somewhat similar to those at the Giralda, and that the statements made regarding the performances there are somewhat fanciful.

At Toledo there are eight bells, suspended in the arches, two on each side, the largest probably weighing about a couple of tons, but there is apparently no relation between them as regards weight or note, the tones, so far as one could tell, being most discordant. In the centre of the tower is a large bell, 'Campana Gorda de Toledo,' probably weighing about 15 tons. This was cast to the order of Archbishop Don Luis de Borbon in 1753, and was duly baptised with great ceremony, being given the name of San Eugenio. The clapper is a most ornate piece of work, having no ball in the usual sense of the term, but being swelled out at the end, and most elaborately engraved. It now lies on the floor under the bell—my information being that the bell cracked at the first blow of the clapper—there is certainly a large piece out of it now—and the bell when struck emits a dull discordant roar.

As regards the ringing of the bells, now also stopped at Toledo, and the antics of the so-called ringers, my impression was that the bells are accurately counterbalanced, by what appear to be rather elaborate castings, rather in the nature of a flattened crown, on the opposite side of the headstock; and assuming that the bearings were efficient, there should be no greater difficulty in rotating a medium-sized bell, by means of a rope and a drum, than there would be in rotating, say, a flywheel, in the same manner. In fact, I have seen many smallish bells in the towers of churches or convents rotating quite fast, with the clappers falling from side to side as the bells go over and making a horrible noise. As far as I could ascertain, the ringing is usually done by means of a fairly long iron lever, to which the rope is attached. By pulling sufficiently hard on this, the momentum of the bell is increased until it goes right over, possibly more than once, the rope then coiling round the headstock, and with the bell still in motion it should not be impossible, by pulling hard on the rope, to get it going the opposite way, though not I should think by a small boy, and certainly an impossible feat with an 18 ton bell.

As regards the performance of swinging out with the bell, I rather think that what usually happened was that as the bell gained sufficient momentum to carry it over, the performer seized the counterbalance, leaped on to it, and was carried out and over the ground below, and in again, in one revolution—obviously a very dangerous performance, and now stopped.

Referring again to the question of counterbalancing, I have in my possession a photo of the tower of the Royal Monastery at Ona, which shows quite clearly three bells, two in the normal position and one lying exactly in the horizontal position, and I have myself seen bells left in this position, which shows that they are exactly counterbalanced, and should, therefore, be capable of being rotated without much difficulty.

J. E. LEWIS COCKEY.

Listoke, Edgehill Road, Ealing.

EVIDENCE FROM AN ILLUSTRATION.

Dear Sir,—There appear to be contradictory ideas about the manner of the bellringing at Seville. In my scrapbook I have a picture, taken, I believe, from Arthur Mee's children's pictorial newspaper of some years ago.

It is taken from a bellroom window, and pictures two others on that side of the tower. These window openings look about 15 to 18 feet tall, and 5 or 6 feet wide, and have no louvres. They appear to be at a height of between 200 and 300 feet, and the bullring, or a sports arena, can be seen in the near distance. The walls appear to be very thick, and the bells are hung between the window walls, and appear to be thick bells of 30 cwt. or more.

The ball of the clapper is diamond shaped, and instead of a clapper flight a stout ring has been forged, about 6 inches diameter, and the iron about 1½ inches thick.

To this ring are entwined straps or rope, forming two short loops, and the ringers have their hands through the loops, and clenched around ropes, thus locking loops on their wrists. The picture depicts the ringers flying backwards out of the tower, attached to the clapper, and the bells are apparently nearly stock high. The men are young and athletic (as they would need to be, and not subject to sea-sickness) and have a silk handkerchief round their head, a short multi-buttoned shell jacket, tight knee breeches, stockings (apparently silk) and low shoes.

No wheels or half-wheels are visible, and the stock or bearings cannot be seen, and the bell appears to be 18 inches beyond face of tower when stock high, with, of course, the ringer tailing away into space. There appears to be room, under the bell, for the ringer to clear the sill of window opening, when in crouching position, and doubtless they use it as a fulcrum to get the bell into full swing.

M. F. R. HIBBERT.

36, Herne Road, Bushey.

FIVE THOUSAND PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I quite expected that someone would write and question the footnote to the peal at Crayford on November 27th by drawing attention to those peals in the Kent County Association reports with an 'A' to their serial number, without taking any account of peals subsequently found to be false, for which no adjustment in the serial numbers has ever been made. When this has been done it will be seen that we were quite justified in stating what we believed the peal to be.

Mr. Richardson's statement that some peals in the peal books do not appear in the reports, and vice versa, is one, in fairness to the late Canon Helmore, he should either substantiate or withdraw. It is 34 years since the Kent County Association decided to discontinue keeping a peal book and to bind copies of the reports instead for record purposes.

With regard to the last paragraph in Mr. Richardson's letter, I doubt whether there is an eight-bell tower in Kent at which the association have not rung a peal at some time or other. The only possible one is Sandwich. A fairly recent eight at Tunbridge Wells is, I believe, hung dead.

E. BARNETT.

Crayford.

THE KENT ASSOCIATION RECORD.

Dear Sir,—As I was responsible for the footnote to the peal at Crayford, perhaps I can explain to Mr. Richardson how the estimate was arrived at.

The last peal in the latest report is quoted No. 4956. I quite agree that this makes no allowance for peals omitted in one report and published as, say, 1000a in the next, but at the same time no adjustment of serial numbers has ever been made for false peals. By balancing the former against those of the latter which have been notified, I came to the conclusion that the above peal, serial No. 4999, was, in fact, the 5,000th. If, as Mr. Richardson says, the peal book and reports do not agree, then the proviso 'believed to be' is even more justified, but it is rather a reflection on the officials responsible for the production of the reports if the printed record is not accurate. Of course, if Mr. Richardson, or anyone else for that matter, can produce documentary evidence that the peal was not the 5,000th, we shall be most happy to withdraw the claim.

As for his other query, the report shows an eight at St. Luke's, Tunbridge Wells; this is the only one in Kent where no peal has been rung.

With regard to Mr. Dennis Bayles' very interesting and courteous letter, I personally was aware that the Norwich Association had already scored over 5,000, but my father evidently overlooked this. While it in no way detracts from the merit of that achievement, Mr. Bayles will no doubt admit that the fact that for a good many years the association included both Norfolk and Suffolk in its area must have added considerably to its peals. For example, a letter in 'The Ringing World' of May 26th, 1939, quotes the totals for 1909-1914 as 136, 151, 181, 265, 291 and 156, an average of nearly 200 a year, a figure almost impossible of attainment in one county alone. Also I believe the Norwich Association was formed before the Kent County, whose first peal was on October 31st, 1881.

Finally, to change the subject, may I congratulate the band who rang the first 'all-Service' handbell peal of this war, and especially the conductor, Cpl. Cyril Brett-Smith, who, as well as being a fellow member of the R.A.F., was for several years before the war a valued member of the Crayford band.

E. A. BARNETT.

THE CROYDON FOUNDRY.

The Mayor of Croydon presents a challenge cup to workers who have the highest savings figure for each of three monthly periods. The workers at Messrs. Gillett and Johnston's bell foundry have held the lead for four months, so in addition to the challenge cup they received a small silver replica which will become their permanent possession.

Since the start of their Savings Group, Gillett and Johnston's employees have raised £12,600. In the past year they have nearly trebled the sum saved in the first two years. Membership is over 94 per cent, and savings average 7.14 per cent. of wages. During the four monthly periods which won them the challenge cup they saved £3,141.

The Mayor, who was accompanied by the Mayoress, the Town Clerk and other prominent members of the town, congratulated the workers on their savings efforts. The replica cup, he said, would be permanently in their possession as a memento of the part they played in ensuring that our fighting men had the weapons necessary to win the war. The Mayor and his party were entertained to lunch by Mr. Cyril Johnston and Mrs. Johnston.

THE LATE MR E. F. BEHAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. A. C. Hazelden's letter in last week's 'Ringing World,' the Australian tourists met and rang with the late Mr. E. F. Behan on quite a number of occasions during their visit to Melbourne in 1934.

RUPERT RICHARDSON.

Surfleet.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

(Continued from page 559.)

At Howden, Yorkshire, there was a Saxon church before the Norman era. This was in the hands of the Crown, and William I. gave it to the Bishop of Durham and his successors. The Bishop gave it to his Prior and Convent, who erected a church in the Norman style. In 1228 this church, being out of date, it was determined to erect a new church in the Early English style, which was finished about 1250. During 1267 the parish was divided into five equal prebends or canonries, and thus the church became a Minster. The nave, as we now see it, was commenced about 1280 and completed 1310: the best front followed. The Sanctuary was then completed in essential details in 1330. The Chapter House was built shortly after 1380 and the little chantry chapel to St. Cuthbert in 1404, as also the middle stage of the tower, the upper portion being added a century later. This is a central tower with horizontal parapet, begun by Walter Skirlaugh, Bishop of Durham 1346 to 1406.

With Howden tower may be compared three other central towers in the North of England—that of York Minster (1400-23): that of Durham (probably begun c. 1470): and that of Holy Trinity, Hull (finished about 1520). Of these, York Minster tower is the simplest in design, consisting merely of a simple tall lantern: the Howden and Durham towers have a tall lantern surmounted by a lower one: at Hull this disposition is inverted. As shown above, the upper stage of Howden tower is of considerably later date than the lower one.

Disaster overtook this fine old building in 1929, when a fire practically destroyed the magnificent tower with its ring of eight bells, and the chancel beneath. The damage done was very great, not only to the church itself and the ornaments, but to the masonry of the tower. Huge cracks in the battlements down to the broken and burnt-out windows on the sides of the tower. The bells crashed into the chancel below, and the roof of the tower collapsed. Over £32,000 was spent on reconstructing the essential portions of this magnificent church. The tower was restored, and in 1932 a new ring of eight bells dedicated. These were hung 40 feet lower in the tower than the former ring, and are now on the level of the sills of the very lofty Decorated windows which are one of the outstanding features of the tower, and the ringers are accommodated on a floor about 20 feet below. The bells are by J. Taylor and Co., with a tenor just over 22 cwt., and all the original inscriptions have been reproduced on the new bells.

The tower is 135 feet high. To approach the ringing chambers one enters a small door outside in the street, thence to the roof by spiral stairway. Traverse the roof to a rather low doorway, and down a short ladder of six or eight steps into the ringers' room. The east side of the church is now in ruins, having been destroyed by the army of Cromwell when on the way to Wressall Castle: on the south side is the Chapter House, an octagonal building, erected by Bishop Skirlaugh, and is inferior only in dimensions to the Chapter House at York.

A tower that stands in the centre of a church without transepts, and which is often illustrated in architectural works, is that at Iffley, near, and now included in, the city of Oxford. St. Mary's Church is an ancient edifice of stone exhibiting some of the purest and most perfect specimens of enriched Norman work extant. The Nor-

man portion is supposed to have been erected either by Robert-de-Cheney, Bishop of Lincoln, 1135/47, or by Juliana-de-St. Renigio, who gave it, between 1175/95 to the priory, and whose father, Robert, held an estate in Iffley.

The massive embattled tower in the centre contains six bells, of which the first two date from 1785; third, cast 1592, was recast in 1869; fourth is inscribed 'Praise ye Lorde'; fifth and sixth were cast in 1642. There is also a priest's bell dated 1709. The tower arches spring from piers with cushioned capitals, and shafts of black marble at the angles; the arches themselves are recessed and elaborately carved with flowers and zigzag work.

A very similar tower to Iffley is that at Langford in the same county. The tower, between chancel and nave, is of very early Norman work, and the lower stage is of Saxon date, vaulted, and the tower has a ring of five bells. The south porch has two very interesting sculptures of the Crucifixion—one on the south face over the entrance and the other on the east side. Both are enclosed in recessed cruciform panels.

One of the oldest and finest parish churches in North Lancashire is that of St. Mary, Cartmel. It was formerly a priory and endowed by William Mareshal, Earl of Pembroke, in 1188. It is recorded that the monks were bidden in a beatific vision to erect their church on a site between two streams, one running north, the other running south. After many wanderings they discovered in Cartmel what they sought, and built their church. It is now an embattled cruciform building in Transitional Norman and Early English, with additions in Perpendicular styles, and consists of choir and presbytery of three bays with aisles; nave of three bays with aisles; transepts; south porch and a singularly low central tower with an upper stage of later date and also embattled, set diagonally upon it, and made to serve as a belfry. It now contains a ring of six bells.

Two centuries after the foundation of the priory the want of a bell was perceived, and the Canons bethought themselves of the following expedient for the purpose. They constructed four cross arches within the upper courses of the lantern, springing from the middle point of each side, and closing the entire angle between that and the contiguous wall, a bell tower of proportionate height, which stands, a square inscribed within a square, diagonally to its base. The monks of Cartmel Priory were Augustines, and it was founded just 61 years later than Furness Abbey, i.e., 1127.

Of the bells the 5th and tenor are by John Scott, of Wigan, 1661; fourth 1729; third 1726; and two trebles by J. Taylor and Co. 1932. The tower is entered by the roof of the nave from a newel stairway near the transept windows. All the bells are rung from boxes on account of the unevenness of the belfry floor. The ancient belfry rules read:—

'If you come here to ring a bell,
With hand and ear you must ring well.
Should you your bell to overthrow,
12 pence to pay before you go.
If we for you the changes ring,
You must to us a shilling bring.
& 6 pence, too, without demur
If you appear in hat or spur.
& if above you choose to go,
You 6 pence pay or stay below.'

ST. MARY'S, WOOLWICH.

The inventories made of the goods and ornaments of the Church of St. Mary, Woolwich, in the reign of King Edward the Sixth, record that there were 'iij bells of brass mettell suted, hanging in the Steple there,' and also 'j little Saints bell of brasse hanging in the said steple.' According to the report of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments, the tower still contains a fourteenth-century bell. It is inscribed, 'Willelmus Prene me fecit in honorem Sanctae Trinitates.' Prene was a Rector of Woolwich, who died in 1404.

The present church was built between the years 1733 and 1740. It was included among the fifty churches which were to be provided for by Act of Parliament in Queen Anne's reign. Three thousand pounds were granted for the purpose. The plain square brick tower contains a ring of eight bells, with a tenor of 13 cwt., cast by Thomas Mears at Whitechapel in 1821.

The first peal on the bells was one of Grandsire Triples on November 18th, 1821, by a society who had revived the name of the Eastern Scholars, but had no connection or link with the old society of that name which had lapsed many years before. Henry Symondson called the peal, and the fifth was rung by Henry Banister. The latter was a ringer at the church, and took part in many peals there. He was the father of one of the most famous families in the history of ringing, and with his six sons rang in 1852 a peal of Grandsire Triples.

The third son, William, was the clever member of the family, and it was mainly due to him that for a time the band at Woolwich was one of the best in the country. They rang Grandsire Triples in 1847, Kent Treble Bob Major, Stedman Triples, and Double Norwich Court Bob Major in 1848, and Superlative and London Surprise Major in 1849. This record surpassed that of every other company in the nineteenth century before 1880, and was not equalled until the rise of the Benington company under Leonard Proctor.

William Banister held an appointment in the Royal Dockyard, and was afterwards transferred to Devonport, where he greatly assisted the early attempts to introduce change ringing into the belfries of the West Country. He was the author of a text book on change ringing, first published in 1874, which went through two editions. It was closely modelled on Henry Hubbard's 'Campanalogia,' and was of its kind quite a good book.

William Banister lived to a very great age and attended the meeting of the Central Council in 1913. He died on January 31st, 1917, at the age of 92. After he left Woolwich the local band did little to distinguish themselves in change ringing.

HANDBELLS AT NATIVITY PLAY

On Sunday, December 19th, at the village church of St. John, Sutton-at-Hone, handbells were rung during the course of a Nativity play presented by the village Church Guild.

The church has a peal of three bells and the producer of the play was at loss to know how to provide the 'peals of bells' called for in the script. The Dartford ringers were appealed to, and Messrs. A. G. Hall, N. Chaddock, J. E. Bailey and Mrs. J. E. Bailey rang Grandsire Triples, Queens and Whittingtons before and after the service and during the play.

This is the first time change ringing has been introduced to the village and very favourable comments were forthcoming.

REIGATE.—On January 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. Gear 1, Mrs. Shelton 2, A. Bashford 3, W. Claydon 4, G. Oliver 5, A. T. Shelton 6, G. F. Hoad (conductor) 7, H. A. Hoad 8.

'THE VIRGIN'S CHIME.'

'This Christmas, after a lapse of several years, the ancient custom, known locally as the Virgin's Chime, was revived at the beautiful Church of St. Michael the Archangel in the Yorkshire dale village of Kirkby Malham. A few minutes before midnight the ringers enter the bell chamber in the tower and sound the bells by grasping the clappers in their hands.

Probably the custom dates back to pre-Reformation times, and the bells were originally chimed thus before the Midnight Mass at Christmas.—'The Church Times.'

The habit of ascribing every out-of-the-way ringing custom to a survival of pre-Reformation liturgical uses should be mistrusted.

WEDDING OF MR. C. H. HOVERD.

On December 18th, at Holy Trinity Church, Dartford, Mr. C. H. Hoverd was married to Corporal Margaret Rose Fincham, A.T.S., whose home is at Rye, Sussex.

The Vicar, Canon C. Elliott Mitchell, officiated and paid a tribute to the services Mr. Hoverd has rendered as ringer during the past 15 years.

The bride, who was attended by two bridesmaids, was given away by her father. Mr. H. E. Audsley was best man. The tower bells were rung as the bride and bridegroom left the church under an archway of handbells.

The reception was at Sutton Hall and handbells were rung to Grandsire Triples and Caters, Stedman Triples and Bob Major.

Ringers taking part in the ringing during the afternoon were E. Barnett, Alan and Denis Hall, Mrs. T. Fenner and R. Hoverd (sister and brother of the bridegroom), J. Wheadon, E. A. Jenkins, Sgt. N. Chaddock, R.E.M.E., Mrs. J. E. Bailey and J. E. Bailey. A peal could not be arranged and a quarter-peal on Sunday was lost just before the end.

DEATH OF MR. ALFRED MARTIN.

The death is announced of Mr. Alfred Martin, of Leicester, who passed away on December 18th at the age of 86.

Mr. Martin had been connected with Leicester Cathedral all his life, first as a chorister and then as ringer and towerkeeper. In 1883 he followed his father in the latter office, and held it for 40 years, during which the transition was made from chiming and stoney to high class change ringing.

Mr. Martin, who joined the Midland Counties Association in 1891, rang 53 peals, comprising Grandsire Triples and Caters, and Stedman Triples and Caters. He did not aspire to the higher methods, but was a good striker and quite safe in what he did ring.

The funeral was on Wednesday, December 22nd, at the Gilroes Cemetery, Leicester, and after the burial a course of Stedman Triples was rung on handbells by H. J. Poole 1-2, E. Morris 3-4, P. L. Harrison 5-6, and J. Morris 7-8. Messrs. T. Taylor and J. Harris were also present and a floral tribute was sent by the Cathedral ringers.

DEATH OF MR. W E OAKLEY.

The death is announced of Mr. William E. Oakley, of Watford, at the age of 65. For some years he had not taken a very active part in ringing, but formerly he was Master of the Watford Society, to which office he was appointed after the bells were recast in 1919. He learned to ring at Bushey in the early nineties. He was a good ringer in most of the standard methods and an excellent striker.

The funeral at Bushey on December 16th was attended by members of the Watford and Bushey bands.

JOINT MEETING AT DONCASTER.

A joint meeting of the Southern District of the Yorkshire Association with the Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield Societies was held at the Parish Church, Doncaster, on Saturday, December 18th, when members were present from Arksey, Barnby Don, Campsall, Conisborough, Felkirk, Rotherham, Selby, Sherburn-in-Elmet, Sprotborough and the local company.

The fine ring of eight was available from 2.30 p.m., and during the afternoon the Vicar, Canon Davidson, welcomed the ringers.

Tea was at an adjacent cafe, 25 members sitting down, and the business meeting was held in the Clergy House. In the absence of Mr. G. Lewis, vice-president, the chair was taken by Mr. H. S. Morley, and the secretarial duties were discharged by Mr. D. Smith, on behalf of Mr. S. F. Palmer, who was indisposed.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. George Clark, of Arksey, who is in hospital, and Mr. George Halksworth, of Scarborough, who had met with an accident.

Wath-on-Deane was selected for the meeting in March.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar and the local company was passed. Ringing included touches of Minor, Triples and Major in the standard methods, and full opportunity was given to beginners.

GROBY, LEICESTER.—On Monday, December 27th, 720 Bob Minor: S. Gardner 1, Derrick Dodson 2, E. Geary 3, W. Geary 4, Dennis Dodson 5, R. F. Elkington (conductor) 6. Ringers 1, 2 and 5 aged 14 years and is their longest length, having commenced ringing after the ban was lifted.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES

BRAY, CO. WICKLOW.—On December 11th, 720 Grandsire Doubles with 7.6.8 covering: F. Edmondson 1, Mrs. F. E. Dukes 2, D. McGregor 3, F. Dukes 4, J. B. Tough 5, J. Fennell 6, G. McGregor 7, G. Fennell 8. Rung for the institution of the Rev. Canon E. H. F. Campbell as Rector of Bray. Canon Campbell is president of the Irish Association.

BEACONSFIELD, BUCKS.—At the Parish Church on Sunday, December 5th, a 720 of Plain Bob in 26 minutes: Lieut. M. Routh, R.N. (first 720) 1, Rev. R. Routh 2, R. Buckland 3, J. Harrison 4, Miss D. Fletcher 5, H. Wingrove (conductor) 6.—On Sunday, December 19th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss M. Wingrove 1, Miss D. Fletcher 2, Miss K. E. Fletcher 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, H. Wingrove 5, R. Buckland 6, J. Harrison (conductor) 7, A. Routh 8.

WILLESDEN.—On Sunday, December 12th, at St. Mary's, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: *H. C. Collier 1, Mrs. E. Lankester 2, E. Lankester 3, *R. C. Kersey 4, G. Kilby (conductor) 5, H. Kilby 6. *First in the method.

HILLINGDON WEST.—On December 4th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: F. Blondell 1, G. H. Gutteridge 2, F. W. Goodfellow 3, Mrs. M. Baroom 4, P. E. Jones 5, T. Collins 6, F. Corke 7, S. Humphreys 8. **BRIGG, LINCOLNSHIRE.**—At St. John's, on Sunday, December 12th, for evensong, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: Gordon Wraith 1, William Middleton 2, Thomas Bell 3, Frederick Atkinson 4, Frank Bell 5, Nolan Golden, R.A.F. (conductor) 6.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—On December 17th at St. Peter's, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Simister 1, *W. Schofield 2, Rev. F. F. Rigby 3, A. Hodgson 4, *W. Hawke 5, P. C. R. Benson 6, W. W. Wolstencroft 7, *V. Turner 8. *First quarter-peal. A compliment to the conductor on his 69th birthday.

ROCHDALE.—On Saturday, December 11th, at St. Mary's, Balderstone, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Simeon K. Taylor 1, William O. Rowland 2, Fred Ormerod 3, Walter Staff 4, George Staff 5, Stephen L. Parry 6, Frank Appleton (conductor) 7, James Jones 8. Rung muffled as a token of respect to Mr. John Griffiths, who was a ringer at the above church for over 40 years.

BELGRAVE, LEICS.—On Thursday, December 9th, at St. Peter's Church, 1,260 Stedman Triples: J. Morris 1, C. Marshall 2, E. R. Whitehead 3, A. Skinner 4, L. H. Whitehead 5, A. Debenham 6, E. Morris 7, J. Grant 8. Conducted by Ernest Morris. Rung after meeting too late for a peal.

BROMLEY COMMON, KENT.—At St. Luke's on Saturday, December 18th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. Lyddiard 1, I. Emery 2, Miss H. Oakshett 3, G. F. James 4, G. H. Kite 5, S. Humphrey 6, J. Lyddiard 7, C. Cullen 8. Arranged and rung on the occasion of the 80th birthday of Dr. Yolland, churchwarden at St. Luke's since 1899.

WESTHOUGHTON.—On Sunday, December 19th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: William Sinalley 1, Everest Ford 2, Mrs. Annie Paine 3, James W. Kay (conductor) 4, Bryan Stanley 5, Arthur Gibson 6, Peter Crook, sen. 7, Albert Greenhalgh 8.

WALTHAMSTOW.—At St. Mary's, on Sunday, December 19th, for morning service, 672 Stedman Triples: H. Street 1, C. T. Coles (conductor) 2, H. Rumens 3, J. C. Adams 4, H. Smith 5, L. E. Last 6, F. C. Maynard 7, F. C. Taylor 8.

LITTLE MUNDEN.—On the occasion of the induction of the new Rector, 720 Oxford Treble Bob for service, also 720 in the same method after service: W. Williams 1, B. Patmore 2, S. Head 3, A. Phillips 4, N. Patmore 5, E. Overall 6.

EALING.—At St. Stephen's Church on St. Stephen's Day, 1,260 Stedman Triples: J. A. Trollope 1, J. E. Churchill 2, C. J. Tricker 3, A. Jones 4, J. E. L. Cockey 5, E. C. S. Turner (conductor) 6, A. Harding 7, F. Miller 8.

WHICKHAM, CO. DURHAM.—On December 20th at St. Mary's, 1,320 Doubles (720 Grandsire and 600 Plain Bob): E. Roddam 1, S. Thompson 2, S. Thompson, sen. (conductor) 3, S. Proud 4, J. Jackson 5, S. Buckton 6. First quarter-peal by all except the conductor. A farewell to Ernest Roddam.

OXFORD.—On Christmas morning at Christ Church Cathedral, 1,047 Stedman Cinques: Miss V. Hill 1, N. Allnatt 2, Miss M. R. Cross 3, C. Coles 4, H. Gardiner 5, W. Blake 6, W. G. Collett 7, F. A. H. Wilkins 8, W. F. Judge (conductor) 9, V. J. Bennett 10, G. Caudwell 11, W. H. B. Wilkins 12.

HAVERHILL, SUFFOLK.—On Christmas morning, 720 Bob Minor: N. Nunn 1, *Miss M. Backler 2, J. W. Jennings 3, H. Backler 4, S. Twitchett 5, L. Wright (conductor) 6. *First 720.

SUDBURY.—On Christmas morning, at All Saints' Church, 224 Bob Major, a course of Superlative and a course of Stedman: F. Gridley, H. Herbert, A. Haynes, C. Clark, H. Felton, L. Johnson, S. Howell, A. Fitch, D. Elliott.

STREATHAM.—On Sunday, December 26th, for morning service at St. Leonard's Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *Pte. J. Powlesland (N. Cadbury, Som.) 1, E. L. Miles (conductor) 2, C. A. Button 3, R. Sanders 4, T. W. Welbourne 5, *Pte. W. Holmes (Edenham, Lincs) 6, J. W. Euston 7, W. Sparkes 8. *First quarter-peal of Triples.

BURTON HASTINGS, WARWICK.—On Sunday, December 19th, at St. Botolph's Church, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: William Noon 1, *Mrs. Billington 2, *Leonard Trevor (conductor) 3, Joseph Taylor 4, Frank Trotman 5. *First quarter-peal. †First quarter-peal as conductor.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Sunday, December 19th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor with tenor covering: Miss D. Fletcher 1, Miss K. Fletcher 2, Rev. Routh 3, R. Buckland 4, J. Harrison 5, H. Wingrove (conductor) 6, A. Routh tenor.—On Christmas morning, 720 Bob Minor: Miss M. Wingrove 1, Miss D. Fletcher 2, Miss K. Fletcher 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, R. Buckland 5, J. Harrison (conductor) 6, A. Routh tenor.—On Sunday, December 26th, a quarter-peal of Double Norwich: Miss M. Wingrove 1, Miss D. Fletcher 2, Miss K. Fletcher 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, R. Buckland 5, J. Harrison 6, H. Wingrove (conductor) 7, W. Lee 8.

OXHEY, HERTS.—On Christmas Day, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: *J. Cleaver 1, *Miss T. Waldron 2, F. W. Brinklow 3, *E. Rosson 4, J. Rosson (conductor) 5, *W. Attwood 6. *First quarter-peal.—On December 26th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: Miss T. Waldron 1, W. Hodgetts 2, J. Cleaver 3, F. W. Brinklow 4, J. Rosson 5, E. Rosson 6.—On December 28th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: W. Attwood 1, Miss T. Waldron 2, *Rev. T. P. Hearn 3, E. Rosson 4, J. Rosson 5, F. W. Brinklow 6. *First quarter-peal. The band was started last July under the tuition of Mr. F. W. Brinklow.

DONCASTER.—At St. George's Church on Christmas Day, 1,260 Stedman Triples: E. C. Stacey (conductor) 1, W. O. Critchley 2, J. Holmes 3, E. Dalingwater 4, H. Wagstaffe 5, F. Newsome 6, J. McCuskey 7, P. J. Dawe 8.

SOUTH WIGSTON, LEICESTER.—On Christmas morning, at St. Thomas' Church, 1,260 Stedman Triples: S. Cox 1, A. Patrick 2, J. E. Clark 3, J. L. Willars 4, *Ord. Seaman R. Sharp 5, C. Marshall (conductor) 6, E. Jelley 7, F. Ford 8. *First quarter 'inside'.

LAUNTON, OXON.—On Christmas Day, for morning service, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: J. W. Ancil 1, H. A. Massey 2, H. Gregory 3, R. Gregory 4, F. Sharpe (conductor) 5, E. Castle 6. First quarter-peal by all except the conductor.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—At St. Peter's Church, on St. Stephen's Day, 360 Bob Minor: Mrs. I. Hawkins, W. W. Wolstencroft, Miss Joan Houldsworth, R. Wimpenny, A. Houldsworth, W. Hawke.

IPSWICH.—On Sunday, December 26th, at St. Margaret's Church, 720 Plain Bob Minor (tenor covering): Charles Crappell 1, — Ellenger 2, William Kinsey 3, Claude Woodward 4, George Moore 5, Frank Trotman (conductor) 6, Charles Woodcock tenor.

MANCHESTER.—On December 26th, at the Cathedral, 1,260 Grandsire Caters: Mary Walshaw 1, Harold Longdon 2, John Mulliniaux 3, Harold Hollinworth 4, George Pye 5, Arthur Ridyard (conductor) 6, Hugh Reynolds 7, Burly Walshaw 8, Richard Longdon 9, John Wright 10. Rung for the wedding of Mr. Harold Hollinworth.

PENWORTHAM, LANCS.—On Sunday, December 26th, 1,260 Minor, being 720 of Kent Treble Bob and 540 Bob Minor: E. R. Martin (conductor) 1, J. R. Taylor 2, K. Hall 3, J. Roskell 4, W. Loxham 5, J. Gornall 6, W. Taylor 7. Rung to mark the completion of 61 years as a service ringer by J. R. Taylor at the above church.

ST. ALBANS.—At St. Peter's Church on Sunday, December 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *W. J. Southam 1, A. Dale 2, E. J. Gale 3, S. Jones 4, C. F. Sayer 5, F. J. Spicer 6, R. W. Darvill (conductor) 7, *T. J. Southam 8. *First quarter-peal.

GREAT TEY.—On Christmas Day for morning service, 720 Bob Minor, and for the evening service on Sunday, December 26th, 720 Bob Minor: B. Webb 1, H. Webb 2, T. Evans 3, G. Evans 4, S. Piper 5, J. W. Dyer (conductor) 6.

DEVIZES.—On Sunday, December 26th, for evensong at St. James' Church, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss Joy Davis 1, J. S. Weeks (conductor) 2, Peter F. J. Hunt 3, A. T. Weeks 4, S. Grant 5, David Nye 6. First attempt by the ringers of the treble, third and tenor, who are 16 years old and have been ringing since last June.

WALTHAMSTOW.—On Sunday, December 26th, at St. Mary's Church for morning service, 960 Bob Major: H. Street, L. E. Last, E. E. Holman, J. C. Adams, H. Smith, H. Rumens, F. C. Maynard, C. T. Coles (conductor).

ELTHAM, KENT.—On Sunday, January 2nd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Wood 1, J. Hurrell 2, P. Spice 3, Miss H. Oakshett 4, G. F. James 5, F. J. Hurrell 6, J. E. Lyddiard (conductor) 7, H. Goodenough, R.A. (first quarter-peal) 8.

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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).

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-East Division.—Annual district meeting at Mistley, Saturday, January 8th, 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Business meeting and tea to follow probably at the Thorn Hotel. Bring food and a little tea. Good train and bus service via Manningtree.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., 113a, Great Thurlow, Haverhill, Suffolk.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at East Crompton, Saturday, January 8th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food. Subscriptions due; reports to hand.—I. Kay, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Annual meeting at Hemel Hempstead on Saturday, Jan. 8th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Trying to arrange tea.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting Holy Trinity, Blackburn, Saturday, Jan. 8th, 2.30 p.m. Business meeting at 6 p.m.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Annual meeting at Leicester, Jan. 8th. Ringing St. Margaret's (12 bells) 3 till 5 p.m., Cathedral (12 bells) 7 p.m. till 9 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m., Victory Cafe, Carts Lane, followed by meeting at the Globe Hotel, opposite.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Chichester Cathedral on Saturday, Jan. 8th. Ringing 2.30 and after meeting. Service 4.30. Tea (1s. 6d.) and meeting at Tower Cafe 5 p.m.—L. Stilwell, Pulborough.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting at Poolstock, Saturday, January 8th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., 1s. 6d. each.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Annual general meeting at Barnsley, Saturday, Jan. 8th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Tea 5.15. Business meeting Royal Hotel, 6 p.m.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, Jan. 15th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at St. Andrew's, Derby, Jan. 15th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Business, election of officers. Own arrangements for tea.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Lindfield, Saturday, January 15th. Tower open 3 p.m. Service and meeting to follow.—O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Portsmouth District.—Annual district meeting at Fareham, Jan. 15th, 2 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m., followed by business meeting. Own arrangements for tea.—R. J. Stone, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, Penhale Road, Portsmouth.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—Annual meeting at Biggleswade on Saturday, Jan. 15th, 3 p.m. Tea if it can be arranged.—C. J. Ball, Hon. Sec., 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting at Hatfield, Saturday, Jan. 15th. Bells (10) from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at Salisbury Guest House 5 p.m. Then more ringing.—R. W. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—Meeting at Eccles on Saturday, January 15th, at 3 p.m. No refreshments.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Quarterly meeting at St. Mary's, Warwick (10 bells), on Saturday, Jan. 15th. Service at 4.15 p.m. Tea at the Porridge Pot Cafe 5 p.m., approximately 1s. 6d. Business in the Church Vestry after service.—D. E. Beamish, Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Annual district meeting at All Saints', Hertford (10 bells), on Saturday, Jan. 15th, at 2.30 p.m. Tower blacked out. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon, Herts.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting, Colemans Hatch (8), Jan. 15th. Postcards for tea to Miss Divall, Colemans Hatch P.O.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

EAST RETFORD, NOTTS.—Practice meeting Saturday, Jan. 15th. Bells (10) 2 p.m. Tea obtainable at nearby cafes.—O. Street, 61, Cobwell Road, Retford.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Christchurch District.—Annual meeting at Christchurch on Saturday, Jan. 15th, 2 p.m. Service in Priory Church at 4 p.m. Tea at 4.45 p.m. in Warren Cafe. Business meeting to follow. Notify by Thursday, Jan. 13th.—G. Preston, Christchurch.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at St. Francis Xavier's Church, Saturday, Jan. 15th, 2 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea provided and tower open after tea.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Annual district meeting at Great Baddow, Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Ringing 3 p.m. and after tea. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting afterwards. Names by Jan. 19th to Mr. G. Green, 3, Bell Street, Great Baddow, Chelmsford.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans and District.—Ringing times, winter, Sundays: St. Peter's, 10.20 a.m., 5.50 p.m.; St. Michael's, 10.20 a.m.; St. Stephen's, 2nd and 4th Sundays, 3 p.m.; Barnet, 3 p.m.; Hatfield, 5.50 p.m.; Harpenden, 1st and 3rd Sundays, 5.45 p.m.; Kimpton, 10.30 a.m., 3 p.m.; Northaw, by arrangement; N. Mymms, 10.20 a.m.; Wheathampstead, 10.30 a.m. Practices: St. Peter's, Mondays, 8 to 9.15 p.m.—R. W. Darvill, Hon. Sec.

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RETURN THANKS

Miss I. B. Thompson thanks all those who sent letters of sympathy following her accident, and regrets her inability to answer separately. A happy and peaceful New Year to all.—52, Lace Street, Nottingham.

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No. 1,712. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14th, 1944.

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THE ANALYSIS.

On another page we print the Analysis for nineteen hundred and forty-one. That year will be remembered in ringing history as the first during a millennium in which throughout the land no church bells called worshippers to divine service, and the first for two centuries in which no tower bell peal was rung. In such a year there is little for a peal analysis to concern itself with.

There would have been nothing at all if it were not that ringers in increasing numbers turned their attention to handbell ringing, and, by so doing, not only gained some compensation for the enforced silence of the belfries, but helped in no small degree to keep alive interest in the art of change ringing and the spirit of the Exercise. Today we are reaping the benefit of what was then done, but the full harvest will not be garnered until more normal times bring back the ringers who are now scattered far and wide, some in this land but remote from where they have any opportunities of practising ringing, and many abroad on the service of king and country.

Handbell ringing is a branch of the ringers' art which has always appealed to some men. It has a musical and intellectual interest which is peculiarly its own. It is free from many of the restrictions which hamper tower-bell ringing, for its devotees can choose their own bands and their own times of meeting without much regard to other people. And though it cannot in itself claim to serve any public or Church interests, it is of great value in raising the standards and increasing the skill of tower-bell ringers, and so should be encouraged not merely for its own sake, but for the general good of the Exercise.

The practice and ambition of by far the greater number of those who ring handbells do not extend beyond courses and short touches in the simpler methods. Peal ringing is not for them but, as in tower-bell ringing, it is the peal ringers who set the standards. What they do benefits in the long run the whole body of ringers, and therefore has a value beyond the mere piling up of peals by individuals. We turn, therefore, to the Analysis as an indicator of the well-being of the Exercise. -

The record for the year 1941 was quite satisfactory. The number of peals rung was far beyond that of a normal year (this perhaps might have been expected), and the quality of the performance was well maintained. There was no spectacular performance like the Spliced Surprise Major peals by the Bushey band of a few years before, and no lengths beyond the ordinary five thousand.

(Continued on page 14.)

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The most outstanding records were the peals in new Plain Major methods by four men who met at Bushey by invitation of Mr. C. W. Woolley. This band had mastered the technique of handbell ringing to the extent that they were able to ring new and unpractised methods on handbells with the same facility that first-class bands nowadays show on tower bells. There was a time, not so long ago, when it was thought a wonderful thing if a band, or even an individual ringer, could ring a peal in a method without much practice. The improvement is perhaps not so much because men are better ringers than they used to be, but to a different and better way of approaching the tasks.

Equally meritorious, though on a lower plane, were the many peals of Minor and Doubles and Bob Major rung by men who turned their attention to handbell ringing for the first time.

Nineteen hundred and forty-one was a record year for handbell peals. It was to be surpassed by its successor, and the two together will probably prove to be the period in which handbell peal ringing reached its highest point during a very large stretch of years.

HANDBELL PEALS.

COVENTRY.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Thursday, December 30, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT 31, GEORGE ELIOT ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 512 CHANGES;

ERNEST STONE	1-2	FRANK E. PERVIN	5-6
FRANK W. PERRINS	3-4	JOSEPH H. W. WHITE	7-8

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by FRANK W. PERRINS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, Jan. 5, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5079 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B.

MRS. J. THOMAS	1-2	MRS. G. W. FLETCHER	5-6
ALFRED H. PULLING	3-4	JOHN THOMAS	7-8

GEORGE W. FLETCHER ... 9-10

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by ALFRED H. PULLING.

Witness: ALBERT J. WALLMAN.

RADLEY, BERKSHIRE.

THE UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, Jan. 7, 1944, in Two Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE SCHOOL HOUSE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

MISS MARIE R. CROSS (Reading)	1-2	REV. MALCOLM C. C. MELVILLE (Birmingham)	5-6
*MISS MARGARET L. TUTT (Oxford)	3-4	JOHN E. SPICE (Oxford)	7-8

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.
(C.C.C. No. 136.)

* First peal of Major on an inside pair.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, Jan. 8, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOIT'S ORIGINAL.

CHARLES HAZELDEN	1-2	JAMES R. MACKMAN	5-6
ALFRED H. PULLING	3-4	MRS. C. HAZELDEN	7-8

Conducted by ALFRED H. PULLING.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BRIERLEY HILL, STAFFS.
THE DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

On Saturday, Jan. 1, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).

Tenor 14½ cwt. in F.

*Miss F. L. WRIGHT ... Treble	HAROLD SHUCK ... 5
J. WILLIAM SMITH ... 2	BERNARD LAWTON ... 6
CLIFFORD SKIDMORE ... 3	NORMAN G. LEECH ... 7
JOHN GOODMAN ... 4	JOHN LLOYD ... Tenor

Conducted by C. SKIDMORE.

* First peal and first attempt. Rung for the marriage of Miss Medge Price, daughter of Mr. T. E. Price, Rector's warden, to Flight-Sergt. J. K. Compton.

NANTWICH, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, Jan. 1, 1944, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).

Tenor 14½ cwt.

FRANK OLLIER ... Treble	JOHN E. BROUGH ... 5
R. THOMAS HOLDING ... 2	GEORGE PACKER ... 6
HARRY F. HOLDING ... 3	RICHARD D. LANGFORD ... 7
HARRY PARKER ... 4	*STANLEY SUTTON ... Tenor

Conducted by R. D. LANGFORD.

* First peal on eight bells.

SOUTH WIGSTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Jan. 1, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

W. ARTHUR RIDDINGTON Treble	FRANK TROTMAN ... 5
WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 2	CHARLES MARSHALL ... 6
WILLIAM A. WOOD ... 3	LEONARD TREVOR ... 7
JAMES DRAYCOTT ... 4	*FREDERICK FORD ... Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES MARSHALL.

* First peal. Rung on the thirteenth anniversary of the conductor's wedding.

CONISBOROUGH, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, Jan. 6, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt. 2 qr. 20 lb.

ROBERT SARSBY ... Treble	EDWARD DALINGWATER ... 5
EDGAR C. STACEY ... 2	HARRY BARNES ... 6
MILTON C. FOWLER ... 3	HAROLD WAGSTAFF ... 7
J. EDWARD CAWSE ... 4	PERCY GLEDSTONE ... Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by J. EDWARD CAWSE.

The conductor's 100th peal on eight bells. Rung after meeting short for Stedman Triples.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(THE LEICESTER CATHEDRAL SOCIETY.)

On Thursday, Jan. 6, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,
AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

An arrangement by F. H. DEXTER.

Tenor 10 cwt.

Mrs. H. J. POOLE ... Treble	SYDNEY CHENEY ... 5
HAROLD J. POOLE ... 2	*RICHARD GRANT ... 6
*JILL POOLE ... 3	HARRY BROUGHTON ... 7
†JOHN R. SMITH ... 4	JOHN GRANT ... Tenor

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* First peal on tower bells. † First peal. ‡ First peal in the method. Rung on the middle octave.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, Jan. 8, 1944, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt. (approx.).

WILLIAM WELLING ... Treble	*JOHN M. GAYFORD ... 5
NORMAN V. HARDING ... 2	A. JAMES GLASS ... 6
FRANK H. HICKS ... 3	WILLIAM HENLEY ... 7
C. ALFRED LEVETT ... 4	GEORGE GILBERT ... Tenor

Composed by JOHN R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by GEO. GILBERT.
* First peal of Bob Major. Mr. Welling has now completed the circle at Burnham.

GORING-ON-THAMES, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, Jan. 8, 1944, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS-OF-CANTERBURY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

MIDDLETON'S. Tenor 8 cwt. 21 lb. in A.

*Miss MARGARET L. TUTT Treble	JOHN E. SPICE ... 5
*Miss VALHALLA HILL 2	REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE 6
MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 3	REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG ... 7
WILLIAM C. PORTER ... 4	WALTER F. JUDGE ... Tenor

Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

* First peal in the method and first attempt.

SIX BELL PEALS.

APSLEY END, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Jan. 1, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent each of Double Court, St. Clement's, Oxford Treble Bob, and two extents each of Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

JOE HEBBS ... Treble	†AUGUSTIN V. GOOD ... 4
*ERNEST J. A. KENDALL ... 2	HERBERT GATES ... 5
†WILLIAM C. HUGHES ... 3	WALTER AYRE ... Tenor

Conducted by WALTER AYRE.

* First peal of Minor. † First peal in five methods. ‡ 100th peal. A birthday compliment to the wife of the ringer of the 2nd.

MAULDEN, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Jan. 1, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

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

HENRY LAWRENCE ... Treble	REGINALD HOUGHTON ... 4
*RONALD J. SHARPE ... 2	*ANDREW C. SINFIELD ... 5
C. HENRY HARDING ... 3	LEWIS H. BYWATER ... Tenor

Conducted by L. H. BYWATER.

* 25th peal together. Rung half-muffled as a token of respect to the Rev. J. A. M. Rogers, Vicar of Maulden, who died on December 29th.

AUGHTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Jan. 1, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents of Oxford Treble Bob Minor, two of Kent Treble Bob Minor and three of Plain Bob Minor. Tenor 5½ cwt.

SYDNEY FLINT ... Treble	ROBERT GUY ... 4
JOHN LUNHAM ... 2	GEORGE SKELLAN ... 5
THOMAS S. HORRIDGE ... 3	WILLIAM H. DEACON ... Tenor

Conducted by W. H. DEACON.

KEWSTOKE.—On Saturday, January 8th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: C. Reason (Churchill) 1, L. Pullin (Yatton) 2, J. Weadon (Woole) 3, E. Fisher (Congresbury) 4, E. J. Avery (Churchill) 5, G. Prescott (Kewstoke) (conductor) 6. First 720 of Kent by all the band and on the bells.

HANDLING A BELL.

(Continued from page 5.)

The rate at which a bell sounds is determined by the length of the arc in which it moves, and the ringers' art consists in controlling the swing so that the bell may speak at the exact moment required. This is true of large and medium-sized bells without qualification, but in the case of small bells, especially when they are trebles to rings of eight, ten or twelve, the necessary rate is so slow that the bell must swing in a full circle and often in more than a circle.

Directly a bell has completed the circle it moves beyond the balance, and gravity comes into operation on the other side. A certain amount of this is necessary to enable the bell to be held up the required time, but every ounce of gravity exerted on the bell over the balance has to be counteracted by the ringer, and if he allows the bell to go far over the balance at each pull, he will have to use a good deal of energy in addition to that required for the normal swing of the bell. In fact, it is undoubtedly true that in ringing a small bell which goes well more energy is usually expended in bringing the bell back over the balance than in actually driving it through its downward and upward swings. This is the reason why the comparatively heavy trebles of old-style rings of twelve are for most ringers tiring to ring to a peal.

An important point, therefore, in correct handling is that a bell should never be allowed to go over the balance more than is just necessary to get the delay needed for a slow rate of striking.

When the bell is at the balance or just close to it the amount of gravity which is tending to make the bell swing is very small, and consequently this is the point where the ringer can exert his own energy with the greatest effect. It is here that he must have complete control. A bell, even a heavy bell, just on the balance can be held stationary, not merely by one hand, but by the finger and thumb of one hand. The ringer should so handle his bell that, when it reaches the balance, he can, with the least amount of energy, hold it, or start it again on its downward swing, or set it.

In teaching a beginner one very important thing is to make him able to 'feel' the bell at handstroke. He should be taught so to catch the sally that he can hold the bell as near to the balance as possible, and to hold it for an indefinite time with the smallest amount of weight on his arms. The instructor (who has the tail end) should vary slightly the amount of pulling he does, though never more than would naturally be done in change ringing.

Until a beginner has gained this amount of control at handstroke he should never be allowed to try to ring with both handstroke and backstroke, and certainly never allowed to attempt a bell in open rounds. When the beginners show a tendency to bump the stay it is a sure sign that their teaching is faulty. A broken stay is a greater disgrace to the instructor than it is to the learner.

Before ringing a bell, whatever its weight, the ringer should bring it to the balance and hold it there. He is then ready to apply at the proper time just the right amount of energy as is needed for the opening rounds; and at every subsequent pull he must feel the bell when it is at the same position before he sends it on its downward swing. These things, of course, are not done con-

sciously and deliberately each time by the competent ringer. They become automatic and instinctive. Often they are not acquired by taking thought, but as the result of practice and experience. But however the competent ringer acquires them, he must possess them, and good teaching consists of giving the learner from the very start those qualifications which otherwise he would only gain slowly and with repeated failures, or not at all.

The pull, then, by which the ringer sends the bell on its downward swing should start at the time when gravity is exercising the minimum amount of energy on the movement of the bell. In the case of small bells this is when the bell is at or near the balance. (With heavier bells as rung in changes, it is further from the balance, but the effect is the same.) This is the time when the energy exerted by the ringer has the greatest effect, and this is the time he should use it, for the opportunity, passes quickly. He should therefore apply at once the amount of force required. Not jerkily, or suddenly, but smoothly. Almost as soon as he has begun to pull (at any rate very shortly after) he can begin to relax his grip and lessen his pull. Thus he will get the maximum amount of result from his labour with the minimum amount of fatigue.

When his hands have done their work he should not remove them at once from the sally, although he is no longer gripping it, and when he does remove them he should keep them close together and drop them as low as is convenient and natural, raising them as the rope coils round the wheel and the tail end comes into position for the backstroke pull.

This dropping of the hands after the handstroke pull may seem quite an unnecessary action, for they at the time have no definite job to perform; they have done their handstroke work and are waiting for the backstroke work. Some men indeed do not lower their hands below their waists. There are, however, good reasons why the hands should be fully dropped. It looks better and more graceful. It is the natural thing to do, which most likely is why the majority of good ringers do it. And there is another and more subtle reason, which is that it aids and forms a part of that rhythm of mind and body which finds its expression in good striking.

It may seem very far fetched and fantastic to see in the regular up and down movement of the ringers' hands when they are not pulling any connection with the way the bells are struck; but it is not really so. Ultimately good striking depends on the sense and feeling of rhythm which the ringer possesses, and really good striking is only possible when the whole man, mind and body alike, is for the time being dominated by that rhythm. A smooth, regular and rhythmic pull obviously is necessary for good striking and, strange though it may seem, the action of the hands and arms after they have pulled does affect the pull itself.

There is a well-known and much-talked-of example of a similar thing in golf. One might think that once a man has struck a golf ball, what he does with his club cannot have any effect on the flight of the ball, yet the importance of the follow-through (which is the after-movement of the club) is acknowledged and stressed by all authorities. If ringing was performed on the same competitive lines as golf or rowing, as much attention would be paid to what now seem trivial points of bell handling as is done to not dissimilar things in those sports.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.**MEETING AT WINCHESTER.**

The annual meeting of the Winchester District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild was held at Winchester on January 1st. Service was in the Cathedral and an address was given by the Archdeacon of Winchester, the Ven. H. R. Burrows.

Tea was at Dumper's Restaurant and was followed by the business meeting, presided over by the Rev. Norman C. Woods, chairman of the district. He was supported by the Archdeacon of Winchester, Mr. W. C. Goodchild (hon. secretary and treasurer), the Rev. S. M. Watson (Rector of St. Maurice's), the Rev. J. H. Dobbs (Vicar of Kings Somborne), Mr. George Williams (Master of the Guild), Mr. Wilfred Andrews (captain of the Cathedral ringers) and between 30 and 40 ringing members.

The secretary reported that £15 had been invested in National Savings Certificates. Thirty-nine honorary and 63 ringing members had paid their subscriptions, and the accounts showed a balance of £19 14s. 11d. after expenses had been met and the percentage paid to the general treasurer. The accounts were approved by a vote proposed by Mr. Andrews and seconded by Mr. Newnham.

The Chairman, who is now Vicar of St. John's, Notting Hill, London, expressed a wish to retire and suggested the name of the Archdeacon. Canon Burrows was proposed by Mr. Andrews, seconded by Mr. Goodchild, and unanimously elected.

Mr. Goodchild, the district secretary, said that for personal reasons he wished to resign. He had given notice at the last annual meeting, and though he did not wish to let the Guild down and was taking the step with reluctance, he had not altered his decision. On the proposal of Mr. Lampard, seconded by Mr. H. Newnham, a sub-committee, consisting of the chairman, Mr. Wilfred Andrews and Mr. Goodchild, was formed to make a new appointment.

On the proposition of Mr. Lampard, seconded by Mr. Sanders, the district representatives, Mr. Wilfred Andrews and Mr. H. Newnham, and the district auditor, Mr. G. Smith, were re-elected.

Four ringing members from the Cathedral, five from Winchester College, and one from St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church were elected.

The secretary expressed the thanks of the Guild to the Dean and Chapter, to the Archdeacon, to the Rev. Watson, Rector of St. Maurice's, and to the Rev. N. C. Woods for presiding.

ALLESLEY, COVENTRY.—On December 31st. 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: A. W. Roberts 1, W. A. Stote (conductor) 2, J. W. T. Taylor (first in the method) 3, J. W. Taylor 4, C. H. Aylett 5, G. Gardner 6.—On Sunday, January 2nd. 720 Kent Treble Bob: J. W. Taylor 1, A. W. Roberts (first in the method) 2, H. G. Summers 3, B. Stone 4, J. W. T. Taylor 5, W. A. Stote (conductor) 6.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY**ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual general meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Barnsley on January 8th and was attended by members from Bushey, Darfield, Eastwood, Hoylandswaine, Felkirk, Penistone, Sandal, Silkstone, Sherburn-in-Elmet, Sprotborough, Wath, Wentworth and St. Marie's, Sheffield. Minor, Triples and Major methods were rung during the afternoon and evening.

The president, Mr. C. Brookes, took the chair at the business meeting at the Royal Hotel. An apology for absence was received from Canon W. E. Wilkinson, the hon. president.

The balance sheet, which showed a profit of £2 5s. 8d., was passed on the motion of Mr. Briggs, seconded by Mr. Lewis. The hon. secretary's report for the year was adopted.

All the officers were re-elected and were warmly thanked for their past services.

It was decided to hold the society's shield contest again this year. The next meeting will be at Crofton on February 12th. The Rector was thanked for the use of the bells.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION,**MEETING AT CHURCHILL.**

The annual meeting of the Axbridge Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association was held at Churchill on December 18th, and ringers were present from Portsmouth Cathedral, Wrington, Badgworth, Woole, Shipham, Nailsea, Congresbury, Banwell, Kewstoke and the local belfry.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, and the tea and business meeting were in the Methodist Schoolroom. In the absence through illness of the president, the Vicar took the chair.

Seven new members were elected from Kewstoke, five from Rowberrow, five from Burnham-on-Sea, and five from Churchill.

The balance showed a credit of just over £7.

The Rev. L. T. Powys David, of Bleadon, was elected president, Mr. G. Prescott, of Kewstoke, Ringing Master, and Mr. E. J. Avery, of Churchill, hon. local secretary and committee member.

It was decided to hold the next quarterly meeting at Weston-super-Mare, and a practice meeting at Rowberrow.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar, to Mr. F. Williams, who played the organ, and to the trustees of the Methodist Schoolroom.

The methods rung during the day were Grandsire, Plain Bob, St. Simon and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Double Bob, Oxford Bob, Double Oxford, St. Clement's, Double Court, Reverse College, Little Bob, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise Minor.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official journal of the Central Council of
Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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'The Ringing World.'

Miss Snowden has asked us to say that the stocks of 'Diagrams
of Standard Methods' are now sold out. New ones are being printed
and delivery is promised for February 1st. Any orders sent her will
be dispatched as soon after that date as possible. It will be necessary
to increase the price of the book to 4s. (2s. for letterpress and 2s.
for diagrams).

Miss Jill Poole, of Leicester, who had already distinguished herself
by ringing peals of Stedman Cinques on handbells, at the age of 13,
has now accomplished her first tower-bell peal. We offer her our
congratulations and look forward to further achievements in change
ringing.

WEDDING AT PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL.

On Saturday, January 1st, at Portsmouth Cathedral, the wedding
was solemnised of Lieut. David Deuchar and Miss Marian Davies,
daughter of Lt.-Comdr. J. D. R. Davies and granddaughter of the
Rev. C. D. P. Davies, who was at one time secretary of the Central
Council and one of the foremost members of the Exercise of his
generation.

The service was conducted by the Provost, the Very Rev. E. N.
Porter Goff, and by the Rev. G. L. Deuchar, father of the bridegroom.

The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a gown of
silver brocade, with veil and train in old Limerick lace. She was
attended by four bridesmaids.

A reception was held at the Queen's Hotel, Southsea. Canon G. F.
Coleridge, a lifelong friend of the bride's grandfather, was among the
guests. The honeymoon is being spent in Devon. The bride is serving
in the R.N. Barracks, Portsmouth.

Before the ceremony 504 Grandsire Triples was rung and afterwards
a quarter-peal composed by C. D. P. Davies. The ringers taking part
were D. Harris 1, F. A. Burnett 2, L. Page 3, H. Nobes 4, W. Tate 5,
L. P. Cook 6, F. W. Burnett (conductor) 7, W. Scaife 8.

THE BEST RING OF BELLS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—You have appealed to ringers to use your columns for dis-
cussion. Well, a few months ago Mr. F. E. Sharpe, of Launton, asked
for opinions on which were the best toned bells (Simpson and ordinary)
in each particular county. Strange as it may seem, he never got a
single reply, yet this is a subject on which most ringers do express
themselves.

How often does one hear the expression, 'Poor lot of pots,' and I
once heard a well-known ringer describe a ring which had been
Simpson tuned as 'like a jazz band.' Now Mr. Sharpe is a writer
and is evidently after material for another book, so we, as ringers,
ought to help him if we can.

I live in Lancashire and the county contains good toned bells in
great abundance. One can mention Ashton-under-Lyne (12), Oldham,
Worsley, Manchester Town Hall and Cathedral, Wigan and Preston.
I do not claim to be an expert and am open for correction, but in
my humble opinion St. John's, Whittle-le-Woods, are the best of the
Simpson tuned bells in the county, and St. James', Poolstock, the
best of the ordinary tuning.

No offence is meant to any other tower and there is plenty more
I could have mentioned.

'LANCASTRIAN.'

ANALYSIS OF HANDBELL PEALS RUNG DURING THE YEAR 1941

Compiled by the Committee appointed by the Central Council of Church Bellringers.

ASSOCIATION	Number of Conductors	CINQUES										ROYAL		CATERS		MAJOR				TRIPLES		MINOR		DOUBLES		TOTAL					
		Stedman	Kent Treble Bob	Plain Bob	Stedman	Grandsire	Kent Treble Bob	Oxford Treble Bob	Double Norwich	Avalon Court Bob	Highbury Bob	Cambridge Court Bob	Lavenham Court Bob	Richmond Bob	Little Bob	Reverse Bob	Spl Plain & Little Bob	Plain Bob	Stedman	Grandsire	7 Methods	4 ditto	3 ditto	1 ditto	11 Methods		7 ditto	5 ditto	2 ditto	1 ditto	
An. Soc. College Yths.	1																1												3		
Bath and Wells Dio. ...	1																												1		
Cambridge Univ. Guild	1																												1		
Devonshire Guild	1																												1		
Durham and Newcastle	1																												1		
Essex Association	4																												4		
Gloucester & Bristol	5																												5		
Guildford Dio. Guild...	1																												1		
Hertford County	4																												4		
Kent County	5																												5		
Lancashire Assoc.	4																												4		
Lincoln Diocesan	2																												2		
Middlesex County	6																												6		
Midland Counties	6																												6		
Norwich Diocesan	2																												2		
Oxford Diocesan	5																												5		
St. Martin's G'd, Bir.	1																												1		
Soc. Royal Cumberl'nds	1																												1		
Suffolk Guild	1																												1		
Sussex Association	4																												4		
Worcester & Districts	2																												2		
Yorkshire Assoc.	4																												4		
Unaffiliated	1																												1		
TOTAL		1	1	6	6	1	6	1	5	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	4	5	1	15	4	3	1	22	1	4	1	3	7	143

The continuance of the ban on church bellringing during the whole of the year has restricted ringing to handbells, with the result that a record number has been scored, the total during the period being 143. The following table gives the totals for 1939, 1940 and 1941.

	1939	1940	1941
Cinques ...	1	—	1
Royal ...	5	3	7
Caters ...	4	2	7
Major ...	60	36	66
Triples ...	10	5	16
Minor ...	18	22	30
Doubles ...	7	18	16

	105	86	143
Peals rung in each month were:—			
January ...	3		
February ...	8		
March ...	9		
April ...	4		
May ...	13		
June ...	13		
July ...	14		
August ...	18		
September ...	15		
October ...	12		
November ...	21		
December ...	13		

143

Footnotes to the peals rung during the year indicate 18 ringers rang their first peal, 44 rang their first peal on handbells, while those who rang their first peal in a different method or in a method on a different number of bells was 91. Ringers conducting their first peals numbered 15, while 6 are recorded as conducting a fresh number of bells or a different method. Two peals were arranged for men in the Forces, 22 for birthdays, 3 for wedding anniversaries, 3 for memorials and one for a royal visit. One ringer rang his 50th and another his 200th handbell peal. Two others rang their 100th and 400th peal respectively and another completed his 100th peal as conductor.

CLAINES, WORCESTERSHIRE.

A NEW RING OF TEN BELLS.

Before the year 1927 there were five bells at Claines, a village three miles north of Worcester. The treble was by W. Hunthach, 1686, the second by Warner, 1886, third, fourth and tenor by R. Oldfield, 1623. The ring was then increased to eight, the old treble being recast and the others retained by Taylors at the expense of Mr. E. P. Thomas, a local gentleman.

The first peals of Lincolnshire, Pudsey, Rutland and Whitbourne Surprise Major for the Worcestershire Association were rung on the bells.

Mr. Thomas was anxious to have a local band to ring for Sunday service and this was accomplished after hard work by Mr. J. J. Jefferies, of Worcester Cathedral, and others. In 1932 a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung by an entirely local band.

Mr. Thomas' mother died in 1939, and as a memorial to her he added two more bells to the ring. The work was completed in 1940 by Messrs. Taylor, and the dedication had to be carried out without any ringing. The first peal on the full ring, one of Grandsire Caters, was rung on December 27th and was reported in our last issue. The band included eight of the local ringers.

ST. CUTHBERT'S, DARLINGTON.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I observe from a letter appearing in your issue of December 17th that Mr. L. Venus is under the impression that the weight of the old tenor at St. Cuthbert's, Darlington, prior to recasting, was 18 cwt. 14 lb. This is not correct. The weight of the old tenor cast by G. Mears and Co. was 16 cwt. 2 qr. 22 lb., as appearing in the records of the original founders and given to me some time ago by their successors. The weight of 18 cwt. 14 lb. is that of the new tenor as recast by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, Ltd.

G. W. PARK.

23, Oaklands Terrace, Darlington.

'ANTI-CLOCKWISE.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was interesting to note from your recent article that Lambeth bells were formerly hung the wrong way round (certain pedants might contend that either way can be the right way).

I have often wondered whether this practice of hanging bells in anti-clockwise order is attributable mainly to any particular bell-hanger or the influence of any particular ringer or group of ringers, or whether at any period it was the usual custom to hang bells only in this way. Perhaps this system of bell-hanging is in some way associated with the development of the left-hand rule of the road.

There seem to be quite a number of anti-clockwise rings in Kent, and it would be interesting to know if the proportion of such rings is higher in the hop county than elsewhere.

Some of your readers may care to express their reactions to anti-clockwise rings. I have heard some ringers contend that such rings are most awkward to ring on, others that they are no different from clockwise rings once a touch has been started. Personally, I have noticed very little difference in ringing one's own bell, but in calling peals I have found it more difficult to put people right, and one found oneself looking at the 7th instead of the treble at lead-ends. A friend who was taught in an anti-clockwise tower finds himself equally at home with either kind of ring, but I recall a peal attempt in a strange method in which there was a 'passenger' who could certainly have been 'nursed' through the peal on a normal ring of bells, but his missed dodges proved fatal in an anti-clockwise tower. I have also heard the somewhat far-fetched theory that it should be easier to ring London Surprise on anti-clockwise bells because the positions come up the opposite way from most methods.

Perhaps the towers with anti-clockwise rings of bells could form the basis for another of Mr. Morris' interesting series of articles.

Another matter I have found of interest is that the county of Kent should be so well endowed with bells. Are there any theories as to the reason for this? I wonder if a summary in tabulated form of the rings of five and upwards in each of the counties of the British Isles could be published in 'The Ringing World.'

'ADULESCENS.'

ST. MARY'S, WHITECHAPEL.

AND SOME OTHER BELL TOWERS.

Mr. Ernest Morris has not exaggerated the effect of Whitechapel bells on a visitor, but the widely held opinion that the trouble was caused by the Underground Railway is most certainly wrong. The railway does not run in a tunnel, but in what is really a shallow trench roofed over to form the street. The lines are well away from the foundations of the steeple, and any vibration caused by the trains has no effect on the adjoining buildings.

The trouble is really due to the construction of the steeple and to the fact that the architect, like all the other architects of his time, did not know what is needed in a bell tower, and probably never gave it a thought.

The church is a large one, the architect had to make the biggest show for the money available, and probably what he aimed at was a steeple which should dominate the main eastern exit from the City and force itself on the notice of the thousands who every day pass along Aldgate and the Whitechapel Road. In this he was successful, but the price had to be paid.

The steeple consists of a lofty red brick tower with a stone spire, the whole somewhere about 200ft. high. For its height the tower is a slender one and it is entirely unbuttressed. There are indeed what look like buttresses, but they are very slight, they do not extend for more than about a quarter of the height of the building, and they finish a long way below where the thrust of the bells comes on to the walls.

APPEARANCE VERSUS UTILITY.

To get the outside effect, and to increase the appearance of height, the steeple is placed in the ordinary position of a porch, between the north aisle and the street, and so gets no support whatever from the church.

Such a building is bound to be bad for a ringing peal of bells. It is very elastic, which means that the whole structure will vibrate at a definite rate under lateral pressure. As a building this elasticity is a good thing, and the tower would no doubt stand, not only any amount of wind pressure, but any amount of pressure a heavy ring of bells could exert.

What happens, however, is that when a bell is on the balance at the beginning or end of its swing, a very little lateral movement will affect it. Compared with the energy exerted by the swinging bells and the resistance of the tower it is trivial; but it is not trivial compared with the strength at the disposal of the ringer—very little of it will make ringing a difficult and sometimes an impossible task.

In more recent years a great deal more knowledge has been gained of the behaviour of buildings under different stresses. So far as bells are concerned, the investigations made some time back by Mr. Edwin H. Lewis have placed the matter on a scientific basis, and there is no reason now why architects, if they have to design a tower to carry a ringing peal, should not do it in an effective manner. Most of them, however, appear still to be ready to sacrifice any considerations of utility to outside appearance, and the present fashion of having straight lines rising direct from the ground does not lend itself easily to the construction of good bell towers. The best way out of the difficulty in the case of both of new and older towers is so to design the frames, and to hang the bells at such a level that the pressure exerted by the swinging bells is least liable to coincide with the natural vibration of the tower. Ringers themselves can often improve matters by ringing the bells at a particular rate.

The leading bell foundries fortunately are now fully alive to these things, and will always advise that the bells should be rehung at a lower level when it is possible and will do good.

THORPE ST. ANDREW.

There are many other instances throughout the country where the conditions are the same as at Whitechapel and for the same reason. In London an even worse case is the church at Star Street, Paddington. The bells there have not been rung for many years, but before the last war one or two peals were rung on them by bands who went prepared for a tough job and were in no wise disappointed.

The very worst case I have ever come across is Thorpe St. Andrew next Norwich. The church is a modern one built about 1866, the tower and spire being added about 1880. The steeple is very similar to that at Whitechapel, though on a smaller scale, and stands in a similar position.

When the steeple was built, or soon after, a ring of eight bells was hung by Moore, Holmes and Mackenzie, the tenor, if I remember

aright, being 14 cwt. It had all the firm's improvements such as a steel frame, spring clappers and the rest, and is of interest as the only ring of eight cast by the firm.

When the bells were first hung the architect, a man of the name of Pearce, did not wish them to be rung until the building had fully settled, which was not unreasonable. So the bells were silent for about ten years. Then there came to Thorpe a man who took an interest in bells. He got Earle Bulwer to move in the matter and a day was appointed on which the bells were to be rung by a band carefully selected from the Mancroft company.

It so happened that Mr. James E. Davis was then spending a holiday at Thurlton, a village about six miles north of Beccles, and a peal attempt was arranged at Loddon for him to call Holt's Original. Some of us Norwich boys—C. E. Borrett, A. W. Brighton, John and George Burton—and myself were in the band.

AN EXCITING EXPERIENCE.

We did not get the peal, and I and the two Burtons cycled back to Norwich. When we neared the city someone mentioned that he had heard that Thorpe bells were to be rung that evening, so we turned aside over Carrow bridge to listen. When we got there all the arrangements had been made. Bulwer and the parish authorities were present. The special band was ready and the bells raised. The architect was up in the bell chamber fixing up some contraptions, including glasses of water resting on the frame, by which he could observe whether there was any movement when the bells were rung.

For some reason (why, I don't know) I was one of the band which started the ringing. I rang the second. We pulled off and the bells struck one good clear rounds. The next thing was that I found my bell had stopped almost dead, and the other ropes were flying about wildly; while down the stairs came frantic shouts, 'Stop the bells! Stop the bells!! The whole place is coming down!'

It did not take long to stop the bells, and no one thought of any further ringing. What was really the trouble I never knew. I have heard it said that the thin brick walls began to buckle under the pressure of the bells. If that were so it would not have been long before the whole structure had collapsed.

So it is that I am almost the only living person who can say he has rung at Thorpe St. Andrew's.
J. A. T.

MR. MORRIS' PEAL.

MR. COLES' RECOLLECTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was always a pleasure to attempt a peal with Mr. E. Morris, whose account in this week's 'Ringing World' of a peal in which he rang at St. Mary Matfelon, Whitechapel, some 20 years ago, brings back amusing memories. Whether successful or not, or whether he had a good going bell or otherwise, it was always the same to Ernest, you could rely on him to be cheerful. In this connection I note that in his letter he says he had the 'pleasure' of ringing the tenor to the peal under notice. It is said sometimes of people that they take their pleasures sadly, but I think that on this occasion the fact was that Ernest took his troubles lightly—at any rate when the peal was over.

No doubt my dear old friend, the late Bill Pye, who was the last of the band to arrive in the belfry, was anxious that somebody was on the tenor box who would be likely to finish the job. My recollection is that a few weeks previously he had lost a peal of Cambridge Surprise Major whilst ringing that bell; it had simply fallen down on him. Be that as it may, he was quite satisfied at ringing elsewhere, and took the 7th, but if he had had any doubt he would have rung the tenor himself.

As regards Ernest's condition when we had finished, I think it only fair to say that I had advised him to take his waistcoat and collar off, but he had only smiled. When I reminded him that if he had taken my advice he would at least have had a decent collar to put on, he simply smiled again. We have since had many good laughs about that peal, and it is true that I often offered to arrange another at that tower for him. Perhaps it was fortunate for somebody that he never accepted, for I cannot imagine that Ernest would have tackled that tenor again.

Well, it is too late now, the tower stands as a skeleton, and the bells, which have caused many heartburnings and disappointments to ringers, have completely disappeared, and with them several very interesting boards recording peals rung in the earlier tower, when no doubt ringing the tenor would have been a real pleasure.

C. T. COLES.

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CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 8.)

Biddenham, near Bedford, St. James' Church has an embattled central tower with small spire and containing a ring of six bells, tenor 13 cwt. As early as 1521 one Isabella Low left a will and gave 'to the bellys iiijd.' In 1787, an entirely new ring of six bells was installed by William Emmerton, of Wootton, as the inscription of the fifth says, 'five old bells cast into six at the Expense of John Brooks.' In 1899 J. Taylor and Co. recast the tenor and rehung all in a new iron frame. In this church is a piece of very Early German tapestry dated 1549; this was cleaned in 1894 and is now in a fine state of preservation. Here a stairway is built outside the tower of some sixteen or so steps to a small platform, from which about six more steps through the wall of the tower brings one to the ringing chamber.

The Church of St. Giles, Bredon, Worcestershire, originally erected in the latter half of the 14th century, has a central tower with an exceedingly light and graceful spire, 160ft. high. It contains a heavy ring of five bells with a tenor 18 cwt. 2 qr. 2 lb. in D. The treble is by A. Rudhall, 1733, the 2nd, 3rd and 5th are dated 1624, by 'W. Witmore,' and 4th by Rudhall, 1706. In 1914 all the bells were taken down, sandblasted and tuned by J. Warner and Sons, who also rehung them in a new steel frame. Before being rehung, the fittings and framework were in such a bad condition that serious injury was done to the spire, so that extensive repairs became necessary. A curious feature of the restoration was that, after the bells were taken out and the work upon the fabric put in hand, the spire in the course of a severe thunderstorm was further damaged by lightning. The movement of the spire was so great before the rehanging of the bells that the tulipstone carrying the weather vane was shattered and crashed down into the church. To enter the ringing chamber, one goes via a spiral stairway to the roof, thence across the leads and up an iron ladder on the tower wall.

The city of Bath, in Somerset, presents one of the finest aspects of any in the United Kingdom. Its buildings of freestone or bathstone quarried in the neighbourhood are arranged in a series of natural crescents backed by hills. Its well sheltered position, scenic charm, and hot mineral springs have made it one of the most favoured health resorts. The Abbey Church of SS. Peter and Paul, dating from 1499, is a handsome specimen of Perpendicular work, known from the size and number of its windows as the 'Lantern of England.' It occupies the site of a seventh century convent, which was superseded by a Norman cathedral, begun in 1090 on the translation of the See of Wells to Bath, and completed 70 years later. The secondary cathedral of the diocese, it was restored by Sir G. G. Scott, 1899-1900, and contains the tombs of Beau Nash and the actor Quin.

The fine central tower, 160ft. high, is oblong, owing to the width of the transepts being less than the nave and choir. It contains a ring of ten bells, the back eight by Rudhall in 1700, and two trebles added 1774. The tenor, which is 34½ cwt., was recast by J. Warner and Sons in 1876. It has the curious couplet:—

All yov of Bath that heare mee sovnd,
Thank Lady Hopton's hvndred povnd.

Bath has long been connected with change ringing, although it did not in the old days produce a distinguished band of ringers. It became on September 29th, 1760, the birthplace of Shipway, the noted ringer and author on the subject, who tells us that he had rung as far as Treble Bob Royal before leaving Bath for London, and that the principal motive for his change of residence was that, 'although Bath had a respectable and able band of ringers, yet the art did not improve so rapidly as he wished.' As above stated, Rudhall installed a ring of eight in 1700 and two trebles in 1774, yet, according to a record there of 5,040 Grandsire Triples rung March 10th, 1834, 'this was the first and only known peal performed in this tower.' It would appear that Shipway's contemporaries contented themselves with touches.

Parnell, of Sheffield, writing in 1817, says of the Society of Union Scholars of London: 'The original book of manuscripts' being a copy of peals rung by the Union Scholars was took to the City of Bath in Somersetshire at the Desolution of this Society, many years ago, by Mr. James Albion, one of the members and a schoolmaster at Bath for some years, and died at Bath City a few years ago. He rung the 2nd bell in the above peal July 7th, 1751 (Holt's Original at Westminster), and was the longest liver of any member, and gave him the title of Father of that once Society of Union Scholars of London. He was much pleased with good change ringing, and on his arrival at Bath City he joined the band of ringers at St. Peter's and St. Paul's Parochial Abbey Church. I rung Grandsire Caters with him on the ten bells at the Bath Abbey along with the Bath Society in 1791 on my first visit to London. This Mr. James Albion died a very old man at Bath City and was buried at the same place with ringing honours with the bells muffled and a short peal performed on them about the year, I think, 1797 or 1800. He left the Union Scholars' manuscript book to Mr. William Fry, by trade a plumber and glazier, also a Bath Abbey change ringer at the city of Bath, to preserve and hand down to posterity. I have perused it, and was much pleased, and hope it will not be destroyed so long as earthly time lasts on this globe. This Mr. James Albion (Union Scholar) was a small-boned little man, not quite so tall as Mr. William Booth, a Table Knife Cutter, and change ringer, Bailey Lane, town of Sheffield, Yorkshire.

Rainy, Wednesday, August 27th, 1817.

John Alfred Parnell.'

Bath Abbey bells go anti-clockwise, and the approach to the ringing chamber is by spiral stairway at the north-east corner of the building, thence by a walk on a duck-board along the roof of the chancel, and the chamber is entered by a door in the east wall of the central tower.

ALTRINCHAM, CHESHIRE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have been reading your weekly articles on 'Central Towers.' I am a ringer at St. Margaret's, Altrincham. Our tower is central, but we have not rung the bells, but only chimed them for a number of years, I think at least 45 years. Since the ringing of bells has restarted we have got a new band together and we have got consent from the bell founders and architect to ring them again. They stopped ringing them because the spire was found to be unsafe, but it was taken down in 1927.

We have a ring of ten bells, the tenor 27½ cwt. They were cast and installed by Taylors in 1854 at the time the church was built. I thought this might be of interest to yourself and other ringers.

HERBERT TURNER.

Sale, Cheshire.

ST. GILES', EDINBURGH.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In view of the correspondence regarding bells at St. Giles', Edinburgh, the following account of a visit to the tower may be of interest. It is from an autobiography of James Nasmyth, edited by Dr. Samuel Smiles. Nasmyth was born in Edinburgh in 1808 and spent his early years in the city.

'While sitting on the grassy slopes of the Calton Hill I would often hear the chimes sounding from the grand old tower of St. Giles'. The Cathedral lay on the other side of the valley, which divides the old town from the new. The sounds came over the murmur of the traffic in the streets below.

'The chime-bells were played every day from twelve till one—the old-fashioned dinner-hour of the citizens. The practice had been in existence for more than a hundred and fifty years. The pleasing effect of the merry airs, which came wafted to me by the warm summer breezes, made me long to see them as well as hear them.

'My father was always anxious to give pleasure to his children. Accordingly, he took me one day, as a special treat, to the top of the grand old tower to see the chimes played. As we passed up the tower, a strong vaulted room was pointed out to me, where the witches used to be imprisoned. I was told that the poor old women were often taken down from this dark vault to be burnt alive. Such terrible tales enveloped the tower with a horrible fascination to my young mind. What a fearful contrast to the merry sound of the chimes issuing from its roof on a bright summer day.

'On my way up to the top flat, where the chimes were played, I had to pass through the vault in which the great pendulum was slowly swinging in its ghostly-like tick-tack, tick-tack; while the great ancient clock was keeping time with its sudden and startling movement. The whole scene was almost as uncanny as the witches' cell underneath. There was also a wild rumbling thumping sound overhead. I soon discovered the cause of this, when I entered the flat where the musician was at work. He was seen in violent action, beating or hammering on the keys of a gigantic pianoforte-like apparatus. The instruments he used were two great leather-faced mallets, one of which he held in each hand. Each key was connected by iron rods with the chime-bells above. The frantic and mad-like movements of the musician, as he energetically rushed from one key to another, often widely apart, gave me the idea that the man was daft—especially as the noise of the mallets was such that I heard no music emitted from the chimes so far overhead. It was only when I had climbed up the stair of the tower to where the bells were hung that I understood the performance, and comprehended the beating of the chimes which gave me so much pleasure when I heard them at a distance.'

A small view of the tower is given, showing a number of bells apparently suspended on beams between the arches forming the lower stage of the 'Mural Crown.'

Nasmyth became famous as an engineer, and had many other interests in life. He is remembered for his invention of the steam hammer and other mechanical contrivances. The business founded by him is still carried on at Patricroft, near Manchester.

R. F. DEAL.

10, Kimberley Avenue, E.6.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

IPSWICH.—On Sunday, December 26th, at St. Matthew's, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: G. Biggs 1, A. E. Hardy 2, Miss E. Reeve 3, Gnr. R. Lester 4, F. E. Wiseman 5, C. H. Aldous (conductor) 6.

HAVERHILL, SUFFOLK.—On January 1st, 720 Bob Minor: J. W. Jennings 1, H. Backler 2, S. Twitchett 3, Gnr. N. Hough 4, L. Wright (conductor) 5, Peter Carter, R.A.F. (first 720 on an inside bell) 6.

HITCHAM, BUCKS.—On January 1st, 720 Bob Minor: Freda Murkett 1, Joyce Hearn (first 720 inside, age 14) 2, G. J. Berry (Hitcham) 3, John M. Gayford 4, C. A. Levett 5, W. Henley (conductor) 6.

CHALFONT ST. PETER.—On January 1st, midnight, 720 Bob Minor: R. Stone 1, G. Swift 2, F. Bolton 3, Mrs. F. King 4, A. Swan 5, E. Stevens (conductor) 6.

READING.—At St. Laurence's Church on January 2nd, 1,260 Grand-sire Triples: Miss J. Stacey 1, Miss P. Hart 2, T. Lanaghan 3, A. R. Poyntz 4, R. T. Hibbert 5, H. Smith 6, E. Humphrey 7, E. G. Foster 8. Also 1,259 Grandsire Caters: Miss P. Hart 1, Mrs. Catherall 2, H. Smith 3, A. R. Poyntz 4, T. Lanaghan 5, R. Rex 6, R. T. Hibbert (conductor) 7, C. Pullen 8, E. Humphrey 9, Mrs. Pat Lewington 10. Several 500's of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Caters have been rung for evensong on Sundays. Mrs. Lewington and E. Humphrey have shared in the conducting.

OXHEY, HERTS.—On Sunday, January 2nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: W. Attwood 1, F. W. Brinklow 2, L. Tarr (first quarter-peal) 3, H. Hayes 4, J. Rosson (conductor) 5, E. Rosson 6. Four quarter-peals were rung by the new band during the Christmas festival.

DARLINGTON.—At St. Cuthbert's Church on Sunday evening, January 2nd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: R. Rawlings 1, A. Coates 2, F. Linsley 3, A. West 4, R. Taylor 5, G. F. Newton (conductor and first attempt) 6, T. Hill 7, L. Venus 8.

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.**

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, Jan. 15th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate. Service ringing at Stepney, Jan. 16th, 9.30 a.m. — A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Portsmouth District.—Annual district meeting at Fareham, Jan. 15th, 2 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m., followed by business meeting. Own arrangements for tea.—R. J. Stone, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, Penhale Road, Portsmouth.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—Annual meeting at Biggleswade on Saturday, Jan. 15th, 3 p.m. Tea if it can be arranged.—C. J. Ball, Hon. Sec., 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting at Hatfield, Saturday, Jan. 15th. Bells (10) from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at Salisbury Guest House 5 p.m. Then more ringing.—R. W. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Quarterly meeting at St. Mary's, Warwick (10 bells), on Saturday, Jan. 15th. Service at 4.15 p.m. Tea at the Porridge Pot Cafe 5 p.m., approximately 1s. 6d. Business in the Church Vestry after service.—D. E. Beamish, Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Annual district meeting at All Saints', Hertford (10 bells), on Saturday, Jan. 15th, at 2.30 p.m. Tower blacked out. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon, Herts.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting, Colemans Hatch (8), Jan. 15th. Postcards for tea to Miss Divall, Colemans Hatch P.O.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Christchurch District.—Annual meeting, at Christchurch on Saturday, Jan. 15th, 2 p.m. Service in Priory Church at 4 p.m. Tea at 4.45 p.m. in Warren Cafe. Business meeting to follow.—G. Preston, Christchurch.

DEVON GUILD.—East Devon Branch.—Meeting at Sidbury, Saturday, January 15th. Bells 2.30. Tea 5.—G. C. Woodley, Woolbrook, Sidmouth.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Annual district meeting at Great Baddow, Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Ringing 3 p.m. and after tea. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting afterwards. Names by Jan. 19th to Mr. G. Green, 3, Bell Street, Great Baddow, Chelmsford.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch.—Annual meeting at Billingborough, Jan. 22nd. Bells (6) 2 to 9 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting at Foresters' Hall. Names for tea to Mr. B. Dalton, The Garage, Billingborough, Sleaford.—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Combined practice at Easthampstead, Saturday, January 22nd, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.—B. C. Castle, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—Meeting at Poulton on Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food.—J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Whickham on Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. and during evening. Bring own food. Cups of tea provided.—J. A. Brown, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Finchdale Terrace, Chester-le-Street.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Banbury Branch.—Meeting at Lower Heyford, Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Bells (6) from 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Please notify.—E. Pearson, Adderbury West, Banbury, Oxon.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—Monthly meeting at Luton, on Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—Edwin A. Belson, Hon. Dis. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—Annual meeting, St. Peter's Church, Northampton, Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Bells 3.30. Service 4.15. Committee meeting 3.45. Bring own food.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Quarterly meeting, Stourbridge (8 bells), Jan. 22nd, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery.—Meeting at Rowberrow, Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Bells (6) 6.30 p.m.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Jurisdiction of Glaston Branch.—Annual meeting Saturday, Jan. 22nd, at St. Cuthbert's, Wells, 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea (1s.) and meeting, Wickenhams, after. Names early please.—W. H. Marsh, 4, Dovecots, Street, Somerset.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at St. John-the-Baptist, Erith, on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Details next week.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Pudsey, Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. Tea only for those who send names to Mr. W. Barton, 9, Pembroke Road, Pudsey, near Leeds, by Jan. 27th. Business meeting in the Park Hotel, 6.30 p.m.—H. Loft-house, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Annual district meeting at Bocking, Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells (8) from 2 p.m. and during blackout. Service 4 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellingborough Branch.—Annual meeting at Irchester (8 bells) on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Service 4.30. Notify for tea.—A. Bigley, 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—Annual meeting at Martock, Saturday, Jan. 29th. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Notify early for tea.—F. Farrant, Martock, Somerset.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Special general meeting Leicester, Jan. 29th. St. Margaret's bells (12) 2 p.m. Committee meet in choir vestry 3 p.m. Tea at Co-op, High Street, 5 p.m., only to those who notify me by the 26th. Further details next week.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—Gainsborough District.—Annual meeting at All Saints', Gainsborough, on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells afternoon and evening. Service at 4 p.m. No tea arrangements; cafes in the town. Business meeting in the belfry at 6 p.m.—Geo. L. A. Lunn, Hon. Sec., 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Farnham District.—Annual meeting at Farnham, Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Numbers for tea to Mr. R. Hasted, 1, Victoria Villas, St. George's Road, Farnham, by Jan. 26th.—W. Viggers, for Hon. Sec.

BIRTHS.

CURSON.—On Jan. 2nd, 1944, in Drayton Hospital, Norwich, to Mabel (nee Robertson), wife of R. W. Curson, Hethersett, the gift of a son, Alan William.

WHITMORE.—On Dec. 29th, 1943, at 80c, High Street, Raunds, to Phyllis, wife of W. J. Whitmore, a daughter, Mavis.

HANDBELLS WANTED.

SET OF HANDBELLS, 10 or 12, in good condition.—R. H. Bullen, 39a, High Street, Ely, Cambs.

HADDENHAM, CAMBS.

A meeting held at Haddenham on January 1st was attended by ringers from St. Ives, Wilburton, Somersham, Ely and the local belfry. The methods rung were Bob Minor, Oxford Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise, with rounds for beginners. Tea was provided by some of the local lady ringers. The next meeting was arranged to be held at Wilburton on February 12th.

SHEFFIELD.—On Sunday, December 26th, at St. Marie's, Norfolk Row, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Harry Hurst 1, Tom Lee 2, Herbert O. Chaddock 3, Frank Brightmore 4, Jack Smithson 5, Robert Harrison 6, Sgt. N. Chaddock, R.E.M.E. (conductor) 7, Philip Lowe 8.

EARDISLAND HEREFORDSHIRE.—On Monday, December 27th. 1,260 Doubles (300 Stedman and 960 Grandsire): *Frederick Harris 1. *Ronald Mewies 2. *John D. Rock 3. *Lawrence T. Mainwaring 4. Leslie Evans (conductor) 5. *E. Peter Rock 6. *First quarter-peal. † First in two methods. First on the bells by a Sunday service band. An attempt on Christmas Day came to grief after 1,210 changes owing to the breaking of a rope. All the band except the conductor are under 18 and began to ring during the ban.

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THE RINGING WORLD

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

No. 1,718. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21st, 1944.

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

RINGING TEXT BOOKS.

One of the best features of the present revival of ringing is the increased sale of the standard text books. It is a good sign of the number of recruits that are coming to the belfries, and an assurance that no small amount of the right sort of information is being given them. Seed is being sown which may produce an excellent harvest in the years to come. For at the moment the problem which faces the Exercise is not so much the old familiar one of how to find recruits as what to do with them when they are found. They must be taught, and the task of teaching change ringing is neither an easy nor a short one. All over the country there are men who are willing and eager to do everything they can. The Exercise owes them a deep debt of gratitude, and they deserve to succeed. But zeal, patience, tact and perseverance, valuable and necessary as they are, will not avail unless something of the right things are taught and in something like the right way. Really first-class instructors are not common, either in ringing or in any other sphere, and even when a man has put his best at the service of his pupils there still must remain much of the elementary things of the art which the novice has yet to learn.

There are few things comparable to change ringing in which so long and so intense a training is needed if the beginner is really to make good. The first stages seem easy enough. To handle a bell so that rounds of a sort can be rung is a matter of comparatively few lessons, and the novice begins to think that in a few months' time he will be able to take his place in a competent band as a fully fledged ringer. It does not happen. He has a long journey yet to go; there are many disappointments and much disillusionment; and the chances are that his interest wanes, and after a time, when the novelty of the thing has finally worn off, the belfry sees him no more.

These things cannot be helped. They are part of the price we must pay for having an art which, when it is learnt, will provide a man with a lifelong interest. 'Easy come, easy go,' is true of interests as well as of money. What has cost us time, and effort, and endurance, that we prize, and it is better that there should be a few recruits who stay the course, than many whose interest is slack, attendance irregular, and technical skill poor.

There must, then, be a winnowing time, but that makes it all the more necessary that every recruit shall have a full chance, and especially that every one of the right sort shall have opportunities of gaining knowledge by himself

(Continued on page 26.)

and outside the belfry. This is where the value of text books lies. They do not take the place of the instructor; they supplement and make easier his task, and they give information which usually he has neither the time nor faculty of imparting.

Text books have had a great share in the great improvement made in the Exercise during the last half-century, and that is why we say the present increased sales are a good augury for the future. But these increased sales have raised a grave problem for the owners of the books. The stocks which remained of the pre-war copies are getting low. The three works most useful for beginners, 'Ropesight,' 'The Ringers' Handbook' and 'Standard Methods,' are almost exhausted. In the case of 'Standard Methods' the last of the copies of the Diagrams has actually been sold. In these days it is no easy matter to reprint books. There is an acute paper shortage, and the paper controller, rightly, will not lightly give permits for printing books. The cost of printing and material has increased enormously, and these books have always been sold at a price which did no more than provide the interest on the capital locked up. Booksellers' profits, authors' fees, and suchlike ordinary charges, were entirely eliminated.

The owners of the books are therefore faced with the alternative of either charging a little more when they reprint or else of allowing the books to go out of circulation.

All our readers will, we are sure, agree that the latter would be little short of a calamity. The Exercise needs these books, and in the present circumstances ringers, when they realise the situation, will not grudge the small extra charge.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 8, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes,
At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5050 CHANGES;

*ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 1-2	JOHN THOMAS ... 5-6
MRS. THOMAS ... 3-4	†ERIC A. DENCH ... 7-8

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by J. THOMAS.

* First peal of Bob Major. † First peal of Major.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., Jan. 11, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,
At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

ERIC A. DENCH ... 1-2	*ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 5-6
JOHN THOMAS ... 3-4	VICTOR R. WOODARDS ... 7-8

Conducted by J. THOMAS.

* First peal on an inside pair.

THE LATE MR. E. F. BEHAN

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The late Mr. E. F. Behan, when visiting this country in 1903, took part in a peal of Grandsire Triples at Ashted on Monday, September 21st, which I had the honour of conducting. It was rung as a farewell compliment on his leaving for South Africa on September 26th. Mr. Behan rang the 2nd.

The Angles, Ashted.

T. HOYLE.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, Jan. 11, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,
At THE CHURCH OF ST. EBBE,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 4½ cwt.	
WALTER F. JUDGE ... Treble	REV. JOHN P. PELLOE ... 5
WILLIAM H. B. WILKINS ... 2	*JOHN E. SPICE ... 6
CHARLES COLES ... 3	REV. M. C. C. MEL-
VICTOR J. F. BENNETT ... 4	VILLE ... 7
	MISS MARIE R. CROSS...Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW (C.C.C. No. 88).

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal in the method on tower bells and as conductor. The first peal in the method on the bells and by all the band except the ringers of treble and 6th.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, Jan. 15, 1944, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
At THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S VARIATION. Tenor 23 cwt. 3 qr. 8 lb. in D.	
WALTER F. JUDGE ... Treble	CHARLES HAZELDEN ... 5
*MISS VALHALLA HILL ... 2	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE ... 6
ALFRED H. PULLING ... 3	†C. ERNEST SMITH ... 7
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... 4	WILLIAM T. BEESON ... Tenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

* First peal of Stedman. † 100th peal of Stedman.

BLACKHILL, CO. DURHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 15, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,
At THE CHURCH OF ST. AIDAN,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt. 2 qr. 7 lb. in F sharp.

JOHN M. BROADBENT ... Treble	CHRISTOPHER T. LAMB ... 5
*JACK LISHMAN ... 2	DENIS A. BAYLES ... 6
JOHN A. BROWN ... 3	WILLIAM TYSON ... 7
W. LESLIE ASKEW ... 4	GEORGE WILKINSON ... Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES. Conducted by DENIS A. BAYLES.

* First peal of Major and first inside. First peal of Treble Bob Major as conductor and first attempt.

TIPTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, Jan. 15, 1944, in Three Hours,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S 12-PART (7th observation). Tenor 12½ cwt.

CLIFFORD SKIDMORE ... Treble	BERNARD LAWTON ... 5
JOHN LLOYD ... 2	ALBERT D. COLLINS ... 6
NORMAN G. LEECH ... 3	GEORGE HUGHES ... 7
*ALBERT E. MUNDAY ... 4	WILLIAM LOWE ... Tenor

Conducted by NORMAN G. LEECH.

* First peal. The ringer of the seventh has now completed the circle in this tower.

SIX BELL PEAL.

CRANFORD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 8, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,
At THE CHURCH OF ST. DUNSTAN,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Double Court and St. Clement's, and three 720's of Plain Bob. Tenor 7½ cwt. in B flat.

*FRANK C. PRICE ... Treble	†GEORGE C. GOODMAN ... 4
*RICHARD E. PRICE ... 2	H. WILLIAM BARRETT ... 5
†MILES A. BEAUCHAMP ... 3	TONY PRICE ... Tenor

Conducted by TONY PRICE.

* First peal, aged 10 years 5 months and 12 years 4 months respectively. † First peal inside. ‡ First peal of Minor. Frank C. Price is believed to be the youngest peal ringer on tower bells.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 21.)

The central tower of St. Mary's, Ilminster, Somerset, copies the central tower of Wells Cathedral. Both are broad and triple fenestration results. The two stages, however, are less intimately connected at Ilminster than in the Wells central tower. The pinnacles derive from the cathedral tower but are less imposing than those of St. Cuthbert's, Wells; this is compensated by running up minor pinnacles. The windows have 'Somerset tracery,' and great prominence is given to the stair turret. There are eight bells, the tenor being 22 cwt. 3 qr. 9 lb., by Thomas Bilbie, who recast it in 1732. William Bilbie cast the 5th in 1790. The 4th and 6th are dated 1611, and by G.P. (George Purdue), both inscribed: 'drawe neare to God.' The 7th, an ancient bell, simply dated 'anno domini 1583, W.P.,' with all crowned capitals, was recast by J. Taylor and Co. in 1902. At the same time two trebles were added by the same firm, and all the eight rehung in an iron frame. The 3rd is by J. Warner and Sons, 1861.

The central tower and spire at St. Mary-the-Virgin, Almondsbury, Glos, is somewhat unique, and the approach to its ringing room unusual. One enters by a stairway on the north side of the church to the roof: thence across this to the tower, and on entering one finds oneself not at floor level but near the ceiling. Thus one has to go down some 15ft. by a wooden stair. The lead spire is unusual, being one of the very few of its kind in England, others being at Barnstaple, Godalming, and the famous crooked one at Chesterfield. In 1926 this spire was entirely recased inside and out, the entire covering of lead, a matter of some 14 tons, being recast and refixed consistent with not altering its original appearance. The whole structure of the spire was reinforced by the addition of several new beams (some of them 10in. square and 30ft. long), and strengthening of some of the old ones.

The eight bells (tenor 23 cwt.) are worthy of this beautiful spire. Up to 1743 Almondsbury possessed five bells, and in that year Abel Rudhall recast the first four into five, leaving the old tenor of 1601 by Richard and William Purdue, and the present 7th records this fact thus: 'These bells were recast into six by Abel Rudhall, Anno Domini 1743, out of the rents of the church lands in the hands of Thomas Chester Esq. Treasurer thereof.' In 1751 Rudhall added two trebles to make the octave. About 1875 the 6th was struck and cracked by the clapper of the 7th which broke during ringing. It was recast in 1881 by Llewellyn and James, of Bristol. In 1903 the bells were quarter-turned and rehung in a new frame by John Sully, of Stogumber, Somerset.

The handsome church of St. Paul, Burton-on-Trent, given by Mr. Michael T. Bass, has a grand central tower, panelled and battlemented. It is, of course, a tower noted in the annals of change ringing, and at the present time contains a ring of ten, with a tenor 28½ cwt. in D. The approach to the ringing chamber here is not direct, but first by a short spiral stairway affixed halfway along the west side of the south transept; on emerging, one then goes up the sloping roof of side aisle by stone steps to the central tower turret and up a further spiral stairway.

Originally this tower had a ring of eight by J. Taylor

and Co., dated 1872 with a tenor 15 cwt. 3 qr. 21 lb. in F, and in the belfry were exceeding noisy. The late Sir A. P. Heywood, who often visited the tower, said of it, 'Although the church was built regardless of expense, the belfry was, from the noise of the bells, the worst adapted for ringing of any in which I have ever rung, and I have rung in some bad ones.'

The Burton ringers progressed in the art very rapidly, reaching the zenith of their fame in the years 1885-88. The first peal of Stedman Triples was rung in May, 1883, but it was in ringing Double Norwich Major that they excelled.

On November 18th, 1882, they rang the longest length in the method achieved up to that time, 7,200, at Beeston, Notts. The names of that band are worth recalling: Harry Wakley, Edward I. Stone, John Jaggar, Joseph Griffin, A. Wakley, George Appleby, Jasper W. Snowdon and William Wakley. For some years, this was their favourite method; in fact, in the year 1885 they rang eleven peals in the method in succession, seven of them within the space of about six weeks.

Superlative Surprise followed, and in peals in this method, attempted up to then on only rare occasions, they were equally successful, and were the first band to achieve the extent with the tenors together, this being rung on January 24th, 1885. At the end of the same year they rang, with Joseph Field, Charles Hounslow and James W. Washbrook, of Oxford, three peals of Superlative in three successive days, a unique performance at that time.

In 1886 they scored the first peal of New Cumberland Surprise Major ever rung, and at the first attempt. Cambridge Surprise was also at that time practised at Burton, and three peals were rung in three attempts in twelve days in February, 1887, including the full 5,600, which was William Wakley's 100th peal. In April, the Burton men rang the first peal of Cambridge in the Burton variation (New Cambridge, as it is now known), and on September 1st of the same year came the crowning triumph, a peal of London Surprise, the first by all the band and the fourth ever rung. About twelve months afterwards the extent of London, with the tenors together, was rung at Burton.

The Burton band also rang the first peal of London Surprise Major ever rung in London, this being at All Saints', Fulham. This was on December 8th, 1888, and they rang another peal of London before the year was out.

In 1912 the old ring of eight was recast with added metal, the tenor being now 28½ cwt. in D, and they bear Latin inscriptions from the Holy Communion Service. Two trebles were added later, and now Burton possesses a grand ring of ten. Peals of Caters and Royal have periodically been rung on them. The late J. Swinfield for many years had charge of the belfry, which he kept in an ideal condition.

(To be continued.)

THE HANDBELL PEAL AT WELLINGTON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The handbell peal of Bob Major rung at Wellington on December 16th was the first in the county of Shropshire and, of course, for the Shropshire Association. The ringers represented four counties, Kent, Yorkshire, Surrey and Cheshire. We in this county would like to congratulate them and to thank them for their great help in teaching learners tower and handbell ringing.

And now, Mr. Editor, with your kind permission, we Salopians would like to thank you personally for all you have done to keep 'The Ringing World' to the very high standard it is. Also the three 'stalwarts' who have so bravely taken on the great responsibility as trustees.

WILLIAM SAUNDERS.

Coalbrookdale.

THE RINGING WORLD.

The official journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to:—

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'The Ringing World,'
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Cheques and remittances should be made payable to 'The Ringing World.'

We have received a letter from Mr. A. R. Wilson, the hon. secretary of the Holy Trinity Ringers' Association of Hobart, Tasmania, asking us to convey Christmas and New Year's greetings to all bellringers.

Ringers attending the meeting of the Leeds and District Society at Pudsey on January 29th should note that the meeting place has been altered to the Conservative Club.

The peal of Stedman Triples at Guildford Cathedral was specially arranged for the 42nd anniversary of Mr. Hazelden and the conductor's first peal together.

ACOUSTICS OF THE BELFRY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is to be hoped that your timely article, 'The Acoustics of the Belfry,' will receive the wide attention of ringers and, more particularly, people concerned with bell hanging, whether in new or existing towers. To do most of one's ringing, as many ringers must, in a tower where the bells are too noisy, not noisy enough, or, worst of all, where the sound of individual bells is predominant, must be sheer martyrdom.

Some 20 years ago it was decided to build a tower to complete a church, near London, which had been built some half century before. The Central Council, prompted by the commendable foresight of a local ringer, persuaded the church authorities to have the architect's plans altered to conform with the Council's ideal bell tower. Those of us who, some eight years ago, were privileged to stand outside the tower during the ringing of the opening touch on the really fine peal of eight which had then been installed could not fail to be delighted by the beautiful effect of the bells in the immediate neighbourhood.

Unhappily, the arrangements inside the tower were, and still are, an entirely different story. The only barrier between the ringers and the bells is a wooden floor with open joists. Some two or three months ago a friend wrote, 'I went to — on Saturday and took hold for a long course of Treble Bob, but the noise of the bells affected me so much that I had to stop.'

Obviously this is not the direct concern of the bell hangers, but in such a case a word in season from them to the church authorities would be most effective. It is hardly likely that church authorities willing to raise funds for an entirely new peal of bells would willingly spoil the ship for a haporth of tar.

The bell hangers are obviously the people most qualified to advise church authorities on the need for acoustic arrangements, and the fulfilment of this function is surely a debt they owe to ringers, who, after all, are in no small way responsible for a considerable proportion of their business.

P. A. CORBY.

Sutton, Ely.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

With the co-operation of the Cathedral ringers, a meeting of the Western Division of the Sussex County Association was held at Chichester on January 8th.

The ringers' service was incorporated with evensong, seats being reserved in the choir stalls. The Dean gave the address and presided over the business meeting, which followed tea kindly provided by the Cathedral ringers.

More than 30 ringers from 15 towers took part in the ringing, which ranged from rounds to Cambridge Surprise.

THE CROYDON BELL FOUNDRY.

CENTENARY OF MESSRS. GILLETT AND JOHNSTON.

This year is the centenary of the firm of Gillett and Johnston, whose bells and clocks are known not only all over this country, but in other parts of the world.

William Gillett, a young clockmaker at Hadlow, in Kent, started the firm. In 1837 he moved to Clerkenwell, and in 1844 he went to Croydon and opened a clock factory on the site of the present works at the corner of Whitehorse and Union Roads. Since then the bell foundry which he founded has been considerably enlarged and has won world-wide renown.

Subsequently Mr. Bland, a manufacturer from the North of England, joined Mr. Gillett and the firm became known as Gillett and Bland.

During this partnership the firm began to attain considerable distinction, and many large orders were received for tower clocks for new town halls, cathedrals and churches.

Mr. Bland used to travel about to get the orders, and it is on record that on more than one occasion he sat on the doorstep of the office until he had obtained his order. In the meanwhile Mr. Gillett and his workmen made the clocks.

Soon a steady flow of tower clocks and clocks for post offices and public buildings was being sent out to all parts of the world.

In 1877 the late Mr. Arthur Anderson Johnston joined the firm as a junior partner, and in the same year the firm embarked on the founding of bells as an additional manufacture.

Mr. A. A. Johnston rapidly became a prominent resident of Croydon, and he secured election to the Borough Council, on which he served for some years, rendering good service to the community.

After the death of Mr. Gillett and the retirement of Mr. Bland, Mr. A. A. Johnston became sole proprietor until his son, Mr. Cyril F. Johnston (the present managing director) joined as junior partner, after having served his apprenticeship in the works. On the death of Mr. A. A. Johnston in 1916 Mr. Cyril Johnston succeeded him as head of the firm. At that time he was serving as an officer with the Grenadier Guards in France.

Until recently Mr. Cyril Johnston was the C.O. of the firm's own Home Guard unit, which was raised at the inception of the L.D.V. in 1940 and which now numbers 65 men.

Among the firm's great achievements was the Toronto clock, erected in 1902, and for long the largest striking clock in America. The contract was secured in the face of the keenest international competition.

Croydon's Town Hall clock and bells were made by Gillett and Johnston, but it is not generally known that some of the metal used came from the old bells of Eddystone Lighthouse which had been melted down.

Among the most important tower clocks made by the firm are the following: St. James' Palace, London, Windsor Castle, Toronto City Hall, the Town Halls of Manchester, Cardiff, Lambeth, Bradford, Lancaster and Chorley, Birmingham Art Gallery, Reading University, Rangoon Municipal Buildings, Sydney Post Office, Bombay Harbour, Singapore Memorial Tower, Gibraltar Barracks, Johannesburg Post Office, Penang Railway Station and Buenos Aires Memorial Tower.

But for the war there would no doubt have been celebrations befitting so important an occasion. These had necessarily in existing circumstances to be restricted, but they were nevertheless of a hearty and cordial character as befits a firm which has always maintained a happy association with its employees. They were in the form of a New Year's party—a party with a happy family atmosphere—on Tuesday, at the Grandison Hall, Norbury.

Among the guests at the party were the Mayor (Councillor A. L. Boddington) and Mayoress, Col. A. Keevil, O.B.E., M.C., Home Guard Z Sector Commander, Lt.-Col. G. H. Ward, O.C. 60th Surrey Home Guard, and officers of the East Yorkshire Regiment.

Children of employees of the firm were included in the celebrations, for on Saturday between 60 and 70 enjoyed a New Year party which went with a swing from start to finish with plenty of 'goodies' and lots of fun.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION

MEETING AT EAST CROMPTON.

A meeting of the Rochdale Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at East Crompton on January 8th. Ringing began with rounds and call changes for beginners, and included Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, and Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford, Sandal, London Scholars' Pleasure, and Spliced Oxford and Kent Minor. Among those present were the Rev. F. F. Rigby, the president of the association, Mr. F. Hodgson, of Liversedge, and three young ladies from Moorside.

Refreshments were provided by Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Byrom, and there was some handbell ringing at their house before the members returned to the belfry, where the business meeting was presided over by the Vicar, the Rev. D. Williams, who welcomed the members and expressed a hope that they would continue their good work. The chairman was elected an honorary member of the association.

Leesfield was selected as the place of the next meeting, to be held on February 5th. Thanks were given to the Vicar and those providing the tea. About 25 ringers were present.

HANDLING A BELL.

(Continued from page 16.)

Some men advise instructors to give their pupils practice in bell handling first at backstroke and afterwards at handstroke. They include Jasper Snowdon and the authors of the Central Council publication, 'Hints to Instructors.' The opinion of such authorities must not be lightly regarded, but we prefer to begin with the handstroke. Our preference is, no doubt, largely due to the



BACKSTROKE.

fact that we have been accustomed to that way for more than half a century, but there are some more solid reasons. The instructors' job is to teach his pupil two distinct things. First to 'feel' his bell, which means to control its upward swing; and, secondly, to give the right amount of energy to the downward swing at the right moment. The second follows almost instantaneously on the first, but the two are not simultaneous. The natural tendency of the novice is to pull the rope as quickly as he can, and the result is that he has no control and is very

faulty in his timing—either too quick or too slow. At handstroke the instructor can much more easily observe what his pupil is doing, can check faults, and can himself lend a hand if it is necessary to steady the bell.

And here let us stress the importance of explaining clearly to the pupil what he has to do so that he understands it. Never let him go on in an imperfect or faulty style, hoping that practice will cure his faults. If he shows any tendency to do the wrong thing, or to omit to do the right, stop him at once. Show him by example and precept what he ought to do. If he has the right stuff in him, good instruction will soon yield an abundant harvest.

When the backstroke lesson begins, the very first thing is to adjust the tail end to the proper length. This is most important. The ringer should grasp the tail end firmly and naturally with both hands, the lower one (which is the hand he held the rope in at handstroke) not more than about three inches from the end, as shown in the illustration. When he stands erect with his arms fully stretched, but not strained, the bell should be just over the balance, far enough to hold the bell, but no more.

The instructor, who has the sally, will then tell him to ring the bell slowly, or quickly, or to hold it indefinitely, as he did when he was practising at handstroke. The pupil should not be told to set the bell at backstroke. If his rope is the right length, he would not be able to do so, unless he stretched his arms beyond the normal and perhaps had to reach up with one hand. As a general rule it may be said that if a ringer can put his two hands easily on the rope, when it is set at backstroke, without straining or going on to his toes, the rope is too long for him. With bells of heavy-medium weight and upwards it is often the case that the tail end of the set bell is quite beyond the reach of the man who has rung it comfortably and easily to a peal. It is comparatively seldom that bells need be set at backstroke, and novices can leave that until the future.

The reason for these things is that bells normally are rung appreciably higher at handstroke than at back. When we enquire why it should be so, the first thing which forces itself on our attention is the open handstroke lead used in change ringing. The two undoubtedly are connected, but the real historical reason lies in the way bell hanging was evolved from the primitive lever and rope.

When bells were fitted with half wheels, all the pulling necessarily was done from backstroke, for the bells were swung little more than frame high, and there properly was no handstroke at all, only the natural return swing of a pendulum. Early in the seventeenth century three-quarter wheels began to be fitted, so that the bells could be rung higher or (as the saying then was) at a greater compass. Still, almost all the pulling was at handstroke, for the rope was attached to the wheel, not as it is now, but at or near the top of the wheel when the bell is down.

(Continued on next page.)

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HANDLING A BELL.

(Continued from previous page.)

This was the time when change ringing in its early and rudimentary forms was introduced, and for long changes could only be made at hand, because the bells could not be rung high enough at back to make changes there. Then came improvements—the shifting of the position of the garter hole of the wheel through which the rope is passed, the introduction of full wheels, the proper placing of pulley blocks, fitting of woollen sallies, and the rest. These things made modern half-pull ringing possible, but throughout the influence of the old-style hanging remained. Down to quite recent times the round ringers of the West pulled their ropes as their forefathers had done three and four centuries before them, and the style has not yet entirely disappeared.

Not only so, but traces of the influence of the old-style hanging still remain among change ringers. Watch an ordinary skilled ringer pulling a bell casually, say, to try his rope before starting up for a peal. Almost certainly he will definitely make his backstrokes quicker than his handstrokes. It is the natural thing to do.

Thus we may be as certain as we reasonably can be of something which happened unnoticed long ago, that the open handstroke lead was forced on ringers by the way bells are hung, and it was not until long afterwards, and then gradually and partially, that its great musical effect was recognised. It is significant that no attempts were ever made to introduce the open lead into the swing chiming which was universal for Sunday service use; and if it is objected that it would have been difficult to do so, that would only agree with our argument; for we may be sure that mere difficulty would not have prevented the attempt being made if musical effect had been the main object.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

Last Tuesday was the centenary of one of the outstanding performances of the Exercise. On January 18th, 1844, the Norwich Scholars rang at St. Peter Mancroft 7,126 changes of Stedman Cinques, beating the previous longest length in the method rung 24 years earlier at St. Martin's, Birmingham. To-day such a performance does not on paper look a very remarkable one, but circumstances have entirely changed and comparisons are misleading and futile. The traditions of this peal were that it was splendidly struck, and generally the old Norwich men owed as much of their great reputation to the way in which they rang their peals as to the methods they rang.

'The Era' of January 26th, 1844, the sporting paper of the time, which reported ringing performances, said: 'On the 18th last the Norwich scholars of St. Peter Mancroft, ascended the tower and rung on that noble peal of twelve bells, the longest peal of cinques, on Stedman's principle, ever accomplished in England. The time occupied in changes was five hours and seventeen minutes. The brilliant performance of this arduous task, and bold and regular striking, reflects the highest credit on the band.'

Charles Middleton, so well known as the composer of Cambridge Surprise, rang the fourth, and Henry Hubbard, the author of a ringing text book, rang the eleventh. The last survivor of the band, William Freeman, is well remembered by persons still alive.

This was the last of the really great performances by the Norwich Scholars. They continued to ring a few peals, but not many years later decline set in.

NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION AT LEICESTER.

At half-past nine in the evening of December 31st, 58 persons, consisting of ringers, their wives and friends, sat down to supper in the Mayor's Parlour at the ancient Guildhall adjoining the Cathedral at Leicester. The building was originally erected in 1393 by the Corpus Christi Guild and was used as the Town Hall from 1459 till 1876. Among those present were the Provost (the Very Rev. H. A. Jones) and the Rev. R. C. Chandler.

Proposing the toast of 'Leicester Cathedral,' Mr. H. J. Poole referred to the old records of St. Martin's Church (now the Cathedral), in which items for the repairs of the bells repeatedly appear, and said that in these days of modern bell hanging, when bells did not need even oiling for years, the church authorities were apt to forget they had a peal of bells so far as concerns the accounts. At the Cathedral, however, with the teaching of learners and the occasional breaking of a stay, it was not possible for this to happen. He reminded the Provost of a pre-war arrangement that the bells would be available for a peal once a month, and said that the present peal were not nearly so noisy as the former peal. On a recent Saturday afternoon it was arranged to ring for a Confirmation service, but the verger said he did not know whether they could ring, as there was a special chess match with visitors from various parts of the country in the Church House adjoining. He was reminded that the ringing was for a special service, and it was arranged for him to come to the belfry should the bells prove too noisy for play to proceed. He never came and the following day reported that he saw the president of the Chess Association and enquired if the bells caused any inconvenience. The president replied, 'What bells?' and on being told the Cathedral bells, said, 'Were they ringing?'

The Provost said he much appreciated the efforts and enthusiasm of the ringers. He easily disposed of complaints regarding the bells by telling the complainants to report their grievance to Inspector Poole, of the City Police. He never heard any more of them.

A course of Stedman Cinques was rung on handbells, and Mr. W. C. Dunford entertained with some clever sketching.

The old year was rung out and the new year opened with good wishes to all, ceremonial ringing and a course of Cambridge Surprise Royal.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham was held on January 1st. After various methods had been rung on the bells of St. Martin's, the business meeting was at the society's club room at the Temworth Arms, Moor Street, the Master, Mr. Councillor A. Paddon Smith, being in the chair.

Messrs. T. Abbotts and O. N. Thomas, of Shirley, and Mr. E. Atkinson, of Kingstanding, were elected members. The next quarterly meeting was fixed for April 1st at Aston Parish Church.

Mr. Thomas H. Reeves, the hon. secretary and treasurer, in presenting the balance sheet, said that the finances were in a very healthy condition. Subscriptions had come in well and expenses had been kept low, with the result that during the year the credit balance at the bank had been increased by £10. The auditors, Messrs. G. E. and H. H. Fearn, reported, and the balance sheet was adopted.

The president and vice-presidents were re-elected on the proposition of Mr. Reeves, seconded by Mr. W. C. Dowding.

Mr. Albert Walker was elected Master on the proposition of Mr. H. C. Spencer, seconded by Mr. G. F. Swann, and took the chair.

Mr. George E. Fearn was elected Ringing Master on the proposition of Mr. E. T. Allaway, seconded by Mr. G. F. Swann.

The trustees, Mr. A. Paddon Smith and Mr. E. T. Allaway, the auditors, the hon. librarian, Mr. G. F. Swann, and the hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. T. H. Reeves, were all re-elected.

It was decided to hold the Henry Johnson commemoration lunch on March 4th and to invite the Rector of Birmingham to preside. The arrangements were left in the hands of the secretary.

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. J. George, G. Williams and A. E. Norman.

The business was followed by a social hour and handbell ringing.

DEATH.

COOPER.—On January 4th, 1944, Mary Ann, beloved wife of Charles William Cooper, 46, Cemetery Road, Lye, Stourbridge. Passed peacefully away. Sincere thanks to all friends for kind expressions of sympathy.

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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/-.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Annual district meeting at Great Baddow, Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Ringing 3 p.m. and after tea. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting afterwards.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Banbury Branch.—Meeting at Lower Heyford, Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Bells (6) from 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Please notify.—E. Pearson, Adderbury West, Banbury, Oxon.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Quarterly meeting, Stourbridge (8 bells), Jan. 22nd, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Hunts District.—Meeting at Great Staughton on Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Bells (6) 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Service 4.30. It is hoped to arrange tea.—H. J. Parker, Dis. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, Jan. 29th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Pudsey, Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. Tea only for those who send names to Mr. W. Barton, 9, Pembroke Road, Pudsey, near Leeds, by Jan. 27th. Business meeting in the Conservative Club, 6.30 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Annual district meeting at Bocking, Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells (8) from 2 p.m. and during blackout. Service 4 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellingborough Branch.—Annual meeting at Irchester (8 bells) on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Service 4.30. Notify for tea.—A. Bigley, 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—Annual meeting at Martock, Saturday, Jan. 29th. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Notify early for tea.—F. Farrant, Martock, Somerset.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Special general meeting Leicester, Jan. 29th, St. Margaret's bells (12) 2 p.m. Committee meet in choir vestry 3 p.m. Tea at Co-op, High Street, 5 p.m., only to those who notify me by the 26th. Further details next week.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Farnham District.—Annual meeting at Farnham, Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Numbers for tea to Mr. R. Hasted, 1, Victoria Villas, St. George's Road, Farnham, by Jan. 26th.—W. Viggers, for Hon. Sec.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch.—Annual meeting at Wisbech on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5. Tower blacked out.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—Gainsborough District.—Annual meeting at All Saints', Gainsborough, on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells afternoon and evening. Service at 4 p.m. No tea arrangements; cafes in the town. Business meeting in the belfry at 6 p.m.—Geo. L. A. Lunn, Hon. Sec., 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—South Forest Branch.—Meeting at Lydney, Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells (8) 4.30 p.m. Meeting at Cross Keys Hotel. Election of officers.—Oliver Thomas, Hon. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Meeting at St. John-the-Baptist, Erith, on Saturday, Jan. 29th, 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea will be arranged, if possible, for those notifying me by Tuesday, Jan. 25th.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

KINGSTON SEYMOUR.—Meeting, Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Tea 5, after which Yatton bells available.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Towcester Branch.—Annual meeting at Towcester, Saturday, Jan. 29th. Tea 3.45. Service 4.30. Names by Tuesday, the 25th, to Rev. E. V. Fenn, Lois Weedon, Towcester.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at St. Mary's, Brownedge, Bamber Bridge, Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells 2.30. Bring food.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Doncaster, Jan. 29th, 2.30. Meeting Clergy House at 6. Own arrangements for tea. Several cafes near the church.—W. E. Lloyd, Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Fulham, Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells 3.30 to 5. Short meeting in belfry after, then handbell ringing till blackout. No tea arrangements.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—Annual meeting at Daventry (8 bells), Saturday, Jan. 29th. Usual arrangements. Notify for tea.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport and Bowdon Branch.—Annual meeting at Norbury, Saturday, Jan. 29th. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Bring food.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Adlington St. Paul's on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells (8) 2.30. Bring food.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting, St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, February 5th. Bells (12) 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Business meeting. Tea at cafe in town.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Annual meeting at Bulwell, Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bells 2.30 to 8. Tea 4.30, followed by meeting. Election of officers and other important business. Names for tea must reach Mr. F. Smith, 47, Minerva Street, Bulwell, by Monday, Jan. 31st.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. John-de-Sepulchre, Norwich, on Saturday, February 5th. Bells (8) from 2. Service 4.15. Tea and meeting at Ber House (1s. each), 4.45 p.m. Names for tea by Feb. 1st.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

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THE RINGING WORLD

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

No. 1,714. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28th, 1944.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

We would direct the special attention of association secretaries and officials, as well as readers generally, to the revised scale of charges which it has been decided shall be made for the insertion of notices in our notices columns.

For some time the charge has been at the rate of fourpence a line with a minimum of two shillings for each insertion. In future any one insertion of a notice will cost two shillings, but it may be repeated as often as desired at the cost of one shilling each time. In any insertion if the lines exceed six there will be an extra charge of fourpence a line.

At first sight there may seem to be little difference between the new scale and the old, and probably for many secretaries there will be none at all. Yet when the matter is examined it will be found, we believe, that the new charges will act much more fairly between association and association, besides simplifying the work of those who have to keep the accounts of this journal.

In the old times the richer associations published their notices of meetings during three and even four weeks, and in cases where they had made an advantageous contract with the late editor, did it at a comparatively low cost. Smaller associations could not afford so much and had to be content with one insertion for which they paid at the full rate. In the future every society will have the chance of a couple of insertions at very little more cost than some of them were in the habit of paying for one.

It will be noticed that the charge of two shillings will cover anything up to six lines, but we hope that secretaries will not treat that as an inducement to publish notices up to the full limit. It must never be forgotten that space in these days is very valuable and that every effort is being made to utilise it to the best advantage. Notices are one of the most important features of the paper, and nothing will be done which will in any way curtail their usefulness. But the actual things which any society needs to advertise are generally definite and not many—the name of the association, the place of meeting and usually the name of the church, the time of service and the place and time of tea and meeting. It is well to say to whom the names for tea should be sent, but the threats made by some secretaries, that those who do not send their names will get no tea, have actually very little effect and are hardly worth making. What

(Continued on page 34.)

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would be effective would be for the secretary to refuse tea to those who had not advised him and, if he thinks it worth while, to risk the unpleasantness which might arise, to stand his ground. At present so many threats are made which prove to be no more than words, that many ringers simply ignore the lot of them.

When a notice appears but once, the best time is not in the issue of the paper immediately before the meeting, but the one before that. For instance, to-morrow's meetings should not be advertised in to-day's issue, but in last Friday's. In order that notices may appear in the right issue we particularly ask secretaries to send them to us in good time. We do not wish them to come a week too soon, for that might lead to the mistake of a too early publication, but they ought to reach us not later than the first post on the Monday before they are to appear, otherwise we cannot guarantee that they will be published.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., Jan. 18, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes,
At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2 | *ALBERT J. WALLMAN 5-6

JOHN THOMAS 3-4 | †ERIC A. DENCH 7-8

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by J. THOMAS.

* First peal with an inside pair. † First peal of Treble Bob.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., Jan. 19, 1944, in One Hour and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
At 116, ALMA ROAD.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings. Tenor size 12 in G.

*ANDREW I. PEARMAN 1-2 | ARTHUR V. DAVIS 3-4

†JOHN DRYDEN 5-6

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* First peal away from tenors. † First peal.

MIDSOMER NORTON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., Jan. 20, 1944, in Two Hours and Two Minutes,
At PHYLIS HILL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Ten callings. Tenor size 15 in C.

*E. JOHN TARGETT 1-2 | RONALD G. BECK 3-4

†DAVID TARGETT 5-6

Conducted by RONALD G. BECK.

Umpire: Frederick A. Targett.

* First peal away from tenors. † First peal on handbells.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 22, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes,
At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

*ERIC A. DENCH 1-2 | JOHN THOMAS 5-6

MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4 | ALBERT J. WALLMAN 7-8

Arranged by I. J. ATTWATER. Conducted by J. THOMAS.

* First peal of Bob Major on 1-2.

EDMONTON.—On Sunday, December 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples, the last quarter of Holt's Original: P. Coward 1, E. Dench 2, V. Woodards 3, Mrs. J. Thomas 4, D. Langdon 5, A. J. Wallman 6, J. Thomas (conductor) 7, D. Smith 8. First quarter-peal on tower bells by all except 4 and 7.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HALIFAX, YORKS.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 15, 1944, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt. in G.

*CYRIL S. JARRETT ... Treble	ALBERT PICKLES ... 5
CLIFFORD ELLISON ... 2	CAPT. J. L. WRIGHT, R.F. 6
†RONALD SQUIRES ... 3	WILLIAM AMBLER ... 6
SAM LONGBOTTOM ... 4	VICTOR A. JARRETT ... Tenor

Composed by J. CARTER.

Conducted by V. A. JARRETT.

* First peal. + First peal of Major. First peal of Major as conductor. Rung on the middle eight. Rung for the marriage of the Rev. L. D. Blathwayt (curate) to Sister Lowden.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Jan. 15, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 23 cwt.

*ANDREW THOMPSON ... Treble	*ARTHUR W. HALL ... 5
PTE. J. FERNLEY, R.C.C. 2	GEORGE W. BIDDULPH ... 6
*JOHN G. CARTLIDGE ... 3	JOHN WORTH ... 7
RICHARD T. HOLDING ... 4	CHARLES H. PAGE ... Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK.

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

* First peal in the method. Treble ringer's 50th peal.

KIDLINGTON, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Mon., Jan. 17, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

A VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 23½ cwt.

ALBERT HANCOX ... Treble	WILLIAM JUDGE ... 5
JACK JUDGE ... 2	GORDON CAUDWELL ... 6
WILLIAM H. THORNE ... 3	JOHN E. SPICE ... 7
WALTER F. JUDGE ... 4	*CHRISTOPHER LAMBOURN Tenor

Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

* First peal. Rung half-muffled to the memory of James Franklin, a member of the tower for over 50 years, who was buried on January 13th.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 22, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION.

Tenor 18 cwt. 1 qr. 26 lb.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE ... Treble	CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... 5
*MRS. F. E. COLLINS ... 2	GEORGE W. STEERE ... 6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3	FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... 7
ALBERT E. CHEESMAN ... 4	CHARLES POTHECARY ... Tenor

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal in the method.

HEADCORN, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 22, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

L/Bdr. J. THORLEY, R.A. Treble	*THOMAS E. SONE ... 5
TOM SAUNDERS ... 2	PERCY PAGE ... 6
FREDERICK S. MACEY ... 3	H. RICHARD FRENCH ... 7
*HARRY BAKER ... 4	LUTHER J. HONESS ... Tenor

Composed by the late A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by T. E. SONE.

* 175th peal together. Rung to the memory of the late Mr. Philip Hodgkin, for many years a ringer at this church.

GRUNDISBURGH, SUFFOLK.

During the year 1943, thirty-six quarter-peals and 720's were rung by the local band. The bells were rung regularly for both services on every Sunday since the lifting of the ban, ringers were supplied for the services at Hasketon and Burgh, and help was given to the band being formed at Woodbridge.

SIX BELL PEALS.

CLIFFORD, HEREFORDSHIRE.
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 15, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, 10 callings.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

*A. DEREK OWENS ... Treble	ALBERT F. JONES ... 4
LESLIE EVANS ... 2	DAVID H. BENNETT ... 5
†E. PETER ROCK ... 3	WILLIAM BEAVER ... Tenor

Conducted by D. H. BENNETT.

* First peal. + First peal inside. Rung as a compliment to Mr. J. P. Hyett, J.P., on his 72nd birthday, and on his retirement from ringing at Clifford after 35 years' service.

HEXHILL-ON-SEA, SUSSEX.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 15, 1944, in Three Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

*PTE. M. W. LOOSMORE Treble	PTE. H. C. R. VINE ... 4
CPL. H. D. W. BISHOP 2	CPL. F. C. ISAACS ... 5
PTE. L. A. WOODWARD 3	PTE. G. R. HAWKINS ... Tenor

Conducted by CORPL. H. D. W. BISHOP.

* First peal. All the band are serving with the same unit.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD

MEETING AT DORCHESTER.

The annual meeting of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Dorchester on January 8th and was attended by members from Wyke Regis, Maiden Newton, Stratton, Charnminster, Upwey, Abbotsbury, Bradford Peverell and Bere Regis and the local belfry.

Service was at St. Peter's, with an address by Canon A. Wilkinson Markby, the branch chairman. Mrs. Pope was at the organ.

At the business meeting, sympathetic references were made to the illness of the hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. C. H. Jennings, for whom Mr. J. W. Smith deputised. In his report, Mr. Jennings expressed the gratification of the members at the lifting of the ban on ringing in May, 1943. 'Most people were delighted to hear the bells again,' the secretary added. 'They will do much to stimulate and uplift morale and to increase the sense of the value of what the Church stands for in the present life and future of the country.'

Despite war-time difficulties, the activities of the branch had been well maintained and he hoped that when peace returned the bells which were out of order would be restored, and, if possible, augmented, as a memorial to those who had fallen in the service of their country.

Mr. Jennings referred to the passing of Mr. William Hewlett, of Puddletown, a ringer for over 60 years, and the death of the late captain of the Bere Regis ringers, with 46 years' service.

The financial statement showed a balance in hand of £21 11s. 9d., and this and the annual report were adopted.

It was decided that the practice of holding summer meetings should be continued, and Stratton, Wool, Maiden Newton and Abbotsbury were among the places suggested.

The officers were elected as follows: Chairman, Canon A. Wilkinson Markby; vice-chairman, Canon D. F. Slemeck; Ringing Master, Sergt. Toccock (Wool); Deputy Ringing Master, Mr. J. Squire (St. Peter's, Dorchester); hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. C. H. Jennings.

On the suggestion of Sergt. Toccock, it was agreed that Saturday practices should be arranged for young members.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

A general meeting of the Oxford University Society was held on Tuesday, Jan. 18th, in New College, the Master, Mr. J. E. Spice, being in the chair.

The Master reported on the many and various activities of the society during the past term. Despite a shortage of instructors, beginners had made steady progress on tower bells and handbells, and the society might expect to reap the benefit of it in the near future. Several expeditions had been made to towers around Oxford, notably Garsington, Horspath and Kidlington, and three peals had been rung.

In view of the large numbers of the society and the smallness of its financial resources, it was decided to revive an old rule whereby any member breaking more than one stay should have to pay for it himself.

The meeting expressed its regret at the departure of Mr. William Leese, now a fully qualified doctor, and recorded its appreciation of his services.

HANDLING A BELL.

(Continued from page 30.)

The action of handling a bell in change ringing at either handstroke or backstroke, which at first sight looks so simple, is really a very complex operation. Several things are involved in it, and they require the most minute attention to time and the amount of energy exerted by the ringer.

The operation takes place at the end of the bell's upward swing and at the beginning of its downward swing. This is the time when gravity has the smallest amount of influence in the bell's movement, and consequently where the energy exerted by the ringer has the greatest effect. This 'dead' period varies considerably both in length and character. With small bells it is comparatively long, though it is complicated by the gravity which comes into action when the bell swings through more than the full circle. With medium weight bells it is most marked, and consequently they can be rung with the least amount of fatigue. With heavy bells, which do not reach the balance, it is comparatively short.

The general tendency of ball bearings is to shorten this dead period, and that is really the reason why, when they were first introduced, men who had become used to the old style plain bearings very much disliked them. They gave them less time in which to obtain control of the bell.

In the first part of the dead period the ringer must gain control of the bell's upward swing. In the second period he must send it on its downward swing, and here two things are vital. The first is the time at which he applies his energy, or, in other words, at which he pulls. On this depends immediately the whole of the ringing.

The main faculty by which a ringer judges the time of his pull is sight. He knows what he is doing and he finds his way among the other bells by observing, not only the other sallies, but the arms and actions of his fellow ringers. It is this finding of one's way among the other bells (be it a simple way or a complex one) which is the essence of method ringing, and the faculty of doing so is quite naturally termed 'rope-sight.' But sight by itself and unaided is not enough. It is indeed possible when bells are 'even-struck' and when there is no great disparity between the weights of tenor and treble for a man to be a reasonably good striker by carefully putting a visual interval between his sally and that of the man he is following, and especially it is so when he is ringing one of a modern tuned peal, where the greater amount of vibration covers up to some extent irregularities which would be noticeable in the case of older style bells with their more staccato notes.

Some men have no other aid to striking than this visual one, and the natural result is that they are greatly at a loss when either their own bell or the bell they are following is 'odd-struck.' The usual thing is to tell such people that they must 'keep off' or pull level with certain bells. What is meant is quite correct and the advice is sound, but actually the fact that a man is following a bell which is too quick or too slow does not cause him to alter his pull in the slightest. It is the other man who has had to counteract the irregularity.

Accurate striking is only possible when a ringer has gained a full sense of the rhythm of the bells and is allowing it to dominate what he is doing. He must be able to feel when he pulls his rope exactly how his bell

will strike. And this brings us to the important part that rhythm plays in the actual handling of a bell. Anything which aids rhythm—smoothness of pull, regularity of action, or any similar thing—has a definite effect on the way the man strikes his bell, and these qualities should be fostered to the utmost.

The time at which the man pulls decides how the bell will speak in the following change. Nothing else has any effect. Whether he pulls little or much does not alter the following blow. What it does affect is the blow following the next one, but it does so indirectly. For on the amount of energy exerted by the ringer depends the length of the bell's upward swing. If the pull is too slight the bell will not rise high enough for the ringer to control it long enough to make his next blow correctly. If the pull is too heavy, in the case of small bells the bell will swing far beyond the balance and need the expenditure of much energy to bring it back again and into control. Over pulling is not only a waste of energy in itself, but a cause of further waste.

But it is perhaps in the case of heavy bell ringing that the need of knowing the correct amount of pulling to be done is most evident. When a tenor is rung behind such knowledge is obtained without much difficulty, but when it is rung in changes a great deal of skill is shown by properly adjusting the strength of pulling to the needs of the method. Strong heavy men naturally have less need of such skill than lighter and weaker men, and that is why so large a proportion of good tenor men have been of the latter class. Unless they had skill they could not have rung the bells at all.

With heavy bells the dead period is short. The bell, in its upward swing, slows down and then, without stopping, turns back in its downward swing. If the ringer is to exert his energy to the best advantage he must do so as near to the turning point as possible. But the turning point is the point at which the bell begins its downward swing, and therefore the point which decides how the bell will speak in the next change. The skill of the ringer therefore consists in being able so to pull at handstroke that the bell will rise at back just so far that when it swings back again the next handstroke blow will be in its correct place. And so to pull at backstroke that the bell will rise at hand just so far that the next blow at backstroke will be in the correct place. The ringer must be able to adjust his pulling a whole pull in advance of the changes, and unless he can do so he is not a competent tenor man.

That, however, is not all. It often happens (when dodging for instance) that the rate of the bell's striking must be quicker than the normal swing of the bell. The gravity which swings the bell down from handstroke may naturally, without any pulling by the ringer, carry it too high at backstroke for the next handstroke blow unless the upward swing is checked. This is one of the positions in which skill in heavy bell ringing is most needed, for it takes more energy and puts a greater strain on the ringer to check a large bell properly than to add to its normal swing. Here it is most important that the ringer, when he puts his weight on to the bell, should have his arms and whole body in full tension. If his arms are bent he cannot exert his energy to the best advantage, nor at all without great muscular strain.

That means he must at the point when the bell begins to turn to have his two hands on the tail end at such a

position that the rope, his arms, and his whole body, are completely taut. To do that his hands must be very much higher up the rope than they would be if the bell were swinging in its full normal arc.

To be able thus to adjust the hands on the tail end is one of the principal signs of a competent tenor or heavy bell ringer. It is done almost automatically directly the handstroke pull has been made and as soon as the hands leave the sally. The ringer must know not only the exact amount of pulling and checking the bell needs, but also the differences in the rate of striking required in the coming changes of the method. If the man has his hand properly on the tail end he is not only in the best position for checking, but also for the extra amount of pulling which will be necessary to make the bell rise sufficiently for the next handstroke blow.

It is not only when ringing heavy bells that this ability to adjust the hands on the tail end is useful. It is important (though hardly so essential) in the case of medium weight bells, and is most effective as a saver of energy and a help to good striking. This is one reason why learners should be taught from the beginning to hold the tail end lightly when they are not actually pulling.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

'Shiffnal—On Tuesday last the Albion Society of Shiffnal ascended the ancient tower of the parish church, and correctly rung in excellent style, a true peal of 5040 Oxford and Kent treble bob tripples, in three hours and eight minutes, conducted with much ability by Mr. Thomas Clarke.

'This clever peal is the production of Mr. Thomas Day, of Birmingham, and by the union of the two original methods all additional place-making is avoided. This is the first peal on this plan ever performed. It was presented to the above Society by Mr. Lates.'—
'The Era,' January 28th, 1844.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT LIVERPOOL.

A meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at St. Francis Xavier Church, Liverpool, on January 15th, at which ringers were present from Huyton, Liverpool (St. Luke's and St. Nicholas), Halsall, Southport, Childwall, Woolton, Halewood, Sefton and the local belfry.

Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Guy, of Newport, Isle of Wight, and Mr. H. T. Chandler, of Kington, Hereford, were elected non-resident life members of the association. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Prescott on February 12th. Mr. Percy W. Cave proposed a vote of thanks to Father Dukes for providing tea, for allowing the use of the bells and for presiding at the meeting.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

MEETING AT WARWICK.

A quarterly meeting of the Warwickshire Guild was held at Warwick on January 15th, when members were present from Allesley, Arley, Bedworth, Birmingham, Chilvers Coton, Hinckley, Keresley, Leamington, Nuneaton, Shirley, Stratford, Warwick and Wolvey. The ten bells of St. Mary's Church were kept going in rounds and various methods during the afternoon, and a short service was held in the church, conducted by the curate.

The business meeting was held in the belfry. Mr. F. W. Perrens being in the chair. Apologies were read from the president (the Rev. F. W. Moyle), the vice-president (the Rev. M. Knight), the Master (Mr. J. H. White), Mr. and Mrs. W. Vann (Rugby) and Mr. J. W. Taylor (Allesley).

Nuneaton was announced as the place of the annual meeting. Mr. J. H. Beale proposed the arrangement of meetings from April to October inclusive during the war period. Nine new members were elected and three former members re-elected. The new members were A. Roberts, T. Shepherd, H. Williams (Stoke); A. Roberts, H. Warnes (Allesley), D. Stanley (Stratford), T. Price (Warwick), Miss G. Buss (Nuneaton), G. Freeman (unattached). The re-elected members were C. Aylett (Allesley), C. Wildsmith (Warwick) and F. East (Snitterfield). Mr. F. E. Pervin gave notice that he would propose at the annual meeting that members under 18 years of age be admitted free. Mr. E. Stone gave notice that he would propose the reduction of the annual subscription from 2s. to 1s. 6d.

Votes of thanks were passed to the local clergy and the ringers who made the meeting possible. Mr. E. H. Adams replied.

The methods rung were Grandsire and Stedman Caters, Cambridge Royal, London and Bristol Major.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

■■■■■

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Etc,

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official journal of the Central Council of
Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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'The Ringing World.'

Members of the Preston Branch of the Lancashire Association
should note that the meeting on Saturday is at St. Mary's, Brownedge,
Bamber Bridge, not at Adlington.

THE BEST RING OF BELLS

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have not heard any of the peals that 'Lancastrian'
mentions in his letter in 'The Ringing World' this week, but I think
it would be very interesting if ringers would express their opinions.
At the same time, I have very often heard opinions expressed by
ringers of certain peals of bells when they have only heard them in
the tower. In my humble opinion, no one should pass an opinion
without hearing bells outside the tower, also from different positions,
north, south, east and west, if possible.

The late Mr. Walter Farley once said to me that the two finest
peals in Somerset were Wells Cathedral and Chewton Mendip. No
doubt those two peals appealed to him most, Wells Cathedral from
a sentimental point of view. Mr. Farley was in the first peal rung
on Chewton bells, and I admit I have never heard a peal of eight
with a 24 cwt. tenor sound better in the tower. They are glorious,
but to me the peal of eight at Ditchat (both peals by the same
founder and the same weight within a few pounds) are the better
peal. I have listened to both peals outside the towers from many
different positions. Both of these peals are tuned on the Simpson
principle.

I think sentiment has a lot to say. I have also heard it discussed
which is the finest peal of ten in Somerset. At Wells Cathedral the
bells there are a grand peal, with a tenor of 56½ cwt. Can they be
compared with Yeovil or Wrington? They are not so well in tune as
Yeovil or Wrington. To me and others Wrington are the better peal
of ten.

This is where sentiment comes in with me also. Wrington bells were
the first bells I ever remember hearing when they were a peal of six.
The old back five form the back five of the present ten with a tenor
of 37 cwt. in C sharp. The four trebles were added in 1911 and the
5th recast in 1933. These bells are not Simpson tuned, but all of
them give the flat 7th hum note.

If the ten at Wells were retuned and all the hum notes brought
into line there would then be no comparison. They would, of course,
be the finest ten in Somerset.

The finest peal of ten that I have ever rung on are at Inverary, all
tuned to the octave hum note, with a tenor of 41 cwt. in C., but I
am told by some ringers that Beverley Minster are better. I have
not heard Beverley.

Towers and their acoustics have a lot to say how bells sound outside,
and much depends on how the sound gets out. There are so many
instances where improvements could be made by boarding up portions
of openings below the bells.

Another point ringers, I think, should remember is that atmospheric
conditions affect the tone of bells. I have known really good bells
sound panny, thin and weak on certain days, and on other days the
same bells sound very good. I think all these points should be taken
into consideration. There are several other points I should like to
raise, but I feel that I have already taken up too much of your
valuable space. But may I also add that one's own feelings have a
lot of influence on our judgment of bells and peals of bells.

JOHN H. B. HESSE.

Wrington, Somerset.

MESSRS. GILLETT AND JOHNSTON. THE FIRM'S CENTENARY.

When we referred last week to the centenary of Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, we mentioned some of the public clocks which the firm has installed in many different parts of the world; but we said nothing then about the bells which have come from the Croydon foundry, though they, of course, are what most interests ringers. Perhaps it was hardly necessary, as all ringers know something about the Johnston bells, and there is hardly a county where there is not a fine ring of them. But something must be said.

In London at St. James', Clerkenwell, is an excellent example of a modern tuned ring. They were cast in 1929. It is a pity that the sound windows are not more blocked up, for the bells are rather noisy in the adjacent street and it is necessary to go a little distance to appreciate their quality. Middlesex has a ten at Hillingdon and a musical little six at Norwood Green.

South of the Thames are the eights at Clapham Park (1919) and Banstead (1921); and at Croydon the splendid twelve at the Parish Church (1936) and the ten at St. Peter's (1912). Many ringers are familiar with the Parish Church bells through the broadcasts.

In the Birmingham district the recast ten at St. Philip's Cathedral came from Croydon, and so did the twelve at Wolverhampton (1911). Manchester Cathedral ten are Gillett and Johnston's, as well as the light eight at Salford Parish Church of the Sacred Trinity. The ten at St. Mary's, Nottingham, were cast in 1935.

Yorkshire has several octaves and a ten at Ranmoor which are well known and well liked among Sheffield ringers. Further north is St. Cuthbert's, Darlington (1937), Bishop Auckland (1912), and St. John's, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Devonshire is a county where the people think a lot of their bells, and Messrs. Gillett and Johnston have done much work there, some of it new rings, and some repairs and restoration. In the next county of Dorset, at Wimborne Minster, is a ring of ten cast in 1911.

In Kent there is a fine ten from Croydon at Rochester Cathedral, and the lightest ringing ten in any parish church at Cudham. Brighton has a ten at St. Nicholas'.

These are widely scattered examples of Croydon bells, but they are only examples. There are many more which could be mentioned.

CHIMES AND CARILLONS.

A list of ringing peals would not exhaust the tale of Croydon bells. A leading firm of clock makers, Gillett and Johnston naturally have cast many clock bells. An early example of their work, which has always struck us as being excellent is the chimes and hour bell at the Law Courts in the Strand.

Croydon has turned out many carillon and chime bells and machinery. Ringers naturally think them no substitute for ringing peals, but where the latter for one reason or another cannot be installed a chime has its value. London has a very musical one at the Royal Exchange, there is the well-known one at Coventry Cathedral, and many more all over the world.

Once was the time when the only bells suitable for carillons were cast in the Low Countries, the natural home of the carillon as England is of the ringing peal. To-day the English bell founders are unequalled in the world for their carillon bells and machinery. Of the many which were made at Croydon we may mention the one at the Riverside Church, New York, which contains 72 bells, the largest weighing 18 tons; the one at Chicago University, also of 72 bells, the largest 17 tons; the one at Ottawa Parliament Buildings with 53 bells; and the one at Wellington, New Zealand, containing 49 bells. England has no particular love for carillons, but there is one with 48 bells at Bournville.

BALL BEARINGS

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—There is one point which I think you would do well to bring before the attention of those who have charge of bells.

I have come across lately of more than one case where steeplekeepers, who have to look after bells hung in ball bearings, are oiling them with ordinary oil. They say that nothing has been done to the bells for some years and that it is difficult to get anything done in present circumstances, so they do what they think is the best thing, supposing that unless something is done the bells will go badly.

It ought to be made quite clear that oiling ball bearings with ordinary oil does not improve the go of the bells. Bells hung in ball bearings would go better without any lubricant at all. When the bells are hung the bearings are packed with grease, not to make the bells go better, but to prevent deterioration from rust and other causes. This grease being completely enclosed will last for years, but if ordinary oil is put in it will be quickly washed away and the bearings will suffer.

All modern frames ought to have an overhaul every ten years or so by a competent bell hanger and the bearings among other fittings, but until that can be done steeplekeepers had better leave the bearings alone, or they will be asking for trouble.

These things are always pointed out by the bellhangers, who supply printed instructions, but some steeplekeepers do not know them, or, if they do, do not regard them.

'WAYFARER.'

ACOUSTICS OF THE BELFRY.

ADVICE IGNORED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Corby, like a good many other ringers, seems to think that it is only for the bellhangers to advise as to what should be done and it is automatically carried out. Unfortunately this is far from correct. For very many years it has been our invariable practice to inform and even press church authorities as to the requirements for modifying the sound outside and inside the tower, but in more instances than others this advice is not carried out, the excuse nearly always being on the grounds of additional expense.

We think we know the instance which Mr. Corby had in mind when writing his letter. We most strongly represented the requirements in this particular tower only to have them ignored.

JOHN TAYLOR AND CO.

THE BELLHANGERS' DIFFICULTY.

Dear Sir,—Your leading article in the issue of 'The Ringing World' dated January 7th and Mr. P. A. Corby's letter in the issue for January 21st interested me greatly. Some time ago you published, along with others, several letters of mine relative to the treatment of towers on the subject of obviating the cause of complaints by the general public where bells are too noisy in the vicinity of the church.

We were not then concerned with the internal acoustics of bell towers, but this aspect is obviously no less important—more so, in fact, from the ringers' standpoint. As I emphasised previously, the problem has to be approached intelligently as again every tower must be dealt with on its own merits, but I have no hesitation in saying that the vast majority of towers which are now unsatisfactory in this respect could be rectified quite easily if only the authorities would spend the extra money required.

That, in most cases, is the difficulty. Mr. Corby quite rightly urges that the bell hangers should advise the church authorities in these matters. The bell founding firm with which I am connected has always made a regular practice of doing this in every case where they have been entrusted with the restoration of peals. But time and time again we are discouraged by the authorities who, inwardly if not openly, seem to think our only desire is to 'make a big thing' out of the job by trying to persuade them to spend more money than is really necessary!

And here, I venture to submit, is where the ringers could help considerably. If they themselves would urge the Church Councils to take the required steps it would often have more effect than anything which the bell hanger may say, because it will not be thought that they have any financial axe to grind. The proper treatment of towers is of very great importance, and it is such a pity that, time after time, an otherwise first class job is spoilt through the reluctance or indifference of those concerned to spend that little extra to make the job perfect.

FRED C. W. STEVENSON.

Croydon, Surrey.

ST. MARY'S, WOOLWICH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A correction is needed to the article published in your issue of January 7th.

To say the record enumerated in the fourth paragraph 'surpassed that of every other company in the 19th century before 1880' is all moonshine. The Norwich men rang peals in all these methods—and several others—between 1820 and 1840. CHARLES E. BORRETT.

Sheringham, Norfolk.

FIVE THOUSAND PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I understand from the Messrs. Barnett's letters that this was calculated from the annual reports. So far, so good.

But I believe there are two peal books written up to about 1904, and if the first one is compared with the reports it will be found that they do not agree.

I do not know who wrote up these peal books, whether an official or any other responsible person, or by whose authority.

The question, therefore, is, which are correct? If the peal books are at fault, I suggest that someone in authority pass a resolution to this effect, and have same written up in the minutes of the association.

I may add that Mr. E. Barnett is quite correct in stating that Sandwich is the only eight-bell tower in which the association has not rung a peal.

P. W. RICHARDSON.

16, Harefield Road, Brockley.

MR. DENNIS BROCK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—News has been received that Dennis Brock, of Sunbury-on-Thames, has now been transferred from a prisoner of war camp in Italy to Germany. Just before he left Italy he met Norman H. Manning, of Chiswick, and both wish to be remembered to all their ringing friends.

R. DARVILL.

23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 27.)

The fine old church of Edington, Wilts, dedicated to SS. Mary & Katherine and All Saints, is considered to be the only perfect monastic church remaining in the county, and was erected by William of Edyngdon, 1352-1361. It is a cruciform edifice of stone, with a fine central tower, containing a ring of six and a Sanctus bell—the latter, originally cast by John Lott in 1671, was recast by J. Taylor and Co., 1915. The treble, 2nd and 5th are by John Lott, dated respectively 1640, 1654 and 1647, but the 2nd was recast 1899. The 3rd is by W. Bilbie, 1781; the 4th by James Wells, 1802; and the tenor, weighing approximately 26 cwt., is by A. Rudhall, 1723.

The approach to the ringing chamber is by ascent to the transept roof, thence across the leads to the tower. The bells seem to be the middle six of eight, and the noise while ringing is terrific in the ringers' room. The wooden bell frame is now in a bad state of preservation.

The low central tower of All Saints' Church, Faringdon, Berks, contains a ring of eight by J. Taylor and Co., tenor 17 cwt. 1 qr. 7 lb., and dated 1926. There were six bells here prior to 1874, the first four by the Corrs, of Aldbourne, fifth by J. Wells, and tenor by R. Wells. To these two trebles were added by Mears and Stainbank.

Up to this time Faringdon bells were rung from the ground floor in the centre of the church; but, when the bells were recast and rehung in a new iron frame in 1926, a low, rather cramped ringing chamber was constructed immediately below the bells. The entrance is by means of a ladder about 15ft. high, standing in the south transept, to the springing of the arches, thence by spiral stair in the tower wall to the ringing chamber. In this chamber is a clock by Messrs. Smith and Sons, of Derby, and a modern chime machine which plays a tune on the bells every three hours.

During the removal of the old bell frame in 1926, a broken cannon ball was found in the tower wall. This is now preserved in a glass case in the church, and the following inscription inserted: 'This broken cannon ball was found in one of the walls of the belfry when the tower was being cleared for the rehanging of the recast ring of bells in the year 1926. It was no doubt one of the cannon balls fired by Cromwell's troops in 1646, when the south aisle of the church was demolished in the bombardment, and the spire said to have been shot off. The oak of the glass case was part of the timber of the old bell frame.'

A disused Sanctus bell by James Wells (c. 1800) now stands on the ground floor near the pulpit. It is fitted with headstock and a curious three-quarter wheel.

The spacious cruciform church of SS. Peter and Paul, Heytesbury, Wiltshire, is a building chiefly in the Early English style with a low central tower containing a clock and six bells. Here the approach to the ringing chamber is very similar to that at Almondsbury already quoted, where, after ascending to the roof, one crosses the leads to the tower, then goes down a step ladder into the ringing room.

As early as 1553 'Hettesburye' had four bells, and even to-day one of these, the grand tenor bell, about 20 cwt., cast by Kebyll, of London, about 1460, is still doing duty. It bears an invocation to St. Michael, and on its shoulder bears the coat of arms of Knollys.

William Cockey cast the treble in 1739; the second is by John Lott, 1668; third by Jas. Burroughs, of Devizes, 1755; the fourth by R. Purdew, 1619; the fifth was recast by T. Mears, 1843. Mears and Stainbank rehung these in a new oak frame in 1930.

Worcester Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary has a grand central tower rising to a height of 196 feet. Standing exactly in the centre of the church, the tower, completed in 1374, is a noble object despite the flaying process it has undergone at various times within the last two centuries. Of the statues with which it was originally enriched, but six remain, the rest being works of the period comprised between 1860 and 1870, as are the parapet and pinnacles which replace those dating from the early 18th century.

Until the raising of the tower in the middle of the 14th century, the bells were lodged in the clochium, an octagonal mass of stonework 10 feet thick, 60 feet high, and 60 feet in diameter at base. It dated in all probability from the time of the rebuilding of the cathedral at the close of the 11th century. It was surmounted by a lead spire rising fifty yards above the stone structure, and was placed so close to the north-east transept that there was only space between for processions.

This clochium which, from the account left to us of it in his 'Observations on Worcestershire' by one Nathaniel Tomkins, appears to have been a structure of no ordinary importance, survived the loss of its bells 273 years, being pulled down in 1647, and the materials disposed of for £617 4s. 2d., the principal part of which was given to repair several churches in the county damaged in the Civil War.

The earliest bells in the clochium were dedicated by Bishop de Blois and were three, cast respectively in honour of our Saviour, the Virgin Mary, and SS. John and James, the last-named being known as Hautclere. In 1374 the new central tower of the cathedral was built and three bells placed therein. It is not quite clear from inscriptions recorded which bells hung in the tower and which hung in the clochium.

At the time of the Reformation, when, according to Bishop Blandford's MSS., the four bells in the steeple were removed, the Prior's book gives 'the scripture on the iiij bells in the leddon stepull,' which clearly denotes the clochium. In Bishop Hooper's time (1552), according to Noake, 'Worcs. Relics,' the bells were 'violated and overthrown'—though not removed or destroyed, and the Dean and Chapter afterwards petitioned Queen Mary for their restoration.

No further news is given of the bells for 200 years until in 1736 we learn there were eight bells existing. Subsequently some of these were recast, and about 1860 the second was stolen. (For a legendary account of the stealing of bells from Worcester Cathedral see my 'Legends o' the Bells.') The seven bells left were purchased by Mr. Tyssen Amherst (the late Lord Amherst of Hackney) and four of them were placed in his park at Diddington, Norfolk, but later transferred to the Parish Church, where they now hang, being used for chiming. Of the other three, one went to Holy Trinity, Worcester, the other two (cast by Rudhall) are said to have gone to Dewsbury and Wolverhampton respectively.

At the present time Worcester Cathedral possesses a magnificent ring of twelve bells with a tenor 49½ cwt. in

the key of B, erected in 1928 by J. Taylor and Co. Each bell bears the name of a saint, thus: (1) St. Matthias, (2) S. Ivdas Iacobi, (3) S. Simon Zelotes, (4) S. Iacobvs Alphaei, (5) S. Matthaeus, (6) S. Bartholomaeus, (7) S. Thomas, (8) S. Philippvs, (9) S. Andreas, (10) S. Iohannes, (11) S. Jacobys, (12) St. Petrus.

There are, in addition, four other bells for the chimes: S. Pavlys, S. Marcvs, S. Lvcas, Christvs. These bells replaced an equally fine ring which had shown signs of deterioration, and which, with the clock and chimes, constituted the scheme started by Canon Cattley in 1863, at the time of the restoration of the cathedral. These bells replaced the old eight referred to above.

The chimes, presented by Mr. J. W. Lea, and made by Gillett and Bland, of Croydon, played many tunes on a series of seven barrels. To approach the ringing chamber one enters the first stairway through a door in the south wall, climbing to roof level, thence by a gangway across the south transept to the central tower stairway proper.

(To be continued.)

DEATH OF MR. T. W. RADFORD

The death occurred on January 6th at the age of 77 of Mr. T. W. Radford, of Guildford. In his early days he was connected with ringing at Taunton and later at Bristol. About 45 years ago he went to Guildford and for some time was an active member of the Winchester Diocesan Guild. He then dropped out of ringing and did not join the Guildford Diocesan Guild until last year, when he returned to the belfry after the ban on ringing had been removed.

Mr. Radford was one of the first Guildford band to ring a course in a Surprise Major method. It was Superlative on August 22nd, 1901. The other ringers were E. Raddon, J. J. Jones, C. Hazelden, O. Willshire, S. Radford, T. Blondell and J. Hunt. At least five of them have now passed away.

The funeral was at Stoughton Cemetery on January 10th.

THE LATE MR. E. F. BEHAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was able to introduce Mr. E. F. Behan to English ringing at St. John's, Vassall Road, and I called his first peal (Grandsire Caters) at Fulham, on September 5th, 1903. He was very proud of it. I believe he rang several other peals during his stay in England.

We have been in more or less constant communication since he returned to Australia. Ringing seemed to be his only interest and he always bemoaned his lack of progress owing to distances and opportunity. He was always referring to 'his little book' mentioned by Mr. Hazelden, and we exchanged ideas on composition often on original lines. I shall miss his lengthy 'screeds.' W. T. ELSON

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

MEETING AT COLEMAN'S HATCH.

Twenty members of the East Grinstead and District Guild attended a meeting at Coleman's Hatch on January 15th, the towers represented being East Grinstead, Hartfield, Paddock Wood, Tunbridge Wells, Wadhurst, Uckfield and the local belfry. A vice-president's daughter was married at the church that afternoon and the proceedings started with a touch of Grandsire Triples as the happy couple came out. Methods up to Cambridge and Double Norwich were also rung.

Tea was partaken of in the Church Hall, during which the Vicar, the Rev. J. R. Missen, welcomed the ringers. Other meetings were arranged at Wadhurst, February 12th; Edenbridge, March 11th: and the annual at East Grinstead in April.

EAST CROMPTON.—On January 16th, 720 Spliced Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Minor: B. Whitehead 1, W. Oates 2, R. H. Byrom 3, C. Howarth 4, J. R. Buckley 5, J. Butterworth (conductor) 6.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES

WORCESTER.—At St. Swithun's Church, for evening service, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: A. Humphries 1, J. J. Jefferies 2, G. Hinton 3, G. J. Lewis (conductor) 4, D. Morris 5, G. Ambler 6.

LOWER HEYFORD, OXON.—On Saturday, January 15th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: H. Adams, sen. 1, H. Adams, jun. 2, F. W. Pritchett (conductor) 3, Cpl. H. Wilks, R.A.F. 4, T. Kirby 5, Cpl. H. Burge, R.A.F. 6.

ISLEWORTH.—On Sunday, January 16th, at All Saints', 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss K. Brooks 1, A. F. Thirst 2, G. Dodds 3, Lieut. W. F. Gibbons 4, S. Croft 5, Capt. H. W. Rogers (conductor) 6, F. D. Bishop 7, D. Chamberlain 8.

ROCKBEARE, DEVON.—On Sunday, January 16th, at St. Mary's Church, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: J. Salway 1, Miss A. E. Pring (first quarter-peal) 2, B. Wayman (first quarter-peal as conductor) 3, H. Willington 4, J. Breal 5, E. Retter 6.

SWINDON.—On Sunday, January 16th, at Christ Church, 1,260 Stedman Triples: W. W. T. Daniell 1, T. Cullingworth 2, H. W. Bishop 3, *F. J. Daniell 4, T. Townsend 5, A. G. Wells 6, C. J. Gardiner (conductor) 7, J. Sheppard 8. *First quarter-peal of Stedman Triples.

DONCASTER.—On Sunday, January 16th, for evensong, 1,280 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: J. E. Cawser (conductor) 1, M. C. Fowler 2, S. Harrison 3, E. Dalingwater 4, J. McClusky 5, E. C. Stacey 6, A. Hill 7, P. Gledstone 8. First quarter-peal of Major of the bells since being recast, and believed to be the first quarter-peal in the method in the tower.

KINGSLEY, STAFFS.—On Sunday, January 16th, for evening service, a date touch, 1,944, consisting of 144 Plain Bob, 720 Cambridge Surprise, 360 Kent and 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: J. Crabb 1, W. H. Edwards 2, F. Twigg 3, G. Hulme 4, F. Edwards 5, W. Carnwell (conductor) 6.

STOURBRIDGE, WORCS.—On January 16th, at St. Mary's, Oldswinford, for evensong, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Robert Matthews (conductor) 1, J. W. Smith 2, Miss F. L. Wright 3, J. Southall 4, R. Moors 5, F. V. Nicholls 6, P. R. Pope 7, E. G. Bushell 8.

CHRISTCHURCH, HANTS.—On Saturday, January 22nd, 1,295 Grandsire Caters: G. Preston, Miss Sparshott, *E. Waters, *E. Hinton, Mrs. Williams, *H. Harrison, *E. T. Griffin, F. Sparshott, G. Scragg, H. Gillard. *First quarter-peal of Caters.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Friday, December 31st, 1,280 Double Norwich Major: Miss M. Wingrove 1, Miss D. R. Fletcher 2, Miss K. E. Fletcher 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, W. Lee 5, J. Harrison 6, R. Buckland 7, H. Wingrove (conductor) 8. Rug with half-muffled clappers.—On Sunday, January 2nd, for evening service, 1,260 Stedman Triples: W. Lee 1, Miss K. E. Fletcher 2, Miss D. R. Fletcher 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, R. Buckland 5, J. Harrison 6, H. Wingrove (conductor) 7, A. Routh 8.—On Sunday, January 9th, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: Miss D. Fletcher 1, Miss K. Fletcher 2, J. Harrison 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, W. Edwards 5, W. Lee 6, R. Buckland 7, H. Wingrove (conductor) 8.—On Sunday, January 16th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: Miss D. R. Fletcher 1, Miss K. E. Fletcher 2, Rev. R. Routh 3, R. Buckland 4, J. Harrison 5, H. Wingrove (conductor) 6.

FRODSHAM, CHESHIRE.—On January 7th, 1,264 Bob Major: *Elizabeth M. Bibby 1, R. Shelborne 2, Norah M. Bibby 3, O. Claybrook 4, T. Lightfoot 5, C. Valentine 6, John E. Bibby (conductor) 7, F. Bibby 8. *First quarter-peal, started ringing last June.

DEVIZES.—On January 8th, at St. Mary's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: *Doreen Lucas 1, A. Boyce 2, S. Grant (conductor) 3, F. Hale 4, *J. Romain 5, *K. Abrahams 6. *First quarter-peal.

HOLLOWAY.—At St. Mary Magdalene's, on Sunday, January 9th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: R. Charge 1, R. W. Green 2, F. Barker 3, H. Franks 4, R. Newman 5, G. Charge 6, A. Turner (conductor) 7, A. Warren 8.

STANTON HARCOURT, OXON.—On Saturday, January 15th, a quarter-peal of Doubles in four methods (Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob and April Day): R. Churchill 1, T. W. Bond 2, J. Lee 3, A. Cornish 4, H. Floyd (conductor) 5. The ringers of 1, 3 and 4 have learnt to ring since the ban was lifted.

HANDBELLS IN HOSPITAL.

On December 23rd and January 8th, Mr. G. Noice and Miss Noice visited the Royal Hants County Hospital, Winchester, and rang handbells for the benefit of the patients, many of whom are Service men.

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SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT SALISBURY.**

The annual meeting of the Salisbury Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at St. Martin's, Salisbury, on January 15th, when the following towers were represented: St. Thomas', St. Martin's, St. Edmund's and St. Paul's (Salisbury), Amesbury, Wilton, Shrewton, Enford, Berwick St. John, Downton, Briford and Coombe Bissett. Visitors were present from Kingston Magna, Dorset, Longbridge Deverill, Melksham, Trowbridge, Southbroom, Devizes, Calne and Cirencester.

The Rector of St. Martin's, the Rev. H. H. Bloomfield, conducted the Guild Office, the lesson was read by the general secretary of the Guild, the Rev. F. Llewellyn Edwards, and Mr. H. Roles was at the organ.

Tea in the Parish Room was followed by the business meeting, at which the general secretary presided. The branch secretary (Mr. F. W. Romaine) presented the balance sheet, which showed £11 5s. in hand.

Mr. E. G. Caple (proposed by Mr. C. Haines, seconded by Mr. R. E. Turner) was elected chairman of the branch; Mr. G. K. Norton (proposed by Mr. H. Roles, seconded by Mr. E. G. Caple) was elected vice-chairman; Mr. F. W. Romaine (proposed by Mr. Norton, seconded by Mr. W. Chalk), secretary and treasurer; and Messrs. L. Harris, W. Roberts and J. E. Figgures, Ringing Masters. The Rev. J. A. Davies, Messrs. J. E. Figgures, H. Roles, F. Wright and B. Jewell were appointed as the Branch Committee.

Sixteen new members were elected from St. Thomas' and St. Edmund's and Shrewton.

Quarterly meetings will be held at Amesbury, Tisbury, Shrewton and Downton.

The Rev. F. L. Edwards pointed out that since the Guild last met, two members had passed away in the persons of the Rev. A. S. Robins, hon. life member, and Mr. Foote, from Berwick, the oldest member. He said he was delighted to preside at such a large gathering, evidence of the flourishing state of the branch.

Mr. F. W. Romaine welcomed the visitors, and Mr. W. C. West replied.

The Rev. J. A. Davies expressed his appreciation of the help given by Mr. J. E. Figgures in teaching the young ringers of the band at St. Edmund's. Mr. Figgures said it had meant a lot of uphill work, but it gave him much pleasure.

It was resolved, on a proposition by Mr. C. Haines, seconded by Mr. R. E. Turner, that the quarterly meetings of the branch be advertised in 'The Ringing World.' It had been found that when meetings were announced in 'The Ringing World,' many visitors turned up, generally without notifying the secretary, and arrangements for tea were disorganised. It had been the custom of the branch for half the cost of the tea to come out of the funds, and some doubts were expressed as to the ability of the funds to stand a large drain on its resources. Mr. West (Devizes) pointed out that while his branch held twelve meetings a year, they only advertised the quarterly ones in 'The Ringing World' for the same reason. The arrangements for tea were often thrown out when visitors did not advise him they were coming, but at Devizes they did not contribute anything towards the cost of tea. It is, therefore, proposed to discontinue the practice of paying half the cost of tea for the future.

A vote of thanks to the Rector of St. Martin's was carried. Ringing was resumed at St. Martin's, St. Thomas', St. Edmund's and St. Paul's until 9 p.m.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION**MEETING AT MISTLEY.**

The annual meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association was held at Mistley on January 8th and was attended by 21 ringers from nine towers, Thorington, Tendring, Mistley, Rushmere, Ipswich, Boreham, Harwich, Clacton-on-Sea and Haverhill. Among the visitors were Miss B. Hill of Haverhill, Messrs. J. W. Jennings and Erlinger, from Ipswich, Mr. A. H. Everett and a member of the R.N. from Boreham.

The service in church was conducted by the curate, the Rev. A. A. Bagley. Tea and the business meeting were at the Thorn Hotel, Mr. Bagley being in the chair.

The resignation of the Ringing Master was accepted with regret, and Mr. C. J. Ellis was appointed in his stead. The district secretary was re-elected. Mr. Alan R. Andrews and Miss D. M. Andrews were made representatives on the general committee, and one honorary and four ringing members were elected. As Mistley had proved to be an excellent meeting place, the next meeting also will be held there, either in April or May.

The secretary appealed to all members to take a weekly copy of 'The Ringing World' and help those who had helped ringers. Thanks were given to the Rev. A. A. Bagley for presiding and conducting the service, and to the organist.

The methods rung ranged from Grandsire Doubles to Cambridge Surprise Minor.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E., Jan. 29th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate. —A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Annual district meeting at Bocking, Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells (8) from 2 p.m. and during blackout. Service 4 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Farnham District.—Annual meeting at Farnham, Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. — W. Viggers, for Hon. Sec.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch.—Annual meeting at Wisbech on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5. Tower blacked out.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—Gainsborough District.—Annual meeting at All Saints', Gainsborough, on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells afternoon and evening. Service at 4 p.m. No tea arrangements; cafes in the town. Business meeting in the belfry at 6 p.m.—Geo. L. A. Lunn, Hon. Sec., 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Meeting at St. John-the-Baptist, Erith, on Saturday, Jan. 29th, 2 p.m. Service 4.15.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Fulham, Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells 3.30 to 5. Short meeting in belfry after, then handbell ringing till blackout. No tea arrangements.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport and Bowdon Branch.—Annual meeting at Norbury, Saturday, Jan. 29th. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Bring food.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Rutland Branch.—Annual meeting at Oakham on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Notification for tea to S. H. Towell, Hon. Sec., 27, West Road, Oakham, Rutland.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting, St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, February 5th. Bells (12) 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Business meeting. Tea at cafe in town.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Annual meeting at Bulwell, Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bells 2.30 to 8. Tea 4.30, followed by meeting. Election of officers and other important business. Names for tea must reach Mr. F. Smith, 47, Minerva Street, Bulwell, by Monday, Jan. 31st.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. John-de-Sepulchre, Norwich, on Saturday, February 5th. Bells (8) from 2. Service 4.15. Tea and meeting at Ber House (1s. each), 4.45 p.m. Names for tea by Feb. 1st.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—Mid-Devon Branch.—Meeting at Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot, on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bells (8) from 2.30 p.m. Tea at Ye Olde Bun Shop, Newton Abbot, at 5 p.m. Meeting afterwards. Names for tea by Tuesday, Feb. 1st.—A. L. Bennett, Branch Sec., Cornerways, Buckfastleigh (phone 3121).

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting at Standish, Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Annual meeting at Earl Shilton on Feb. 5th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea and meeting in Schools at 5 p.m. Names to Mr. G. Newton, 26, Avenue South, Earl Shilton, near Leicester, by Feb. 3rd, please.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—Annual meeting at Leatherhead, Saturday, Feb. 5th. Service 5 o'clock, followed by tea and business meeting at the Duke's Head. Numbers for tea to Mr. G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead.—A. H. Smith, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Rishton, Saturday, Feb. 5th, 2.30 p.m. Business meeting 6 p.m.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at St. Thomas' Church, Leesfield, Saturday, Feb. 5th, 3 p.m. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand.—I. Kay, Hon. Sec.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Meeting at St. Ignatius', Sunderland, Saturday, Feb. 5th, 2.30 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—F. Ainsley, 30, Aysgarth Avenue, Grangetown, Sunderland.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—Meeting at Guilborough (6 bells), Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bring own food.—C. Green, Sec., Murcott, Long Buckley, near Rugby.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Longton (8 bells) on Saturday, Feb. 5th, 3 p.m. Names for tea to E. Steele, Lorraine, The Wood Meir, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, before Feb. 2nd.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—Meeting at Sharnbrook on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Own tea arrangements.—Frank C. Tysoe, Dis. Sec.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Practice meeting at Debenham, Saturday, Feb. 5th, 2.30. Tower blacked out. Tea shop in village.—W. C. Rumsey.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Crewkerne Deanery Branch.—Annual meeting at Ilminster, Saturday, Feb. 5th, 2.30 p.m. Tea in Minster Cafe, 5 p.m. Business 6 p.m.—Rev. G. G. Hickman, Chairman, The Vicarage, Ilminster.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Heanor on Saturday, Feb. 5th, 3 p.m. Own tea arrangements.—J. W. England, Hon. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Thrapston Branch.—Annual meeting at Titchmarsh (8 bells), Saturday, Feb. 5th. Names for tea by Feb. 1st.—W. R. Butcher, Hon. Sec., Woodview, Brigstock, near Kettering.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Bolsover, Saturday, Feb. 12th, 2 p.m. Names for tea by Feb. 9th to Mr. J. Saxton, 51, New Station Road, Bolsover, near Chesterfield.—G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec., 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—Annual meeting at Leytonstone, Saturday, Feb. 12th, 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Notify for tea.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—The supply of badges is exhausted, and the secretaries regret that no more are obtainable until after the war.—F. Llewellyn Edwards.

BIRTH.

CRAMPION.—On Wednesday, Dec. 29th, 1943, at Ilford Maternity Hospital, to Alice, wife of Lance-Corpl. John H. Crampion (née Petty), the gift of a son, David John.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT NORTH BRADLEY.

A meeting of the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held at North Bradley on January 8th, was attended by 24 members from Melksham, Holt, North Bradley, Westbury, Southbroom, Keevil, Warminster, Longbridge Deverell and Erchfont. The methods rung were Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and Bob Minor.

The Vicar, the Rev. Canon S. M. Davys, conducted the service and Mr. Watts was at the organ. Tea was provided by Mrs. Harding. The secretary announced the death of Mr. Slatford, who was a very keen member of North Bradley tower. The chairman thanked the Vicar, the organist and Mr. Percival Harding, who had made the arrangements. It was agreed to hold the next meeting at Market Lavington on February 5th.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HATFIELD.

A meeting of the St. Albans District of the Hertford County Association, held at Hatfield on January 15th, was attended by 24 members from North Myms, Luton, St. Albans Cathedral and St. Peter's, Hitchin, Knebworth and the local belfry.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. P. Leonard, and Mr. H. J. Hazell was at the organ. Tea at the Salisbury Guest House was generously provided by Mr. D. Ellingham, an old member of the Hatfield band.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at St. Michael's, St. Albans, if possible.

The Methods rung during the afternoon and evening included Stedman Caters, Grandsire Triples and Caters, and Double Norwich and Kent Treble Bob Major, with rounds for the beginners.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 1944.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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THE BEST PEAL OF BELLS.

We have published lately a few letters from correspondents who tell us which they think is the best ring of bells in some particular locality, and we shall be glad to publish more of the same sort. This is one of the questions which have always interested ringers and about which they are generally ready to talk, the more so, perhaps, because there is no definite answer.

Which is the best ring of bells? Who shall say, and by what standards shall he judge? Is it to be the most pleasant to listen to while peal ringing? Or the one that best passes the tests of the tuning fork? Or the one that most people like to hear? None of these things would be generally accepted as the standard. There is something else which most people recognise. They call it tone or quality, but when one tries to put into words or definite thought what the tone or quality of a bell is one is completely baffled.

When a man says that such and such bells are the best what he really means is, we suppose, that they are the ones which most impressed and appealed to him. It is quite a fair and legitimate test, but it never can be a final one. The effect bells have on a man, whether he is a ringer or not, depends in a large measure on himself and the peculiar circumstances of the time. Most of us have heard at one time a ring which greatly pleased us and at the next visit we wondered what there was in it that before so much impressed us. Perhaps our friends will tell us that the bells they have praised are those they have heard many times and have judged under all sorts of circumstances. That, no doubt, is so, and it is a fair test of the good quality of these particular bells, but it is of little use for comparison unless all the other bells which are compared have been judged in similar circumstances.

Ringers, as a rule, have few opportunities of hearing bells properly. They listen to them when they are peal ringing or on a visit to the local band when it is inconvenient and perhaps impossible to go outside to hear them as they should be heard.

Let us suppose that gramophone records were made of ten or a dozen rings, each under the best possible conditions, and let us suppose that these records were played one after another in some hall before a critical audience. Would that make possible a fair and sound judgment between the bells? It would not. Church bells are not things which will reveal their charm in such

(Continued on page 46.)

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circumstances. The hearer must approach them in a different spirit. He may use his critical faculties later on, but when he falls under their attraction he must be in another mood.

No definite sound judgment can ever be given on the comparative merits of different rings of bells, but does it mean that the opinions expressed by our correspondents and others like them are useless and the discussion futile? Most certainly it does not. It is really of little importance whether this peal is actually better than that. It is of great importance that ringers should hold opinions about the matter and freely discuss and maintain them. For the more they do so the more interest they will take in the bells, the more beauties they will find in them, and the more enjoyment and satisfaction they will get out of their art. It is a good thing to have loyalties and preferences and loves. It is a good thing to have an affection for some peal of bells and to hold to it against all argument, all adverse opinion and, it needs be, against all reason. Provided only that the affection is a real one.

Merit need not be the only reason for this preference. Sentiment may properly enter into it; associations and memories of childhood and old friendships, and happy days long past.

God gave all men all earth to love,
But, since man's heart is small,
Ordains for each one spot shall prove
Beloved over all.
Each to his choice.'

And so it is with bells. There are many rings throughout the land worthy of a ringer's love, and he is a fortunate man who has one which has earned and kept his preference and affection.

TEN BELL PEAL.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 22, 1944, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 6040 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt.

PERCY L. HARRISON ... Treble	FREDERICK MILNER ... 6
ERNEST MORRIS ... 2	*ARTHUR DEBENHAM ... 7
GEORGE S. MORRIS ... 3	HAROLD G. JENNEY ... 8
HARRY WAYNE ... 4	HARRY BROUGHTON ... 9
SIDNEY O. CHENEY ... 5	HAROLD J. POOLE ... Tenor

Composed by WILLIAM PYE. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* First peal of Cambridge Royal.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

PINCHBECK, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(Elloe Deaneries Branch.)

On Thurs., Jan. 27, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt. 9 lb.

WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON Treble	*JACK PEPPER ... 5
GEORGE SEWELL ... 2	FRANK TAYLOR ... 6
JOHN W. CARTER ... 3	†HORACE HARRISON ... 7
CHARLES C. RAWDING ... 4	RUPERT RICHARDSON ... Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.

* First peal. † First peal of Major. Rung half-muffled as a token of respect and of esteem for Mr. J. T. Brown, a member of the Spalding company, and official of the Guild, who was laid to rest in Spalding Cemetery on that date.

SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
(Elloe Deaneries Branch.)

On Thurs., Jan. 27, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND NICOLAS,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

*GEORGE WILLIAMSON ... Treble	GEORGE W. MILLS ... 5
WILLIAM HOLLINGWORTH ... 2	SYDNEY E. ANDREW ... 6
*STANLEY E. BENNETT ... 3	ARTHUR J. FARR ... 7
CYRIL R. BURRELL ... 4	JOHN G. AMES ... Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by JOHN G. AMES.

* First peal of Major. Rung half-muffled as a token of respect to John T. Brown, a ringer at this church.

OSWALDTWISTLE, LANCOS.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(Blackburn Branch.)

On Saturday, Jan. 29, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF IMMANUEL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 11½ cwt. in G.

CHARLES BLAKEY ... Treble	† ROGER LEIGH ... 5
* RICHARD BLAKEY ... 2	CHARLES SHARPLES ... 6
FRED READ ... 3	LEONARD SCHOLES ... 7
JOSEPH WOODS ... 4	LAURENCE J. WILLIAMS ... Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW. Conducted by L. J. WILLIAMS.

* First peal. † First peal on tower bells.

EGHAM, SURREY.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 29, 1944, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.	Tenor 16 cwt. 3 qr. 12 lb.
WILKINS MASSEY ... Treble	* ROBERT ANDREWS ... 5
ERNEST W. MOREY ... 2	JOHN B. HESSEY ... 6
H. WILLIAM BARRETT ... 3	WALTER A. PECK ... 7
WILLIAM SHEPHERD ... 4	JOHN GREENOUGH ... Tenor

Conducted by E. W. MOREY.

* First peal inside. First peal as conductor. A birthday peal for the tenor ringer.

DAGENHAM, ESSEX.
THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, Jan. 29, 1944, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt. 3 qr.

* LEONARD W. BULLOCK ... Treble	ERNEST W. PYE ... 5
JAMES A. BULLOCK ... 2	RICHARD F. DEAL ... 6
HERBERT LANGDON ... 3	FREDERICK FREESTONE ... 7
* THOMAS H. BULLOCK ... 4	JAMES BULLOCK ... Tenor

Composed by JOHN E. BURTON. Conducted by JAMES BULLOCK.

* First tower-bell peal. First peal of Bob Major on the bells. Rung for the 14th birthday of L. W. Bullock.

SIX BELL PEALS.

HASKETON, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's of Kent, two of Oxford and three of Plain Bob, each called differently. Tenor 9½ cwt. in A flat.

* GEORGE A. FLEMING ... Treble	CHARLES CLARKE ... 4
MRS. C. W. PIPE ... 2	WILLIAM A. WOODS ... 5
FREDERICK J. CRAPNEIL ... 3	CECIL W. PIPE ... Tenor

Conducted by CECIL W. PIPE.

* 500th peal. Rung half-muffled as a token of respect to George W. Ablitt, who died on January 20th.

STANTON HARCOURT, OXON.—On Saturday, January 22nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: J. Flanders 1, T. W. Bond 2, R. Churchill 3, J. Lee 4, A. Cornish 5, C. Calcutt (conductor) 6.

CLEWER, BERKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Double Court, Double Oxford, St. Clement's, Single Oxford, Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 14 cwt. 2 qr. 25 lb. in F.

JAMES A. GLASS ... Treble	LEONARD STILWELL ... 4
GEORGE GILBERT ... 2	NORMAN V. HARDING ... 5
WILLIAM WELLING ... 3	TONY PRICE ... Tenor

Conducted by TONY PRICE.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., Jan. 25, 1944, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5057 CHANGES;

* ERIC A. DENCH ... 1-2	JOHN THOMAS ... 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS ... 3-4	† ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 7-8
* DENNIS H. L. LANGDON 9-10	

Composed by E. GUISE. Conducted by J. THOMAS.

* First peal of Caters. † First peal on 7-8.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.
THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Jan. 26, 1944, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,
AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Containing 1,600 London, 1,280 Wembley, 800 Bristol, 736 Superlative and 704 Cambridge, with 129 changes of method. 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 E. C. S. TURNER. Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

* First peal in five Surprise Major methods. † First peal in five Surprise Major methods on handbells.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Sat., Jan. 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Two Minutes,
AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

BETTY SPICE (Somerville) 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE (New College) 5-6
* MARGARET L. TUTT (Lady Margaret Hall) ... 3-4	MARGARET D. TELFORD (Somerville) ... 7-8

Composed by W. SOTTANSTALL. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal in the method on an inside pair.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,
IN THE CHOIR VESTRY, ST. PETER'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

TAYLOR'S SIX-PART. Tenor size 15 in C.

MISS JESSIE C. CHICK ... 1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS ... 5-6
MRS. F. J. MARSHALLSAY 3-4	FRANCIS S. WILSON ... 7-8

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, Jan. 29, 1944, in Three Hours,
AT THE TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOR STREET, CITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5017 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

FRANK W. PERRENS ... 1-2	J. FRANK SMALLWOOD ... 7-8
FRANK E. PERRIN ... 3-4	GEORGE SWANN ... 9-10
FRANK E. HAYNES ... 5-6	ALBERT WALKER ... 11-12

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by FRANK E. HAYNES.

TITCHFIELD.—On January 22nd, on the occasion of the marriage of Mr. Leonard Luck, of Bushey, to Miss Audrey Harrison, of Southam, 720 Bob Minor: J. H. Hunt 1, R. W. Kyle 2, G. Arrowsmith 3, F. C. Love 4, A. G. Leahy 5, G. Barton (conductor) 6.

HANDLING A BELL.

(Continued from page 37.)

It has often been said, and by men who know what they are talking about, that it takes more skill to ring a small bell properly than it does to ring a large bell properly. 'If a man can ring a little bell properly, he can ring a big one; but it does not follow that a heavy bell man can ring a light one.'

So far as this opinion is a protest against the widespread idea that all the best men should be at the back end and the trebles left to the novices, it is sound and fully justified, but, as it stands, it is not correct. It does take a lot of skill to ring the trebles well, and no good ringing can be had without it. Practice with small bells is almost essential before any good ringing can be done on heavy bells and the more of it the better. But heavy bell ringing and tenor ringing call for special skill, because the technique differs considerably from the technique of ringing light bells. This is due mainly to the difference in the 'dead' period in the swing of the bells. Medium weight bells are the easiest to ring and generally require the least amount of physical exertion.

Heavy bell ringing is not merely a matter of strength and it by no means follows that the men who are strong and heavy are the most capable of ringing big bells, though many of them think so. There is a common saying in boxing that a 'good big 'un will always beat a good little 'un,' and it is equally true (for very similar reasons) in heavy bell ringing. But a good little 'un will usually put up a better show than a big 'un who is not so good. There are indeed some feats which do belong exclusively to the big heavy men. To ring a heavy tenor to a long peal, or a heavy bell when it is a badly going one to an ordinary peal, or a badly going bell of any weight, requires strength, weight, endurance, courage, will power, and technical skill. A full combination of all these qualities is not often found in any one man, and that is why really great feats of heavy bell ringing will always be rare. Probably they are rarer now than ever they were, because improved bell ringing has vastly reduced the amount of energy needed to ring even the heaviest bells. Once men, if they wished to ring peals, had often to ring them on bells which most modern bands would consider unringable. This applied not only to heavy bells, but to bells of all weights. It is on record that once in the eighteenth century a visiting band of College Youths rang a peal in a country belfry, when they had to put two men to the second because one of the gudgeons was broken. We can hardly imagine a present day band going for a peal, or even for a touch, on bells which had a broken gudgeon. No one would wish to go back to the old conditions, but it is certainly true that the easy way in which bells can now be rung has led to a lot of careless, slovenly handling, and provided he is of the right sort, it is quite a good thing for a beginner to learn in a belfry where the conditions are bad, where the bells are odd-struck and really call for correct handling.

The strong heavy man has, of course, the advantage in ringing badly going bells, but the lighter and weaker man who has skill can often counteract his disadvantages, for he uses the energy he does possess without waste and to the best advantage. Very often he can by correct pulling and correct timing ring to a peal a bell which would be beyond the limits of many far

stronger men. But the bell must be one which needs a definite amount of pulling. Where the light weak man is hopelessly handicapped is when the bell plays tricks due, for instance, to the weakness of the tower. In such a case he can by very careful 'feeling' guard somewhat against the bell suddenly 'running up' beyond control, but he is helpless when the bell drops, and the amount of pulling necessary to get it back to its right position will soon exhaust his reserves of strength.

These, however, are exceptional cases. The real art of tenor ringing does not consist wholly or mainly in overcoming physical obstacles, and can be shown just as much in ringing a 14 cwt. tenor as in ringing a 30 cwt. tenor. It is true to say that really fine tenor ringing is only possible when the bell is well within the ringers' physical capacity. The task of the tenor man is so to ring his bell that the changes have a definite character and musical quality. Many people think (carelessly, if they can properly be said to think at all about the matter) that ringing a tenor behind is a humble, humdrum job, that anybody who is able to pull a bell can do without any trouble. Many more think it merely a matter of regular and steady pulling. Certainly if a man maintains a regular and steady pull there is no fault to be found with him; but first-class covering is something more than that. The man, if he has got the rhythm of the bells in his mind, will so place his own bell that it takes its proper place in the rhythm, and he will vary his pull according to the subtle modifications of the rhythm. He will do it so that no one notices there is any variation, and in the vast majority of cases he will not himself be conscious that he is doing it. What he does know is that his ear tells him that his bell must be struck exactly **so** and not otherwise, and his bell instantly responds to what is passing through his brain.

Ringing a tenor in is, of course, a much more complex matter. Here the ringer's task is deliberately and consciously to set a firm beat and to control the rate and style of the ringing. He can do it if he is a skillful man who knows his job, but only if the band in front of him is a reasonably good one. When all is said and done, change ringing, though each individual man has his own bell to ring, and though one man may differ greatly from another in skill, is a team job. It is the average quality of the band which decides the quality of the ringing, and though one or two good men can do much to inspire their fellows and raise the average, they are helpless unless the others respond. Similarly a good tenor ringer can only properly exercise his skill when he is ringing with a worthy band.

When he has a good band in front of him the tenor man can, within limits, set what pace he likes, but he must do it so that nobody notices he is doing it. When a man is covering it is not his job to set the pace; he has to adapt himself to the pace set by others, and to rhythm of the changing bells. The seventh in Triples and the ninth in Caters are the bells which can best control the rate of ringing.

It has often been said that in changes, on heavy bells the small bells should 'ring to the tenor.' This is one of those popular sayings which, founded on some truth, are largely fallacies. If it is meant that the little bells should be so rung that the task of the heavy bell men is not unduly increased, it is, of course, perfectly correct.

But if it is meant (as very often it is meant) that the little bells should, by extra holding up or cutting down, give a big bell more room than the regular beat of the bells would allow—should, for instance, when dodging, allow the big bell to maintain a fairly steady pull and make up for it by an alternate extra quick and extra slow blow, dodging round the big bell in fact instead of with it—if that is what is meant then it is quite wrong. Lazy tenor ringers may like that sort of thing, but the first class tenor man does not want it. What he wants is that the other bells should fall in with the time he sets and should keep the proper beat and rhythm of the changes so that he can place his own bell exactly where he wants it with the minimum of wasted energy. What he detests is broken time, leads too quick or too slow, and anything which makes him alter his rhythmic pulling. To a tenor man with a sensitive ear few things are more irritating than for the man who is dodging with him when he is in 7-8 up to strike too close after him. He feels rather like a man who is jostled rudely in the street and is expected to apologise.

It is sometimes said that when ringing a bell behind a man has only one rate of pulling; and when ringing changes he has only three rates of pulling, which are represented by hunting up, hunting down, and place making. This statement is barely approximately correct. The good tenor man will find that his rate of pulling varies enormously, especially when the striking is first class, for he will adapt himself to the continually changing rhythm; but the variations will be very minute. There are also positions which call for a much greater output of energy, though there seems no particular reason for it. Why, for instance, should it be so much

harder to dodge a heavy bell in 3-4 up than anywhere else? That it is so will, we think, be generally agreed.

Men often argue about which is the more difficult to ring—a tenor slow struck at handstroke and quick at back or a tenor slow struck at backstroke and quick at hand? Some give one answer and some another. Our own opinion is this—if a man really handles his bell correctly, and (this is the important point) if he can properly adjust his hands on the tail end, a bell slow at backstroke presents few difficulties, while to drive a bell at handstroke is not easy for a man of light weight. But if the man (as some men do) always holds his tail end in the same place, he will find it extremely difficult to cut the slow speaking bell quick enough at backstroke, while he would have no particular difficulty in grasping the sally so as to make the quicker pull necessary for a bell slow at hand.

(To be continued.)

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR.

BY ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

London, Wembley, Bristol, Superlative and Cambridge.
5,120.

23456	M	W	R	Methods
65432	—	—	—	LOW
25346	—	2	—	W C B L
25463	2	2	—	W B C B W
26354	2	—	—	L B C W
43652	—	—	—	W C L
25634	—	—	—	LOW
46532	—	—	—	W C L
23564	—	—	—	L C L
34562	—	2	—	L C L B

Four times repeated.

C=Cambridge or Superlative.

This composition must not be used for a peal in the four Standard Surprise Methods.

Rung at Bushey on handbells, January 26th.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official Journal of the Central Council of
Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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'The Ringing World.'

In answer to enquiries respecting the health of Mr. George R. Pye,
we learn that he has been out of hospital and back home again after
his recent operation, which was successful. He is as well as can be
expected in the circumstances.

The Bramley (Surrey) Parochial Church Council has opened a fund
to restore and recast the six bells at the Parish Church and to
augment them to eight. It is hoped that the work will be put in
hand immediately after the cessation of hostilities.

Before the Old Year was rung out and the New Year in at Hursley
Parish Church, the captain, Mr. Hunt, congratulated Mr. William
Jones on his 50 years as a ringer at Hursley. Mr. Jones has also
been people's warden for a good number of years.

To-morrow is the 40th anniversary of the first peal of London
Surprise Major on handbells.

The bells of St. Chad's R.C. Cathedral, Birmingham, will be broad-
cast on Sunday morning, February 6th, at 10.15, on the Overseas
Service (short wave) on the 19, 25 and 31 metre band.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT NORTHAMPTON.

There was a good attendance at the annual meeting of the
Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, which was
held at St. Peter's, Northampton, on January 22nd. Among those
present was the Rev. E. S. Powell, Ringing Master of the Guild.

The Rev. M. L. Couchman presided over the business meeting, at
which the secretary's report was presented and the branch officers
elected. It was agreed to hold a meeting on the last Saturday of
each month except February, the place to be advertised in 'The
Ringing World.' Two new members were elected.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

The observation is from the seventh.

63				65			
2314567				2314567			
3425167	1	6-7 up		3425167	1	6-7 up	
4675312	3	in quick		4675312	3	in and	
S 5231647	4	make S		6543712	1	out quick	
2143576	2	6-7 down		S 5123647	3	make S	
1325476	1	6-7 down		1342576	2	6-7 down	
				3215476	1	6-7 down	
77				83			
2314567				2314567			
S 3425176	1	7th place		3461275	2	6-7 down	
4732561	2	in slow		S 1543762	3	out quick	
6531724	5	out slow		5623174	3	6-7 down	
5123647	2	6-7 up		4251376	6	6-7 down after quick	
1342576	2	6-7 down		2143576	1	6-7 down	
3215476	1	6-7 down		2135476	1	6-7 down	

EALING.—On Sunday, January 23rd, at St. Stephen's, 1,260 Grand-
sire Triples: H. M. Page 1, J. E. Churchill 2, A. H. Harding 3, A.
Jones 4, J. E. Lewis Cockey 5, E. C. S. Turner (conductor) 6, W. J.
Paice 7, F. Miller 8.

THE GIRALDA BELLS, SEVILLE.

BY THE REV. F. LL. EDWARDS.

A most interesting article on ringing at Seville Cathedral, which appeared in a recent issue of 'The Ringing World,' evoked a letter from an 'Enquirer' asking for further information. The following notes may serve to throw light on the subject.

The Giralda Tower contains 24 bells, besides a clock bell. These are hung round the four sides of the tower in open arches, exactly as described by the writer of the article. The largest bell, bearing the name of Sancta Maria, was cast close to the Cathedral in 1587 and weighs approximately 17 tons. This bell and three or four others of exceptional weight are hung dead and chimed by ropes attached to the clappers. The rest are rung and swing out over the street below as described. The 'superstructure,' to use the author's word, is, in fact, both a massive lever and a counterweight, rising perpendicularly from the stock and directly over the bell.

The rope is fastened to the top of this lever, and with the assistance of its weight no great strength is needed to set the bell in motion. The ringer has a good deal of spare rope and rings the bell gradually up by simply pulling—without any handstroke action—and letting out more rope as required. When the bell has reached the upright position, it turns right over and the rope begins to wind round one side of the stock. By this time the bell has gathered considerable impetus and it continues to revolve with its own momentum, while the rope goes on winding round the stock.

Gradually the movement becomes slower, with longer intervals between the strokes of the clapper; then, when the bell is up on the balance and almost at a standstill, with the great lever pointing straight down, the ringer adroitly hitches the rope round the end of the lever and fastens it to a thick iron staple fixed in the masonry of the arch for that purpose. The bell is now virtually 'set,' and can remain indefinitely in that position. In actual fact some of the bells often are thus left up for several hours.

To resume ringing the rope is untied, the ringer throws his weight on it and the bell begins to revolve the other way, while the rope unwinds. At this point the speed of revolution accelerates considerably, before it begins to slacken off: unless checked by hand, the rope will start winding up again, when the whole process may be repeated: otherwise the movement of the bell is just left to die out.

The bells of the Giralda are rung several times every day except on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, when they are silent and a curious mechanical rattle takes their place. Three, five or seven bells are used for the various Cathedral services. On the great festivals and other special occasions all the bells are brought into use. In such cases the ringing is chiefly done by young boys, though two or three men take part in it and are naturally in charge. The writer of these notes well remembers conversing with the blind ringer mentioned in the article quoted, and it is interesting to learn from Mr. Taylor's letter that he also found him there.

Although the 'leap to the bells' has been very wisely prohibited, the position of ringers facing the open arches gives one the impression of being decidedly dangerous for such young persons. A query on this point addressed to one of the adult ringers elicited the reply that men were not available for the purpose, and as the payment was only 4d. a time, they had to make use of boys. As it is, the boys appear thoroughly to enjoy playing their part, and probably regret not being allowed to swing out on the fittings of the bells. So at least one would judge from the broad grin of satisfaction on the faces of the boy ringers at the Church of San Salvador in another part of Seville, where, unless it has been quite recently suppressed, the old exciting practice still prevails, and the boys may be seen happily perched on the counterweight projecting over the churchyard and balancing the bell in a horizontal position, while spectators below gaze in wonder, and reflect on the value of 'safety first' as a commendable motto for ordinary mortals.

'ANTI-CLOCKWISE'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—'Adulescens' asks about rings of bells hung anti-clockwise. In Cornwall there were three rings hung in this manner, and they were of particular interest to me as they were in my area when a district secretary. The three churches in the parishes of St. Budock, St. Gluvias and Mabe all have 15th century towers: these three are neighbouring parishes and lie adjoining the town of Falmouth, and until 1930 the two rings of six and one of five respectively were all hung anti-clockwise. In 1930 Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. rehung the five bells at Mabe in a new frame and added a new treble. The sixes at St. Budock and St. Gluvias are still hung in wooden frames and are rung as before.

There seems to have been no reason why these three rings should have been hung anti-clockwise except that they were all rehung within a few years of each other, and I should think by the same founder. I cannot say for certain, but I believe Messrs. Warner were the founders. Mabe bells were first cast in 1744, but recast and rehung in 1877. St. Budock bells were hung in 1882, and St. Gluvias were cast in 1808 and rehung in 1883. All three rings were rehung within a period of seven years.

A. S. ROBERTS.

The Parsonage, Carbis Bay.

THE BEST RING OF BELLS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I notice St. John's, Whittle-le-Woods, referred to as the best peal of bells in Lancashire. Evidently the writer knows his subject. Previous to 1926 I had the honour to be in charge there, and can assure you they are the finest ring I have come across yet. I have, as secretary for Derby district, had a good opportunity of visiting most towers in this, Burton and Nottingham districts, also I visited most towers in the Canterbury district during the last war and on a holiday three years ago, and though I rang on many good peals, none could compare for tone and 'go' with Whittle bells. The only peal, in my humble opinion, which approaches Whittle for tone is St. Luke's, Derby, with its fine tenor of 30 cwt.

Perhaps a few notes about Whittle bells would be appropriate. They were installed, if my memory is correct, in October, 1910, as a memorial to a member of the Crosse family, of Shaw Hill. The tenor weighs 21 cwt. 2 qr. 23 lb., total weight of peal 82 cwt. 2 qr. 18 lb.

They are from the Loughborough foundry. Mr. Harry Chapman, of Manchester, had a great opinion of the bells, and the Rev. Law James on one of his tours said they were the best they had rung on during the tour.

I had the pleasure of ringing on them just previous to the ban and the 'go' was excellent. There isn't a 'wrong un' amongst them. I regard them as a grand advertisement to Taylors.

Unfortunately the band at Whittle is much depleted, but I understand Mr. F. G. Bradley has got four boys learning and making good progress.

The opinions of Mr. Ben Knights, who has rung extensively in Lancashire, or Mr. Roger Martin or Arthur Tomlinson, who all know Whittle bells, would be much appreciated.

WILLIAM LANCASTER.

83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.

MEETING AT CHRISTCHURCH.

The annual meeting of the Christchurch District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild was held at Christchurch on January 15th. Service in the Priory Church was conducted by the Vicar of Lymington, assisted by the Rev. — Fletcher, his curate.

At the tea and meeting in the Warren Cafe 60 were present. Mr. J. M. Turner was elected chairman of the district, and Mr. G. Preston and Mr. E. T. Griffin were re-elected as secretary and representative on the Central Committee.

Thirty-seven new members were elected, viz.: St. Peter's, Bournemouth 5, Brockenhurst 10, Lymington 12, Milford 4, Hordle 1, honorary 3, compounding 1, and unattached 1.

DEATH OF MR. J. T. BROWN.

SPALDING'S OLDEST RINGER.

Through the death of Mr. J. T. Brown, which took place on Saturday, January 22nd, at the age of 83 years, Spalding has lost one of its oldest and regular members.

Although not a great peal ringer, he had taken part in several peals ranging from Plain Bob to Stedman Triples, and was always to be found in his place in the belfry on Sunday. If any special ringing was wanted Mr. Brown was always willing to oblige. Being of a genial disposition, he was liked by all with whom he came in contact. When he began to ring is uncertain, but he had long been a member of the Spalding company and for several years acted as captain.

He took a great interest in Guild matters and for many years was one of the auditors and branch representative on the Diocesan Guild Committee.

He had been connected with the choir for 75 years, having joined the Spalding choir in 1868. For a number of years he lived out of the district, but always sang in the choir wherever he lived. In London at Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887 he sang in the choir of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields.

The funeral took place on Thursday, January 27th. The service, which was fully choral, was at the Church of SS. Mary and Nicholas. Owing to the indisposition of the Vicar, Canon B. G. Nicholas, the service was conducted by the curate, the Rev. D. F. Tallet, assisted by the Rev. A. H. Pilling and the Rev. Lancelot Smith.

The interment took place at Spalding Cemetery, the coffin being borne by four members of the local company. At the close of the committal prayers a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on the handbells by J. B. Hallifax 1-2, Mrs. R. Richardson 3-4, R. Richardson 5-6, C. R. Burrell 7-8.

During the evening two half-muffled peals of Bob Major were rung, one at Spalding by members of the local company and one at Pinchbeck by a representative band of the Elloe Deaneries Branch.

HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS.—On Sunday, January 23rd, 1.260 Stedman Triples: F. Hayes (conductor) 1, Miss A. M. Look 2, E. Markham 3, G. F. Hinton 4, R. Coles 5, E. R. Coles 6, Insp. C. A. Smith 7, P.C. A. Strathey (first quarter-peal) 8.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 41.)

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL.

Carlisle has had a noted history. It was a town of considerable importance under the Romans, and later was captured by the furious Picts. It has been a city of sieges. Egfrid of Northumbria rebuilt it in the seventh century, but the Danes sacked it. William Rufus again rebuilt and fortified it, but David, King of Scotland, captured the place and died here in 1153. Two more sieges it endured, and was at length taken in 1217. King Edward I. frequently came here on his marches to conquer the Scots and held Parliament here, and nearby he died. After the disaster of Bannockburn, Robert Bruce besieged Carlisle, and had his quarters in the cathedral, but failed to gain the Castle. Some of the Bishops were warlike men, and took the field against the dread invaders from the north. A long siege, lasting eight months, took place during the Civil War, and in that time terrible damage was done to the cathedral. Again in the rebellion of 1745 'Bonnie Prince Charlie' captured the place. The cathedral was again used as military quarters.

The cathedral was of Norman character and cruciform in plan, and had nave with aisles, transepts with a low tower at the crossing. In the early 13th century the Norman choir was taken down and rebuilt in Early English style. Later, in the middle of the 14th century, after two fires had done much damage, rebuilding again commenced on a more imposing plan. The late Decorated east window is one of the most beautiful in the world. Fire again injured the cathedral in 1392, which was restored again by Bishop Strickland (1400-1419), who also rebuilt the tower above the roof, and crowned it with a wooden spire.

The Civil War did terrible damage to the cathedral, and during the siege soldiers quartered within its walls in order to repair fortifications pulled down a great portion of the nave. Since that time there have been many restorations. The central tower, as stated above, completed by Bishop Strickland on the old Norman piers, dated 1092-1130, is somewhat small for the huge choir, and consequently lacks dignity. The old wooden spire which formerly crowned it was removed. There is a turret set at the north-east angle, and in the north side is a niche with the figure of an angel.

The tower is 112ft. high and has a ring of eight bells, tenor 20 cwt. Like many central towers already described, ascent to the belfry is not direct. One enters the cathedral by the main door, passing down the north aisle to the east triforium. Here you retrace your steps, walking back the full length to the doorway in the tower, then up further steps to the ringing room.

The bells remained six until 1924, when two trebles were added out of a legacy left by Mr. Hastings Rashdall, supplemented by Constance, his widow. At the same time the old six were rehung. One peal of Stedman Triples was rung here in 1925. The tenor has the quaint inscription:—

'I warne yov how yovr time doth pass away,
Serve God therefor whil' life doth last and
Glorie in axelsis Deo Anno Domini 1657.
John and William Langshaw workmen.'

The 3rd is by the same 'workmen,' and dated 1659, simply bearing the initials 'IwL.' The 4th is by E.

Sellor, of York, 1728; 5th by Geo. Lees and Edmund Wright, 1608; 6th a recast by T. Mears, 1845; and 7th one of the original bells prior to 1552.

There is a tradition that these bells were rung on November 17th, 1745, when the Pretender entered Carlisle, and that for this they were condemned not to ring again for 100 years. However this may be, it is stated that they were chimed with ropes on the clappers at the news of the victory at the Battle of Waterloo, and thus the old 4th was cracked. She was then taken down and removed into the cathedral till 1845, when she was recast as stated.

Prebendary Wilson, writing on January 19th, 1745-6, to Dr. Waugh, Chancellor of the diocese, who was then in London, said, 'A demand made by Major Belfour, in the Duke's name, of the bells of our cathedral, as a perquisite to the train of artillery, was a surprise to the members of the chapter here, and very ill-relished by them. Mr. Birket, Mr. Head and myself waited on the Duke to desire his protection. . . . The answer given us was that the Duke would not interfere in it: that if it was a perquisite we could not say nothing against it. The chapter here would be glad to have your sentiments in this affair.' The Chancellor's 'sentiments' were, 'I am fully persuaded that no law of this land, nor any military law, will justify Mr. Belfour's demand. . . . I dined this day with an old lieutenant-general of great reputation (and others of great consideration in that way), who was quite out of patience at the mention of it.' Under the influence of these 'sentiments' the demand collapsed. A writer in the 'Bell News' of 1890 says, 'But how is the tradition of the bells never having been rung since 1745 to be reconciled with another tradition of one of them being cracked while ringing during the rejoicing after the Battle of Waterloo? Well, as there have been no wheels on the bells within living memory, and may have been none in 1815—perhaps none since 1745—it may be suggested that the ringing for peace after Waterloo was affected by an exceptional arrangement of cords tied to clappers, very likely to crack one of the bells. The cracked bell, 'removed to the back of the altar,' where it remained for many years, was recast, as shown on the inscription of the present 6th bell, in 1845. Billings (Carlisle Cathedral, 1838) has recorded a remarkable inscription which he copied from the old bell whilst it stood at the back of the altar:—

'This Ringe was made six tuneable Bells at the charge of the Lord Howard and other Gentree of the Countie and Citie and officers of the Garrison by the advise of Mager Jeremiah Tolhurst Governor of the Garrison, 1658.'

The same initials are known to have been on this bell as on the treble. The date on the treble, 1659, in a ring 'made six tuneable bells' in 1658, looks odd, but perhaps may be accounted for by supposing the Langshaws, when casting the old 4th, to have antedated the completion of the ring, the treble yet remaining to be cast, and not cast till the following year. Their description on the tenor as 'workmen' implies that they were not regular bell founders. Permanently resident in Carlisle, as is shown by frequent occurrence in the Chamberlain's accounts of William Langshaw's name in connection with plumber's work for the Corporation, they were able to take their time, the tenor in 1657 and the ring not completed till 1659.

In 1552 the Commissioners reported that there were 'fowre gret belles,' and it is noteworthy that, although the Commission ordered the systematic confiscation of all but 'one gret bell,' this was rarely carried out in Cumberland. To this day several churches in the county still retain the identical bells reported by the Royal Commissioners. One of Carlisle Cathedral's original bells—the present 7th—remains, and has an inscription in stately Gothic floriated capitals, each an inch and a quarter high, with plain initial cross, and three roundlets as intervening stops:—

+IHC+IN VOCE SUM MUNDA MARIA SONANDO
SECUNDA,

which is interpreted: 'I, Mary, pure of accent, sing
Second in the chiming ring.'

From this it would appear to have been the second, *i.e.*, next to the treble, in the original Strickland ring, and that her name was Mary, which name she would receive at her consecration.

(To be continued.)

ACOUSTICS OF THE BELFRY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very interested in your article, Mr. Corby's letter and the replies. Mr. Corby has voiced the opinion of many ringers, especially in this district, who have suffered from noisy belfries for years.

Within the last 35 years three new towers have been built in this neighbourhood and peals of eight installed. In two of them the bells were put in in the course of their erection, and in both instances expense was no object, but the noise in the belfries was intolerable, and it was left to the ringers to rectify.

To give credit where credit is due, when our bells were restored 20 years ago, the bellhangers evidently considered acoustics as part of their job, for without any prompting they installed an extra floor, two inches thick, to modify the sound in the belfry.

Crayford.

E. BARNETT.

BELLHANGERS' ADVICE.

Dear Sir,—As one who for many years has been directly connected with belfries and bells, I feel I must comment on Mr. Corby's letter in your issue of January 21st.

It is evident from the tone of his letter that he is not fully aware of the activities of the bell firms over the last 30 years. These have certainly included giving practical advice and help to their clients to adopt means to obtain the best acoustical values of the towers both for inside and out, in fact it can be stated that where improvements have been made it is because their practical advice has been accepted and carried out. Obviously it is to their advantage to do so. Too often they have found, after installing a really first-class peal, the bells have been rated by ringers as second and even third class peals because of bad acoustic conditions not being rectified.

I personally, as a ringer, considered it part of the job when inspecting bells and towers to report on the acoustics of the belfry and advise what, if anything, was necessary to be done. The same can be said of other firms' representatives. I give as follows some of the reasons why this advice has not been taken:—

(1) The ringers were used to the existing conditions and were doubtful about any other arrangement.

(2) The ringers were not concerned about the outside effects of the sound.

(3) The extra money necessary over the sum required for the bells could not at that time be raised.

(4) If found necessary, after the bells were installed, then the acoustic proposals could be gone into.

Needless to say, in most cases the latter have never been taken up. My own opinion is that the Diocesan Advisory Boards and architects should make it part of their duty to study the acoustics of any belfry where a faculty is asked for for restoration work or new installations. In this regard I suggest, when things are again normal, that the Central Council should edit a treatise on 'Acoustics of the Belfry,' and send a copy to each of the Diocesan Boards and architects.

As the Central Council has always had leading members of bell firms among its members it should not be difficult to obtain any further data necessary above what it has already to compose and write up such an article.

With regard to the tower near London that Mr. Corby mentions, I will not comment except to say I very much doubt whether all the Central Council's advice was taken, but in any case I can't help but think that the bell firm pointed out this defect while carrying out the work.

SYDNEY R. ROPER.

South Croydon.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—There are numerous examples of churches having the tower placed between the nave and chancel, also a few which originally had this arrangement, but, due to alterations, etc., the original layout became more or less obliterated. Herewith brief details of some of these churches which I have visited from time to time.

The church at Stewkley (Bucks) is an ancient Norman building without aisles similar to that at Ifley mentioned by Mr. Morris. The tower contains a ring of eight bells. Brockworth (Glos.) is a later building, also aisleless, but with a small chapel (rather like a transept) projecting southwards from the nave, west of the tower which contains six bells. The church at Caldicot (Mon.) consists of nave, tower and chancel in line, with a north aisle. The south windows of the chancel are rather unique, being twin light in the reticulated style, but externally without the enclosing arch and dripstone. The tower contains a ring of eight bells. The Church of the Holy Cross, Cowbridge (Glam.), has a tower almost like that of a castle, being very sturdy in construction and having an octagonal parapet. At the north-east corner there is a massive staircase turret. St. Luke's Church, Priston (Som.) is a simple aisle-less structure, mainly Gothic, but with Classical details in the tower parapet and pinnacles. Surmounting the tower, which contains six bells, is a very large figure of a turkey, which serves as a weather vane. A straight stone staircase built in the thickness of the northern wall of the tower provides the means of access to the ringing room. The tower of St. Iltyd's Church, Llantwit Major (Mon.), is situated between what were formerly two churches, one parochial and the other conventual. The eastern has an aisle-less chancel, a nave with aisles terminating at the west side of the tower which contains a ring of six bells. The western or parochial church consists of a nave without aisles now used as a museum housing relics of the former splendour of the church. To the west of the parochial church is a ruined 'Galilee' with a piscina high in the wall, suggesting an altar situated in a gallery over the door leading to the church.

Enlargement of the fabric resulted in alterations to the original plan at St. Michael's, Aughton (Lancs) and All Saints', Carshalton (Surrey). The tower at Aughton stands between the north chapel and the north aisle, the present nave and chancel situated to the south are of a later date. There are six bells in the tower, which is square at the base and octagonal at the belfry stage. A graceful stone spire rises from within a low parapet and may be compared to that at Ormskirk and that at Halsall in the same county. When viewed from the north the church at Carshalton presents a curious picture, an eighteenth century 'nave,' a much restored tower and an ancient 'chancel.' This now forms the north aisle and chapel of a modern church built in the Gothic style. St. Andrew's, Shrivenham (Wilts.) was formerly a cruciform church with a central tower. Weather-moulds on the faces of the tower confirm this, and show that the roofs were originally steeper than at present. The church is now rectangular in plan and covered by a single roof of lower pitch which increases the apparent height of the tower.

E. B. HARTLEY.

Wembley Park.

ST. PAUL'S, BURTON-ON-TRENT.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Morris, in his very interesting account of St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, gives the weight of the old tenor bell as 15 cwt. 3 or 21 lb. It was 25 cwt. 3 qr. 21 lb., usually given as 26 cwt.

With reference to the noise that was in the very early years, a second floor was put between the bells and the ringing chamber more than 50 years ago, which made it very comfortable for ringing.

W. C. WAKLEY.

Paignton, Devon.

BIDDENHAM.

Sir,—Mr. Morris, in his articles on 'Central Towers,' says that Biddenham, near Bedford, has a central tower. This is not so, as Biddenham has an ordinary western embattled tower with the approach to the ringing chamber by steps up the outside as stated.

F. C. TYSOE.

Bromham.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT BILLINGBOROUGH.

The annual meeting of the Southern Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild was held at Billingborough on January 22nd, and was attended by about 50 ringers from Bourne, Edenham, Morton, Rippingale, Sleaford, Newark, Bicker, Donnington, Sempringham, Horbling, Folkingham, Gosberton and the local belfry. They included a large number of young ringers—an encouraging sign. The methods rung included Grandsire Doubles and Plain Bob, Treble Bob, Cambridge and London Surprise Minor.

The Vicar, the Rev. R. Sampey, conducted the service and presided at the business meeting, which followed tea in the Foresters' Hall, at which 32 members were present. Two honorary and four ringing members were elected. It was proposed to hold the April meeting at Grantham.

ST. NICHOLAS', DEPTFORD.

THE STORY OF THE BELLS.

The inventory made in the year 1552 records that there were then in the late fifteenth-century tower of St. Nicholas' Parish Church at Deptford, 'v great bells of bell metal suted hanging in the steeple ther,' and also 'j little bell called a Saynt bell.' One little bell had recently been sold. That probably was the sacring bell which had hung on the chancel screen or wall, and in the simplified ritual of the Mass was no longer needed.

In the year 1701 the present ring of eight was hung in the steeple. They are remarkable as having no inscriptions and no founders' names, but merely the date of the year, save that the seventh has the initials, S.N. and I.H. The tenor was recast by Thomas Mears in 1842.

William Laughton wrote that on Sunday, June 16th, 1734, he and the Rambling Ringers journeyed to Greenwich to have a pull, but they found that two burials were to take place there that night. So they went on to Deptford and rang 108 and 336 changes of Grandsire Triples, but they found the bells in a bad state of repair.

This reminds us of the ancient custom of burying at night time. The Requiem Mass and the Dirge and Placebo service would, of course, be said or sung in church in daytime, but the actual interment was after dark. The poet speaks of—

... the pomp of a funeral at midnight,

When dreader yet the lonely morrow looms;

Few are the words that are spoken, and faces are gaunt
beneath the torchlight

That does but darken more the nodding plumes.

The custom was that, while a body lay unburied in a parish, the bells of the church must remain silent, and this custom survived in parts of the country until recent times. We remember some years ago being in a village in Devon when the ringers refused to ring for the Sunday services because a woman in the parish had died a couple of days before. It was not right, they said. It would be interesting to hear whether any trace of this tradition still lingers anywhere.

In the early days of the eighteenth century there was a good band of change ringers at Greenwich who called themselves the Kentish Youths. They rang a peal of Grandsire Triples at St. Alphge's in 1732, and may have rung one at the neighbouring Church of Deptford; but, if so, no trace of it has survived, and the first peal in the tower that we know of is one by the Eastern Scholars which was claimed as 'the first Compleat Peal of Five Thousand and Forty Bob Major ever rung in that steeple.' Thirteen years later the Eastern Scholars rang a peal of Bob Triples on the bells. The Cumberland Youths rang Bob Major in 1780, and Grandsire Triples in 1781.

About the year 1782 a society was formed at Deptford called the Trinity Youths which lasted for more than half a century and rang many peals. Its original members were largely connected with the Royal Dockyard at Dept-

ford, and it got its name from the Trinity Brethren, the Corporation which had the official regulation of British shipping, and which attended St. Nicholas' Church once a year on Trinity Sunday.

The first peal by the Trinity Youths was Grandsire Triples at Deptford on February 18th, 1782, and in 1789 they rang on the same bells 6,400 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major.

St. Nicholas' stood in a very dangerous position when the great air raids took place three years ago. Constant fears were expressed among ringers for its safety, but it seems the tower and bells have escaped unscathed.

The modern Church of St. John, Deptford, has a ring of eight with a tenor of 14 cwt., cast at the Whitechapel Foundry in 1874. They were opened by a band of College Youths on December 31st in that year.

MR WILLIAM DYE.

Mr. William Dye, of Grundisburgh, celebrated his 84th birthday last Wednesday. He joined the Norwich Diocesan Association in 1879 and in the same year called Holt's Ten-part. Later he called the Original, a much rarer feat than now. He rang Stedman Caters with the Cumberlands at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and conducted 10,080 Kent Treble Bob at Coddensham.

He still rings twice every Sunday at Grundisburgh and occasionally walks to neighbouring villages to take part in the ringing.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WELLS.

The annual meeting of the Jurisdiction of Glaston Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association was held at Wells on January 22nd and was attended by nearly 50 ringers from Dinder, Croscombe, Wells, Glastonbury, Street, Shepton-Mallet, Binegar, Evercreech, Chilcompton, Radstock, Bath and Bristol.

Service in St. Cuthbert's Church was conducted by the Rev. Preb. E. B. Cook, who in the absence of the branch chairman, the Rev. L. S. Lewis, who was ill, took the chair at the business meeting.

Mr. W. Marsh, the hon. secretary, presented the statement of accounts, which was satisfactory. All the officers were re-elected.

On behalf of the branch, the chairman presented Mr. F. D. Rickards with a fountain pen and a wallet in recognition of his services as branch secretary during a period of over twelve years.

The methods rung during the afternoon and evening were Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Stedman Triples, Double Norwich Court Bob Major, and rounds.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

CORFE MULLEN, DORSET.—On January 22nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: John Dryden (age 15) 1, Percy Brayshaw (age 14) 2, Mary Davis (age 13) 3, Andrew Pearmain (age 14) 4, John Davis (age 17) 5, Arthur V. Davis (conductor) 6.

BARKING, ESSEX.—On Sunday, January 23rd, for morning service, 1,264 Bob Major: C. Fenn (conductor) 1, F. G. Fenn 2, C. E. Faulkner 3, F. G. Newman 4, R. Stannard 5, S. Holgate 6, E. G. Cottis 7, R. Deal 8.

HONITON CLYST, DEVON.—On Sunday, January 23rd, at St. Michael's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: *J. Morgan 1, Miss A. E. Pring 2, B. Wayman (conductor) 3, *G. Retter 4, J. Salway 5, E. Retter 6. * First quarter-peal.

DARLEY DALE.—On Sunday, January 23rd, 1,260 Stedman Triples: O. S. D. Scott, R.N. 1, R. Allsop 2, H. Taylor 3, H. Gregory 4, J. Saunders 5, B. Allsop 6, G. H. Paulson (conductor) 7, E. Paulson 8.

LEYTONSTONE.—At St. John the Baptist's on Sunday, January 23rd, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: A. Prior 1, C. A. Hughes 2, A. W. Brighton 3, G. Dawson 4, C. Willmington 5, E. D. Smith (conductor) 6.

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NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Annual meeting at Bulwell, Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bells 2.30 to 8. Tea 4.30, followed by meeting. Election of officers and other important business.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. John-de-Sepulchre, Norwich, on Saturday, February 5th. Bells (8) from 2. Service 4.15. Tea and meeting at Ber House (1s. each), 4.45 p.m.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Annual meeting at Earl Shilton on Feb. 5th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea and meeting in Schools at 5 p.m.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—Annual meeting at Leatherhead, Saturday, Feb. 5th. Service 5 o'clock, followed by tea and business meeting at the Duke's Head.—A. H. Smith, Hon. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Longton (8 bells) on Saturday, Feb. 5th, 3 p.m.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Groby (6 bells) on Feb. 5th, 2.30. Tea 5 p.m. in local cafe. Names before Feb. 2nd.—H. W. Perkins, 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, Feb. 12th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—Annual meeting at Leytonstone, Saturday, Feb. 12th, 2.30. Service 4.45 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Notify for tea.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

DEVON GUILD.—Exeter Branch.—Meeting, Honiton-Clyst, Saturday, Feb. 12th. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.45, 1s. 3d. each. Card for tea by Feb. 6th.—W. H. Howe, 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Meeting at Stratton St. Margaret on Saturday, Feb. 12th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Half-hourly bus service from Swindon Town Hall.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—Meeting at Sandy, Saturday, Feb. 12th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5. Names Feb. 9th.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Bolsover, Saturday, Feb. 12th, 2 p.m.—G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec., 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Lincoln District.—Meeting at St. Giles' Church, Lincoln (8 bells), Saturday, Feb. 12th. Service 3.30, followed by ringing until 8.30 p.m. No arrangements for tea.—K. W. Mayer, Sec., 4, Carline Road, Lincoln.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Hereford Branch.—Annual meeting at Withington, Saturday, Feb. 12th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea. Names for tea to J. W. Downes, 1, Holmer Hall Cottage, Holmer, nr. Hereford.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Wadhurst (6 bells), Feb. 12th. Tea, Queen's Head, 5 p.m. Advise early.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec., 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst, Tunbridge Wells.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at Prescot Parish Church, Saturday, Feb. 12th, 2.30. Service 5, followed by tea and meeting.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—Annual meeting at Dunstable, Saturday, Feb. 12th, 3 p.m.—Edwin A. Belson, Hon. Dis. Sec., 105, Stoke Road, Leighton Buzzard.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.—Meeting at Buckland, Saturday, Feb. 12th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Service 4.30. Bring food. Cups of tea provided. Names by Tuesday, Feb. 8th.—R. F. J. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Practice at All Saints', Springfield, on Saturday, Feb. 12th, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Crofton, near Wakefield, Feb. 12th, 2.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—Annual meeting at Weekley (6 bells) on Saturday, Feb. 12th. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea to follow for those who send names.—H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and East District.—Meeting at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, Saturday, Feb. 19th. Ringing 3 p.m. No other arrangements.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

DEATH.

PITSTOW.—On January 28th, at Saffron Walden. Hilda Kathleen Pitstow, aged 42, only daughter of Mr. Ernest A. Pitstow, and sister of Messrs. H. N. and L. E. Pitstow, after a painful illness.

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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.

BELL HANDLING.

During the last few weeks we have published a number of articles on Handling a Bell; we have now said pretty well everything we set out to say; and next week one more article will probably complete the series. Our primary aim in these articles was not to give text book rules for the benefit of instructors and their pupils (though we hope they will prove useful in that respect) so much as to interest general readers in a branch of the ringer's art which has been far too much neglected.

The average ringer looks on bell handling as an elementary thing which he learnt long ago, and which, now he is occupied in more advanced things, may be taken for granted. That is quite natural and right up to a point, but usually it has happened that the man was wrongly or imperfectly taught in the first place, and though time and practice have cured him of many of his faults and imperfections, he not only retains traces of his bad training, but has missed the finer points of the art. So that when in his turn he comes to teach, he hands on to his pupils the same imperfections he himself received. The general result is that the standard of good striking is not so high as it might be and ought to be.

It is probably true that all this is a part of the price the Exercise has to pay for many and great advantages in other things. During the last eighty years or so there has been a vast improvement and development in almost everything connected with bells and ringing. There are far more rings of bells and of a much better average quality. They are incomparably better hung. Belfries are more comfortable. Ringers are of a better class and there is more fellowship between them. Method ringing has vastly developed. But the art of bell handling and the standard of striking among the more skilful bands have not advanced in anything like the same degree.

In former years the condition of the bells was such that a man had to know how to handle a bell properly or he could not ring at all. Novices had to serve a far longer apprenticeship than they do now, and when they were permitted to take part with their elders their ringing and their striking were sternly and often harshly criticised. Belfries had not many attractions for beginners eighty years ago, but for those who could stay the test, the harsh training did good in some respects. Generally speaking the old style was bad, and it passed

(Continued on page 58.)

away because it was bad. If it had not it would have killed the Exercise. Now we have gone rather to the other extreme. Bells go so well that there seems no need to trouble about the finer points of bell handling, and beginners are sought after, encouraged, and pushed on too fast to gain a proper grounding in the essential elements of the art.

We do not blame the instructors. Nothing pleases a teacher more than to see the rapid advance of his pupil, but the wise man will not assess advancement by the more showy achievements. The mere fact that a man can go through a course of Treble Bob, or Double Norwich, or Cambridge, is nothing compared with how he goes through it. What is needed to-day to raise the general standard of execution to something like the height the standard of method ringing has already reached. It can only be done by education and the stirring up of interest. First of all a general improvement should be sought in bell handling, for on that in no small degree hangs improvement in striking.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HALEWOOD, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 11 cwt.

*THOMAS LEE Treble	ERIC J. GILBERT 5
*GEORGE H. HESKETH ... 2	*THOMAS W. HESKETH ... 6
GEORGE R. NEWTON ... 3	*WILLIAM ROBINSON ... 7
ARTHUR LINTOTT 4	FRANK VARTY Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by G. R. NEWTON.

* First peal of Treble Bob.

WORCESTER.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
(Western Branch.)

On Sat., Feb. 5, 1944, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor 15½ cwt.

ALLEN MORGAN Treble	DENIS R. MORRIS 5
CHARLES J. CLARKE ... 2	H. REGINALD ROWE ... 6
GEORGE E. LARGE ... 3	REGINALD WOODYATT ... 7
PERCY L. BLISSETT ... 4	CHRIS. F. BLISSETT ... Tenor

Conducted by G. E. LARGE.

The band are all members of the Home Guard and represent the towers of the Cathedral, Claines, Hallow, Malvern Link and St. John's, Worcester.

SIX BELL PEALS.

HETHERSETT, NORFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. REMIGIUS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents of Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and three of Plain Bob. Tenor 9 cwt. 2 qr. 18 lb. in G.

JOHN G. W. HARWOOD Treble	CHARLIE GOODMAN ... 4
GEORGE MAYERS 2	RUSSELL W. CURSON ... 5
GEORGE SAYER 3	HENRY TOOKE Tenor

Conducted by HENRY TOOKE.

Rung for the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. Curson, of Hethersett.

SLOUGH.—On Sunday, January 30th, after evening service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. Rivers (first quarter-peal) 1, F. V. Sinkins 2, J. M. Gayford 3, W. H. Fussell 4, N. V. Harding (first quarter-peal as conductor) 5, G. Barkus 6, E. Hudson 7, E. H. Preston 8. Mr. F. V. Sinkins, whose 79th birthday it was, has completed 65 years as a ringer at Slough.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Jan. 27, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7-8
*ERIC A. DENCH 9-10	

Composed by W. H. BARBER. Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

* First peal of Royal.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Jan. 30, 1944, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,
AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

ALBERT J. WALLMAN 1-2	MRS. J. THOMAS 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	DENNIS H. LANGTON ... 7-8

Conducted by J. THOMAS.

Witness: W. D. Smith.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., Feb. 1, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

ERIC A. DENCH 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4	ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 7-8
DENNIS H. LANGTON ... 9-10	

Composed by W. KENT. Conducted by J. THOMAS.

After the first 12 courses the bells turned over every six courses.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.
On Thurs., Feb. 3, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-two Minutes,
AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEEDMAN CATERS, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16½.

JOHN THOMAS 1-2	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4	MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 7-8
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 9-10	

Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

BOURNEMOUTH.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Feb. 6, 1944, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,
AT ST. PETER'S HALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

VICAR'S SIX-PART.	Tenor size 11 in G.
MISS JESSIE C. CHICK ... 1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS 5-6
MRS. F. J. MARSHALLSAY 3-4	*FRANCIS S. WILSON ... 7-8

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* 70th peal.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Replying to Mr. Hartley's most interesting letter, I hope to make references to most of the towers he mentions in due course as these articles proceed. As yet I have not dealt with any of the central towers in which the bells are rung from the ground floor in full view of the congregation, but these will also follow. As far as possible I am simply reviewing these towers as a ringer to interest ringers, and not giving too much architectural detail which would be out of place in this journal. Later I hope to give a series on curiously situated towers and unusual belfries.

Re Biddenham, Beds, I have not had the pleasure of personally visiting this tower and quoted from information kindly sent by a ringing friend. I note, however, that Kelly's Directory states (quite wrongly) that this church has a central embattled tower, hence the error. I am very pleased to have Mr. Tysoe's correction.

ERNEST MORRIS.

24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

PAUL REVERE.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—What do we know of the bells cast by Paul Revere?

The recently published book, a highly interesting and vivid picture of pioneer life in the American colonies, from the pen of Esther Forbes, prompts me to ask this question. The many references to bells in 'Paul Revere and the World He Lived In' whets the appetite of the bell-lover and makes him hungry for more information.

For instance, Paul, in his middle teens, signs with six other boys a contract with the authorities of Christ's Church, Boston: 'We the Subscribers Do agree To attend there once a week on Evenings to ring the Bells for two hours Each time from the date hereof to one year.'

Further we read: 'Revere made his reputation as a foundryman in the extremely tricky art of bell casting. The largest and most famous of all his bells still hangs in the stone tower of King's Chapel. It is considered a "brilliant bell" with a "unique and charming sequence of harmonic effects." Again, . . . when the bells of the Christian world were ringing and among them hundreds of his own casting. Not only in New England did his bells sound, but even farther away in Georgia, Kentucky, the West Indies.'

Most of us are familiar with Longfellow's poem, but I believe few of us associate the midnight rider with bell-founding. So I repeat, 'What do we know of the bells cast by Paul Revere?'

NOLAN GOLDEN.

[A long account of the bells cast by Paul Revere appeared in 'The Bell News' some 40 years ago. It was written, if we remember aright, by Dr. A. H. Nicholls. We will take an opportunity of looking it up.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World.']

ACOUSTICS IN THE BELFRY.**THE CENTRAL COUNCIL'S ACTION.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Mr. Roper apparently doubts the accuracy of Mr. Corby's statement that the Central Council were responsible for the ideal conditions outside the tower he mentioned, and would like to ascribe the credit to the bell firm. I can assure Mr. Roper he is wrong. The tower had been built nearly ten years before the bells were installed and the alterations were made during the building. The facts are these.

In Mr. Corby's words, 'A local ringer with commendable foresight' inspected the plans and saw the defects. He felt that his influence with the church authorities was not powerful enough to get them altered by himself, so he wrote to the then president of the Central Council and enlisted his help. The Council acted and the alterations were made.

K. C. A.**THE QUESTION OF COST.**

Dear Sir,—The two letters appearing to-day give ample proof of the efforts which bell hangers make to guard against complaints about bells from those who live near a tower. It is true that members of Church Councils view with a little suspicion any 'extras' which might be suggested. Usually the church authorities have had a struggle to raise the last few pounds to pay for a restoration which, in many cases, turns out to be a much bigger job than was anticipated. Some members of every belfry should aim at being on their Church Council to keep an interest in the bells alive, and to explain the necessity for any 'extra' which might help both the ringers and those outside who have to listen. I feel that such a matter as the modulation of sound is entirely one for the ringers to put forward and carry through. If the ringers will do their share the church authorities will usually back them up. As everyone knows, in most towers the cost is not great, but it is the larger cathedrals and churches which present problems. At Truro, some 16 years ago, when ringing was on the increase and peals being rung, the ringers put forward a scheme for the blocking of the louvres with one inch boarding and cabot's quilt, but when the Chapter of the Cathedral obtained an estimate the cost was over £40. The ringers at once offered to provide half the cost, and the Chapter agreed that the work should be done. The result more than exceeded expectations, and even the editor of a local paper noted the difference and offered his appreciations in his notes.

Some years ago I told a certain incumbent that I was glad to see that a peal of Cambridge had been rung on his bells. He told me about the complaints he had to suffer for days afterwards, and I explained how the louvres could be blocked, but it appeared there was no money to do it. He said at once, 'They can have the money.'

These examples do show that ringers should press the need all they can, and at the same time let the incumbent and Church Council know that they are ready to help.

A. S. ROBERTS.

The Parsonage, Carbis Bay.

DEATH OF MR GEORGE W. ABLITT.

The death is announced of Mr. George W. Ablitt, of Fornham All Saints, near Bury St. Edmunds, which occurred on January 20th. He spent the greater part of his life at Hasketon, near Woodbridge, where he was steenkeeper and in which district he rang nearly all his peals, about 200 on six and eight bells. As a tribute to his memory a half-muffled peal was rung at Hasketon on January 29th.

AN APPRECIATION OF BELLRINGING.

The following 'Letter to the Editor' appeared recently in an Essex newspaper:—

Dear Sir,—Will you allow me, through the medium of your valuable paper, to give a few words of appreciation? On January 8th I was returning home by bus after a day in Ipswich. Through the country lanes we came in moonlight, and suddenly over the air came the faint sound of bells. Wonderingly, each looked at the other, waiting and hoping. The bus came to rest under the shadow of a small country church, where the bells were pealing a wonderfully joyous peal. No one spoke; we were too thrilled at the sound.

The bells told of things to come, when bells will ring again and the country be free and at peace. To one lonely mother at least it brought hope, comfort and a promise for the future.

Thank you, bellringers at Mistley Parish Church.—A. Cox.
No. 11, Priory Road, Clacton.

The ringing was on the occasion of the annual meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association.

RINGING AND FUNERALS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In your account of the bells of St. Nicholas', Deptford, you ask whether the custom still survives of not ringing the bells if a body lies unburied in the parish.

Less than ten years ago a Masonic band met at Linton, near Maidstone, to ring a peal in honour of the golden wedding of the Provincial Grand Master of Kent, the late Lord Cornwallis, but were not allowed to start as a death had taken place the previous day.

E. B.

Dear Sir,—The custom of not ringing while a body lies unburied still survives in this village and the adjoining village of Zeals, but chiming would be done as usual.

E. J. ROWE.

Stourton, Wilts.

Dear Sir,—I was interested in the article on St. Nicholas', Deptford, and the story of the Devon ringers who refused to ring because a woman in the parish had died a couple of days before.

In the village where I learnt to ring, Broad Hinton, near Swindon, Wilts, this tradition still lingers to-day. I well remember the first two years after learning to ring we were prevented from ringing the old year out and the new year in through the strict adherence to this ancient custom. The rule there is if any person normally resident within the parish boundary has died and is still unburied, the bells must not be rung.

W. HACKER.

Heddington, Calne, Wilts.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**LUTON DISTRICT.**

A meeting of the Bedfordshire Association was held at Luton on January 22nd, when about 30 ringers were present from Bosham, Bromham, Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard, Linslade, Maulden, Silsoe, Swindon, Wembley Park, Wendover and the local tower.

The methods rung were Bob Minor, Grandsire and Stedman Triples. Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob Major, Double Norwich, Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major. Owing to illness, the hon. secretary was unable to be present.

DEATH OF MR. AMOS FAWDREY.

The death is announced of Mr. Amos Fawdrey, which occurred on January 18th at the age of 80 years.

He began to ring when 14 years old, and during his life was connected with many towers, including Bloxham, Stanway, Abingdon, Buckingham, Llanishen (Wales) and Henley-on-Thames. For the last 17 years he was a member of the band at Maidenhead and continued ringing until a few weeks before his death. In his younger days he had taken part in several peals.

Several members of All Saints' band attended the funeral, and over the grave a short touch of Grandsire Triples was rung by Messrs. Walker, Eldridge, Martin and Judd.

DEATH OF MR. ALFRED J. TURNER.

The death is announced of Mr. Alfred J. Turner, of Southover, Lewes, which occurred on January 30th in tragic circumstances, at the age of 72.

Mr. Turner was born at Halland on October 12th, 1872. He lived for a short while at Mayfield and went to Lewes in 1880, where as a boy of ten he learned to chime on the bells of Southover Church. St. John's, Southover, was the church at which Mrs. Goldsmith, mother of the late John S. Goldsmith, was parish clerk. Turner and Goldsmith were closely associated in their early ringing days, and together were largely instrumental in the formation, on September 9th, 1896, of the Southover Bellringers Guild. Mr. Turner was captain for 21 years, and was an old member of the Sussex County Association. His 100th peal was one of Bob Royal on February 10th, 1910. His ringing career came practically to an end in 1939, but he rang one course of Grandsire Triples about three weeks before his death.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official Journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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AFFILIATION FEES DUE.

Association secretaries are reminded that the affiliation fee due to the Central Council for the year 1944 is now due.

GEORGE W. FLETCHER.

Mr. Harold J. Poole, the Ringing Master at Leicester Cathedral, has been appointed by the Bishop a Lay Canon of the Cathedral in recognition of his services as a ringer. Mr. Poole, who is an Inspector of the Leicester City Police, is not only a prominent member of the Midland Counties Association, but also hon. secretary and treasurer of the National Police Guild. He has many fine ringing performances to his credit, including the conducting of the record length of Cambridge Surprise Major.

THE BEST PEAL OF BELLS. STANDARDS OF COMPARISON.

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—I have read with considerable interest the recent correspondence respecting 'The best peal of bells,' and your admirable editorial on this subject. I am of the opinion that this matter is closely allied to 'acoustics of belfries.'

But to deal with 'the best peal' first. Every ringer is entitled to his or her own opinion as to which peal he or she likes best, but there can be no general standard by which all peals can be judged. All peals would have to be placed under one of the many headings, viz., 6, 8, 10 or 12. Key, machine tuned, hand tuned (to have a separate heading for 'maiden peals' untuned is not necessary, they are too few). Mr. William Lancaster votes for the Whittle-le-Woods 10, and gives some details of them, but unfortunately he does not give their key. Presumably at their weight they are E natural. If so, they must be almost identical in every respect with the modern Taylor 10 at St. John's, Leicester. I know this latter peal well, and for their note and weight (and 'go' and sound in and out of the tower) they want a lot of beating. I have not been to Whittle-le-Woods. Would any reader who has tried and heard these two peals care to express an opinion on these two identical peals?

NORMAN S. BAGWORTH.

44, Clivedon Road, Wimbledon.

SOME DEVON RINGS.

Dear Sir,—One reads with great interest what has already been written on the above subject, but it will probably take a far abler pen than mine to give any details of some of the best peals in Devon. I believe it is generally considered that Totnes has one of the best peals in this district, and one must not overlook peals in other districts such as Crediton, Plympton St. Mary, and the back eight at St. Andrew's, Plymouth, not forgetting, too, the bells of Exeter Cathedral. Other fine examples of modern engineering may include Heavitree, Tiverton and Buckfast Abbey, and I for one look forward to further information from the more experienced ringers in the county of 'cream and cider.'

A. L. BENNETT.

Cornerways, Elliott Plain, Buckfastleigh.

HANDLING A BELL.

(Continued from page 49.)

Raising a bell is the action which calls for the greatest exertion of energy in the ringers' art, and consequently it is one which shows the general points of correct bell handling in their most obvious forms. It is also the one which most clearly reveals the effects of bad handling and the results of faulty or imperfect training. It should therefore engage the attention of ringers much more than it actually does.

The main points of correct handling are, as we have seen, a proper grasp of the rope, a perfectly taut rope before pulling (the 'rope' consisting, be it remembered, of that portion of the hempen rope which extends from the wheel to the ringer's hands as well as of the man's arms and body), correct stance, the correct application of the energy represented by the man's weight to the rope, and correct timing. All these are important equally in ringing and in raising, but in raising their importance is much more obvious.

Before raising a bell and at the beginning of each pull the ringer should grasp the rope firmly, naturally, and equally, with both hands which should always be kept close together. This is where so many men go wrong. The usual thing is for the man, before he begins, to gather up the tail end in three or four rings and to hold them in one hand. It seems the proper thing to do. It looks neat. But it is quite wrong. The one essential thing is that both hands should grasp the rope equally and naturally, and that cannot be done, and is not done, when one of them is fully occupied with three or four coils, some of them double rope. What happens is that the work is divided unequally between the two hands and two arms, and even when (as is the case with the more skilled ringers) the hands are kept well together, the man's weight is not applied equally to the rope.

The habit also tends to prevent the correct adjustment of the hands on the rope, for the hand which holds the tail end is hampered and every time a coil has to be released there is a tendency to separate the hands. Skilful ringers do counteract these things to some extent, but with the less skilled the occupied hand does little else than hold the tail end, and the pulling is lopsided and largely ineffectual.

Long ago we were acquainted with a company which had inherited a reputation for good striking unsurpassed and barely equalled elsewhere in the country. Their custom was, when pulling up bells, especially when pulling up in peal, to start with the tail ends hanging loose on the floor, leaving the two hands free to grasp the rope properly. Whether the custom was peculiar to this band or whether it was more general then, where they got it from, and how long they had practised it, we do not know. But since the company enjoyed a longer unbroken tradition of the best ringing of the past than almost any other, we are inclined to the opinion that it was a survival from the early days when raising and ceasing in peal was one of the most important parts of the ringer's art, and when the ideal was not merely to pull the bells up in perfect order, but 'as fast as may be'; in fact, when ringing was really a strenuous athletic sport which, like rowing, called for the utmost exercise of skilled and perfectly timed energy.

This is a custom we do not recommend, but there is much to be said for it. If it is objected that it would mean a belfry full of wildly flying ropes, the answer is that it did not. The ropes fell and rose again just as orderly as they do when a present day band is raising. It did mean that the ringers had to pay attention to the way in which they pulled their ropes. What causes tail ends to fly about is partly the flick which the fast moving bell gives to the rope directly the garter hole of the wheel (through which the rope goes) has passed closest to the pulley; and partly the erratic movements of the ringer's hands after he has made his pull. Both these things can be counteracted by moving the hands down and up when pulling and afterwards. Smoothly and regularly, and always in a straight perpendicular path.

The tail end, and all the rope below the ringer's hands when he is pulling is, it must be remembered, a superfluous. It should not be allowed to interfere in any way with what is the real job the hands have to do, and if it can be left to take care of itself, obviously the ringer is in a better position to devote himself to the task of putting his full weight on to the rope. But it is hardly likely that this old custom will find favour, and fortunately it is not really needed. The best way is to hold the tail end, not in coils, but similarly to the way it is held in actual ringing in the fork between thumb and forefinger, but some ten or twelve inches from the end. A good handler, however, should be able not only to raise a bell, but also to ring it after it is raised, without any hold on the tail end except when he is actually pulling at backstroke.

And here, as somewhat of a digression, we may mention what may be taken as an indication that it is better to teach beginners to hold the tail end in the right hand instead of in the left, as is customary. The point is that both hands ought to do an equal share of work, but with most men it is natural that the right hand should do the most. If the left hand is already occupied with the tail end, and especially if it has more than one coil of rope to hold, it is certain to try to shirk its part; but the right hand, even when it has other things to do, will assert its priority and so equalise matters. The point, however, is of no importance so long as the ringer definitely tries to use both hands equally.

Usually a beginner at an early stage is allowed to try to raise a bell unaided and with one hand full of coils of rope. Naturally he is at a complete loss. He does not know what to do with the tail end which takes up more than half his attention; inevitably all his pulling, besides being badly timed, is done with one hand and lopsidedly, and he acquires faulty and imperfect habits which he hardly ever gets wholly free from.

Raising should be part of the beginner's instruction. It should always be done with lashed clapper so that the lesson can be repeated again and again on the same bell and in the same conditions until it is properly learnt. It is a mistake to let a beginner try by himself, and always he should have his hands entirely free from the tail end until he is able to raise and set the bell smoothly and quickly. The instructor should hold the tail end throughout the lesson.

After the proper grasp of the hands the next important thing in raising is that at the beginning of every pull the rope and the ringer's arms and body should be

in tension. What we said on this point in an earlier article applies equally here. The man must be able so to adjust his hands on the rope that immediately the bell reaches the furthest point in its upward swing, he is reaching up to his full extent without straining. This adjustment of the hands is only possible when the man has acquired the sense of feeling what the bell is doing as it moves upwards without actually checking it.

Immediately the bell reaches the dead period in its swing and is about to turn on its downward path the man must be able to apply the full force of the energy at his disposal, and to do that he must so stand and so pull that his whole weight is at once brought to bear on the rope. Correct timing is of the greatest importance in raising, for, as we saw earlier, the effect of the energy any man can exert is greatest when the bell is at either end of its swing, and rapidly decreases as the bell gathers momentum. Some men think that a long pull is what is most needed. The longer the pull the better (within limits) it is. But length of pull has little effect compared with correct timing.

It is quite a usual thing for a man raising a heavy medium bell (say 15 to 20 cwt.) to find it will rise easily enough until it double clappers. Then it will remain almost stationary in the length of its swing, and only a long and strenuous output of labour will gradually raise it up to the point where the remainder of the pulling up is without difficulty. The reason for this is that when the bell starts on its downward swing from the position where it is roughly horizontal, gravity immediately comes strongly into action, and compared with the force exerted by gravity, the energy the man can supply is very small. Unless he can take immediate advantage of the very brief dead period at the end of the swing his greatest outlay of labour has little avail. When a man finds this difficulty in raising a bell it is an almost sure sign that his timing is faulty and he is using his weight too late.

For a similar reason mere length of pull has not the effect which might seem likely, for though the tendency of the ringer is to increase the amount of force he exerts, the practical effect of what he does rapidly decreases. What is needed is the maximum amount of energy applied at the earliest possible moment.

It often happens with bells above a certain weight that they must be checked in raising so as to make them clapper on the right side. What really happens is this—the swinging bell does not impart enough energy to the clapper to make it travel fast enough to overtake the bell in its upward movement and presently the swing of the bell and the swing of the clapper will get at cross purposes and the bell will overtake the clapper instead of the clapper overtaking the bell as it should do. To obviate this it is necessary to slow down the speed of the bell enough to give the clapper a chance to overtake it, and once that is done and the clapper has made a full contact with the bell, the bell will swing the clapper by the energy exerted through the ball and not, as at first, through the crown staple.

Now, to slow down the swing of the bell sufficiently for the purpose can best be done just as it is nearing the end of its upward movement. Then what the ringer does has the most effect. It must not be left too late, and if it is attempted too soon (and that is the temptation) the effect is small.

(To be continued.)

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT FARNHAM.**

The annual meeting of the Farnham District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild was held at Farnham on January 29th, when nearly 60 members and friends were present from Farnham, Seale, Aldershot, Farnborough, Yorktown, Bagshot, Guildford, Petersfield, Hitchin, Worplesdon, Pirbright, Leatherhead and West Clendon. Ringing began at 3 p.m. in various standard methods with rounds for beginners.

The Rector of Farnham, Canon E. M. Girling, conducted the Guild service, Mr. F. C. W. Wright being at the organ.

Tea in the Schoolroom was followed by the business meeting, at which Canon Girling presided. Mr. W. Viggers (acting for the district secretary, L.-Bdr. C. W. Denyer, who is serving in the Forces), presented the balance sheet, which showed a credit balance of £11 19s. 5d.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Ghey and Miss E. C. Southby, and a letter was read from Mr. Denyer containing best wishes for a successful meeting.

The Rector drew the attention of those present to the fact that since the last annual meeting (held in January, 1940) several members had passed away. A complete list was not available, but he recalled the names of Mr. Clapshaw, of Farnham, Mr. Dimes, of Crondall, Mr. Jonas, of Aldershot, and Mr. S. Butler, of Aldershot, who was killed on active service. Also since 1940 the Guild had lost two very revered vice-presidents, Mr. J. S. Goldsmith and Mr. Walter Harrison.

The following officers were elected: Ringing Master, Mr. R. Hasted; secretary, Mr. C. W. Denyer, assisted by Miss E. C. Southby and Mr. W. H. Viggers; hon. auditor, Mr. F. C. W. Knight; representatives on the Executive Committee, Messrs. F. C. Nye, T. Upshall and W. A. Dollimore.

The Diocesan Guild officers were renominated for a further term of office.

Nine new ringing members were elected, eight from Farnham and one from Aldershot.

It was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Farnham, the date to be decided later. Mr. Viggers stated that other meetings would be arranged if possible during the summer.

Mr. J. Corbett, the Guild treasurer, who was present, expressed a desire to celebrate his birthday by paying for the tea, a statement that was warmly applauded. Mr. F. Nye suggested that in view of Mr. Corbett's generous offer a collection should be made for the Guild Benevolent Fund. This was done and realised the sum of £2 13s. 8d.

The meeting closed with votes of thanks to the Rector, to Mr. Hasted and the local ringers, and to the ladies who prepared the tea.

THE DEVON GUILD.**MEETING AT TIVERTON.**

After a long lapse, the Tiverton Branch of the Devonshire Guild held a meeting at Tiverton. The service was conducted by the Rev. A. E. Chapman, Rector of Tiverton, the preacher was the Rev. J. M. Turner, Rector of Washfield, and the Rev. W. Gillett was organist.

At the business meeting the Rev. J. M. Turner was appointed chairman of the branch, Mr. C. Dymond secretary and treasurer, Mr. A. G. Selley Ringing Master. Mr. Selley, Mr. Dymond and Mrs. Balmont were elected to the committee. The balance sheet was presented and passed.

Ringers were present from Tiverton, Bampton, Huntsham, Silvertown, Calverleigh and Washfield.

The ringing consisted of Grandsire Triples and Doubles with two trebles and tenor. A selection of tune ringing was given on handbells by the Rev. J. M. Turner and Master C. Pinkey.

The next meeting will be at the eight-bell tower of Silvertown.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT BOCKING.**

The annual meeting of the Northern Division of the Essex Association was held at Bocking on January 29th and was attended by 20 ringers from eight parishes. Service was conducted by the Very Rev. Dean E. Rogers, and Miss H. G. Snowden was at the organ. Tea was in Messrs. Courtauld's Canteen, and at the meeting which followed, a report was read by the secretary, which showed that four meetings had been held, with an average attendance of 15. Two peals had been rung and six new ringing members elected.

The District Master and Secretary were re-elected, and Mr. R. Martin and Mr. F. Clayton were elected to the committee. Dunmow was chosen as the place of meeting in April. The methods rung included Double Norwich and Superlative Surprise.

THE DEVON GUILD.**MEETING AT KINGSTEIGNTON.**

On February 5th the Mid-Devon Branch of the Devon Guild held at Kingsteignton its first meeting since the removal of the ban. Members and friends were present from Exeter, Kenn, Dawlish, Newton Abbot, Kingskerswell, Collaton, Paignton, Dartmouth, Ashburton, Buckfastleigh and Plymouth, as well as members of H.M. Forces.

The handy peal of bells was well utilised during the afternoon, touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Plain Bob Major being rung as well as call changes.

The business meeting was presided over by the Rev. W. R. D. Mills (branch chairman). Apologies for absence were received from the president, the general treasurer, and Mr. L. S. Howard, of Cockington, who is serving in the Forces.

The secretary's report showed that there had been no activity during the past four years owing to the war. The treasurer's report showed that the total amount in hand in the general and instruction accounts stood at £7 1s.

It was resolved to continue the branch as before, and the following officers were elected: Chairman, the Rev. W. R. D. Mills; secretary, treasurer and Ringing Master, Mr. A. L. Bennett; auditor, Mr. C. R. Walker; three members to serve on the General Committee, Messrs. C. R. Walker, H. C. Collyer and W. C. Wakley.

It was decided to hold the next meeting in Newton Abbot on June 10th, ringing to be at Wolborough and Highweek if the necessary permission is obtained.

It was also decided that full subscriptions should again be paid, and to support a recommendation from the Exeter Branch to the general committee that the annual general meeting of the Guild be held in Exeter on Whit Monday of this year.

Votes of thanks to the Vicar of Kingsteignton, to the local steeple-keeper, to Mr. C. R. Walker and to Mr. A. L. Bennett concluded the meeting.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.**MEETING AT FAREHAM.**

At the annual meeting of the Portsmouth District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, held at Fareham on January 15th, 25 members and visitors attended from Fareham, Titchfield, Bishop's Waltham, Portsmouth Cathedral and St. Mary's, Soberton, Petersfield, Chichester, Donington, Lincs, and Beaminster.

The methods rung ranged from rounds to Cambridge Surprise. After service in church the meeting was held in the vestry, the Vicar being in the chair. The secretary's report stated that the district membership since the raising of the ban was one honorary member, 43 ringing members and two unattached members. Eight new members were elected. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Havant on April 15th.

The officers elected for the coming year were Mr. Linter, chairman; Mrs. Stone, secretary; Mr. F. W. Burnett, jun., auditor; Mr. Cook and Mr. Linter, representatives on Central Committee. Thanks were given to the Vicar for the use of the bells and vestry, and the general secretary welcomed the Service visitors.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT IRCHESTER.**

At the annual meeting of the Wellingborough Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, which was held at Irchester on Saturday, January 29th, fifteen belfries were represented by an attendance of 54 ringers.

The secretary's report and balance sheet for the past year were presented and accepted with general satisfaction.

The officers were all re-elected, except that Mr. F. Barber (Great Doddington) was elected to the Central Committee in place of Mr. G. Basford (Finedon), who was unable to attend.

Nine new members were elected, five of whom were from Bozeat.

Mears Ashby was chosen for the next quarterly meeting, at the invitation of the local ringers.

WANTED.

WANTED, six copies of 'The Ringing World' (No. 1712), for Jan. 14th, 1944. Sixpence offered for each copy. Postage refunded. — Lt.-Commander J. D. R. Davis, R.N., Heathcote, Purbrook, Portsmouth.

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NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, Feb. 12th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate. —A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division. —Annual meeting at Leytonstone, Saturday, Feb. 12th, 2.30. Service 4.45 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. —J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District. —Meeting at Sandy, Saturday, Feb. 12th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Lincoln District. —Meeting at St. Giles' Church, Lincoln (8 bells), Saturday, Feb. 12th. Service 3.30, followed by ringing until 8.30 p.m. No arrangements for tea.—K. W. Mayer, Sec., 4, Carline Road, Lincoln.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Hereford Branch. —Annual meeting at Withington, Saturday, Feb. 12th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Wadhurst (6 bells), Feb. 12th. Tea, Queen's Head, 5 p.m.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec., 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst, Tunbridge Wells.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District. —Practice at All Saints', Springfield, on Saturday, Feb. 12th, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Crofton, near Wakefield, Feb. 12th; 2.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and East District. —Meeting at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, Saturday, Feb. 19th. Ringing 3 p.m. No other arrangements.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch. —Meeting at St. John's, Oldham Road, on Saturday, Feb. 19th, 3 p.m. No refreshments.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

PRACTICE MEETING at Tuxford, Notts, Saturday, Feb. 19th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. until 6.30. Cafe close to church.—H. Denman, 9, Rockley, Retford, Notts.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District. —Annual meeting at Weybridge, Saturday, Feb. 19th, 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 4.30 p.m. Service 6 p.m. Names by Wednesday, 16th.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Sec., 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch. —Meeting at Duston, Saturday, Feb. 19th, 3.30. Service 4.15. Bring food.—R. S. Cowley, 83, Beech Avenue, Northampton.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery. —Meeting at Clapton-in-Gordano, Saturday, Feb. 19th, 5 p.m. —Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District. —Meeting at St. Michael's, St. Albans, on Saturday, Feb. 19th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at Olde Times Cafe 5.30 p.m. Ringing in evening. Send names for tea.—R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Alton and Petersfield District. —Annual meeting at Steep, Saturday, Feb. 19th, 2.30. Service and dedication of treble 4. Tea and business in Memorial Village Hall 5. Number by Feb. 15th.—C. E. Bassett, Hon. Dis. Sec., Sunnysbrook, Brook Lane, Warsash, Hants.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.—Western District. —Meeting at Consett, Saturday, Feb. 19th. Bells (8) at 3 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—J. A. Brown, Hon. Dis. Secretary, 7, Finchdale Terrace, Chester-le-Street.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District. —Meeting at Spondon, Saturday, Feb. 19th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Own arrangements for tea, nearby cafe.—Wm. Lancaster, 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Hunts District. —Annual meeting at Brampton, Saturday, Feb. 19th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 o'clock.—H. J. Parker, Dis. Sec., Great Staughton.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch. —Meeting at Cradley, Saturday, Feb. 19th, 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. —Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch. —Annual meeting in the Corn Exchange, Spalding, on Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells (8) 2. Service 3.45. Tea and business 4.30. Names by Feb. 22nd.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincs.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District. —Annual meeting at Banstead, Saturday, Feb. 26th, 3.30. Service 5.15, followed by tea and meeting. Names to Mr. H. N. Pitstow, Saffron, High Street, Banstead, by Monday, Feb. 21st.—D. Cooper, Hon. Dis. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District. —Meeting at Hawkhurst, Saturday, Feb. 26th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 4.45. Names to Mrs. S. H. Compton, The Vicarage, Hawkhurst, by Feb. 23rd.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Practice meeting at Crawley, Saturday, Feb. 26th, 3 p.m. No other arrangements. —O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—Henry Johnson Commemoration luncheon at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 4th, 1.30 p.m. Tickets to fully paid up ringing members 2s. each; to other members and friends 6s. 6d. each. Early application is requested as the number is strictly limited.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

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- 'STANDARD METHODS,' tenth edition; a new book; Letterpress, 2s.; Diagrams, 2s.
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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18th, 1944.

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A MATTER OF COURTESY.

Among the several things which kept alive the Exercise and the art of change ringing during the dark days of the ban a prominent place must be given to the meetings which were held by so many of the associations. They were for the most part but sparsely attended, and there was little to do at them, but they kept those men in touch with each other who form the real nucleus of the Exercise and on whom the wellbeing of the whole body in no small degree depends. Now that the bells can be rung once more the number of meetings and the attendances at them are increasing, and when the lighter evenings come they will, we can confidently expect, increase very much more still. This is all to the good. Well attended meetings are a sign of active life, and not only give ringers opportunities of spending a pleasant afternoon but serve the best interests of the Exercise.

A very large debt of gratitude is due to those men to whom as secretaries of guilds and associations falls the task of arranging these meetings. A secretary's job is usually a rather unexciting one, sometimes an exacting one, and occasionally a thankless one. It is a fortunate thing that the Exercise has no lack of men who are willing to undertake the duties.

Generally, we may say these men's services are recognised, but there are occasions when ringers (by thoughtlessness as a rule) do make their task harder than it need be, and there is one notable instance of this which occurs far too frequently. At every meeting when a tea is provided the intending visitors are asked to send in their names by a given date. The reason is obvious to everybody. Even in normal times, unless people know how many are coming, they cannot make adequate preparation. They run the risk either of having a lot of food left over, or of not having enough for everybody present. Under wartime conditions, when supplies are so hard to obtain, the difficulty is increased tenfold. Yet, at every meeting a large proportion of those who turn up have not sent in their names. It is not fair to the secretaries.

We know there are excuses and occasionally quite good ones. It does happen sometimes that a man cannot decide to attend a meeting until long after the time at which he should give notice. It might happen that he did not know of the meeting until too late or had forgotten. But when all indulgences are granted for these

(Continued on page 66.)

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exceptional cases there still remain far too many which are due to carelessness, thoughtlessness, and want of consideration for others.

How to improve matters has exercised the minds of many secretaries. Some have published threats that those who turn up without having given notice will get no tea. It is quite a reasonable attitude to take, but almost invariably the threat is not carried out. Kindness and good fellowship prevail over justice. The weakness of threats is that if they are not put into force at once, they lose their effect and become wind. So it is with these. Men have become so used to them being made, and so little accustomed to them being carried out, that they simply disregard them altogether. But, we repeat, it is not fair to the secretaries. Where, then, shall we find a remedy? There seems to be only one, and that is to point out to ringers that it is a question of good manners and ordinary consideration for other people. Ringers are a decent lot of men. Some may be careless and thoughtless, but there are very few who would do anything, or omit to do anything, when they knew it would cause inconvenience or annoyance to others, especially to others who are voluntarily working for their good. If this side of the question were put plainly to visitors at meetings so that they understood it and took it to heart, we think there would be an improvement.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

SAWSTON, CAMBS.

THE SOCIETY OF CAMBRIDGE YOUTHS.

On Sat., Feb. 12, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes.

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

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

*STUART BROWN ... ..Treble	CHARLES W. SMITH ... ..5
T. REGINALD DENNIS ... ..2	FRED HURRY ... ..6
CHARLES W. COOK ... ..3	ERNEST G. HIBBINS ... ..7
JOHN V. CROSS ... ..4	JAMES W. R. QUINNEY ...Tenor

Composed by FREDERICK PITSTOW. Conducted by E. G. HIBBINS.

* First attempt for a peal on eight bells. Rung to mark the 50th anniversary of a peal of Grandsire Triples at Sawston and for the 220th anniversary of the Society of Cambridge Youths.

DODDERHILL, DROITWICH, WORCS.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(Western Branch.)

On Sat., Feb. 12, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE,

A PEAL OF OXFORD BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

A. B. CARPENTER'S SIX-PART (No. 24 C.C.C.). Tenor 18½ cwt. in E.

ERNEST WILSON ... ..Treble	GEORGE E. LARGE ... ..5
WALTER H. RAXTER ... ..2	ALLEN MORGAN ... ..6
DENNIS R. SAYERS ... ..3	REGINALD WOODYATT ... ..7
RAYMOND C. SAYERS ... ..4	FREDERICK G. YATES ...Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 12, 1944, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

FRANK H. HICKS ... ..Treble	+WILLIAM WELLING ... ..5
TONY PRICE ... ..2	*C. ALFRED LEVETT ... ..6
JOHN M. GAYFORD ... ..3	WILLIAM HENLEY ... ..7
*NORMAN V. HARDING ... ..4	GEORGE GILBERT ... ..Tenor

Composed by JOHN THORP. Conducted by GEORGE GILBERT.

* First peal in the Oxford Variation. + 450th peal.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.HAVERHILL, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.*On Sat., Feb. 5, 1944, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,***A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Seven different extents.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

*L.A.C. PETER CARTER <i>Treble</i>	SAMUEL J. TWITCHETT ... 4
*HARRY BACKLER ... 2	GNR. N. HOUGH (R.A.) ... 5
JAMES W. JENNINGS ... 3	LESLIE WRIGHT ... <i>Tenor</i>

Conducted by JAMES W. JENNINGS.

* First peal. First peal on the bells. Rung on the 40th anniversary of the opening of the bells.

POYNTON, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
(Macclesfield Branch.)*On Sat., Feb. 5, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,***A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Ten different callings.

*ROY PARKINSON ... <i>Treble</i>	WILLIAM GAYES ... 4
*FRANK CADMAN ... 2	*RONALD H. THORNLEY ... 5
JOHN WORTH ... 3	*GORDON HENSHAW ... <i>Tenor</i>

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

* First peal. All the above ringers are service ringers at Christ Church, Macclesfield.

REDRUTH, CORNWALL.

*On Sat., Feb. 6, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EUNY,***A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

E. SAUNDERS ... <i>Treble</i>	S. SEYMOUR ... 4
J. REED ... 2	V. WILLIAMS ... 5
H. SEYMOUR ... 3	P. WILLIAMS ... <i>Tenor</i>

Conducted by V. WILLIAMS.

SALTER STREET, HOCKLEY HEATH, WARWICKSHIRE.
THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.*On Sat., Feb. 12, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PATRICK,***A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor 8 cwt. 21 lb. in A.

WILFRED E. BOX ... <i>Treble</i>	*ARTHUR D. COOK ... 3
*RICHARD J. B. HADDEN 2	JOHN N. LINDON ... 4
GEORGE E. FEARN ... <i>Tenor</i>	

Conducted by GEORGE E. FEARN.

* First peal of Grandsire. First peal on the bells.

HANLEY CASTLE, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
(Western Branch.)*On Sat., Feb. 12, 1944, in Three Hours and One Minute,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,***A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being 720 each of Double Bob, Double Oxford, Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 14 cwt.

ERNEST F. CUBBERLEY ... <i>Treble</i>	GEOFFREY J. LEWIS ... 4
*DENNIS R. MORRIS ... 2	+GEORGE AMBLER ... 5
WILLIAM RANFORD ... 3	CHARLES J. CAMM ... <i>Tenor</i>

Conducted by CHARLES J. CAMM.

* 100th peal. † First peal of Minor. A birthday compliment to the conductor.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WICKHAM.

A meeting of the Western District of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association, held at Wickham on January 22nd, was attended by ringers from Chester-le-Street, Blackhill, Benfieldside, Wickham, Blaydon and Tanfield. A visitor was Mr. Sims, of Tampsford, Bedfordshire. During the afternoon and evening a variety of Doubles and Minor methods were rung.

Mr. J. M. Broadbent proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector and churchwardens and to the ladies who waited at tea.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Consett on February 19th.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

*On Tues., Feb. 8, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,
AT THE TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOR STREET, CITY,***A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 16 in B flat.

SERG. E. SIBLEY, R.A.F. 1-2	FRANK E. HAYNES ... 5-6
ALBERT WALKER ... 3-4	GEORGE E. FEARN ... 7-8
HERBERT C. SPENCER ... 9-10	

Composed by J. E. GROVES.

Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

WALTHAM ABBEY, ESSEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

*On Thurs., Feb. 10, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,
AT 5, MONKSWOOD AVENUE,***A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 9 in G.

*MRS. C. W. ROBERTS ... 1-2	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 5-6
JOHN THOMAS ... 3-4	MRS. J. THOMAS ... 7-8

Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

* First handbell peal.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Feb. 10, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,

AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION.

Tenor size 16½.

*MRS. J. THOMAS ... 1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 5-6
JOHN THOMAS ... 3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

Umpire: Mrs. G. W. Fletcher.

* First peal of Stedman Triples on handbells.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

*On Fri., Feb. 11, 1944, in Two Hours and Eleven Minutes,
AT NEW COLLEGE,***A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

*JEAN A. SOUTHERST ... 1-2	J. E. SPICE (New College) 3-4
(Somerville) ... 1-2	BETTY SPICE (Somerville) ... 5-6
ALAN WHITE (Lincoln) ... 7-8	

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE (C.C.C. No. 119).

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First attempt for a peal.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT FULHAM.

A meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association was held at All Saints', Fulham, on January 29th, and was attended by about 25 members and friends from Bushey, Chichester, Ealing (Christ Church, St. Mary's and St. Stephen's), Fulham, Heston, Hillingdon (St. John's), Hounslow, Isleworth, Kensington, Luton, Putney, Twickenham, Walthamstow and Wembley Park. Ringing was restricted to the standard methods, Grandsire and Stedman Caters and Kent Treble Bob Royal, with a finishing touch of Bob Major. A number of beginners had plenty of opportunity for rounds.

A short meeting was held in the belfry, presided over by Mr. J. A. Trollope, supported by Mr. C. T. Coles (general secretary), Mr. E. C. S. Turner (Ringing Master) and other officers. On the proposition of Mr. E. C. S. Turner, seconded by Mr. J. Herbert, nine new members were elected or confirmed: Messrs. H. W. Barrett (Surbiton), G. E. Goodman (Kingston), N. V. Harding (Slough), as non-resident life members, and Messrs. M. A. Beauchamp, F. C. Price and R. C. Price (Feltham), J. Cobb and B. Rose (Heston) and W. J. Paice (St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington), as ringing members.

It was tentatively arranged to hold the next meeting at Feltham on March 18th, on the proposition of Mr. T. G. Bannister, seconded by Mr. J. Herbert. A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar of Fulham, and to Mr. H. M. Page for arranging the meeting.

HANDLING A BELL.

(Continued from page 61.)

When two or more men are raising a bell, especially when one of them is standing on a box, the man who is grasping the rope above the other should not retain his hold after he has pulled. As soon as he has lowered his hands as far as he can in a directly perpendicular path he should leave the rope to the other man. When he retains his hold (as so many men do) he only hampers his companion in his action, and spoils the natural and easy movement of the rope. He has plenty of time to regain his grasp of the rope as the bell swings upwards.

Raising a bell reveals clearly the advantages of correct handling and so usually do any defects in the bell's hanging, especially when it has a tendency to 'slip wheel.' The ringer's custom is to say that the bell slips wheel, but what, of course, he means and what his hearers understand, is that the rope slips out from the channel on the circumference of the wheel. This may be caused by one of several things. A part of the fillet or flange of the wheel may be broken away. The wheel may have become warped or may be set on the stock so that the path in which it moves is not in a direct line with the pulley. The pulley may be too close to the wheel, or may not be working freely. Damp weather and atmospheric conditions may affect the rope, or an extra thick splice may have to pass the pulley. And, finally, it may be caused by sheer slovenly and careless handling.

All these things are not nearly so likely to occur as once they were. For that we have to thank the modern bell hangers. Their wheels are much more solidly built than those of olden times, the channels through which the ropes pass are wider, and pulleys are better designed and better placed. A man must be a very slovenly handler to allow a bell with modern fittings to slip wheel, but some do manage it, somehow or other.

When part of the flange of the wheel is broken it is very difficult and often impossible to prevent the rope slipping from the channel, but fortunately this is a defect which can be repaired easily and without technical skill. When the wheel is warped or set on the stock out of truth it is a different matter and needs the attention of an expert bell hanger. It is remarkable how many of the old wheels were out of truth to a greater or less degree. In the majority of cases the defect was not enough to cause any serious trouble, but that the defect was there could at once be seen by the marks the rope made in the channel. Often they would show that the rope did not ride on the sole of the wheel, but on one of the flanges, and obviously it would take little to make it slip from the channel altogether.

The usual thing in such cases is to tell the ringer to ring with a tight rope. The advice is sound enough and what is meant is quite correct, but it is not usually correctly understood. By ringing with a tight rope many men understand that there must be hard pulling and hard checking, but hard pulling and hard checking will do nothing to prevent a bell slipping wheel. The ordinary strength of pulling, while it lasts, is quite sufficient to keep the rope in the channel, and that is not the time when the slipping occurs. It almost always happens after the ringer has finished his pull and usually from handstroke. What he should do is to keep his

hands on the rope as long as possible and so to make his pull that it has no chance to become slack between the wheel and the pulley. If he always handles his bell correctly this will normally happen, and he need not bother specially about keeping a tight rope. He does that whether the bell has a tendency to slip wheel or not, or whether he has to pull much or little.

Here we may note the advantage of moving the hands down and up smoothly and in a directly perpendicular path, not only when actually pulling, but afterwards. For it is seldom a bell will slip wheel if the rope passes through the pulley at the same rate as it comes from the wheel. It is the slackness of the rope between the wheel and the pulley which is the proximate cause of slipping. The weight of the rope is in most cases sufficient to carry it through the pulley as fast as it comes from the wheel; but when the pulley does not run freely, or when the rope is stiff from atmospheric conditions, or when there is a splice in the way, the skilful handling of the ringer is called upon to supply the defect.

It sometimes happens that the bell chamber is larger in area than the room below, which may be the belfry. The frame will then rest partly on an off-set in the walls, and if the ropes hung down directly from some of the wheels, they would fall much too close to the belfry walls. They are therefore drawn under the wheels and passed through double pulleys. These pulleys must be closer to the wheels than is usually the case, and if the wheels are large, they will shed the rope so rapidly that unless the ringer handles correctly the rope will bunch up between the wheel and pulley and miss the channel as the bell swings round. The ringer will blame the bell for the accident, but it would not have happened if his handling had not been at fault.

Where a bell is fitted with an extra large wheel, and when the pulley is too close to it, the same thing will happen.

The advantages of correct handling are shown where there is a long draught of rope and no guides. For comfort in ringing the ceiling of the belfry or the lowest set of guides should not be more than about fourteen feet from the floor, but sometimes it is considerably more. Occasionally when the ringing is done from the ground, someone will object to guides on the plea that they would disfigure some painted glass west window. The plea is usually not a valid one, and the window, not seldom, is a nineteenth century atrocity, but the ringers have to suffer. In such circumstances the little bells are much the more difficult to ring, but the man who handles correctly will find the sally will come to his hands quite naturally and easily. His chief difficulty will be caused by his anxiety not to miss his sally, for his tendency will be to move his hands too quickly and to lift them too suddenly after he has made his pull, and so will actually cause that erratic movement of the rope he is so anxious to guard against.

What we have said in these articles will, we hope, have shown that there is more in the art of handling a bell than most ringers imagine. It is a subject well worth attention, for there is no man whose handling is so good that it cannot be bettered, and the better it is the more satisfaction he will get out of ringing generally. If, then, these articles do something to create an interest in the matter they will have served their end.

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Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All communications for this journal should be addressed
to:—

The Editor,

'The Ringing World,'

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'The Ringing World.'

TO SECRETARIES OF ASSOCIATIONS.

The invitation to associations to provide working
capital for this journal is now withdrawn and no further
sums are required for the present.

A list of the associations who accepted the invitation
will be published shortly.

E. H. LEWIS,
A. A. HUGHES,
G. W. FLETCHER.

NOTICE TO ASSOCIATIONS AND ALL SMALL ADVERTISERS.

On and after the issue of March 3rd, 1944, no notice
of meetings or other small advertisements will be pub-
lished unless fully prepaid. Where associations have
deposited a sum to cover their notices for the year, it
should be definitely stated how many insertions are re-
quired when the notice is sent, unless arrangements
have already been made.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

By the decision of the Standing Committee a meeting
of the Central Council will be held at the Jerusalem
Chamber, Westminster Abbey (by kind permission of
the Dean), on Whit Monday, May 29th. Full details
will be published later.

We are asked to say that the organist at the Guildford meeting
at Farnham was Mr. F. C. W. Knight, not Wright as reported.

Mr. Ernest G. Fenn, the Master of the Ancient Society of College
Youths, has retired from the Post Office after 48 years. The King
has awarded him the Imperial Service Medal 'for faithful service.'

The handbell peal of Stedman Caters rung at Enfield on February
3rd should be credited to the Middlesex County Association.

Any member of the National Guild of Police Ringers who has not
received a letter from the hon. secretary recently is asked to com-
municate with him at The Wayside, 150, Narborough Road South,
Leicester.

DEATH OF MR FREDERICK G. SYMONDS.

The death has occurred of Mr. Frederick George Symonds, who
passed away suddenly on February 10th as he was preparing to leave
home for his office.

Mr. Symonds was one of the ringing family of Lavenham and a
son of Mr. Arthur Symonds. He was a member of the Society of
Royal Cumberland Youths and of the band at St. Martin's-in-the-
Fields, and was well known among London ringers. He was clerk to
Mr. Justice Henn Collins.

The funeral was at Southgate Parish Church on Wednesday last.

THE MONTH'S PEALS.

During the month of January 50 peals were rung, 34 of them on tower bells and 16 on handbells.

The tower bell peals consisted of Grandsire Doubles 2, Triples 5; Stedman Triples 4; Bob Major 7; Kent Treble Bob Major 3; Little Bob Major 1; Double Norwich Court Bob Major 2; Cambridge Surprise Major 2, Royal 1; Minor in 3 methods 4, in 4 methods 1, in 5 methods 1, and in 7 methods 1.

The handbell peals consisted of Grandsire Doubles 2, Triples 4, Caters 1; Stedman Caters 1, Cinques 1; Bob Major 3, Royal 1; Kent Treble Bob Major 2; and Spliced Surprise Major in five methods 1.

Thirty conductors took part in the tower bell peals; Mr. W. F. Judge called three, and Mr. H. J. Poole and Mr. A. Price two each.

Eight conductors took part in the handbell peals; Mr. John Thomas called six, and Mr. A. H. Pulling, Mr. J. E. Spice and Mr. A. V. Davis two each. Mr. Pulling and Mr. Spice also called one tower bell peal each.

The best tower bell performance was Cambridge Surprise Royal at Leicester. The Oxford Diocesan Guild rang Cambridge Major, Little Bob Major and Double Norwich Court Bob Major, as well as Bob Major and Grandsire Triples. The St. Martin's Guild of Birmingham rang Cambridge Major.

On handbells the best performance was the Spliced Surprise Major at Bushey in five methods, London, Wembley, Bristol, Superlative and Cambridge. The Birmingham men added to their long list of peals of Stedman Cinques, and at Enfield no fewer than eight peals were rung, consisting of Grandsire Triples 2, Caters 1; Bob Major 2, Royal 1; Kent Treble Bob Major 1; and Stedman Caters 1. Some of the band were old and well-experienced ringers, but some were pupils of Mr. John Thomas who have but recently learnt to ring. We said some time ago that the new year would probably hear something of this band, and our prophecy is already in fair way of being fulfilled.

THE GREAT BELL OF NOVGOROD

A message from the Moscow correspondent of 'The Times' states that the great bell of Novgorod has been saved from destruction at enemy hands.

'It was cast in the 17th century and used to hang with two others in St. Sophia belfry. These three bells were too heavy to be moved when other bells in Novgorod were taken to safety in August, 1941.

'When the fall of Novgorod seemed imminent local officials made another attempt to take the bells to safety. The two smaller were put in a barge, but this was sunk by a bomb. The big bell was still on the river bank when the Germans broke into the town. Under shellfire the mayor and his assistants managed to bury the bell, and though the Germans during their 2½ years' occupation asked many people where it was, nobody told them.

'Now the bell has been dug up by Red Army sappers, and divers are at work in the river looking for the other two.'

The bell is given in Lord Grimthorpe's list of big bells as 31 tons in weight and the heaviest in the world outside Moscow. (The China and Burma bells are not listed.) 'The Times' correspondent says it could be heard at a distance of 25 miles. Statements of that sort have often been made about famous bells, but it is extremely unlikely that a bell, with so deep a note as this must have, could be heard anything nearly so far off. It would be interesting to know what are the furthest distances any of our own bells have definitely been heard.

HANDLING A BELL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The question as to how an instructor should teach his pupil to hold his rope's end when pulling from backstroke has arisen in our tower and the tower of a neighbouring church. The majority of ringers in this district advocate the placing of the hands close together, in fact, touching; while the minority say that about two or three inches between the hands is preferable.

I should be extremely grateful if readers of 'The Ringing World' would offer their opinions about this. Speaking from personal experience, I have found, after having taught some 50 young people, that a far superior control of the bell is obtained when the hands are placed about three inches apart. When the hands are touching I have found in every case that the loop formed beneath the sally is inclined to shoot out at the bottom, thus causing unnecessary shaking about of the rope. Enough space should be allowed between the hands so that the knuckles are not pressed together. This contact causes the wrists to flick the rope, whereas, if the aforementioned space is maintained, the flexibility of the rope between the two hands will bring about a far better control of the bell. F. C. W. KNIGHT.

The Grammar School, Farnham.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT MARKET LAVINGTON.

A meeting of the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held on February 5th at Market Lavington, and was attended by ringers from Melksham, Market Lavington, North Bradley, Erchfont, Bishop's Cannings, Devizes (St. John's and St. Mary's) and Southbroom. The Vicar conducted service in church, and the methods rung consisted of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and Bob Minor.

ACOUSTICS OF THE BELFRY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have never doubted the accuracy of Mr. Corby's statement as 'K.C.A.' charges me with, neither had I any desire to ascribe the credit of the ideal outside acoustic condition of the tower in question to other than the Central Council. The last part of my letter proves this, in that I wrote, 'I very much doubt whether all the Central Council's advice was taken.' I left your readers to infer that the Central Council advised on the inside as well as the outside conditions. Perhaps 'K.C.A.' did not notice the word 'all.'

I do not know the tower in question and have no axe to grind in the matter. SYDNEY R. ROPER.

South Croydon.

ODD STRUCK BELLS.

Dear Sir,—I was very pleased to read your recent editorial on the above subject—an important one to ringers, and, as you say, one that is not attended to as it should be, even allowing for all the difficulties that are in the way. There are many occasions when ringers do not speak on these matters as they should, e.g., opening days and at meetings when the clergy and perhaps other church representatives are present.

In addition to the items you mention, perhaps one or two more could be added (of course, I realise you were not making an exhaustive list). Other items are: (1) Badly odd struck bells. Of these we have plenty, and though no serious drawback to a really experienced ringer, they are nevertheless a nuisance and a source of discomfort and bad striking. In very few cases would it be difficult for these to be rectified, and with a new peal of bells are inexcusable. Any odd struck bells should be rectified by the bellfounders immediately they are found to be so, say after the opening of the new peal. This is where the experienced ringers should exert their influence. Unfortunately, however, everyone is so pleased that the bells are restored that they overlook details which might otherwise receive attention if sufficient pressure were brought to bear.

Other defects which are prevalent are: Where salleys go through the ceiling the holes are sometimes too small, causing salleys to jump if the ceiling is low. Clock cases badly placed, organ blower motors or air feed pipes situated in the ringing chamber and causing obstruction of sight or standing room. Bad circles or too wide circles where such could be avoided. Certain ropes hung too close to the wall, preventing a straight and normal pull. Excessive long draughts where a higher floor could be arranged. These are a great drawback to raising beginners and teaching them to control. Bad ventilation, noticeable at many ringing meetings, and the bad adjustment of ropes; usually the salleys are too low and the rope ends too long.

Ropes should be adjusted for a good sized chap and boxes provided for ringers of small stature. In addition to making the ringer reach high, they decrease wear due to ropes catching the floor. Bell foundries cannot be blamed for defects to apparatus or fittings, etc., which are not in the scope of their contract, but they, and competent ringers who can get their advice to the right quarter, should emphasise the necessity for these things receiving proper attention.

It is foolish to spoil a good job for a halfpennyworth of tar, and, compared with the cost of restoration of a peal of bells, many of these accessories are a small charge, and, of course, there are places where these details have been attended to.

As the Editor says, a steeple or tower is primarily a home for the bells and should be designed for that end, or where possible improved.

Would the clergy be content to preach from a soap box perched on top of the organ? Not for long. He and his parishioners would soon bring about an improvement.

There are, of course, many improvements ringers themselves could bring about, e.g., covering louvres of noisy bells, etc.

Some towers have a more suitable fabric than others for an ideal lay-out. An example that comes to mind of a 'good job' is St. John's Parish Church, Croydon. And, of course, many others could be quoted, St. Marie's, Norfolk Row, Sheffield; Bolsover, Derbyshire; St. Mary's, Portsea, and so on.

As regards bells that are all greatly indistinct in the belfry. In these cases it would be possible to have a valve amplifier suitably placed near the bells, with a speaker or speakers correctly placed in the ringing chamber—say in the ceiling—so that the sound of the bells was normal (and adjustable) in the ringing chamber.

In conclusion, I would suggest that the ringing of peals on defective sets of bells be avoided (as this often gives the impression that all is well, when such is not the case), and that ringers keep these things in mind and make constant effort towards improvement.

NORMAN CHADDOCK.

ST PAULS CATHEDRAL, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.

The annual meeting of the St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, Society was held in the belfry on August 25th, 1943, under the chairmanship of Dean Langley. The following officers were elected: Captain, J. Spencer; vice-captain, A. Reider; secretary, W. Waghorne; assistant secretary, A. Zelius; steeplekeeper, W. Waghorne; auditors, E. Knott, M. Hemstorgde; committee, F. Boughton, Mrs. Switson, M. Hemstorgde. Reference was made to the death of Mr. E. Behan, who was connected with the belfry for many years.

MODERN TOWERS OF CORNWALL.

BY THE REV. A. S. ROBERTS.

Out of some fifty churches built in Cornwall and the Scilly Isles (which are a part of the Diocese of Truro) during the past one hundred and fifteen years only four have rings of bells, and only about twelve others have a tower of any kind. There is a doubt whether some of these towers would take a ringing peal, being either too small or too poorly built. It is not, then, the church builders of the period in question whom we have to thank for the towers which accommodate the one hundred and forty-two rings of five bells or more in the county. Most of these towers are built strongly of Cornish granite in what has become known as the traditional Cornish style and are mostly from four to six hundred years old.

The builders of last century and this have given little thought to towers. A turret or a bellcote seems to have sufficed. In only one or two cases has provision for the future building of a tower being made, as at St. John's, Penzance, built in 1881, where the base of a future tower forms the south porch, and the lower portion of the spiral staircase is crowned with a small wooden bellcote.

Of the towers that do exist Chacewater (1828) and Halsetown (1866) have one bell each, and Pendeen one bell and ten tubes erected in 1908 at a cost of £242. At Mithian a church was built in 1846, but by 1898 the tower and spire had become so weak that they were taken down. The one bell of about 5 cwts. was hung in a wooden structure in the churchyard, but about 15 years ago a typical new Cornish tower was built of granite brought from a nearby disused engine house of a long closed tin mine. The one bell was hung for ringing in the new tower by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston. Two Truro churches have towers—St. George's (1855) with one tube, and St. Paul's. St. Paul's tower was built in 1909-10 at the same time as the two western towers and spires of the Cathedral. The N.W. tower of the Cathedral was provided with its fine ring of ten (tenor 33 cwts. 3 qrs. 10 lbs.) and St. Paul's tower got ten tubes. These latter were unsuccessful and were soon sold, but the money was set aside, and 1923 Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. provided a good 12 cwt. ringing bell. In 1938 an offer was made to add other bells to this one, but it was not accepted on the score that they would clash with the Cathedral bells. This seems a pity, because a ring of six would have been an asset to the city, and St. Paul's is well distant from the Cathedral. In the Scilly Isles the church on St. Mary's Island, built in 1835, has one bell and eight tubes in its tower. The churches on St. Agnes and Trescoe (1879) also have one bell each.

The four churches with rings of bells must now be mentioned. At St. Mary's, Penzance, rebuilt in 1834, a ring of eight (tenor 20½ cwts. in E) was hung in 1865. St. Mary's tower became the stronghold of change-ringing in Cornwall, and a good band was brought into being and led by Colonel H. R. Trelawney. The tradition of the tower was maintained under the inspiration and leadership of Dr. John Symons, the present President of the Truro Diocesan Guild. But in 1904 St. Mary's bells were considered unsafe and the ringing tradition came to an abrupt end. Most of the band transferred to the nearby tower of Gulval. St. Mary's bells were silent for 25 years, and it was not until 1929 that Dr. Symons was

able to inspire their restoration, when they were recast and the present ring (tenor 23 cwts. 3 qrs. 23 lbs.) was installed. This is the heaviest eight in Cornwall, and the bells are a delight to ring. It is only to be hoped that the ringing tradition will be revived.

The present church of All Hallows, Kea, was built in 1896 in place of one built in 1802. It is the third church in the parish. It has a tower and spire and eight bells (tenor 12 cwts.), hung in 1904 by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. The fifteenth century tower of a much earlier church still stands some three miles distant on the banks of the river Fal, and the seventh bell in the new tower was the tenor of the ring of three in this old tower. The late J. C. Daubuz, who lived at Killiow Mansion, not far from the present church, was keenly interested in bells and ringing, and was generous towards the provision of Kea bells; the second bell at Truro Cathedral is inscribed as having been given by him in memory of his father. He also left an endowment for the Kea ringers.

Tuckingmill Church, built in 1845, was for nearly ninety years without bells, but now has a pleasing octave (tenor 10½ cwts.) by Messrs. John Taylor and Co. Six bells were hung and a frame for eight provided in 1931, and the two trebles were added in 1937. The six bells were erected during the incumbency of the late Rev. J. J. Howarth, who had erected a ring of six, similar in weight, at St. Thomas', Launceston, when Vicar there.

The fourth tower (surmounted by spire) with bells is Baldhu. There is a ring of six. The church of St. Michael was built in 1848 by George Henry, second Earl of Falmouth, and the bells were given at the same time by Anne, Countess of Falmouth. The tenor weights 9 cwts., and the ring came from the foundry of Messrs. Mears and Stainbank. These bells are one of four rings of Cornwall's one hundred and forty-two rings of five and upwards which cannot be rung for want of rehanging. It is one of the last towers west of mid-Cornwall where prize-ringing took place, and there are still some memories of such prizes as six hats and six pairs of gloves being given at contests in the tower.

The second newest of all these some fifty churches can be taken as an example to delight the hearts of those who always hope that provision will be made, as of old, for bells when a new church is to be erected or one rebuilt. In this respect there will be many such cases to be considered in the post-war years, and local opinion can, no doubt, do a great deal. The example is my own church of All Saints, Carbis Bay, which was needed in a growing district some two miles from St. Ives, and which has now been incorporated in the ancient borough of St. Ives. In 1926 an anonymous gift of £7,000 was made, accompanied by four typewritten words 'For Carbis Bay Church.' The present church took the place of a wooden Mission Room. A local church building committee was formed, and this committee demanded a 'Cornish Church' in opposition to another plan which was put forward for a modern building. The design of Mr. R. F. Wheatly, of Truro, was accepted, but with the unusual feature for a Cornish church of the tower at the south-east corner—most towers being at the west end. But as the carrying out of the complete plan would have cost £12,000, and it had to be curtailed to meet the £7,000, four bays of the nave were cut out, and also the upper portion of the tower, but still the feature of a

tower remained, the walls of which are carried up to beyond the level for the bells. The point of the temporary pyramidal roof rises to the level of the future flat roof, above which will rise the embattlements and pinnacles.

The minutes of the meetings of the building committee record that when the plans were sent to the late bishop (Dr. W. H. Frere) for his approval he sent them back, asking whether, in order to economise in the amount of money available, a tower was necessary. The reply of the committee was that as the base of the tower formed the Lady Chapel it would not be practicable to dispense with it. There seems to have been no thought given, at the time, to bells, and the old mission room bell has done duty ever since, so there seems no reason at all why the tower could not have been finished at roof level of the church except that the committee demanded some kind of a tower. The result, therefore, is that the ringing chamber has been provided, and is so marked on the architect's plan, and there is room above to hang a light ring of eight on one level as the tower is eleven feet square and is built solidly of Cornish granite. Entrance to the ringing chamber is from the outside by a substantial spiral staircase of some twenty-five steps.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT SUNDERLAND.

A meeting of the Eastern District of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association was held at St. Ignatius' Church, Sunderland, on February 5th, when about twenty members were present from Chester-le-Street, Houghton-le-Spring, West Hartlepool, Bishopwearmouth and the home tower. Welcome was given to three visitors, Lieut. Hawkins, of Warwickshire, Pte. Parker, of Reading, and Pte. Simm, of Bedfordshire.

The methods rung included Kent Treble Bob Minor, Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Double Norwich, Spliced Oxford and Kent and Cambridge Surprise Major.

Tea was served in the Church Institute, the Vicar, the Rev. G. H. Marshall, and the churchwarden, Mr. R. L. Patterson, joining the party. Mr. J. W. Parker, proposing a vote of thanks, referred to the willing way in which the majority of incumbents granted permission to ring on these occasions. It gave great pleasure to the ringers when the clergy attended.

The Vicar said he rather thought that the clergy's thanks were due to the ringers. He had enjoyed walking in his parish that afternoon listening to the music of the bells, and he certainly had been happy among the ringers. He thanked the ringers' wives and friends for looking after the tea arrangements.

The next meeting will be on March 4th, when the Eastern and Western Districts are holding a combined meeting at Chester-le-Street.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ADLINGTON.

The meeting of the Preston Branch of the Lancashire Association, held at Adlington on January 29th, was well attended, over thirty ringers being present from eight towers in the branch as well as members from the Wigan Branch and Mr. T. B. Worsley, Mr. P. D. Roberts, Corpl. Crampton and Gunner J. E. Jeans.

The Vicar welcomed the ringers, and Mr. F. E. Bradley presided at the business meeting, at which five of the local band were re-elected. It was decided to hold a joint meeting with the Wigan Branch at Coppull on February 26th.

A letter was read from the Rector of Brownedge saying he was sorry he had to cancel the permission he had given, but after the advice he had received from the architect, he could not do otherwise. The chairman made a strong appeal to all to take 'The Ringing World.' The secretary said that the new rates for notices would be a welcome concession.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT MANGOTSFIELD.

The annual meeting of the Bristol Rural Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held at Mangotsfield on January 29th and was attended by about 40 members from Westerleigh, Coalpit Heath, Warmley, St. Ambrose, Henbury and the local tower, as well as some unattached members.

Service in church was conducted by the Vicar, who presided at the business meeting, held after tea in the Parish Room. The branch chairman, Mr. C. R. Harding, referred to the death of Canon H. J. Gay, Vicar of Warmley, who for many years had been an honorary member of the association. Since the ban was lifted the branch had held four meetings with an average attendance of 30. The speaker was pleased to say that the Vicar of Bittou was now a performing member. Despite war-time difficulties, the activities of the branch had showed an improvement.

The hon. secretary reported that subscriptions were increasing, but all had not yet come in. The annual report was adopted.

It was decided to hold quarterly meetings in March at St. Ambrose, in June at Marshfield, in September at Almondsbury, and the annual meeting at Henbury. The next monthly meeting was fixed for Stapleton on February 26th.

The officers were elected as follows: Chairman, Mr. C. R. Harding; hon. secretary, Mr. C. Gifford; representative on the Management Committee, Mr. C. Harding.

Thanks were given to the Vicar, to Mrs. Wise, to the organist and to the choir.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT PUDSEY.

There was a good attendance on January 29th at the meeting of the Leeds and District Society at Pudsey. Members were present from Armley, Bradford, Bramley, Burley, Calverley, Earlsheaton, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's), Idle, Leeds Parish Church, Liversedge, Queensbury, Rotherham, Selby, Shipley and the local company.

At the business meeting in the Conservative Club, Canon Marshall presided in the absence of the president, Mr. J. F. Harvey, who has left the county. A letter from Mr. Harvey tendering his resignation was read, and it was decided to send a reply thanking him for his services. The office was left vacant until the general meeting.

Mention was made of the death of Mr. George Titterton, a member of many years standing, and it was decided to send a letter of sympathy to his family.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT LEICESTER.

At the request of the Leicester District, a special general meeting of the Midland Counties Association was held at Leicester on Saturday, January 29th.

At the committee meeting it was decided that no full and comprehensive report should be printed this year, but instead a pamphlet giving the names of all resident members, honorary, active and life, and a list of the towers in each district with the number of bells and the practice nights. The secretaries are asked to co-operate in compiling this. Appeals for assistance from the Bell Repair Fund were left over until more favourable times.

At the Co-op Cafe, 58 members and friends sat down and the general meeting followed, at which in the absence of the president, Mr. Colin Harrison (vice-president) took the chair. He was supported by Miss I. B. Thompson (hon. treasurer) and Mr. Ernest Morris (general secretary). Members were present from Anstey, Ashby, Belgrave, Burbage, Croft, Derby, Earl Shilton, Groby, Hugglescote, Ibstock, Loughborough, Nottingham, Syston, Sileby, Wigston and elsewhere.

The chairman welcomed the large and representative gathering, which was almost on pre-war lines, and paid special tribute to the young members present, especially those from Anstey and Groby, who were progressing well in the art. Five honorary, 32 ringing and seven resident life members were elected, in addition to 44 who rejoined the association. Two auditors, Messrs. F. Poole and A. J. Harris, were appointed.

It was announced that this year's annual meeting will be in Leicester on April 15th and that the Bishop of Leicester will preach the sermon at St. Margaret's.

Before the meeting the twelve bells at St. Margaret's were rung and afterwards the twelve at the Cathedral. The methods included Cambridge Royal and Bristol and London Surprise Major.

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THE BEST RING OF BELLS.

A TALE OF C. W. O. JENKYN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reference to Mr. Bagworth's letter, Whittle bells are eight and the key is E flat. It was never my intention to back them against all comers. What Mr. Sharpe asked for was that ringers should express their opinions as to which were the best toned ring (both Simpson and ordinary) in each particular county.

I must express thanks for Major Hesse's letter, also your excellent leader, each was an education and as such appreciated by all. I will close by relating a little incident concerning the late Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn. It was on a tour, possibly the same one mentioned by Mr. Lancaster. A party had gone up to ring, but C. W. O. J. stayed outside to hear the bells. He went to various vantage points in the churchyard and then finally came to the foot of the belfry steps and said, 'Taylors, 1900.' He was right, but how he got the year has always been a mystery to me.

'LANCASTRIAN.'

WEST COUNTRY BELLS.

Dear Sir,—I should like to express my opinion, which I know is also shared by many ringers whose opinions on bells command respect, regarding which is the best peal.

In the first place, I would say that for numbers a peal of eight is best and the ideal weight (to listen to) 20-25 cwt. For sheer grandeur the peal at Chewton Mendip in Somerset is the best, and the peals at Ditchat, Somerset, and Tiverton, Devon, are almost as good. My old friend, J. T. Dyke, used to say that if Ditchat bells were in Chewton tower they would sound the better peal. I have been told that Aberystwyth (Cardigan) bells are better than those I mention. They must be extraordinarily good if this is correct. I would like to hear other opinions.

I decided many years ago that Chewton was the best peal I had heard, and the last time I was there we had met for a peal, but owing to a death in the parish we rang touches of Double Norwich, Cambridge and Stedman Triples. How beautiful it was. I have often wondered which our bellfounders think is the best peal yet cast.

On other numbers the peals I consider are the best for their weight (leaving out the heavy peals) are Painswick (12), Cullompton, Devon, and Newbury, Berks (10), whilst the prettiest peal of six is at Ash Priors in Somerset.

I would also like to ask ringers' opinions regarding the 11th at Exeter Cathedral. Is she for her weight of 2 tons the finest bell yet cast?

All the above is very West Country but I think that it is generally agreed there is no other part of the country with such beautiful bells as the west.

W. A. COLES.

Hayes, Middlesex.

CONGRESBURY.

Dear Sir,—I was very surprised that Major Hesse did not mention Congresbury in his letter about Somerset bells. I was also surprised that Watford was not included in the article on some of Gillett and Johnston's notable rings. Taking the risk of being considered biased, I think Watford are a first-class eight, and certainly one of the best in Hertfordshire.

RICHARD G. BELL.

131, Hamper Mill Lane, Watford.

TWO OUTSTANDING RINGS.

Sir,—It has been my privilege to ring on one or two peals of bells during my short connection with ringing, but I feel somewhat diffident about expressing an opinion, preferring to think of them as being grand productions of the bell founder's craft and workmanship. Being a Lancastrian, one doesn't care to sound his own trumpet, but it may be not many have heard Ashton's noble peal of 12 and eight bells.

There are two outstanding peals possessing remarkable and beautiful tonal qualities, which rank them amongst the best peals we have got. I refer to St. Marie's (Norfolk Row), Sheffield, and Youghreave (Bakewell), Derbyshire. A native of the last named came to live as next-door neighbour 45 years ago and she was constantly saying we ought to hear their bells, as there were no others half so grand.

I began to think there was something in it when the late Mr. J. W. Washbrook remarked to me that they were amongst the best he had ever heard. Spending a holiday some six miles away, we made arrangement to walk the distance on a Sunday afternoon to be in time for the evening service ringing. The bells had been specially oiled, etc., for the occasion, and a full band had been rallied so that we could hear them to advantage, both inside and outside the tower. Norfolk Row, I believe, is a sister peal to the foregoing and is applicable in like manner. I agree in all that was said about them, also what has been written about Whittle-le-Woods. It has been one of the joys of life to hear such noble peals from time to time.

W. W. WOLSTENCROFT.

Ashton-under-Lyne.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and East District.—Meeting at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, Saturday, Feb. 19th. Ringing 3 p.m. No other arrangements.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—Annual meeting at Weybridge, Saturday, Feb. 19th, 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 4.30 p.m. Service 6 p.m.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Sec., 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting at St. Michael's, St. Albans, on Saturday, Feb. 19th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at Olde Times Cafe 5.30 p.m. Ringing in evening. Send names for tea.—R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Alton and Petersfield District.—Annual meeting at Steep, Saturday, Feb. 19th, 2.30. Service and dedication of treble 4. Tea and business in Memorial Village Hall 5.—C. E. Bassett, Hon. Dis. Sec., Sunnysbrook, Brook Lane, Warsash, Hants.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at Spondon, Saturday, Feb. 19th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Own arrangements for tea, nearby cafe.—Wm. Lancaster, 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Hunts District.—Annual meeting at Brampton, Saturday, Feb. 19th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 o'clock.—H. J. Parker, Dis. Sec., Great Staughton.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Cradley, Saturday, Feb. 19th, 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Cary Deanery Branch.—Annual meeting, Castle Cary, Saturday, Feb. 19th, 3 p.m. Service 5. Tea and meeting following.—W. A. Osborn, Galhampton, Yeovil.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, Feb. 26th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate. Service ringing at Stepney, Feb. 20th, 9.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Romsey, Saturday, Feb. 26th, 2 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names by Feb. 23rd.—G. Pullinger, 17, Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Annual meeting in the Corn Exchange, Spalding, on Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells (8) 2. Service 3.45. Tea and business 4.30. Names by Feb. 22nd.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincs.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District. — Annual meeting at Banstead, Saturday, Feb. 26th, 3.30. Service 5.15, followed by tea and meeting. Names to Mr. H. N. Pitstow, Saffron, High Street, Banstead, by Monday, Feb. 21st.—D. Cooper, Hon. Dis. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Hawkhurst, Saturday, Feb. 26th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 4.45. Names to Mrs. S. H. Compton, The Vicarage, Hawkhurst, by Feb. 23rd.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Practice meeting at Crawley, Saturday, Feb. 26th, 3 p.m. No other arrangements. — O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — Meeting at St. Michael's, Headingley, Saturday, Feb. 26th, 3 p.m. Own arrangements for tea. Business meeting 6.30 p.m. — H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds, 12.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Rumney, Saturday, Feb. 26th, 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by business meeting. — J. W. Jones, Hon. Sec., 94, Altery View, Newport, Mon.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at Conisborough, Feb. 26th, 3 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided at small charge.—W. E. Lloyd, Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Burton District.—Meeting at Measham, Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch. — Meeting at St. Anne's, Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food. — J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Axbridge Deanery. — Meeting at Berrow, Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells (6) 6.30 p.m. — E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS (12 bells). — Open practice on Saturday, Feb. 26th, 6.30-9 p.m. — Ralph Cole, 27, Priory Road, High Wycombe.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—Meeting, Slough, Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells 3 to 5 p.m.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Southern Division. — Annual meeting, Burgess Hill, Saturday, March 4th, 2.30 Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m Names by March 1st.—Mrs. E. L. Hairs, Hon. Sec., The Oaks, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District. — Meeting and unveiling of Memorial Tablet at Ilkeston on Saturday, March 4th, 2 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Names to Mr. E. F. Gobey by Wednesday, March 1st.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION. — Eastern and Western Districts. — Joint meeting at Chester-le-Street, Saturday, March 4th, 2.30 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—J. A. Brown, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Finchdale Terrace, Chester-le-Street.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch. — Meeting at St. George's, Bolton, Saturday, March 4th, 3 p.m. Business 6.30 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Danbury on March 4th. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. Numbers for tea by March 1st. — H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Harbour Lane, Chelmsford.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM. — Henry Johnson Commemoration luncheon at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 4th, 1.30 p.m. Tickets to fully paid up ringing members 2s. each; to other members and friends 6s. 6d. each. Early application is requested as the number is strictly limited.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

THE BIRMINGHAM BROADCAST.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should be interested to hear from any ringer who heard the broadcast of St. Chad's Cathedral bells last Sunday. It took place at a time when most ringers in this district were occupied at their Sunday service ringing, and I have as yet met no one who heard it.

The time allowed us was so short that I am anxious to know how much of the change ringing was heard. The touch was 144 Stedman Triples (bobs at 1.4.5.8.10.11 repeated), and the band was as follows: W. B. Cartwright 1, R. J. B. Hadden 2, J. Pinfield 3, G. C. Chaplin 4, H. C. Spencer 5, H. H. Fearn 6, G. E. Fearn (conductor) 7, J. N. Lindon 8.

92, Etwell Road, Hall Green, Birmingham.

G. E. FEARN.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

WHISTON, YORKSHIRE.—On New Year's Day, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: Gnr. S. Moss, R.A. 1, Mrs. D. E. Kelly 2, Percy Jervis 3, George Lee 4, Herbert O. Chaddock 5, Sgt. N. Chaddock, R.E.M.E. (conductor) 6.

NORTHAMPTON.—On January 16th, at St. Giles', 1,260 Grandsire Triples: G. Tanner 1, Miss E. Travill 2, B. O. Soden 3, W. R. Parker 4, Fred Hopper 5, H. England 6, T. Tebbutt (conductor) 7, W. Gammage 8.

APPLETON, BERKS.—On Monday, January 22nd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: N. Sargent 1, C. G. White 2, F. Messenger 3, A. H. White 4, H. C. White 5, G. Holfield (conductor) 6, R. White 7, F. White 8. Rung half-muffled in memory of J. White, late of the Metropolitan Police, and son of the late Frederick White and brother of the ringers of 2, 4, 7 and tenor. He was buried at Appleton on the previous Saturday at the age of 74.

DARLINGTON.—On January 30th, at Holy Trinity Church, for evensong, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: R. Busby 1, J. T. Titt 2, W. H. J. Parker (Sandhurst, Berks) 3, G. W. Park 4, W. N. Park 5, R. Park (conductor) 6.

STALYBRIDGE.—On January 30th, at Holy Trinity Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: R. Crawshaw 1, W. Schofield 2, A. Jackson 3, G. Crowdy 4, W. W. Wolstencroft (conductor) 5, H. Saxon (first quarter-peal) 6, A. Roberts 7, V. Turner 8.

DARTFORD, KENT.—On Sunday, January 30th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: J. Wheadon 1, R. Constant 2, Mrs. J. E. Bailey 3, H. Raynor 4, R. Wake (first quarter-peal of Stedman) 5, H. Hovard 6, J. E. Bailey (conductor) 7, V. J. Benning 8.

WINDSOR.—On Sunday, January 30th, for morning service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. W. Croft 1, J. A. Glass 2, T. Smith 3, J. M. Gayford 4, N. V. Harding 5, G. Barkus 6, L. Stilwell (conductor) 7, F. Simmonds 8.

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- 'TREBLE BOB,' 1s. 10d.; second edition; with appendix; 100 pages.
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No. 1,718. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25th, 1944.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The decision to hold this year a meeting of the Central Council will be generally approved and welcomed by the Exercise. It was not reached without full consideration and the weighing of many things which tell for and against it. On the one hand the objections and the difficulties which up to now have prevented a war-time meeting are not lessened. In some respects they are worse. Travelling facilities are small and inconvenient. Members have for the most part their time fully occupied in other urgent business. And it is very difficult in these days to secure a suitable room. The decision not to bring the Council together during the last four years of war was a wise and a patriotic one.

The time, however, has now come when the interests of the Exercise call for some action. Throughout the country the art of change ringing is reviving after its long eclipse, and all the indications are that, as soon as peace and more normal times come back, there will be great activity. The duty of the Council will be to lead and guide the activity, and it is essential that it shall first straighten out its own affairs and make its own position quite regular. It will not be for the good of the Exercise if ringers get into the habit of saying or thinking, 'We did very well without the Council during the war, and we can do very well without it afterwards.'

In one respect the Council's position is somewhat anomalous. It was elected for three years, and held its first meeting in 1939 at Westminster. Since then four Whitsuntides have gone by, and nominally the Council, with its officials and organisation, has lapsed. It is a position which has not occurred before; for though in 1916 and 1917, during the last war, no meetings were held, the Council met in 1918, which would have normally been the first session of a new Council. The position to-day need cause no difficulty, for the Standing Committee passed a resolution creating a moratorium, and so, in effect, the years in which the Council did not meet are treated as if they did not exist. It will be well, however, for the Council as a whole to confirm this.

During the war much of the ordinary work and activity of the Council has been suspended for reasons which are obvious, and we do not suppose that there will be any wish or attempt to revive them until the war is ended. The various committees will need some time in which to gather up the threads of their work, and it is hardly likely that they will be willing to submit reports

(Continued on page 78.)

at the next meeting or that the Council will expect them to do so.

What will, most likely, mainly occupy the attention of the meeting will be to hear what the three members have to say who recently acquired 'The Ringing World' on behalf of the Council. Some final action by the Council is obviously called for in this matter, and this is really the justification for holding the meeting.

The Council will meet on Whit Monday. This is a departure from custom, for the meetings are normally on Whit Tuesday. In ordinary times that certainly is the most convenient for the majority of members, but this year it is felt that it would not be desirable to meet on a working day. It will be a business meeting, and the usual social side of the gathering will be absent.

Difficulty was experienced in securing a suitable place of meeting, but this has been overcome by the kindness of the Dean of Westminster, who has granted the use of the Jerusalem Chamber in the Abbey. It is one of the most famous and historic rooms in England, and, though it is rather small for a full meeting, it will, it is pretty certain, prove amply sufficient for the number of those who are able to attend in May next.

One further point calls for mention. This country and the world generally are on the eve of tremendous events. Long expected and long prepared for, the invasion of Europe cannot be delayed beyond this spring. When it does come it must cause, for a time at least, a complete dislocation of all civilian traffic, both on road and rail. Everything will have to stand aside for the military needs, and it will be the duty of everybody to keep out of the way as far as possible. We shall be told when the time comes and need not try to anticipate it. Ringers generally can go forward as usual in making their arrangements, but they should not forget that they are all subject to this important and overruling proviso.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

1,280				1,280			
23456	W	R		23456	W	R	
45236	1	1		43526	2	1	
32546	2	2		45236	1	2	
54326	1	1		25346	2	1	
23456	2	2		23456	1	2	
1,280				1,280			
23456	M	B	W R	23456	M	B	W R
35426	1	—		36452	1	—	2
24536	1	—	2	26354	—	—	1
25346	—	—	1 2	62453	—	—	1 2
23456	1	—	2 2	23456	2	—	1 2
1,280				1,280			
23456	M	B	W R	23456	M	B	W R
32654	—	—	1 2	32654	2	—	2
24653	2	—	1 2	33246	—	—	2
52436	—	—	2	52436	1	—	2 2
23456	—	—		23456	1	—	

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ILMINSTER.

The annual meeting of the Crewkerne Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association was held at Ilminster on Feb. 5th.

The chairman, the Rev. G. G. Hickman, presided. He referred to the deaths of Mr. D. G. Taylor, late branch secretary, and Mr. G. Sibily, both of whom belonged to the Ilminster band. Mr. Hickman was re-elected president, and Mr. J. T. Locke was elected branch secretary. Mr. T. H. Taffender was appointed Ringing Master for the time being.

Ringers were present from Taunton, Ilminster, Ditchat, Drayton, Hardington, Surfleet, St. Paul's, London, Burslemombe, Kingstone, Barrington and Milverton.

TEN BELL PEAL.

BRADFORD, YORKSHIRE. THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1944, in Three Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5080 CHANGES; Tenor 25½ cwt. in D.

ERNEST H. SIMPSON ... Treble	LESLIE W. G. MORRIS ... 6
FREDERICK SEAGER ... 2	PERCY J. JOHNSON ... 7
CHRISTOPHER WOOLLEY ... 3	WILLIAM BARTON ... 8
J. WILLIAM CUNDALL ... 4	JOHN AMBLER ... 9
*GEORGE ROBINSON ... 5	FRED HODGSON ... Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS (275). Conducted by L. W. G. MORRIS.
* 100th peal for the Yorkshire Association. The conductor has now rung each bell in the tower to a peal. Rung half-muffled as a tribute to George Titterton, a member of the Bradford company from 1894 until his death on January 22nd at the age of 88.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BOLTON, LANCASHIRE. THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., Feb. 14, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES; DAY'S SIX-PART.

EDWARD B. WEBSTER ... Treble	JAMES W. KAY ... 5
LESLIE OWEN ... 2	ALBERT GREENHALGH ... 6
MRS. G. ANNIE PAINE ... 3	PETER CROOK, SEN. ... 7
EVEREST FORD ... 4	OWEN OLIVE ... Tenor

Conducted by MRS. G. ANNIE PAINE.
Rung for the 80th birthday of Mr. R. Newton, formerly of Manchester.

CHARLTON KINGS, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.
THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Wed., Feb. 16, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION.	Tenor 20 cwt.
WILFRED WILLIAMS ... Treble	ARTHUR H. REED ... 5
WALTER YEEND ... 2	WALTER C. ROSE ... 6
WILLIAM DYER ... 3	CHARLES W. MARTIN ... 7
*GEORGE R. H. SMITH ... 4	*FREDERICK SIMMONDS ... Tenor

Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.

* First peal of Stedman. † First peal.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Fri., Feb. 18, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EBBE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 4 cwt. 3 qr.

JOHN E. SPICE (New College) ... Treble	WILFRID F. MORETON (St. John's) ... 5
*MARGARET D. TELFORD (Somerville) ... 2	†WILLIAM F. GIBBONS (Keble) ... 6
†MARGARET L. TUTT (Lady Margaret Hall) ... 3	HARRY MILES (St. Catherine's) ... 7
BETTY SPICE (Somerville) ... 4	REV. C. ELLIOTT WIGG (Keble) ... Tenor

Composed by C. MARTIN (C.C.C. 117). Conducted by J. E. SPICE.
* First peal on tower bells. † First peal of Bob Major on tower bells. ‡ First attempt for a tower-bell peal. The first tower-bell peal of Major for the society.

STONEY STANTON, LEICESTERSHIRE. THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. (Hinckley District.)

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION.	Tenor 14½ cwt.
WILLIAM A. WOOD ... Treble	WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 5
JAMES DRAYCOTT ... 2	LEONARD TREVOR ... 6
CYRIL ISON ... 3	FRANK TROTMAN ... 7
*CHARLES PAYNE ... 4	WILLIAM BRIGGS ... Tenor

Conducted by FRANK TROTMAN.
* First peal of Stedman Triples. † First peal as conductor and first attempt.

SIX BELL PEALS.

STOKESAY, SHROPSHIRE.
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Jan. 23, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings.

Tenor 9 cwt.

ARTHUR C. NASON ... Treble	HUBERT JONES ... 4
WILLIAM J. BENIAMS ... 2	E. HENRY MEREDITH ... 5
JAMES HUGHES ... 3	THOMAS P. BARLOW ... Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM J. BENIAMS.

Rung for the 21st birthday of Margaret, youngest daughter of Mr. A. C. Nason.

POULTON-LE-FYLDE, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., Feb. 13, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CHAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven callings.

Tenor 9 cwt.

ARTHUR TOMLINSON ... Treble	JOHN H. FOSTER ... 4
STEPHEN LAWRENSEN ... 2	*RALPH TAYLOR ... 5
SGT. R. WILSON, R.A.F. 3	*GNR. H. E. G. JEANES ... Tenor

Conducted by A. TOMLINSON.

* First peal.

COPPULL, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-DIVINE,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents of Kent Treble Bob and five of Plain Bob.
Tenor 16½ cwt. in E.

FRED RIGBY ... Treble	DAVID CARPENTER ... 4
RICHARD BLAKEY ... 2	ALAN CARPENTER ... 5
ROGER LEIGH ... 3	J. H. GARTSIDE ... Tenor

Conducted by F. RIGBY.

HANDBELL PEALS.

THORNTON HEATH, SURREY.
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., Feb. 13, 1944, in Two Hours and Seven Minutes,
AT 17, HAMILTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 17.

EDWIN JENNINGS ... 1-2	CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4	FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... 7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., Feb. 15, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,
AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

ERIC A. DENCH ... 1-2	JOHN THOMAS ... 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS ... 3-4	ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 7-8
DENNIS H. LANGDON ... 9-10	

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by J. THOMAS.

This peal has the extent of the 6th in fittums and handstroke in alternate course ends.

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HANDLING A BELL.

RIGHT OR LEFT?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have been very interested in your article, 'Handling a Bell,' and I am quite convinced that if they were published in book form after the war it would serve a good purpose.

When I commence teaching a recruit my first question is to ask him if he is right handed or left. If he is right, I teach him to hold the tail end in his right hand, or if he is left to hold it in his left, as I have nearly always found that they make better strikers this way. I have got into hot water more than once over this, but no one could ever convince me I was wrong.

B. T. JEANES.

Bridgewater.

HOLDING THE ROPE.

Dear Sir,—Surely you do not and cannot mean that a learner should be taught to raise and fall a bell without taking up any coils. This I consider (as I see it) to be contradictory to your previous instructions, in which you say (and I fully agree) that a ringer should stand so and so, hands close together at both hand and back strokes, head only to be moved (not body), make a graceful bow when required to create further energy.

But now to be told that a ringer should raise or fall in practically the same manner as he is told to ring—this, to me, is simply asking for trouble, and is certainly not in harmony with previous lessons. I hesitate to think what may happen at a small tower, where rope space is limited, when raising or falling is taking place, ropes flying around in confusion. The probability is of a ringer endeavouring to catch hold of someone else's rope, and, as I see it, the failure of having any control of his or her bell, and perhaps some learners in.

I well remember a few years ago a very well-known ringer, who had rung and conducted more peals than I can expect to ring, and who has, I regret to say, since passed over. He was asked to join us in falling the bells, which he did, lowering the tenor without taking up any coils whatever. Did the rope fall in a straight perpendicular path? I definitely think not. Far from it.

You say that when a ringer is occupied with three or four coils the work is not equally divided between the two hands. I fail to see why this should be so, for a good ringer can and does use practically the same energy with his left hand as his right hand. This balancing of weight cannot be obtained when a man is not using any coils and on a slack rope.

You say it is the usual thing that when raising a bell (15 to 20 cwt.) it will rise easily enough until it double clappers. May I suggest (although I am open to correction) this would depend on three things, the go of the bell, if raised in peal, and on the length of the bell? If the bell be 'long waisted,' as we term it, it would appear that the hardest work comes before it double clappers and not after, as the maximum amount of energy must be applied at the earliest possible moment, and as the bell gathers momentum less energy is required to get the bell on the balance or setting in position. No doubt some will disagree with this, but I am speaking as I have found it.

E. W. BIFFIN.

St. Thomas, Exeter.

[Mr. Biffin has, we think, missed our point. If the pulling is done in the correct manner, it is quite easy to raise a bell holding the tail end in much the same fashion as it is held in ringing without the rope flying about in any way. It is possible without holding the tail end at all, though we do not recommend that plan. The advantages are that both hands are free to do their work. We said that the learner should be taught to raise without being bothered by the tail end. It is the instructor's job to look after that until the novice knows how and when to pull. We said nothing whatever about ceasing where the conditions are different from raising, and the fact that a man who had rung many peals was incompetent proves no more than that he was incompetent. Mr. Biffin's final point does not affect our argument in any way.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World.']

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT NORWICH.

A meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held at St. John de Sepulchre, Norwich, on February 5th, at which about 36 members attended from Bergh Apton, Mulbarton, Norwich, Norton Subcourse, Ranworth, Wroxham and Wymondham. Ringing included methods up to Cambridge.

Preaching at the service, the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow (general secretary) said it was a matter for congratulation that these bells, silent for several years, had been got into use again at a time when so many activities are being given up. The number of beginners who have come forward in Norwich recently is also a healthy sign. They include a member of the American Forces, and it would be interesting to know how many other members of the American Forces are taking up ringing in other parts of the country.

Tea was provided by the Sisters at Ber House. It was decided to hold the annual meeting on Easter Monday, with ringing at Mancroft and one other church in the afternoon.

PAUL REVERE.

By DR. ARTHUR H. NICHOLS.

(Abridged from an article which appeared in 'The New England Historical and Genealogical Register,' of Boston, U.S.A., for April, 1904.)

In the year 1788, Paul Revere, patriot and versatile craftsman of keen artistic sense, established a furnace for heavy castings at his foundry in Boston, where, within a few years, he undertook the production of church bells. This business was successfully prosecuted until his death in 1818, at the age of eighty-nine years, during which period more than two hundred bells were turned out. The original foundry having been damaged extensively by the memorable gale of October 9th, 1804, which carried away the steeple of Christ Church and the roof of the tower of King's Chapel, the work of casting was transferred to Revere's estate in Canton, still in the possession of his descendants.

Early in the eighteenth century bell founding had attained a high degree of perfection; long practical experience had led to the adoption of a uniform design or pattern, corresponding nearly in contour to the quadrant of an ellipse, the mathematical curve which harmonises with the law of acoustics. In theory an instrument moulded in this shape should emit a series of sounds called the tonic, or fundamental, its third and fifth, its octave above, called nominal, and its octave below, called hum-note. In practice, however, founders had learned the advantage of shortening the bell, and thus sharpening or raising the hum-note in order to prevent the over-powering of the sub-notes by its prolonged drone or nasal twang, which in the Spanish bells, designed of greater height, affects the ear so unpleasantly.

This defection from the chord does not, as might be expected, convey a sense of discord; on the contrary, by the deflection of the modified note into a separate plane, as ingeniously suggested by Canon Simpson, the more tuneful fundamentals and nominals are rendered prominent, especially when the bells are struck in rapid succession, each making a complete revolution at each blow. At the same time, the ear is delighted by the frequent resolution of these discords into concords which must take place if a ring of bells is correctly attuned.

It is this sequence of striking harmonic effects which constitutes the ground plan of scientific change ringing wherein melody is relegated to the background. This principle of advanced music, always appreciated by the English ringing guilds, has been expanded in the art of counterpoint, in which, under certain conditions, discords are admitted with beautiful effect; and the application of this same theory of harmonics has imparted brilliancy and endurance to many of the best classical compositions.

It is desirable to explain that these harmonic effects are not produced by the system of chiming as commonly practised in America, in accordance with which psalm

tunes are slowly hammered out by means of an electrical or other mechanical makeshift, the bells being rigidly bolted mouth downwards to an immovable beam. It is only in change ringing, when the bells are moved with velocity upon the principle of the pendulum rather than that of the cart wheel, and each managed by a separate ringer, that the carrying power and harmonic blending of the sound waves are fully developed. This fascinating art, at one time cultivated in Boston, New York and Philadelphia, became lost and virtually forgotten in this country after the Revolution.

As to the component parts of bell metal, the proper proportion of copper to tin (about 13 to 4) necessary to ensure the maximum resonance consistent with safe brittleness was well known to founders of the seventeenth century, although the law of atomic weights or chemical equivalents had not then been discovered. A knowledge of these fundamental laws, however, was not alone adequate to secure the production of a superior instrument; and if many of Revere's early bells must be allowed to be of inferior quality, this would be the natural result of his want of practical experience and early training; for without such qualifications he could hardly have evolved the various empirical rules and delicate processes by which the English founders had learned to mould that homogeneous, tenacious and elastic amalgam essential to the production of perfect vibration.

For instance, it would appear that in fusing his metals he did not at first appreciate the importance of maintaining a comparatively low temperature, in order to throw off in the form of dross certain impurities which are reduced by greater heat and thus retained within the amalgam to the detriment of its sound-producing qualities. Nor could he have appreciated what has since been demonstrated, viz., the marked difference which exists in the brittleness and sonorous properties of both copper and tin from individual mines. Moreover, none of his bells show traces of any attempt to correct errors of tone by grinding, now accomplished by machinery.

Before this venture of Revere's, the art of bell founding was practically unknown in America, though a few bells had been cast in the Colonies, notably the second Liberty bell, made by Pass and Snow, in 1753, for the Provincial Assembly of Pennsylvania and weighing 2,089 lb. (18 cwt. 2 qr. 17 lb.). And yet the first New England colonists had brought from the 'Ringing Island' a love for the sound of musical bells, and their churches were supplied with bells of a light calibre imported from England.

While many of the delicate details essential to the creation of a musical bell were therefore unknown to Revere, no better models could have been found than those at his command in the towers and steeples of Boston and vicinity. With the sweet-toned ring of Christ Church, distant but a few hundred feet from his foundry, he had long been familiar, having been one of the ringers at that tower; and within the radius of half a mile were

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the fine bells of Brattle Square Church, of King's Chapel and of the Old South Church.

It was doubtless with a consciousness of deficiencies in methods that in 1804 John Warren Revere, who four years before had become associated with his father in business, visited England and the Continent in order to acquire all available information pertaining to the manufacture of brass and copper. After his return it is certain that finer castings were produced, until in 1816 a heavy bell was made for King's Chapel, which for homogeneous casting, power, grandeur, and mellowness of tone can hardly be surpassed. Its minor chord, or harmonious discord, gives it a distinct identity, and the writer recalls that often on a quiet night, when the bells of the city were being rung for fire, its ponderous boom could be distinguished above all others. As shown, however, by the late H. P. Munroe, who was endowed with a phenomenal perception for delicate musical sounds, this bell could form no part of a ring or chime, since by the resolution of its harmonics by the consonant vibration of other bells attuned to the same key the most dissonant doleful combinations would result.

(To be continued.)

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT DUNSTABLE.

The annual meeting of the Luton District of the Bedfordshire Association was held at the Priory Church, Dunstable, on Saturday, February 12th, and was well attended, ringers being present from Luton, Houghton Regis, Leighton Buzzard, Linslade and the local tower.

Stedman Triples, Double Norwich, Cambridge Surprise Major and Superlative were rung. A short business meeting was held in the belfry before tea. Ringers made their own arrangements for tea and afterwards returned to the belfry, where the bells were kept going until 7.15 p.m.

DEATH OF ALFRED J. TURNER.

Alfred J. Turner, of Lewes, whose death we recently reported, rang in all 387 peals. They included five of Cambridge Surprise Royal, one of Double Norwich Royal, eleven of Treble Bob Royal, and sixteen of Plain Bob Royal. Of Caters he rang 34 Stedman and 20 Grandsire.

His Major peals consisted of 41 in the four Standard Surprise methods (mainly on the treble), Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Norwich, Plain Bob and Grandsire. The seven bell peals numbered 143, mostly Stedman and Grandsire, but also including Plain Bob and Union. Three peals were Minor and one Grandsire Doubles.

Mr. Turner called three peals of Grandsire Triples, and one of each Plain Bob Major and Royal.

Mr. Turner taught John S. Goldsmith to handle a bell.

ST. PATRICK'S, HOCKLEY HEATH.

The Church of St. Patrick, Hockley Heath, Warwickshire, erected in 1861, is of red brick in 'Victorian Gothic' style, consisting of aisled nave, chancel and western tower. It stands almost isolated in the fields.

The bells, five in number, were cast by John Warner and Sons when the church was built. In 1937 they were tuned, rehung on ball bearings and part new fittings and the frame strengthened by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, of Croydon.

Although they have been in the tower over eighty years, the peal rung on February 12th by five members of the St. Martin's Guild was the first on them.

A MINIATURE BELL TOWER.

At Balscote Home Farm, near Banbury (Oxon), is a belfry, built over the washhouse, in which are five handbells, hung for ringing, the weight of the tenor being 12 lb.

The tower and bells were originally at Warmington, but when Mr. Jarvis, the owner, moved to Balscote he rebuilt his tower at his new home. The ringing chamber is on the ground floor in the washhouse, and access to the bell chamber is through an orthodox trap-door.

Mr. Jarvis has shown great ingenuity in the hanging of the bells. The frame and fittings are strongly constructed of wood, with the exception of the wheels, which are made from the rims of bicycle wheels, attached to the headstocks by means of wooden spokes. Each bell is weighted with old iron to bring its effectual weight to half a hundredweight. The ropes must necessarily be very light, and plough lines are used for this purpose with sallies worked into them.

Handling in peal is tricky, but not difficult, and last August, after a few ineffectual attempts, the first 120 of Doubles was rung on the bells by a band of visitors.

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President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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In connection with the Henry Johnson luncheon, Birmingham Cath-
edral bells will be available for visitors at 12 noon. St. Martin's bells
will be available immediately after the luncheon.

MR. WILLIAM KEEBLE.

GIFT OF PEAL BOOKS.

Mr. William Keeble, whose many friends will be sorry to learn is
in very poor health, has offered his peal books, which contain the
record of well over 800 peals, to the Society of Royal Cumberland
Youths for safe keeping and future reference. The offer has been
gladly accepted and the books will be formally presented to the society
by Mr. W. H. Fussell at the first favourable opportunity.

A LETTER FROM INDIA.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—We would like you to know how much we appreciate the
good old 'Ringing World' out here. It takes a long time to reach
us, but we read it from cover to cover when it does arrive. The
articles by Mr. Morris and the others are very interesting indeed.
The most annoying thing, though, is that we sometimes fail to get
our copy, due no doubt to our friends the enemy.

H. WOOLASTON, Midland Counties Association.
H. R. BOYNE, Norwich Diocesan Association.

FUNERAL OF MR. FREDERICK G. SYMONDS.

The funeral of Mr. F. G. Symonds, who, as already reported, died
suddenly on February 10th, took place at Southgate Cemetery on the
following Wednesday.

The ringers present included Mr. J. Hawkins, representing the
Ancient Society of College Youths; Messrs. G. H. Cross and G. W.
Steere, Master and secretary of the Royal Cumberland Youths; Mr.
and Mrs. C. J. Matthews, Messrs. A. Hardy and T. Bevan, from St.
Martin-in-the-Fields; and Messrs. J. Armstrong, W. Bowden, M.
Fenson, A. R. Glasscock, J. Miller, H. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. N.
Tomlinson and David Wright, members of the Southgate company.

Mr. Stedman Symonds and Mr. Morris T. Symonds, brother and
nephew of the deceased respectively, and members of the well-known
Lavenham band were also there.

Among the many wreaths were those from Lady Heun-Collins, his
colleagues at the Law Courts, the Cumberland Youths, ringers at
Lavenham and Southgate, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Nash.

At the conclusion of the service a course of Grandsire Triples was
rung over the grave by Messrs. G. H. Cross 1-2, G. W. Steere 3-4, J.
Armstrong 5-6, W. Bowden 7-8.

DEATH OF MR. HARRY SMALE.

The death is announced of Mr. Harry Smale, of Broadstone, Dorset,
which occurred after a short illness. The funeral was at St. James'
Church, Poole, on February 5th, and was conducted by the Rector.
Before the service the bells were rung half-muffled, and after the
reading of the lesson a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on
handbells. The burial was at Broadstone Cemetery. Rounds on hand-
bells were rung after the committal.

Mr. Smale was a native of Harlow, Essex. During the time he
lived in East Dorset he was a regular and valued member of the
band at St. James', Poole.

ACOUSTICS OF THE BELFRY.

THE COUNCIL'S 'IDEAL TOWER.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is well known that the Council's 'ideal' tower is at the Church of the Annunciation, Chislehurst, and if this is the tower to which Mr. Corby refers he might like to know that there are two floors between the ringers and the bells and not one, as he states in his letter.

'K.C.A.' is not correct in his dates, and, moreover, appears to have misunderstood Mr. Roper's letter.

The tower was completed in 1930, the first bell (now the present sixth) installed in 1932 and the following year the Vicar had a floor laid in the webs of the foundation girders which had been provided with the first bell. The octave was completed in 1935.

I see from notes which I made in 1933 that the clock weights are suspended from inside the bell chamber, and that they fall to the floor below the ringers' room, and if the weights have not been encased at least in the bell chamber and ringing room the bells will be unnecessarily loud, and in any case there is ample space between the ringing chamber and the bell chamber for still further floors to be inserted if found necessary, and it should not be impossible to reduce the sound of the bells inside the tower to the pleasant proportions obtaining outside.

R. H. DOVE.

Leeds.

TRURO CATHEDRAL.

Dear Sir,—I have read with interest the articles on acoustics in towers, and I have been hoping someone would come along with a case where only some of the bells are heard away from the tower.

We have a case in Cornwall where only five bells out of eight can be heard properly a short distance from the tower. In 1939 two new bells were added to a ring of six, the old treble was lowered and the two new trebles hung under the other five. A month after the opening I was asked by the church council and ringers to visit the tower in the hope that I could give them some advice.

While the bells were rung I was taken to different parts of the parish to hear the effect. It was certainly disappointing, and one person said we could hear six at one time; now we can only hear five. Inside the tower the bells sound perfect, but the people in the parish are very disappointed. I realised at the time that nothing could be done during the war, but I should be grateful if anyone has some advice to offer so that as soon as possible after the war something could be done to improve this nice ring of eight.

It may interest some ringers to know that in 1910 when Truro Cathedral bells were first rung the tower must have been one of the worst for acoustics, inside and out. It was almost impossible to hear calls made in the belfry, but after a few months the Dean and Chapter had a wood floor put under the bells, 2in. thick and covered with felt. The floor being fastened to the girders carrying the bells, this proved to be just the right thing.

In 1931 four ringers did the steeplekeeping and put the salary towards improvements to the belfry. In 1932 they offered £20 to the Dean and Chapter towards the cost of boarding up the louvres. This was soon done and the people living near the tower were very pleased. Through lack of experience we did not have the job done properly, everything was made a fixture whereas we could easily have had them to open above the bells as we have 13ft. of louvres above the bells when they are up. On occasions when we have rung for something special like victory bells we would have liked to have opened the louvres. We have been disappointed when told by people in some parts of Truro that they did not hear our bells. To end, may I ask which is most important, the sound outside or inside the tower?

W. H. SOUTHEARD.

Bodmin Road, Truro.

MR. CORBY REPLIES.

Dear Sir,—It is most gratifying that my letter should, in part, have prompted such constructive contributions from gentlemen who have made a life study of belfries and their appointment.

It would appear that lack of funds is the difficulty most frequently encountered, and no doubt the responsible authorities sometimes insist upon mispending the funds they have. It would seem that there are many useless augmentations, the cost of which would be better devoted to improving the existing belfry conditions.

I imagine that Mr. Roper's first, second and fourth points would hardly apply in a tower having a band of keen change ringers, but naturally one can believe anything in the case of towers where 'Churchyard Bob' or set changes or any other prostration of the ringers' art reign supreme.

As both Mr. Stevenson and Mr. Roper rightly point out, it is the duty of all of us to do all we can to urge church authorities to do the right thing. It is to be hoped that by closer co-operation in the future the associations, the Central Council, the bell firms and ringers generally will be able to avoid a repetition of past failures. That a peal of bells and the belfry housing them, if not an eternal monument, are a very lasting one, has its disadvantages and responsibilities as well as its compensations.

P. A. CORBY.

Sutton, Ely.

THE BEST PEAL OF BELLS.

WEST COUNTRY RINGS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was a pleasure to read the letter by Mr. Coles in your issue of February 18th and to find a Londoner praising our 'West Country' bells.

There are, as he says, many fine peals in the West and he mentions some of them.

The peal at Ash Priors is mentioned as 'the prettiest peal of six.' In his opinion it may be, but opinions differ and I do not think any one man can say which is the best or the prettiest.

I would like to mention the light musical peal of six at Nether Stowey, Somerset, which I think is one of the finest in the West to listen to, but, again, this is only my opinion.

I have rung there for several years when on leave at my old home, and those bells sound better than anything I have heard when listening to them from the south-east corner of the churchyard or on the Bridgwater road. They sound equally nice in the belfry. They go well, but are not easy to ring, there being a very long draught. They were recast by Taylor in 1914, hung by a local man (Sully, of Stogumber) on plain bearings, and nothing has been done since except the regular and careful application of spanner and oil can by Mr. Redding, to whom I am deeply indebted for teaching me to ring West Country call changes.

During the last few months when on duty in the West Country, I have been able to ring at various places, including Tiverton, which Mr. Coles mentions. That peal of eight is the nicest I have rung on, easy to ring, a large well laid out belfry, the bells sounding equally pleasant both inside and out.

I went up top to see the bells in motion and from an engineering point of view that job takes a lot of beating. The bell chamber was spotlessly clean.

There is a fairly good peal of eight at Torrington, but the method of ringing and the attitude of the ringers rather spoils any attempt.

The ropes are all much too long and the ringers put their arms through the loop at the tail. (I had to ring with three coils round my hand.) The bells are raised in peal, no pause but straight on with the fastest call changes I have ever heard, then lower in peal. The ringers then walk out of the church, and because I stayed for the service (which I like to do after ringing and incidentally think every ringer should do likewise) I was looked on with amazement. Their system appeared very odd to me, and the captain, who has been there over 50 years, said, 'Come again if you've a mind to, I'll make a ringer of 'ee yet.'

May I conclude with a word of thanks to the various captains of towers I have visited in the large area covered by the Southern Command. The welcome invariably given is very much appreciated by us Service men away-from home and unable to ring in towers we like best.

H. J. CANN, Major, Royal Corps of Signals.

DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW.

Dear Sir,—I have been interested in the correspondence in your columns regarding the qualities of rings of bells. It is quite true that no hard and fast rule can be laid down as to what constitutes a good peal, as there are many things to take into consideration, such as tone, situation, time of hearing, etc., and also no general standard can be arrived at, as what would be good to one would arouse no enthusiasm in another.

Some people like a resounding note even to the point of shrillness, while others, myself included, prefer them mellow. A point of agreement is shared, however, by most, where a peal has undoubted good qualities, and in such a case it can be regarded as some sort of standard, although not comprehensive. Such a peal would be found to have certain definite characteristics, viz., they will be of a reasonable weight; they will be complete, i.e., each bell will contain the good qualities of all, the smaller bells being of reasonable size and boldness of tone and not, say, overshadowed by four sonorous back bells. (Quite a few so-called good peals have somewhat mediocre front bells rounded off by back bells of undoubted quality, which, being a good finish to rounds, have misled many indiscriminating listeners to vote the whole peal good.)

Now, I am sure that environment, situation of the church and even bells in that church, opportunity and time of listening, as well as recommendations of disparagement received before making acquaintance with them play an important part in a person's judgment.

To illustrate. The parish church of SS. Peter and Paul, Bromley (now, unfortunately, in ruins), had a nice-toned peal of eight. Pleasant to listen to in tower, church or churchyard and in the adjacent recreation ground, yet in the town, a hundred yards distant, they sounded like a pack of howling dogs. So, a ringer hearing them for the first time from the town would never have a good word for them, while another, listening in the churchyard, would vote them a good peal, as they undoubtedly were.

Before and after settling in Shropshire I had heard of the merits of the ten at Coalbrookdale. I had seen photographs of the valley and church taken from the surrounding heights. Surely in such a pleasant spot there would be a good peal of bells? There is. A really well-balanced, mellow, pleasant toned peal. (I know others in Kent
(Continued on page 85.)

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 53.)

The magnificent church of St. Mary, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, is cruciform in plan with central tower. It is a stately embattled tower with pinnacles and dwarf spire, the stage next above the church roof being 13th century work enriched with much dog-tooth ornament. The top stage is late Perpendicular with groups of four windows, of which the outer two are blind. These groups are identical in design with those at Loughborough and both may have been suggested by that of St. Mary's, Nottingham. A part of the stair turret is probably late Norman work. Both the nave and transepts are embattled with crocketed pinnacles at the ends, and have a fine continuous clerestory comprising twelve large windows on each side of the nave, and six on either side of the transepts, giving a cathedral-like effect.

The tower contains a ring of ten bells with tenor 25½ cwt., and the approach here is direct by spiral stairway from the north transept floor. As early as 1553 there were 'V great bells in the stepyll with ye sance bell,' and from that time onwards the churchwardens' accounts provide interesting notes on repairs and additions to the ring. In 1557 they paid 'iijd for a galland of ale to ye Reyngars when ye bycchype was here.' The great bell of the ring of five appears to have been recast in 1656, and in 1728 they were made six. Various bells were recast, and in 1802 two added, making eight. In 1894 two further bells were added and all rehung in a frame for the ten. In 1878 a carillon machine was fitted by Gillett and Bland and played a series of tunes each day of the week.

The earliest peal I have been able to trace here was on June 1st, 1830, when Leicester ringers rang 5,040 Grand-sire Triples in 3 hours 22 minutes. The first peal on the ten was 5,008 Stedman Caters by Loughborough ringers conducted by the late John W. Taylor. A variety of other peals of Triples, Caters and Royal have been rung, but only one of Major—Double Norwich—conducted by the late C. H. Fowler, rung muffled to the memory of the Duke of Fife on February 3rd, 1912, in 3 hours 35 minutes. It was in this tower that the present writer rang his first as conductor at the age of 18—in 1908—Holt's ten-part of Grandsire Triples.

The church of St. Laurence, Ludlow, Salop, is a spacious cruciform building in Early English and later styles, with a noble lofty central tower 136 feet high. The latter is remarkable for its height and good outline. The buttresses are octagonal, continued above the parapet, and finished each with a small central pinnacle. The parapet is battlemented, incised with an arcade pattern, and supports a medium pinnacle on each face. The windows (or window forms) are large and peculiar; in the top stage very tall, in the middle stage of moderate height. The top windows are blind except for a very small portion of their upper half: on each side of the perforated portions in the window form is a pedestal bearing a statue. The arcades of all the windows are of very flat four centred form. During 1889 to 1891 the tower was completely restored under the direction of Sir A. W. Blomfield.

There is in the tower a ring of eight, tenor 22½ cwt., and a Sanctus. The ring are all by Abr. Rudhall,

of Gloucester, 1732, except the treble, which was recast by J. Taylor and Co. in 1890, who at the same time rehung the bells.

Mr. Walters, in his 'Church Bells of Shropshire,' gives copious notes on these bells, and many interesting extracts from churchwardens' accounts from as early as 1471. One item as late as 1624 is interesting, 'Item paid to William Baker for Draweing the artickles for the Castinge of the two bells and makeinge of six three-quarter wheeles and stocks and hangeinge of them for Draweing and fayer writinge of them & for making two bonds and two acquittances for the same . . . 5s. 6d.'

Ludlow has long been noted for its chimes and from 1795 they have played a series of tunes daily. In 1808 they were repaired, and altered in 1883. When the tower was restored a new chime machine was installed by Leeson, of Coleshill, near Birmingham. It is interesting to note there are 165 steps up to the ringing chamber, and when you get there you are practically in darkness, as there are no windows. There is a circular lead light let in the floor, through which the ringers can look down into the body of the church. As there is scarcely any light obtained from this source, artificial light must be always employed when ringing is in progress. On at least two occasions the office of Mayor of this ancient borough has been held by ringers from this church.

St. Mary's Church, Ashford, Kent, is a cruciform building mainly Perpendicular, with central tower containing 10 bells, a clock with two dials and carillon chimes. The tower follows more or less in plan that of Canterbury Cathedral, but is otherwise in contrast by its peculiar paucity of detail. It is, nevertheless, a success chiefly by reason of the size and judicious placing of its windows. The spirelets have been repaired and apparently reduced in size.

Of the bells, the tenor is 24 cwt. and by Thomas Mears in 1796. The next five bells are all by Joseph Hatch, except the 6th, which is by William Hatch and date from 1620 to 1651. The 3rd and 4th are by Lester and Pack, 1762, and two trebles by Gillett and Co. According to the 'Church Bells of Kent' the two latter bells do not, strictly speaking, form part of the ring, being used for the chimes only. The selection of tunes, one for each day of the week, is not very happy. In 1898 the 8th bell was recast by J. Taylor and Co. and all rehung.

Milton Abbey, Dorset, is dedicated to St. Mary, St. Michael, St. Sampson and St. Branwalader, and was founded here A.D. 937 by King Athelstan. It was constituted an Abbey in King Edgar's time A.D. 964. The original church was burned down to the ground in 1309, and partially rebuilt 1392 to 1417. Later additions were made at various times until the Dissolution in 1539. It was restored in 1865 under the direction of Sir George G. Scott.

Its central tower is a fine composition of Early Perpendicular character, with pierced windows very deeply recessed and well moulded. Rectangular buttresses are placed both beside and between the windows, all the buttresses arising from the solid wall below, beyond the surface of which they do not project. Above the spring of the window arches the buttresses are continued, much reduced in size, as pilasters ending in pinnacles above the parapet. There are thus two pinnacles near each

corner, but not at it, and one in the middle of each side, an arrangement which is paralleled in other Dorset and South Somerset examples. The parapet is straight, perforated with quatrefoils. The stair turret projects at the south-east corner, and to approach the belfry one first ascends a stairway at the north-east corner of the south transept, thence along the transept roof to the central tower.

With regard to the spoliation of the ancient bells of Milton Abbey, in the 'Church Bells of Dorset' (by the late Canon Raven), the following note appears:—'Towards the end of the 18th century, Joseph Damer, Lord Milton (lord of the manor), decided to pull down the old town of Milton. Mr. Harrison, a resident solicitor, put a difficulty in his lordship's way by refusing to sell his lease, although he was offered three times its value. So the water crept around his premises. Mr. Harrison then entered an action against Lord Milton for flooding his house, and the lawyer won his case. A few days afterwards his lordship went to London, and on his way to Blandford he heard the bells of the Abbey Church ringing. This he interpreted as a sign of parochial joy at his defeat and departure; and nothing would satisfy him but the sale of the offending bells. The bells were really ringing to commemorate Guy Fawkes Day; it was the 5th of November. But the bells had to go, for Lord Milton, the autocrat, had spoken; and his friend, the Dean of Norwich, had said that 'bell ringing caused much idleness and drinking.' The great tenor bell, weighing 35 cwt., was sold to Bath Abbey; two other bells were given to St. James' Church, Milton (one of which was cracked by a carpenter striking it with a hammer, at a wedding, just before it was hung); but what became of the Abbey bells is not known. There is a record, however, that when the parishioners saw their old bells carted away, they stood at their house doors weeping.' The old bells were five in number.

At the present time the Abbey tower contains a light peal of eight, tenor about 10 cwt. The front three cast by Llewellyns and James, 1909, and the back five by Warner and Sons, 1861.

The old tenor, sold to Bath Abbey, is not in existence now, having been twice recast since it was sold.

(To be continued.)

THE BEST PEAL OF BELLS

(Continued from page 83.)

and the Eastern Counties as good, of course.) Now in a neighbouring town is a peal of eight. The church is uninteresting to look at, the bells seemed an ordinary, fair-toned peal to me. A young enthusiast, with a passion for bells cast by a certain founder, does not see anything outstanding about Coalbrookdale reiterating that these neighbouring eight are as good, and would sound so if they were in Coalbrookdale church. As an experiment, during ringing one night I closed my eyes and imagined myself at Coalbrookdale, and I can assure you that the bells of the neighbouring town improved in tone beyond belief and I feel I like them a lot better than on my first few visits.

Which just shows you. Or does it?

CYRIL BRETT-SMITH.

TIVERTON BELLS.

Dear Sir,—The best ring of bells I have heard as regards sweetness of music is the Tiverton peal and I have heard a few peals.

The Rev. F. E. Robinson, who rang a peal of Double Norwich on October 15th, 1892, said Tiverton was a fine ring.

A peal of Stedman Triples in this belfry by a good band would be worth listening to, as this method has been termed in Mr. E. Morris' book 'mellow' and 'harmonious.'

J. MAURICE TURNER, Chairman, North-East Devon Guild.

A WOULD-BE DICTATOR.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Recently a letter appeared in a certain journal criticising our long-winded democratic methods of meetings, committees and all the rest of it, suggesting that results ought to be obtained in half the time. It immediately brought to my mind the question of democracy versus the dictatorship, and led me to the thought—where should I start if I was given the position of supreme dictator of the ringing exercise.

What a beautiful thought—give my orders, all my pet theories put into practice. But wait a minute. Ringing has just passed through its most critical period for centuries. It makes it a bit more difficult perhaps, but anyway there's no harm in having a try—no one else seems to have any very startling ideas about putting ringing back on its feet.

It would be an excellent place for a dictator to start. How should I get more ringers? Well on that well-worn topic there is not much new to be said, but I would turn over all propaganda to encouraging instructors and their young charges. The supreme place in the Exercise would be given to those men who could claim the most impressive record as instructors. The limelight would be turned on them, full candlepower, and on the results they achieved.

All the quarter-peals and peals would be given a prominent place in 'The Ringing World,' provided they had at least one first of some sort and the younger the better. There would be no encouragement for peal-hogs, all peals rung for the sake of peal ringing would be put under miscellaneous performances in much the same way as quarter-peals are at present—that is until such times as the Exercise could afford to ring peals as a bit of reward for its labours in building itself up.

Another decree I should issue immediately would be to see that all ringers in the Forces, without a ringing contact in civilian life, were contacted and kept interested as potential manpower when they are demobilised. Any association, or district of an association, not holding meetings would have to give a very good reason for not doing so, and whatever the reasons I should make determined efforts to start them off again. How many districts are reaping the benefit to-day for their efforts to keep going during the very dark days?

So much for putting ringing on its feet, and now another problem. Overlapping would have to be ironed out. All this business of Diocesan Guilds and County Associations or Guilds would have to end. It would have to be one or the other, and as dictator I should say keep to the county boundaries. Very few ringers think of their ringing except by its geographical connections, and we may as well fashion the Exercise along these lines, making the big ringing centres the nucleus of the ringing in the county in which they find themselves.

But what of London? That will give any dictator a headache. Why? Well, London ringing wants welding into one united whole, and it will take a very good man to achieve this end, without treading on the corns of its four societies. What a prospect if it could be done! Grand peals of bells of all numbers, many excellent ringers. Well, as a dictator I should make that an aim of mine and chance the consequences.

The London postal district would become the area of the London Society and all the present societies would retain their individuality, but be part of a united whole working together and not against each other.

Well, that would be a fairly good start for a dictator and should be enough to be going on with. Until I can perfect further plans maybe there are other potential dictators with ideas. I should like to hear them.

'ICEN.'

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT LEATHERHEAD.

The annual meeting of the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild was held at Leatherhead on February 5th and was attended by nearly 50 members from a wide area.

The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge, who also took the chair at the tea and business meeting.

Six honorary members and eight ringing members were elected. The accounts showed a satisfactory balance in hand, for since the lifting of the ban more subscriptions had been paid.

The district officers were re-elected, the Rev. L. Storey, of Dorking, taking the place of the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge as representative on the General Executive Committee. Miss Hilda Miles, of Claygate, was appointed assistant secretary.

It was agreed that the joint meeting with the Surrey Association should be held at Leatherhead on August Monday, and it was left to the Ringing Master and secretary to arrange other meetings as the occasion permitted. It was hoped that this year a more representative pilgrimage to the grave of J. S. Goldsmith would be possible.

The ringing was in a variety of methods from rounds to Cambridge Royal, an encouraging sign being the number of young ringers taking part. A good fall in peal finished off the day.

LIVERPOOL.—At the Church of St. Peter, Woolton, 1,260 Stedman Triples: T. W. Hammond 1, A. Lintott 2, G. H. Hesketh 3, T. W. Gilmore 4, E. Boulphrey 5, G. R. Newton 6, P. W. Cave (conductor) 7, W. Robinson 8.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

DEVIZES.—On February 2nd, at St. James', 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss Olive Hunt (first attempt) 1, A. T. Weeks 2, Peter Hunt 3, J. S. Weeks (conductor) 4, David Lye 5, F. Edwards 6.—On Sunday, February 6th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss Olive Hunt 1, A. T. Weeks 2, J. S. Weeks (conductor) 3, P. J. F. Hunt 4, D. J. Lye 5, K. Abrahams 6. A welcome to the Rev. G. Hamilton Douglas as Vicar of St. Peter's, Devizes.

SUDEBURY, SUFFOLK.—On February 5th, at St. Gregory's, 448 Cambridge Surprise Major: H. Herbert 1, T. Bird 2, T. Chinery 3, C. Clarke 4, A. Haynes 5, L. Johnson 6, T. Howell 7, D. Elliott (conductor) 8.—On Sunday, February 6th, 1,264 Bob Major: G. Dixon 1, A. Fitch 2, T. Chinery 3, C. Clarke 4, A. Haynes 5, L. Johnson 6, S. Howell 7, D. Elliott (conductor) 8.

OXHEY, HERTS.—On February 6th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: H. Hayes 1, H. Hodgetts 2, W. Attwood (first quarter-peal with inside bell) 3, L. Tarr 4, J. Robson (conductor) 5, E. Rosson 6.—On February 8th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Doubles: Miss T. Waldron 1, H. Hodgetts 2, J. Rosson 3, L. Tarr 4, F. W. Brinklow (conductor) 5, W. Attwood 6. First quarter-peal of Stedman Doubles by all the band.

ALLESLEY, COVENTRY.—On Sunday, February 6th, for evensong, 720 London Surprise Minor, C. H. Avlett 1, H. G. Summers 2, J. W. T. Taylor (first in the method) 3, J. W. Taylor 4, F. W. Perrens (conductor) 5, W. A. Stote 6.

FARNHAM ROYAL.—On Sunday, February 6th, for evensong, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. H. Fussell 1, F. Hicks 2, N. Harding 3, W. Henley 4, A. R. Gale (first quarter-peal as conductor) 5, J. Barkus 6, A. Levitt 7, A. Alley (first quarter-peal) 8. Rung for the baptism of the conductor's youngest daughter.

HEREFORD.—At St. Bartholomew's, Holmer, on February 6th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor: J. W. Downes 1, Miss J. Wheeler 2, F. E. Downes 3, Ivor Probert 4, A. E. Hurcombe 5, P. O. Salmon (conductor) 6.

HINCKLEY.—On Sunday, February 6th, for evensong, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Walter P. Whitehead 1, George Thompson 2, Edgar H. Vallance 3, Cyril Ison 4, Leonard Trevor 5, Bert Ridgway 6, Frank Trotman (first quarter-peal as conductor and first attempt) 7, P. O. Percy Moore 8.

DEPTFORD.—At St. John's, on Sunday, February 6th, for morning service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: E. S. Owen 1, T. A. Easterby 2, F. S. Bacon 3, F. W. Richardson 4, G. H. Daynes 5, F. Shorter (conductor) 6, H. Clark 7, C. D. Letzer 8.

PINCHBECK, LINCOLNSHIRE.—On February 11th, 1,264 Bob Major: Miss N. Wigington 1, J. Curry 2, G. Sewell 3, C. Rawding 4, J. Pepper 5, J. Ames 6, W. A. Richardson 7, C. R. Burrell (conductor) 8.

CONGRESBURY.—On Saturday, February 12th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Major J. H. B. Hesse, *H. L. F. Derrick, G. Oliver, E. F. Hancock, P.-Lieut. Glenn (conductor), *E. F. Shearn, F. Skidmore, E. Fisher. *First quarter-peal of Stedman Triples. Rung for the coming of age of Miss Ruth Knight, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Knight.

STROUD, GLOS.—On Saturday, February 12th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: C. J. Jordon 1, W. Staite 2, F. Cole 3, G. Goulding (conductor) 4, T. Pritchard 5, T. Price 6, W. Dean 7, C. Launder 8. A compliment to F. Cole, who attained his 80th birthday on February 9th and has been a ringer for over 60 years.

MANCHESTER.—On February 12th, at the Town Hall, 1,278 Grandsire Caters: S. Briggs (conductor) 1, A. Barnes 2, W. Robinson 3, W. W. Wolstencroft 4, F. Reynolds 5, F. Yates 6, W. Pye 7, B. Thorpe 8, F. R. Williams 9, R. Benson 10.

BEXLEY, KENT.—On Sunday, February 13th, 1,264 Bob Major: A. Ball 1, *D. L. Hall 2, Mrs. J. E. Bailey 3, *V. J. Benning 4, H. A. Holden 5, H. Hoverd 6, A. G. Hall 7, J. E. Bailey (conductor) 8. *First quarter-peal of Major.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Sunday, January 29th, at the Parish Church, 720 Bob Minor: Lieut. M. Routh (first 720) 1, Miss D. Fletcher 2, Rev. R. Routh 3, R. Buckland 4, W. Lee 5, H. Wingrove (conductor) 6.—On Friday, February 18th, 720 Bob Minor: Miss M. Wingrove 1, Lieut. M. Routh (first 720 inside) 2, Rev. R. Routh 3, R. Buckland 4, W. Lee 5, H. Wingrove (conductor) 6, Cadet Officer A. Routh tenor.—At 11, Aylesbury End, on January 17th, 1,280 Bob Major on handbells: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, W. Lee 3-4, Miss D. Fletcher 5-6, Miss K. Fletcher 7-8.—On February 8th, 1,280 Bob Major: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, W. Lee 3-4, Miss D. Fletcher 5-6, Lieut. M. Routh (first quarter-peal on handbells) 7-8.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BULWELL.

Twenty-five members attended the annual meeting of the Nottingham District of the Midland Counties Association, which was held on February 5th at Bulwell. They represented Basford, Cotgrave, Daybrook, Greasley, Holmepierpont, Nottingham (St. Mary's and St. Peter's), Sawley and the local belfry. Visitors were present from Trumpington and Crayford.

Tea in the Parish Hall was arranged by Mr. F. Smith, of the local company, and was followed by the business meeting. Mr. T. Groombridge, jun., the district secretary, in his report, said that during the past year two peals of Bob Minor had been rung on handbells and two of Bob Major on tower bells. Service ringing and the teaching of recruits had been well attended to. The number of members could not be given, as particulars were not yet to hand, but was about that of the year 1940. Three members had passed away, E. Chasty, of Long Eaton, E. Foster, of Southwell, and M. H. Moseley, of Kelham College. The last was killed in action. The number of members who had lapsed during the ban was about made good by 28 who had joined or rejoined. Four towers had disappeared from the 1940 list, but three others were added. Monthly meetings had been held, the attendance averaging from 40 to 60 in the summer, and 12 to 20 during the black-out period.

Meetings were arranged for Daybrook on April 1st, and Sandiacre on May 6th. The secretary was instructed to approach the Derby District to see whether a joint meeting could be arranged in June. Two members were elected.

Mr. R. Narborough was reappointed district chairman, and Mr. T. Groombridge district secretary. It was decided to create a new office of Ringing Master and to appoint Mr. Groombridge for the coming year.

Mr. Groombridge urged local bands to bring their recruits for election as members as soon as they were qualified, and not to sacrifice good striking to the ambition of ringing more advanced methods. He asked the members to support 'The Ringing World.'

Thanks were given to the curate-in-charge and to Mr. F. Smith. The methods rung ranged from rounds to Cambridge Surprise Major.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT STRATTON.

Eight local towers were represented at a meeting of the Swindon Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, held at Stratton St. Margaret on February 12th, and there were visitors present from Bromham, Beds, and Rochester and Ashford, Kent.

Thirty-three persons sat down to tea, which was provided by Mrs. Moulden, wife of the local captain, and other ladies.

On behalf of the local ringers, the Vicar, the Rev. E. R. Salter, presented Mr. George Lancaster with pipes and tobacco on his retiring from active ringing. Mr. Lancaster is 84 years of age and is in very good health except for failing sight, which has brought about his retirement.

Four members of the local band were elected members of the association, and Mr. Harry Parkes and Flight-Sergt. T. Cullingworth were elected life members.

The methods rung ranged from Grandsire Triples to Cambridge Surprise Major.

EAST GRINSTAD GUILD.

MEETING AT WADHURST.

At a meeting of the East Grinstead and District Guild held at Wadhurst on February 12th, twenty ringers were present from East Grinstead, Hartfield, Hawkhurst, Lamberhurst, Paddock Wood, Rotherfield, Thorne (Yorks), Tunbridge Wells, Wadhurst and Uckfield.

Several Minor and Doubles methods were rung, some of the local band received instruction in hunting, and rounds were rung for beginners.

LONGBRIDGE DEVERILL, WILTS.—On February 7th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: *Mrs. A. D. Pearson 1, E. C. Marlow 2, E. F. White 3, *C. N. Pearson 4, W. A. Avery (conductor) 5, H. Trollope 6. *First quarter-peal.

HARLOW COMMON, ESSEX.—On Saturday, February 12th, a quarter-peal of Bob Major: Lewis Whitby 1, Vincent Tipton 2, Stanley Clark 3, Fred Whitby 4, Robert Springman 5, Lewis Cordell 6, James Aley (first quarter-peal) 7, William Wheeler (conductor) 8. Rung half-muffled as a token of respect to the late Harry Smale, formerly an esteemed member of the band, who was laid to rest at Broadstone, Dorset, on the previous Saturday.

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NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, Feb. 26th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.—A. B. Peck; 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—Annual meeting at Banstead, Saturday, Feb. 26th, 3.30. Service 5.15, followed by tea and meeting.—D. Cooper, Hon. Dis. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Hawkhurst, Saturday, Feb. 26th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 4.45.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at St. Michael's, Headingley, Saturday, Feb. 26th, 3 p.m. Own arrangements for tea. Business meeting 6.30 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds, 12.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Conisborough, Feb. 26th, 3 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided at small charge.—W. E. Lloyd, Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—Meeting at Measham, Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—Meeting, Slough, Saturday, Feb. 26th. Bells 3 to 5 p.m.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—Annual meeting, Burgess Hill, Saturday, March 4th, 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. Names by March 1st.—Mrs. E. L. Hairs, Hon. Sec., The Oaks, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Meeting and unveiling of Memorial Tablet at Ilkeston on Saturday, March 4th, 2 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Names to Mr. E. F. Gobey, 2, Shipstone Street, Ilkeston, by Wednesday, March 1st.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern and Western Districts.—Joint meeting at Chester-le-Street, Saturday, March 4th, 2.30 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—J. A. Brown, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Finchdale Terrace, Chester-le-Street.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—Meeting at St. George's, Bolton, Saturday, March 4th, 3 p.m. Business 6.30 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Danbury on March 4th. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. Numbers for tea by March 1st.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—Henry Johnson Commemoration luncheon at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 4th, 1.30 p.m. Tickets to fully paid up ringing members 2s. each; to other members and friends 6s. 6d. each. Early application is requested as the number is strictly limited.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Rural Branch.—Meeting at Westerleigh, Saturday, March 4th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business to follow. Advise for tea.—R. C. Gifford, Diamond Jubilee, Short Hill Road, Westerleigh.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Shenley, Sat., March 4th, 2.30. Service 3.30 p.m., followed by meeting. No tea. Lough-ton bells available.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan and Preston Branches.—Joint meeting at Coppull on Saturday, March 4th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—S. Forshaw and F. Rigby, Branch Secs.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Combined practice at All Saints', Wokingham, Saturday, March 4th, 6-9 p.m.—B. C. Castle, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Meeting at St. Matthew's, Oxhey, Saturday, March 4th, 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea 5.30. Names for tea by March 1st.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—Meeting at Staverton (6 bells), Saturday, March 4th. Usual arrangements. Notify for tea.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn and Rossendale Branches.—Joint meeting Helmsshore, Saturday, March 4th, 2.30 p.m. Bring food.—F. Hindle, 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Draycott (8 bells), Saturday, March 4th. Notify Mr. T. Shelley, Cresswell Farm, Blythe Bridge, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, for tea, before Feb. 29th.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

EAST DERBY AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Ringing meeting at South Norman-ton, on Saturday, March 4th, 3 p.m. Bring own food. Tea provided.—J. W. England, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—Meeting at Kendal (10 bells), Saturday, March 4th, 2.30 p.m. Tea 4 p.m. Meeting to follow. Names for tea to Mr. L. Townley, 3, Charles Street, Kendal, by Feb. 28th.—N. M. Newby.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—Meeting at Weston, Bath, Saturday, March 11th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Number for tea by Tuesday, 7th.—N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Weston, Bath.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Annual meeting, Christ Church, Blacklands, Hastings, March 11th, 2.30 to 8 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names to John Downing, Acting Hon. Sec., 2, Hughenden Road, Hastings.

STANTON-IN-THE-PEAK.—On February 5th, 720 Rob Minor: E. Paulson 1, R. Allsop 2, B. Allsop 3, V. Boltonley 4, G. H. Paulson (conductor) 5, H. E. Taylor 6.

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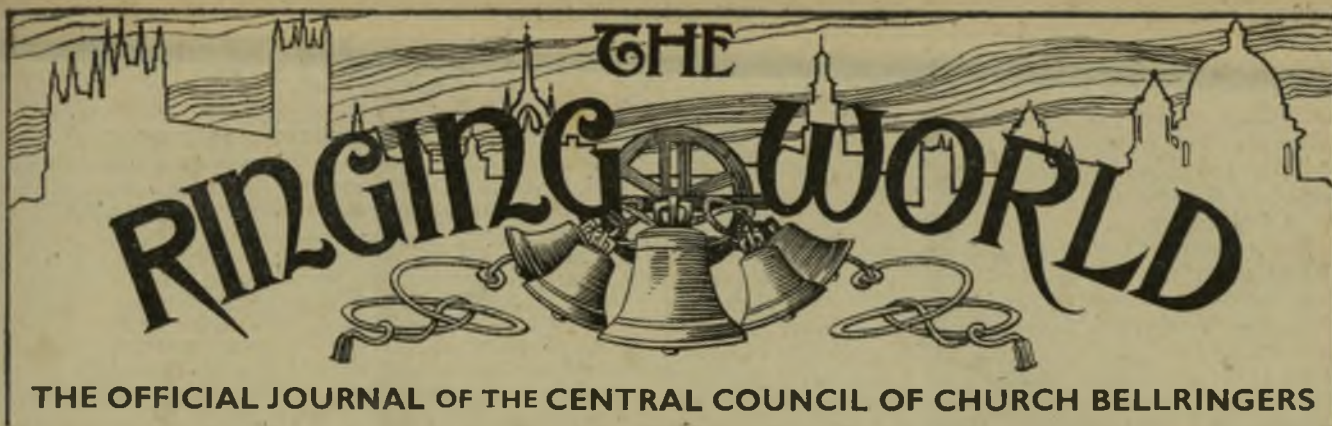


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RHYTHM.

One of the most important things relating to change ringing—perhaps at this present time the most important thing of all—is to make ringers realise the part rhythm plays in their art. Rhythm is one of those broad principles, like symmetry and balance, which lie at the base of many human activities and form in some subtle and inexplicable way the test by which they are judged. They are none the less vital because they are usually ignored or taken for granted.

It is probably no more than the bare historical fact to say that, while ringing began as an athletic sport, it was kept alive and developed by a science which is strictly mathematical, and an art which is based on rhythm. That being so, rhythm must have been one of the main things which have dominated ringers throughout the ages, though the great majority of them never so much as heard of the word. They were like the man in Molière's play who learned with astonishment that he had been talking prose all his life. The best of the old ringers did recognise rhythm when it came prominently before their attention. They talked about the bells 'settling down to a beat,' which meant something quite different from that other expression often used—'clock-work striking.' Clock-work striking, even if it is attained, is not ideal striking, and it is notorious that changes rung by a machine are lifeless, monotonous, and not worth listening to.

It is fortunate that a sense of rhythm is natural to most men. Some have it in a much more marked degree than others, but very few are wholly deficient. The problem is how best to develop and utilise this general gift. It is easiest when a man is associated with a band which has an old tradition and a high standard of good striking, but all ringers are not so fortunate. The majority never have an opportunity of hearing the very best striking, for it occurs comparatively rarely and during peal ringing. The man who has to obtain his standards of striking from experience is naturally at a loss, for he can never rise higher than his environment. What is necessary is for the man to have an ideal and a standard higher than anything he can normally hope to reach.

To do this the man should deliberately and consciously develop the sense of rhythm he possesses. He should train his ears to follow the beat of the bells in the same way a musician appreciates correct time in the perform-

(Continued on page 90.)

ance of music. And not only to follow it, but to expect it and to take notice of deficiencies. This is not a very easy thing to do. Bad striking, of course, anyone can recognise; but to appreciate the difference between fair striking and good striking, between good striking and better, and especially in what the difference lies, calls for a trained ear.

The reason why we said that this matter is specially important at the present time is this. The Exercise is now receiving a new generation of ringers and, after the war, though there will be quite enough older men to preserve general continuity, the whole body will in some respects be profoundly changed as it was after the last war. Now is a time when new ideas and new aspects of old ideas can be introduced. If it were possible to start the newcomers with a sense of the importance of rhythm the general gain would be enormous. It is not merely that the standard of striking would be raised. The sense of rhythm helps the ringer in almost every branch of his art. The tenor man whose mind is dominated by the rhythm of the changes will find his actual physical exertions very much lessened. The handling of any bell is made easier and better. A sense of rhythm removes much of the difficulties of method ringing, it enormously increases the enjoyment and interest of the art, and it adds to the outside effect which should not be the least of the aims of the ringers.

THE BEST PEAL OF BELLS.

SOME WEST COUNTRY RINGS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I also have heard Mr. J. T. Dyke say that if Ditchet bells were in Chewton tower they would sound the better peal. In August, 1926, we were on a ringing tour in the West. One evening an argument arose, which were the better peal, Chewton or Ditchet, and I said I thought Ditchet was. I was in the minority. The late Mr. Price Taylor was one of the party and said Ditchet was the better peal in his opinion. His firm cast, tuned and hung both peals. Both are a credit to their founders in my opinion.

Re Mr. Coles' question about the eleventh at Exeter. I do not think she is the best bell for her weight ever cast. I have heard bells of about the same weight and note cast in recent years from Loughborough, Whitechapel and Croydon that I liked better.

In reply to Mr. Richard G. Bell's letter, I did not mention Congressbury's fine peal of eight because they do not compare with Ditchet or Chewton in weight. I should very much like the opinion of other ringers that know both Congressbury and Wedmore. Their weights differ. Congressbury tenor is, in my opinion, 34 to 35 cwt. Wedmore tenor is 40 cwt. 3 lb. Their note is very nearly the same, C, but the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th at Wedmore are heavier than the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th at Congressbury. The trebles in both cases are about the same weight. Before I could express my own opinion I should want to hear both peals again outside the tower. Both, in my opinion, are very good. What about Chew Magna? They are about the same weight as Wedmore.

JOHN H. B. HESSE.

Wrington.

A HAMPSHIRE OCTAVE.

Dear Sir,—Opinions will always differ on this subject, but it is interesting to hear what other ringers term their best peal of bells.

For a medium peal of eight I should regard Privett (Hants) as an ideal, and Sunbury-on-Thames as a good second. For peals of ten I would vote for Plymouth (St. Andrew's) and Wrington. On twelve my choice would be Exeter Cathedral.

Speaking of Privett, some years ago the Rev. F. E. Robinson was asked which was the best peal of eight he had heard, and his reply was Privett. True this was only the opinion of one ringer, but over 30 years ago, after having listened to many loud praises of this ring, I paid several visits to Privett in order that I could hear them both in and out of the tower. My only regret was that such a very fine peal of bells could only be appreciated by a few people.

W. SHEPHERD.

22, Chapel Grove, Addlestone.

NORTHFIELD, BIRMINGHAM.—On Saturday, February 5th, 1,344 London Surprise Major: Major J. Pinfold 1, H. H. Fearn 2, D. T. Matkin 3, W. B. Cartwright (conductor) 4, W. C. Dowding 5, N. J. Goodman 6, G. E. Fearn 7, F. E. Haynes 8.

TEN BELL PEAL.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1944, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES:

Tenor 21 cwt.

*JILL POOLE Treble	†HERBERT PERKINS ... 6
†JOHN R. SMITH 2	‡SIDNEY O. CHENEY ... 7
MRS. H. J. POOLE ... 3	HAROLD J. POOLE ... 8
HARRY WAYNE 4	G. STEDMAN MORRIS ... 9
SHIRLEY BURTON 5	ARTHUR DEBENHAM ... Tenor

Composed by WILLIAM WILLSON. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* First peal of Stedman Caters on tower bells. † First peal of Stedman Caters. ‡ 50th peal for the association.

SIX BELL PEAL.

WHIMPLE, DEVONSHIRE.

THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 26, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES:

Tenor 12 cwt. 2 qr. 15 lb. in G.

MRS. A. HOLWAY ... Treble	*GEORGE RETTER ... 4
*MISS QUEENIE PRING ... 2	A. J. BRIAN WAYMAN ... 5
JOHN SALWAY 3	ARTHUR J. C. HOLWAY ... Tenor

Conducted by A. J. BRIAN WAYMAN.

* First peal and first attempt. First peal of Grandsire and first peal as conductor.

HANDBELL PEALS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Fri., Feb. 25, 1944, in Two Hours and Five Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES:

Tenor size 15 in C.

*SHEILA M. MCKAY ... 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE 5-6
BETTY SPICE 3-4	ALAN WHITE 7-8

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

* First attempt for a peal.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Feb. 27, 1944, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT ST. PETER'S HALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES:

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor 15 in C.

MISS JESSIE C. CHICK ... 1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS 5-6
MRS. F. J. MARSHALLSAY 3-4	FRANCIS S. WILSON 7-8

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

A birthday compliment to Mr. Francis S. Wilson.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT LEYTONSTONE.

The annual meeting of the South-Western Division of the Essex Association was held at St. John's, Leytonstone, on February 12th, when about 40 members and friends were present from Romford, Barking, Leyton, Woodford, Wanstead, Hornchurch, West Ham and the local band.

Methods were rung ranging from Grandsire to Surprise. The service was conducted by the Rev. J. A. Stanley, who took the chair at the tea and business meeting which followed. All the officers were re-elected and were thanked for their past services. The secretary reported that four meetings had been held, 14 members had been elected and two members had died. Collections for the Bell Restoration Fund had amounted to £2 4s. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Hornchurch in April.

The Master, Mr. J. Chalk, reported the sudden death of Mrs. Petty, of Wanstead, always a welcome visitor at district meetings, and the death of a ringing member, Mr. Peter Ockenden, of Fobbing, who met with a fatal accident returning from work.

Thanks were given to the Rev. J. A. Stanley, to the organist, Mr. Wilshire, to the ladies who served the tea, and to Mr. Dawson.

PAUL REVERE.

By DR. ARTHUR H. NICHOLS.

(Continued from page 81.)

It is a curious fact that inferior bells, when placed in a favourable environment, may emit a pleasing sound; hence some of Revere's bells, hung in a lofty belfry, upon a hill top, or on a plain surrounded by hills, have attained a fair reputation, though in reality their nominals, or tonics, may vary very widely from a true chord. As a practical ringer Revere excelled in his hangings and fittings, and his bells being therefore evenly adjusted and swinging with velocity were easily managed and their sounds fully brought out. To Revere is to be accorded the honour of introducing a new handicraft into Massachusetts, while his meritorious endeavour to excel in all branches of campanology should endear his name to the devotees of that art. After his death the business was carried on by his son, Joseph, until, in 1828, it passed to the Revere Copper Company which never undertook bell-casting.

In connection with the loss of many historic bells we must deplore the frequent manner of their destruction at the hands of a bungling sexton by clapping, or striking a heavy blow when the instrument is at rest in a fixed position, a malpractice not permitted by English ringing guilds.

It was by such an abuse that the first Liberty bell was cracked, shortly after it had been raised to the steeple; and its successor was likewise broken by being tolled on July 8th, 1835, as a mark of respect to the memory of Chief Justice John Marshall, of Virginia, then lying dead in Philadelphia. By some American founders an especial instrument for the speedy destruction of their bells is supplied in the shape of a supplementary tolling hammer, which is quite superfluous, inasmuch as tolling is in reality easily performed by swinging the bell.

On occasions of mourning, a still more impressive effect is secured by the half-muffled peal of six, eight or ten bells, in which the clappers, reinforced on one side by a disk of leather, emit alternately a series of full and then suppressed tones. The twelve heavy bells of St. Paul's, London, were thus pealed by the 'College Youths' upon the decease of the late President McKinley, in 1902.

Dr. Nichols concluded his article with a list of 46 bells, which he said 'is believed to include every bell inscribed with the name of Paul Revere as founder.' In 1911 he published a book of 40 pages dealing with the 'Bells of Paul and Joseph W. Revere,' from which the following is extracted.

In the 'Boston Gazette' of March 12th, 1770, appeared the following advertisement—A Bell Foundry lately erected by Aaron Hobart, of Abington (by an air furnace), where bells are cast of any size suitable for Churches. Enquire of Joseph Webb, of Boston, or the said Hobart.'

Additional information relative to the establishment of this foundry, probably the first of its kind in America, is contained in Hobart's 'History of Abington, Mass.,' wherein it is stated that in 1761 a deserter from the British army, Gillmore, at one time a workman in an English foundry, was employed by Col. Aaron Hobart and retained in service for many years. Besides casting two bells for the First Religious Society, in use till about 1850, he sold others to adjoining and remote towns and some to go out of the State.

It was this enterprise of Col. Hobart which later led Paul Revere to add bell casting to his versatile work; for when the former gave up business he sent one of his sons with a blacksmith to Boston and taught Revere to mould and cast the first bell which he ever made. Prior to 1770 a few bells had been cast in the Colonies, notably the first Liberty bell made in Philadelphia in 1753 by Pass and Snow; and that of the First Baptist Church, Providence, recast in 1787 at the Hope Furnace by Jesse Goodyear. As a rule, however, all bells had been ordered up to this time from the Whitechapel Foundry, London, or from Rudhall in Gloucester.

This first bell was cast at the foundry in Boston, where, for four years, Revere had been making brass cannon, bolts, spikes, and other composition work. It proved to be a rough unhomogeneous casting, and its sound was correspondingly harsh, panny, and unmusical. Hung in the belfry of the New Brick Church, its shrill tone and convenient location rendered it, however, useful in sounding fire alarms, but its carrying power was far less than that of the Old South and King's Chapel; hence its more powerful neighbour of the New North was rung at morning, noon, and night as long as that custom was kept up. The steeple, rebuilt in 1844, was blown over in the gale of 1869, and the bell was then placed in storage till 1901, when it was sold to St. James' Church, Cambridge, where it is still doing active service.

Revere learned, as the result of his first experience in this new craft, that the art of bell founding is intricate, subtle, and of infinite difficulty. Every minute detail in the construction of a bell is important; and it is only by long experience that mastery of these details is acquired; while certain processes essential for the production of a harmonious instrument, discovered either accidentally or by empirical methods, have been preserved by certain founders as secrets. Thus it will be seen that the qualifications for this art are manifold, involving the knowledge of the construction of a core and cope to form the mould, which must be accurate in its contour and varying thicknesses, while large and small bells require different shapes.

Another element is the selection of the copper and tin to form the amalgam; for the metals of different mines differ as to their sonorous properties as well as in brittleness. Then there is the matter of fusing the amalgam, the selection of fuel (wood, charcoal, coke or coal) used to heat the furnace; the length of time in which the amalgam is kept within the furnace and the rapidity of running the metal; for failure in any one of these things may result in miscarriage. Finally, the delicate adjustment of the bell upon bearings in the cage or frame demands a skilled hand and practical knowledge of ringing, for very little friction may render the bell virtually unringable.

(To be continued.)

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY

MEETING AT CROFTON.

A meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Crofton on February 12th, at which the following towers were represented: Arksey, Batley, Bushey, Earlsheaton, Felkirk, Liversedge, Sandal, Shelley, Sherburn-in-Elmet, Sprotborough, Sutton, near Mansfield, Ossett and the local belfry.

The vice-president, Mr. J. W. Moxon, took the chair at the business meeting, at which Darfield was selected as the place of the March meeting. The methods rung during the afternoon ranged from Grand-sire Doubles to Cambridge Surprise Minor.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official Journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING.

To the Editor.

Sir,—It seems most unfortunate that the Standing Committee of the Central Council should have fixed on Whit Monday for a meeting of the Council. For very many years several of the largest associations have held their annual general meetings on this day. As a consequence of the action taken by the Standing Committee rival loyalties will pull representatives in opposing directions.

Opinions as to the relative importance of these engagements will differ, but in my view at any rate, while we should all recognise gratefully the inestimable services rendered to the Exercise by the Central Council, the annual general meeting of the home association should have first call on its members.

Up to the present the Council itself has accepted this attitude by scrupulously abstaining from holding its meeting on a day earmarked for meetings of any of its constituent bodies. Granted that these are difficult days in which to get together bodies of representative men and women, is it too much to ask the Standing Committee to think again?
E. S. POWELL.

Staverton Vicarage, Daventry.

HOW FAR CAN BELLS BE HEARD?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I noted with interest the query as to the greatest distances at which any of our bells have been heard.

A great deal depends on the local atmospheric conditions at the time. In hot weather the temperature is greater near the ground than higher up, and as the velocity of sound increases with temperature, the sound waves 'curl' away from the ground. In cold weather, especially when snow is on the ground, the temperature of the atmosphere is greater higher up, and so the waves tend to curl down and travel over greater distances on the earth's surface.

Wind has a similar effect. The velocity of the wind increases with height, so with a following wind the waves travel along the surface, while in a head wind they rise from the ground.

Thus the ideal conditions for bells to be heard over great distances are to be found when listening in cold weather when the wind is blowing from the direction of the tower.

I once heard quite distinctly the bells of Arlecdon, Cumberland (tenor 14½ cwt.), from a distance of four miles on a warm summer evening. I was, however, on a hill top some 1,200ft. higher than the church.

I have also been told that, under suitable conditions, the bells of Bridekirk, eleven miles away, can be heard from the top of Arlecdon tower. While I have not had this experience myself, I have often heard distinctly a pit winding engine seven miles away, and air raid sirens from a town ten miles away.
J. MERRITT.

Hulme Hall, Victoria Park, Manchester.

AN APPRECIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I would be glad if you could find space in your valuable paper for me to say how very much I have enjoyed reading every one of the series of articles entitled 'The handling of a bell.' I don't know who is the author, and now that they have come to a conclusion I would gratefully like to say, 'Thank you.'

Milton, Staffs.

JOHN E. WHEELDON.

HANDLING A BELL.

THE MECHANICS OF RAISING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Is your contributor right in your issue of February 11th in his advice on raising a heavy bell? In particular as to the length of pull? It is true we are told that within limits a long pull is good, but we are given to understand that a heavy pull at some particular point is better.

Consideration of the mechanics of the subject would seem to indicate that the length of pull is, in fact, the determining factor.

It can hardly be correct to say that gravity comes strongly into action at some particular point of the swing. So far as the ringer is concerned all that gravity does is to set him the simple task of lifting the weight of the bell through a height corresponding to the vertical distance between the centre of gravity when down and up. The momentum resulting from gravity and acceleration on the downward swing being expended on the upward swing. Whatever may be the effect of these heavy forces on the frame and tower, they only affect the ringer indirectly by their influence on bearing friction.

He performs his task by a number of pulls just as the bellhanger did if he lifted the bell into the frame with a pulley-block, and the length of pull in relation to the height gained gives him the same mechanical advantage as the pulley-block, and is the velocity ratio. No one will dispute that the farther the hand chain of the pulley-block travels the higher the load will go. The same applies to the bell and ringer if he takes full advantage of the length of swing. Accuracy of timing is essential to obtain the longest possible length of pull within the swing of the bell by starting at the earliest practicable moment, and although it might be argued that acceleration due to gravity will prevent him maintaining the initial weight of pull throughout its length, in practice the speed reached is moderate within the span of a man's reach.

The explanation of the heavy work half-way up is that while in the case of the pulley-block the velocity ratio is constant, it is not in the case of the bell, which rises on a radius struck from the gudgeon instead of up a straight line. In consequence, it varies from a maximum at the bottom and top dead centres to a minimum at the horizontal dead centres, and one of two things must result. If the rate of rise is constant, the ringer's effort must rise to a maximum half-way up: if the effort is constant the rate of rise must slow to a minimum half-way up.

A. W. DAVIS.

Hereford.

[We thank Mr. Davis for his criticism, but we would point out that our articles were written on the basis of over fifty years' close observation and practical experience of bells of all weights and conditions of hanging. We deliberately ignored any considerations of theoretic mechanics. Our point is that it is more important for the ringer to pay attention to correct timing than to length of pull, or even to strength of pull, although, of course, they are important too. We are quite sure that it is a sound one.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World.']

ONE OR TWO POINTS.

Sir,—May I express my appreciation of the recent articles on 'Handling a Bell'? Used rightly they were invaluable. I think ringing instructors realised that there are sometimes two or three reasonably different ways of teaching the smaller points and that these articles did not lay down hard and fast rules.

Every recruit requires individual attention, and if the instructor can remember his own learning days he has a great advantage and can often visualise just what is going on in his pupil's mind. I must say I did not agree with the statement that a broken stay was as much a disgrace to the instructor as to the learner. The learner has to be left on his own some time and the first time in 'open' rounds finds him in a state of nervous tension. After all, the best of us sometimes miss the sally. Within the past few months I have taught some fifteen or sixteen young people to handle a bell and have found it advantageous to impress one or two points upon them.

First of all, let each recruit see a bell and thoroughly understand what he is trying to do, teach him that the stay is a sort of safety valve, to break it is undesirable and, once mastery of the bell is obtained, something of a disgrace, but do not frighten him with stories of the dreadful consequences. School him into obeying your commands at once and you will be able to protect him from accident. Secondly, he should be taught to be grateful not only to his personal instructor, but to all the ringers who accommodate him during his first rounds and touches.

Thirdly, I find it a great help to have handbell instruction going as well, both double handed and single handed. It gives the learner a sense of rhythm, teaches the method, and, what is more important, gives him a chance of hearing first-class striking.

Finally, he should be given to understand that he is learning church bellringing and that service ringing comes first. After all, the existence of our guilds and associations, of our weekly paper, the holding of our ringing meetings and practices, the ringing of peals, etc., are only justified if the aim of them all is to improve and maintain the ringing of the church bells for service.

ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

116, Alma Road, Bournemouth.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 85.)

The great church of Holy Trinity, Hull, Yorks, is a cruciform building dating from the 13th century with a central tower 150 feet high. This tower is of two stages above the church roof, the lower of these being very plain with windows whose arches are peculiarly flat. The windows of the top stage are paired, tall and transomed, and have good tracery. Their ogee weather mouldings extend through the parapet and terminate in finials just above it. The buttresses are rectangular below, and in the top stage become solid corners or clasping buttresses: they are continued as rectangular pinnacles. The north-west buttress is replaced by a newel staircase, topped with a pinnacle. A broad pilaster bisects each face and ends in a small median pinnacle. The parapet is an arcade with crockets and finials, and is rather light and slender for such a tower.

Here is a ring of ten bells by J. Taylor and Co., dated 1899, with a tenor 25 cwt. 2 qr. 18 lb. It was here (and around the district) that the late Charles Jackson called a large number of peals of Grandsire Triples, about 1884.

St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, consists of a long aisleless apsidal choir, transepts, nave with aisles, south porch and central tower of two stages, panelled on three sides. The tower is rich in detail, but formal in outline, its corners being rigid, straight lines, hardly interrupted by a few grotesque animals at the string courses. The buttresses are of little projection, and of the same size from base to summit, where they join the large but simple pinnacles. The surface of the tower, except the north side, is covered with carving in the form of arcades. The top windows are paired; beneath them on the west side is a niche containing a statue of the foundress, the Lady Wulfrun.

The tower is a worthy adjunct of a very fine church, and it is to be regretted that the ravages of weather and factory smoke have seriously affected its details. It is 117 feet high to the parapet. It contains a ring of twelve bells. Originally eight by Rudhall, 1698, they were increased to ten by Mears in 1827. Messrs. Barwell, of Birmingham, rehung these in 1889, and there was also a clock bell of 36 cwt. by Bagley, 1740, and a Sanctus dated 1637. In 1911 Gillett and Johnston recast the old ten and added two trebles, the weight of the whole ring being 132 cwt. 2 qr. 8 lb.; the tenor 33 cwt. 21 lb. They hang in a massive H frame, and are tuned on the Simpson principle.

Many peals in various methods have been rung here by local and visiting ringers, especially from the nearby St. Martin's Guild of Birmingham. The earliest record is of 5,088 Bob Major by the Albion Society of Shifnal, August 19th, 1786, composed and conducted by Samuel Lawrence. On April 21st, 1794, the Aston ringers rang 6,080 'Grandsire 8 in' in 4 hours 2 minutes.

The church of the Holy Angels at Hoar Cross, Staffs, is among the most remarkable of modern English country churches. It lies deep in the quiet of the Midlands, twelve miles from Lichfield, surrounded by the undulated woodlands which slope gently from the ridge on which the church stands. Nearby is Hoar Cross Hall, where lived the Hon. Mrs. Meynell-Ingram, foundress of the church, and sister of Lord Halifax. Mrs. Meynell-Ingram lost her husband in early life, and the church of the Holy Angels was founded in his memory.

From the first the foundress resolved that no cost or care should be spared to make the church perfect in every detail. No great population lives around it, and it was to serve only the little village which nestles at the foot of the hill. The design of the church was entrusted to Mr. Bodley, and he had an opportunity such as every artist must desire. No consideration of cost was to be allowed to influence his design, and he chose to work in a type of Late Decorated. The church is cruciform, with a tower at the transept crossing; there are aisles in the nave, and chapels are grouped round the chancel. The exterior of the church is plain almost to severity. It is relieved by the strong vertical lines and shadows of the buttresses. With the exception of the fine tracery of the windows and a few canopied niches, there is little external ornament. Rising in almost austere dignity from the wooded well-kept churchyard, it certainly does not prepare one for the extraordinary richness of the interior. It is as one stands beneath the tower at the transept crossing that the wonderful beauty of the church is most apparent. The decoration is not overdone. There is a foil for carving and gold and colour in the wall built of warm sandstone of the district; in the quiet dull green of the stained oak seats; in the chequered pavement of black and white marble. Hoar Cross Church is one of the loveliest that the nineteenth century produced in England.

The tower contains the third heaviest ring of six bells in England, the tenor being 29 cwts. 2 qrs. 21 lbs. nett, and they bear appropriately the names of the Holy Angels—Gabriel, Michael, Raphael, Uriel, Anael, Orifel. The writer visited this church on May 26th, 1934, and conducted the second peal of 5,040 Minor to be rung here. Owing to a large clock case occupying a good portion of the corner between the 5th and tenor bells, the 'sight' was not good. The 5th rope came down close to the wall, so as I am blind in my sight eye, I took this and was not unduly embarrassed. Yet I never saw the tenor man all through the peal—Mr. J. T. Dyke—he was behind my back around the corner of the clock case, but I knew where his bell should strike, and it was there every time. At that time the bells went very badly, and owing to their heavy weight it was a difficult task to 'stick it' to the end. Since that time Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. have rehung the bells on ball bearings, the 'go' is much better, and a peal has been rung in several Minor methods.

(To be continued.)

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OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

ANNUAL LUNCH.

Sixty members and guests were present at the annual luncheon of the Oxford University Society, held at Oxford on February 19th. The president, the Rev. C. E. Wigg, occupied the chair, and among old members were the Mayor of Oxford, Mr. Ingle, Canon G. P. Coleridge, Mr. H. Miles (vice-president), the Rev. F. L. Edwards, and Messrs. Ritchie, Moreton, Gibbons and Leese. Guests included the Rev. R. Routh, the Rev. E. S. Powell and Mrs. Powell, the Rev. M. Melville, Major J. H. Freeborn, Mr. F. Haynes and Mr. J. A. Trollope. Four of the Oxford clergy were present—the Revs. — Milford (vice-president), R. R. Martin, J. Carpenter and — Boulthée. The Oxford Society was represented by Miss M. Cross and Messrs. Judge, Bennet and Wilkins. Miss D. Richardson and Mr. V. J. Beuning were there from the London University, and Miss M. Richardson and five others from Bristol University.

After the toast of 'The King,' a double course of Spiced London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major was rung on handbells by Miss M. Telford 1-2, Miss B. Spice 3-4, Mr. J. F. Spice 5-6, and Miss M. Tutt 7-8. The same band, with the addition of Miss J. Houldsworth 9-10, and Miss M. Lloyd, rang a bobbed course of Stedman Cinques.

The Master, Mr. J. E. Spice, gave the toast of 'The Oxford University Society.' He gave a resumé of its history, comparing it with that of the Cambridge University Guild. Considerable progress had been made in handbell ringing during the ban. After it was lifted the society had had to reorganise its activities, and during the summer and Michaelmas term great strides were made in tower bell ringing. Help had been given to the City bands for Sunday ringing. In conclusion, Mr. Spice made, on behalf of the society, a presentation to Mr. W. L. B. Leese, who for five years had been a keen member, and after qualifying as a doctor, had now left Oxford.

Canon G. F. Coleridge replied to the toast. After urging everyone to take 'The Ringing World' regularly, he spoke about the society as he knew it in its early days. He came to Oxford in 1876, having learnt to ring among the Devon round ringers, who taught him what good striking was. Good striking is the foundation of all good ringing.

Major J. H. Freeborn proposed the toast of 'The City Clergy.' He spoke of the gratitude felt by ringers to the many non-ringing clergy, who took a keen interest in the bells of their churches and were always delighted to allow ringers to use them. He pointed out that it was rather shameful that the University Church of St. Mary's should have only six bells, whereas the University Church in Cambridge had a peal of twelve. He suggested to Mr. Milford, Vicar of St. Mary's, that the bells might be increased to ten as a useful and fitting war memorial.

The Rev. R. R. Martin, Vicar of All Saints', replied. He said he was most interested in ringing, and had learnt a lot more about it by attending the lunch. Before he had thought all ringers were old men. He was delighted always to welcome the society to his church, and hoped they would hold a service there whenever they wanted.

Mr. A. Burgess proposed the ladies, without whom, he said, there would be no change ringing.

Miss Telford, replying, said she was very glad to hear so many nice things said about the fair sex. She paid tribute to the Master for his patience, perseverance and zeal, without which the society would be very badly off.

The Chairman proposed the toast of 'The Ringing World,' and Mr. J. A. Trollope replied.

Before the lunch a service was held in All Saints' Church, conducted by the Vicar and the Rev. C. E. Wigg. The Rev. F. L. Edwards preached the sermon.

Afterwards there was ringing at Magdalen College, where the methods included Grandsire and Stedman Caters and Cambridge Royal; and at Christ Church, where Grandsire and Stedman Cinques and Kent Treble Bob Maximus were rung.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT DUSTON.

A meeting of the Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Duston on February 19th with a good attendance. Service was conducted by the Rev. J. H. Butcher, who afterwards entertained the ringers with refreshments at the Vicarage. At the business meeting, presided over by the Rev. M. L. Couchman, five new members were elected. A vote of thanks to the Rev. and Mrs. Butcher and the ladies who assisted with the tea was proposed by the Rev. W. R. M. Chaplin. Ringing was enjoyed before the service and after the business meeting.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT PRESCOT.

A meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at Prescott on February 12th, at which members were present from St. Nicholas', Liverpool, St. Thomas', St. Helens, Huyton, Childwall, West Derby, Halewood, Woolton and the local belfry, as well as the Rev. D. P. Roberts and the Rev. J. A. Briggs.

Tea was provided by the Vicar and churchwardens, one of whom was present. A collection for the purchase of Ringers' Service Manuals realised 10s. St. Helen's Parish Church was selected as the place of the next meeting, and the election of Mr. E. J. Gilbert was ratified.

It was decided to send a letter to the Bishop of Liverpool regretting his retirement and expressing a hope he may have many years to enjoy it. A vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens was passed.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

NORTHMORE, OXON.—On Saturday, February 12th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: C. Calcutt (conductor) 1, C. Bousher 2, A. Cornish 3, T. W. Bond 4, H. Farmer 5, P. Trinder 6.

CHORLEY, LANCs.—On Sunday, February 13th, 1,260 Bob Minor: T. Lofthouse 1, H. Southworth 2, T. Lucas 3, J. H. Garside 4, F. Rigby (conductor) 5, F. G. Bradley 6.

HALESOWEN.—On Sunday, February 13th, for evening service, 1,260 Stedman Triples: A. H. Harris 1, *G. Detheridge, jun. 2, *Q. Timmins 3, E. Homer 4, A. B. N. Saunders 5, *H. Dowell 6, T. Greenhall (conductor) 7, *R. Ingram 8. *First quarter-peal of Stedman Triples. Rung as a compliment to P. C. C. Webb, who was invested with the King's Medal at Buckingham Palace during the week, and as a welcome home to Stoker J. Ingram after three years on active service.

TEWKESBURY.—On Sunday, February 13th, 1,332 Grandsire Caters: L. Jones 1, Sergt. E. Aston 2, W. Townsend 3, J. Austin 4, W. Yeend 5, W. Dyer (conductor) 6, F. Price 7, A. Read 8, G. Smith 9, A. Handoll 10. Rung half-muffled for Mr. Tom Devereaux, an old Tewkesbury ringer.

CONISBOROUGH, YORKS.—On February 13th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: P. Gledstone 1, E. C. Stacey 2, S. Harrison 3, E. Dalingwater 4, H. Wagstaffe 5, J. McCluskey 6, C. Urch (conductor) 7, W. Lewis 8.

WILLESDEN.—On Sunday, February 13th, 720 Bob Minor: E. Lankester 1, Mrs. E. Lankester 2, H. Collier (first in the method) 3, G. Kilby (conductor) 4, R. Kersey 5, H. Kilby 6.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD.—On Sunday, February 13th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Frederick Springham 1, Walter Prior 2, Ralph Wood 3, Ernest Garbett 4, Herbert Bull 5, Harry M. White 6, Frederick Bird (conductor) 7, Thomas Ward 8. Rung half-muffled to the memory of Mrs. Prior, wife of Mr. William T. Prior, a member of the local band.

OLDHAM.—At Moorside Church, on February 14th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: F. Lawton 1, J. Ogden 2, C. B. Taylor 3, I. Garside 4, J. Brooks 5, C. Haynes 6, I. Kay (conductor) 7, J. W. Truelove 8.

BISHOP'S CANNINGS, WILTS.—On February 15th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Thomas Merritt 1, William Mortimer 2, George Winter 3, William Hacker 4, Fred Hale 5, Fred Wilshire 6, Sidney Grant (conductor) 7, George Oram 8. Rung half-muffled in memory of Mr. Ernest A. Stevens, for over 30 years a ringer at Bishop's Cannings. He was buried at the above church the same day.

EYNHAM, OXON.—On Friday, February 18th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: A. Cornish 1, J. Gardner 2, T. W. Bond 3, C. Calcutt (conductor) 4, C. Bennett 5, H. Caves 6.

BRIDGEND, GLAM.—On February 19th, at St. Illtyd's Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: T. Petty 1, G. I. Lewis 2, Cpl. W. Farrimond R.E.M.F. 3, E. T. Bailey 4, C. H. Perry (conductor) 5, A. J. Pitman 6, E. Stith 7, D. Hughes 8.

WALSALL, STAFFS.—On Sunday, February 20th, at St. Matthew's Church, 1,260 Stedman Triples: H. T. Higgins 1, G. W. Hughes (first quarter-peal of Triples) 2, E. T. Smith 3, A. T. Dutton 4, W. R. Hughes 5, A. Adams 6, J. S. Eastwood (conductor) 7, W. A. Walker 8.

HANDSWORTH, SHEFFIELD.—On Sunday, February 20th, 720 Bob Minor: Roy Garth (first 720) 1, R. Birch 2, F. Cardwell 3, H. Wilson 4, W. Taylor 5, J. Brothwell (conductor) 6.

MAIDS MORETON, BUCKS.—On Sunday, February 20th, for evening, 720 Bob Minor: F. Townsend 1, H. Jones 2, H. Stopps 3, A. E. Nichols 4, H. G. Keeley 5, F. Vickers (conductor) 6.

DARLEY DALE.—On February 4th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: O.S. D. Scott, R.N.V.R. 1, R. Allsop 2, B. Allsop 3, H. W. Gregory 4, G. H. Paulson 5, V. Bottomley 6, H. E. Taylor (conductor) 7, E. Paulson 8.

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NOTICES.

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The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received **NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Southern Division. — Annual meeting, Burgess Hill, Saturday, March 4th, 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m.—Mrs. E. L. Hairs, Hon. Sec., The Oaks, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Danbury on March 4th. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM. — Henry Johnson Commemoration luncheon at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 4th, 1.30 p.m.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Meeting at St. Matthew's, Oxhey, Saturday, March 4th, 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at Draycott (8 bells), Saturday, March 4th.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, March 11th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—Meeting at Weston, Bath, Saturday, March 11th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Number for tea by Tuesday, 7th.—N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Weston, Bath.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Annual meeting, Christ Church, Blacklands, Hastings, March 11th, 2.30 to 8 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names to John Downing, Acting Hon. Sec., 2, Hughenden Road, Hastings.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Western District. — Meeting at Apsley End, Saturday, March 11th. Usual arrangements. Tea arranged for those who notify by March 8th.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Central Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Hardwick, Saturday, March 11th. Bells (6) 2.45 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food. Meeting to follow.—E. F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Annual meeting at Ranmoor, Saturday, March 11th. Bells (10) 2.30. Names for tea to E. G. Dickens, 18, Gisborne Road, Sheffield 11, by March 9th. Will all towers endeavour to be represented at committee meeting before tea?—G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec., 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at St. Helens Parish Church (10), Saturday, March 11th, 2.30. Service 5 p.m. Notify Mr. A. Wallace, 6, Brookside Avenue, Eccleston, St. Helens, for tea before March 8th.—G. H. Newton.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Feltham, Saturday, March 11th. Bells 3 to 7.30 p.m. Short meeting in belfry at 5 p.m. Several cafes nearby.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., Perivale 5320.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Clifton on Saturday, March 11th, 3 p.m. Tea 5.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD and KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION (Tonbridge District). — Meeting at Edenbridge, March 11th, 3 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. E. C. Leigh, Holmesdale, Edenbridge.—T. Saunders and C. A. Bassett, Hon. Secs.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—Meeting at Long Buckby, Saturday, March 11th. Bells (5) 3 p.m. Tea provided. — C. Green, Branch Sec., Murcott, Long Buckby, Rugby.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Wisbech Branch.—Meeting at Outwell and Upwell on Saturday, March 11th. Upwell bells 2.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea 5.30.—W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—Meeting at Holy Trinity, Bradford-on-Avon, Saturday, March 11th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting at Three Gables, 5 p.m. Send names. — W. C. West, Branch Sec., 584, Semington Road, Melksham. Phone 297.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Stanton, near Coleford, Saturday, March 11th. Bells (6) 3.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting, 5 p.m. Names by March 8th.—Oliver Thomas, Branch Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at Royston, Saturday, March 11th, 3 p.m. Tea arrangements if possible.—A. E. Symonds, The Cottage, Windmill Hill, Hitchin.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION. — Swindon Branch. — Meeting at Rodbourne Cheney on Saturday, March 11th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Frequent buses from Swindon.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

BARNSELEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Darfield, Saturday, March 11th, 2.30 p.m. Business meeting 6 p.m. Reading Room. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Syston, March 18th, 3 p.m. Tea at Mrs. E. Payne's, near church, 5 p.m. Names by March 15th. Buses from bus station, Abbey Street.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and East District. — Annual meeting at St. James', Clerkenwell, on Saturday, March 18th, 3 p.m. Committee meeting 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Names by 14th to T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division. — Annual meeting, Pulborough, Saturday, March 18th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting at Church Room. Names appreciated.—L. Stilwell, Acting Sec., Pulborough.

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No. 1,720. Vol. XXXIX

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CLIQUE.

On another page an old and valued correspondent calls attention to the famous bands of bygone years and what he considers was the shortness of their life. What was the reason, he asks, for this universally short tenure of a place at the top of the tree and the swift and sharp descent from it?

It is a question of more than merely historical interest, for before it can be answered other questions must be faced. What are the necessary conditions for producing one of these outstanding bands? What is the price that has to be paid? To what extent do they serve the best interests of the Exercise and the art of change ringing? These and other similar questions are of vital importance, and not the less so because, in effect, totally different answers have and are being given by people who approach them from different angles.

In order to form a band which can achieve performances of outstanding merit there must first of all be one or two men who are able to act as leaders, who can inspire others, and who are willing and anxious to devote the necessary time and trouble to the task. Then there must be others who are not only willing to follow the leaders, but must themselves be much above the average in ringing ability. That means there must be selection and there must be exclusion. This is where the difficulty comes in. If you want to ring a first class peal in a high class method you must have a first class band, and if all the ringing they do is to be of the same quality they must normally exclude from their ranks any ringers whose qualifications are not up to their standard.

The bare mention of such a thing is likely to raise a storm of protest in some quarters, but there is a good deal to be said for it. If the main object of change ringing is to be used in the service of the Church, then nothing but the best is good enough, and it would be quite right and proper if a rule, which is universal in the choirs of large and important churches, were extended to the belfries. This, however, in actual practice would only be fully possible in a very few exceptional cases. In the majority of belfries there is certain to be a great difference in the quality of the ringers and some who are not, and never will be, capable of taking part in really first class ringing. Not seldom these men are the last to recognise their shortcomings and deficiencies. What should be done? Get rid of or ignore the weak members and concentrate on those who are

(Continued on page 98.)

capable of forming a first class band? Or make the best of a bad job and be content with lower standards and lesser ambitions? Neither course is easy, and as a rule there is a compromise which works fairly well, but it does prevent many bands from reaching highest rank.

Now experience has abundantly shown that the existence of first class bands, with first class striking and first class method and peal ringing, is necessary to the life and wellbeing of the Exercise. They must be made up of men who are far more skilled than the average ringer, and therefore there must be selection and exclusion. How can they be formed, seeing that the necessary conditions are so rarely present in belfries? The only possible solution has, we think, been found by the Exercise, and it consists in those loosely connected bands, the members of which are drawn from various towers and are connected solely by ties of friendship and the ambition to ring peals. The class of bands which in some quarters are disparagingly termed cliques.

Theoretically it is anything but an ideal solution, and it is liable to abuse, but it has many advantages. The members meet each other because they desire each other's company. There is no question of 'rights,' and selection and exclusion are the necessary means by which the company is formed. Outsiders may be jealous, but they cannot claim that any of their rights are infringed. By means of these bands the life of the Exercise can be sustained, and standards maintained and raised. But only on one condition. The men who form a clique must never forget that they owe loyalty and service to their own home belfry and are bound to do what they can to help on those who are not so fortunate and not so skilled as they are themselves. Let us hasten to add that they seldom fail in their duty, and the members of the best cliques are just the men who do the most to improve service ringing by parochial bands.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

PRESTBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
Cheltenham Branch.

On Tues., Feb. 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
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A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

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WALTER YEEND	Treble	ARTHUR REED	5
WILFRED WILLIAMS	2	FRANK PRICE	6
WILLIAM DYER	3	WALTER C. ROSE	7
CHARLES W. MARTIN	4	*FRANK PENDRY	Tenor

Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.

* First peal.

SOUTH WIGSTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Mar. 4, 1944, in Three Hours,
At the Church of St. Thomas,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

JOHN E. CLARKE	Treble	*WILLIAM J. ROOT	5
SIDNEY COX	2	WILLIAM A. WOOD	6
CHARLES MARSHALL	3	WALTER P. WHITEHEAD	7
CECIL E. CARR	4	W. ARTHUR RIDDINGTON	Tenor

Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by W. ARTHUR RIDDINGTON.

* First peal in the method. Rung for the birth of a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Riddington and to celebrate Mr. John E. Clarke's 60 years as a ringer.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., Feb. 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
At 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.		Tenor size 15.	
EDWIN JENNINGS	1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER	5-6
HAROLD G. CASHMORE	3-4	*MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT	7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal on handbells.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., Feb. 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,
At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATER, 5003 CHANGES;

ERIC A. DENCH	1-2	JOHN THOMAS	5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS	3-4	ALBERT J. WALLMAN	7-8
DENNIS H. LANGDON		9-10	

Composed by F. G. MAY.

Conducted by J. THOMAS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Tues., Feb. 29, 1944, in Two Hours,
At NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

BETTY SPICE	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE	5-6
MARGARET D. TELFORD	3-4	JOAN HOULDSWORTH	7-8

Composed by W. HARRISON.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

The first peal in the method by all the band and for the society.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Sun., Mar. 5, 1944, in Two Hours and Three Minutes,
At EXETER COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF SPLICED PLAIN AND KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*MARGARET D. TELFORD	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE	5-6
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE	3-4	*ALAN WHITE	7-8

Composed by A. J. PITMAN.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal in more than one method. The first peal of Spliced for the society, and the first of Spliced Plain Bob and Kent to be rung on handbells. This peal contains 1,696 changes of Kent Treble Bob and 72 changes of method.

HANDLING A BELL.

RAISING AND PEASING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Would it explain the point in dispute between Mr. Biffin and the writer of the article on preliminary instruction that the former meant raising and lowering bells in peal, while the latter referred to the operation being done on bells singly? We in the South-West before and after ringing invariably raise and lower all the bells in rounds, for which purpose each ringer before raising takes up a coil of rope which is gradually released as the bells rise, and in lowering gathers up a coil as the bells fall. This method, if properly done, can be very pleasing to listeners, but it depends on the force used with each pull to produce accurate timing in the process.

In raising and lowering his bell singly the ringer naturally wants to get it done as soon as possible, so it is immaterial whether he does it with a coil or a loose end, and as only two or three bells are done at once there is little risk of the ropes being entangled.

Exeter.

T. LAVER.

SCUNTHORPE, Lincs.—On Saturday, February 19th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: F. Lord 1, C. B. Chester 2, *Rev. A. Muxlow 3, M. Lings (first in method) 4, G. E. Feirn 5, G. W. Moody 6, J. Bray (conductor) 7, *G. Thompson 8. * First quarter-peal.

HALESOWEN.—On Sunday, February 20th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: A. H. Harris 1, A. Timmins 2, A. Greenhall 3, J. H. Cox (conductor) 4, H. Shilvoek 5, T. Greenhall 6, W. H. Webb 7, R. Ingram 8.

THE 'TOP OF THE TREE.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The able articles we have recently had on 'Handling a Bell' have provoked in me some musings at the other end of the scale—the short life enjoyed by practically all the expert bands during our history.

In my early days London Surprise Major was the top of the ringing tree, and by 1890, when I was learning to pull a bell, only four companies had reached that goal—Norwich, Woolwich, Benington and Burton-on-Trent. Cambridge Major, by the same date, had been achieved by only five—Benington, Burton, Oxford, Royal Cumberlands and Duffield—and Superlative by nine or ten.

Since that time many of us can remember the rise of a host of followers, and to all 'Ichabod' can be written against their names. Think of some of them—Norwich, Woolwich, Benington, Burton, Oxford, Duffield, Brighton, Kidderminster, Saffron Walden, Gloucester, Newcastle, Crawley, St. Stephen's, Westminster, Bristol, Hughenden, Caversham, Whitley Bay, Fulham, Leiston and others. These were all more or less resident bands, and, therefore, no mention is made of companies practising in the London area and others built up on similar composite lines. Omitted also are the names of one or two 12-bell bands, some of whose member side-tracked and rang Major. By 1939 most of these once famous bands had passed into oblivion and their achievements unknown by younger generations and probably forgotten by the older ones.

It recalls old William Estcourt's historic and prophetic words after the record Stedman Cinques at Painswick—'I have brought you to the top of the tree, and you will go down quicker than you climbed up.' There must be reasons for this universally short tenure of a place at the top of the tree and the swift and sharp descent from it. Is it that one man alone in the company has had all the drive and progressive qualities necessary for welding a team together and to bring it to the top, and when he suspends activities from one cause or another the whole drops to pieces? It certainly was so in the case of the three oldest companies—Thurston at Norwich, Banister at Woolwich, and Squire Proctor at Benington—and I suspect the same applies to most of the others.

Henry Hubbard, of Norwich, took part in the second peal of Superlative and the first of London, and in the 1845 edition of his book on ringing says, 'They have been much practised in Norwich, inasmuch as 5,376 of the former and 5,280 of the latter were rung by the same persons, the accomplishment of which required much labour and perseverance.' And yet they were content with one peal of each. A pity Thurston died at so early an age. His band grasped Cambridge and attempted a first peal in the method and failed, and apparently tried no more. A sorry job, considering Middleton's immortal composition was born in the city!

I have mentioned that one or two 12-bell bands had side-tracked to Surprise Major. This, to my mind, is a doubtful experiment. A 12-bell band needs to be very strong in the back to do this and maintain 12-bell ringing at the same time. In this connection I recall sentiments expressed by the late Henry Swain, a prominent Royal Cumberland, in the last century. His portrait and memoir appeared in 'The Bell News' many years ago, and a paragraph in that memoir said that 'during his membership the society had several times been brought near to dissolution as a 12-bell company, owing to certain members forming a smaller clique and practising advanced Major methods.' Speaking generally, maintenance of 12-bell ringing is a full-time job, and leaves no room for variety on lesser numbers.

Going back to Superlative for a moment, we know the figures first appeared in the 1788 'Clavis,' and we know the vast amount of it rung to-day. It seems, therefore, unbelievable, but is nevertheless true, that I have rung on more than one occasion (and you, too, Mr. Editor, I believe) with the conductor of one of the earliest peals—the sixth—rung in the method! The top of the tree of earlier times has now sprouted to loftier heights with the advent of Spiced Surprise in a multiplicity of methods, and when things get going again we may well wish that bands who reach the topmost branches will thoroughly dig themselves in and enjoy a far longer life than the ones of past days. The morai of all this is fairly obvious! 'B.'

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT HEADINGLEY.

A meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society was held at St. Michael's, Headingley, on February 26th, at which members were present from Armley, Bradford, Bramley, Burley, Drighlington, Headingley (St. Chad's), Leeds Parish Church, Selby, Wakefield and the local tower.

At the business meeting, held in the belfry, Mr. Senior, the vice-president, took the chair. The election of Mr. John Silk, of Selby, was confirmed, and the secretary reported the receipt of replies to letters sent to Mr. J. F. Harvey and the executors of the late Mr. G. Titterton. Thanks were given to the Vicar and churchwardens, and to the local company, especially Mr. Johnson and Mr. Talbot, on the proposition of Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. H. Morley.

The next meeting will be at Armley on March 25th, at which nominations should be made for the election of the officers.

THE BEST PEAL OF BELLS.

RINGS IN WALES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The quest of Mr. Sharpe for the best bells in the different parts of the country does not appear to be new, and the bells of Laleston Church, near Bridgend, were reputed in the 18th century to be the sweetest in Glamorgan. Wil Hopcyn, the bard of Llangytwyd, described them as 'Wychion chwiyrydu—chwech yn chwarae' in his native tongue (Beautiful sisters—six—playing together).

What does Mr. W. A. Coles, of Hayes, mean about the bells of Aberystwyth? I was not aware that this beautiful holiday resort had any bells. Recently a local lady resident left a sum of money in her will to install a ring of bells at Holy Trinity Church, and I presume that we shall have to wait before this bequest can be carried out. Has Mr. Coles confused the ring of eight at Llanbadarn Fawr, a small place two miles out of Aberystwyth? This ring is of very pleasing tone, and the church, dedicated to St. Padarn, has a central tower which no doubt Mr. Morris will deal with in his series.

EDWARD J. THOMAS.

Elephant and Castle, Carmarthen.

KENT, SUSSEX AND SURREY.

Dear Sir,—I have been very interested to read in recent issues of 'The Ringing World' letters concerning which is the best ring of bells in various parts of the country, and should like to offer my opinions of a few towers in my own part of the country.

I agree with Mr. Coles that eight is the ideal number of bells for a ring, and that for tone the tenor should weigh from 20 to 30 cwt. Leaving out the glorious 12 at Canterbury Cathedral, I think that the finest bells in Kent for their weight (tenor 20½ cwt.) are the Simpson tuned eight at Wrotham. Unfortunately, these bells are very difficult to hear in the ringing chamber—a west gallery—and they would be greatly improved by having an amplifier fitted, as Mr. Chaddock suggests for these cases.

As regards Sussex, I think the glorious eight at East Grinstead (tenor 23½ cwt.) take some beating, with the eight at Withyham, not far away (tenor 18 cwt.), a close second.

Surrey has many fine rings, but I think that the honours go to the 12 and 10 bell towers of St. John's and St. Peter's, Croydon. These latter bells are, I believe, Simpson tuned (I am not sure about St. John's), and are a grand compliment to Gillett and Johnston's.

Although owing to the ban I have not had many opportunities of hearing bells in other parts of the country, among the best of the few I have heard (leaving out the heavier rings) are the eight in the new tower at Rugby (Warwick), tenor 25½ cwt.; St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh (8, tenor 20 cwt.); Ross-on-Wye, Hereford (8, tenor 24½ cwt.); and St. Mary Magdalene's, Launceston, Cornwall (8, tenor 17½ cwt.). Of the 10-bell peals I have heard, I think both for tone and go that All Saints', Fulham (Middlesex), tenor 21½ cwt., impressed me the most, but as I heard very few 12-bell rings, I will not venture to offer an opinion.

Concerning six-bell towers, I think one of the loveliest little rings I have heard are the recently augmented ring at Cranford, Middlesex. For their weight (tenor 8 cwt. approx.) these bells are a treat both to ring on and listen to, while of the heavier rings of six I think that for beauty of tone Horsmonden, Kent (tenor 19½ cwt. in D), are the finest in the district.

PETER N. BOND.

Bosham, near Chichester.

ACOUSTICS OF THE BELFRY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to Mr. W. H. Southard's letter re the peal of eight where the trebles cannot be properly heard, I have recently had a case somewhat similar that I am glad to say I have cured. If Mr. Southard would care to send me the following particulars I will do my best to help him:—

1. How much clearance is there between the top of the wheels of the treble, 2nd and 3rd bells to the bottom of the girders or beams that support the bells in the upper frame?

2. How many openings are there for letting the sound out, and are they above the top bells, on a level with them, or below the bells when they are set on end, and what are the dimensions of them?

3. What are the dimensions of the bell chamber?

4. Are there any openings that sound can get out of, about on a level with the three small bells?

5. Could Mr. Southard send me a rough plan of both frames and show the window openings in relation to them?

JOHN H. B. HESSE.

Wood View, Wrington.

DEATH OF MR. ARTHUR H. WHITE.

The death is announced of Mr. Arthur H. White, of Aldrington, Sussex, who passed away on February 16th after a very short illness, at the age of 53. Mr. White joined the band at St. Leonard's, Aldrington, in 1909, and became captain in 1911. The funeral was on February 22nd and before the service the bells were rung half-muffled.

PAUL REVERE.

By DR. ARTHUR H. NICHOLS.

(Continued from page 91.)

It is certain that Revere was a practical ringer, having been a member of the guild which had charge of the eight sweet-toned bells of Christ Church, cast 1744 by Rudhall. These bells, moreover, together with those of the West Church and the First Church of Roxbury from the same foundry, supplied him with perfect models. In other Boston steeples, moreover, were suspended some of the best productions of the Whitechapel foundry; and he even took pains to import a model bell from the foundry of Warner, Cripplegate, sold in 1795 to the North Congregational Society of Newburyport.

With resourceful industry Revere sought persistently to correct and improve his methods. In 1804 he sent his son, Joseph Warren Revere, then associated with him in business, to visit the principal foundries in England and the Continent, and from information thus gleaned and increasing experience he was enabled after a few years to turn out superior instruments, of which his masterpiece still booms out from the massive tower of King's Chapel, filling the neighbourhood with its dignified mellow reverberation. The following is the contract, contained in Revere's stock book for supplying this bell:—

'Agreement made this twenty-sixth day of December, 1815, by and between Aaron Dexter and Joseph May in behalf of the proprietors of King's Chapel of the one part and Paul Revere and Son of the other part.

'The said Paul Revere and Son agree to take the Church Bell, now belonging to King's Chapel and pay therefor twenty-five cents per pound: they also engage to convey the said Bell to their Foundry, and form an exact mould there of: and with the whole metal of the old Bell and as small addition of other suitable metal, they engage to cast a new Bell which shall in all respects, size, shape, weight, and tone, resemble, as exactly as possible the present Bell, as it was when unbroken. The new Bell shall be examined and compared with the old one by the said Dexter and May or any three Judges whom they may appoint, and if approved of, the said Dexter and May shall pay there for forty one and two thirds cents, per pound at the end of one year from the time of receiving said Bell; which shall be warranted by the said Paul Revere and Son to be merchantable, strong, sound, and free from all latent defects. The old Bell to be delivered, and the new one to be received at the door of King's Chapel in Boston.

Aa. Dexter,
Jos. May,
Paul Revere & Son.'

Witness George Cabot.

The peculiarity in the sound of this bell not having escaped notice, gave rise to some unfavourable criticism, as indicated by the following letter preserved among Revere's papers:—

'Boston, Oct. 28, 1816. Sir, Since the arrival of the New Bell at the Old South much has been said respecting the one you cast for the Stone Chapel—I assure you as a friend and for the future credit of your Foundry, that it is highly necessary you should do something to harmonize the sound and give it greater power of vibration, if ever you wish to have your name celebrated as a Bell Founder. I am a friend to all American manu-

facturers and strongly advocated in your behalf, that you should have the recasting of the Bell—but I am sorry to say, I am sorely disappointed in my expectations and I beg you to consider that this Hint is from a friend, who ardently wishes you success and I hope all expense on your part will not come in contact with your future interest and celebrity—I do not speak my own sentiments only—on this evidence only I should not have presumed to have addressed you, but I speak the sentiments of hundreds, and have delayed until the present moment, hoping some arrangement would have taken place between you and the Church, but as nothing has been done, I hope your own pride will be roused to pay due attention to this sincere but friendly Hint. Anon.'

If it is not too late to reply to this criticism, it may be explained that as regards length of vibration, it is true that this is shorter than many of the older bells then heard in Boston, and which the anonymous critic had probably in mind as a standard of comparison. Mines no longer produced the elastic copper used by the older founders. Hence, in order to increase the brittleness of the amalgam, it became necessary to add to the proportion of copper, and this addition doubtless impaired the duration of vibration. Compared, on the other hand, with the products of modern founders, this bell is of fairly long duration, powerful and mellow.

It can be demonstrated, moreover, that the writer's condemnation of the harmonic sounds of the bell is still less justifiable. It happens that these sounds were studied and recorded by the late H. P. Munroe, who was endowed with a phenomenal perception of the overtones of bells, a talent exercised for many years in the tuning department of the Blake Bell Foundry. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that the tones and overtones of a bell can be best demonstrated by sounding a trombone or violin within a foot of the instrument, when, in accordance with the law of synchronous vibration, each separate sound will be clearly drawn out.

By this method Munroe showed that the lowest sound of this bell (drone) is G flat; the next, or fundamental, note is slightly below E flat; the third sound is A flat; the next a little below F on the fifth line; and the highest C above the F, which is also a little flat.

Now, while this combination of sounds forms unquestionably a harmonious discord heard with the impact of a clapper, this discord is resolved as the overtones die away, and the ear is thereby delighted by this unique and charming sequence of harmonic effect, not unlike that prominent in competitions dealing with counterpoint. It is therefore this accidental combination of sounds, which no calculation could reproduce, that imparts a brilliant characteristic to King's Chapel bell, enabling it to be identified even when heard from afar. Fortunately, it has received good care and is in perfect condition.

From the stock book of Paul Revere and Son it appears that between the years 1792 and 1828, three hundred and ninety-eight bells were cast at their foundry. Of these the heaviest, weighing 2,884 pounds (25 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt.), was sent to Providence R.I. Many of the lighter bells were shipped to Cuba and Puerto Rico for use on sugar plantations. In 1804 the foundry was transferred to Revere's estate in Canton, still owned by his descendants.

Paul Revere died in 1818, and the business was carried on thereafter by his son, Joseph, till 1828, when it was

conveyed to the Revere Copper Company, which never undertook bell casting. Bells from this foundry were inscribed in flat Roman letters with no attempt at ornamentation: 'Paul Revere,' 'Paul Revere & Son,' or 'Revere & Co.' but followed almost without exception by the date of the casting. They can thus be distinguished by those cast by an older son, Paul, associated with his father, until 1801, but who later cast bells on his own account, which were usually inscribed Revere, and rarely bore a date. On the inner waist of many bells can still be discerned the figures in blue chalk written at the time of casting to record the weight.

In the endeavour to trace the subsequent history of Revere's bells the writer has made many personal ascents of many towers, and addressed circulars to clergymen and town officials, to whom he is indebted for many details. It would be an ungracious task to describe the neglected disorderly condition of most church towers visited. Many steeples were so faultily designed as to be virtually inaccessible, or approached only by a ladder from the ridge pole of the main edifice. Circuitous narrow passages leading to the belfry are often made the receptacle of combustible rubbish, the accumulation of many years, all covered with grime, soot, dirt and dust. In one tower inspected the conditions were so bad that canvas suits were provided for the benefit of visitors wishing to mount the steeple, and were found as necessary as in the descent of a coal mine.

Under these circumstances it can easily be imagined how little attention is bestowed upon the bells, which were found with appurtenances loose and unadjusted; or perhaps the clapper, worn at the crown staple, had dropped down so as to strike near the rim of the bell,

thus emitting a faulty sound or even detaching fragments of the metal.

In no single instance was there found a genuine bell rope in use like those made for at least a century in England, and which is absolutely necessary for the safe and easy management of the bell. Modern American founders ignore the existence of bell ropes and, fancying that a bell should be tucked up in a curved yoke and hauled back and forth like a suspended cart wheel, supply invariably an ordinary rope of three times the required weight, with a superfluous coil resting on the floor. The experienced ringer, on the other hand, knows that when the bell is hung upon the principle of the pendulum the friction at its gudgeons or bearings is reduced to a minimum, while the rapidity of rotation imparts a distinct superiority of tone.

The thickness of the rope should in reality be determined not by the weight of the bell, but by the force of the ringer in pulling. In other words, the measurement of the strength required for a rope should not much exceed the degree of force required to control the bell. Hence, for a bell of average weight and properly suspended the rope should not exceed twice the thickness of a sash cord. Greater thickness is, of course, desirable at the points where the rope is grasped by the ringer, which is obtained by interweaving wool to form what is called the tufting. (To be continued.)

LEFT OR RIGHT?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have always understood a right-handed ringer has his right hand at top and tail end of rope in his left, and a left-handed ringer has his left hand at top with the tail in his right, but what is wrong with left or right as long as he makes a good job of his striking and makes his rope run nice and does not try to hang his fellow ringer?

E. C. GOBEY.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

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MUFFLES,
Etc.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official Journal of the Central Council of
Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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'The Ringing World.'

Members of the Middlesex County Association are asked to note
that the meeting arranged for Feltham will be held on March 18th,
not on March 11th as advertised last week.

By a stupid oversight, a quarter-peal of Bristol Surprise Major
was included among the quarter-peals of Treble Bob Major we recently
published. The calling, 1W, 1R, 2W, 2R repeated, produces as the
second course end 32546, which is one of the courses false against the
plain course, and as both are rung from Middle to Wrong there is
internal repetition.

HOW FAR CAN BELLS BE HEARD?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—One Saturday afternoon, in the summer of 1891, Mr.
Lindoff and myself were at Harwich, attempting a peal on St.
Nicholas' Church bells (which, by the way, came to grief). After-
wards, while standing on the Harwich sea front, we suddenly heard
some bells, and after listening for a time we thought they must be
the bells of St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, and, further, we distinguished
the method as Double Norwich Maximus. On the next day (Sunday)
we took the boat to Ipswich, and on visiting the tower for evening
service ringing we found we were correct, both with the sound of the
bells and the method rung, as the Ipswich company confirmed this.
(This peal attempt also was lost.)

Now, sir, the distance as the crow flies is about 12 miles, and both
the late Mr. J. Motts and Mr. W. Catchpole told us that when the
wind was right this had been heard there many times before.

R. W. STANNARD.

133, Beccles Drive, Barking.

USEFUL ARTICLES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Thank you for the highly entertaining articles on Paul Revere.
I must add my congratulations to the rather embarrassing number
you have already received on the diversity and interest of the articles
which reach us week by week.

In particular I would like to mention the value of the Sunday
service touches which appear from time to time and whose usefulness
certainly cannot be measured by the small space they take up. It
would be a fine thing if you could eventually publish them in a per-
manent pocket format. I believe a collection of such touches would
prove useful both for ringing at services and meetings. Such a
publication, but for the war, would have appeared, together with a
series of others: doubtless the time is not far distant when surplus
energy (and money!) may be diverted into such channels.

NOLAN GOLDEN.

The Cottage, Checkendon Court, near Reading.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HAWKHURST.

A meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association
was held at Hawkhurst on February 26th and was attended by 21
members from Bexhill, Benenden, Horsmonden, Lamberhurst,
Lewisham, Tunbridge Wells, East Peckham, Wadhurst, Thorne, Yorks,
and the local belfry, as well as Mr. T. E. Sone, of Paddock Wood.
The Vicar took the chair at the meeting, at which Mr. E. Woodage,
of Lamberhurst, was elected a member, and Shipbourne was selected
as the place of the next meeting.

RULES OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

The rules of the Central Council are given below for the benefit of members and secretaries of affiliated societies. Special attention is called to Nos. 3, 5, 7 and 10.

1. The Council shall be known as the 'Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.'

2. The Council shall consist: (1) Of Representative Members elected by affiliated Societies. (2) Of Honorary Members, not exceeding twenty in number, elected by the Council. Any recognised Society, Association or Guild of Church Bellringers (hereinafter referred to under the general term 'Society'), numbering not less than seventy-five members, shall, upon application, if eligible, be affiliated to the Council, and shall subscribe to an undertaking loyally to abide by the rules and decisions of the Council.

Affiliated Societies shall be entitled to elect representatives in the following proportion:—

A Society, the number of whose members is 75 or over, but does not exceed 150, one Representative; exceeds 150 but does not exceed 300, two Representatives; exceeds 300 but does not exceed 450, three Representatives; exceeds 450, four Representatives.

Four Representatives shall be the limit of representation allowed any one Society.

For the purpose of this rule the basis of calculation of members for territorial and diocesan societies shall be the number of annual subscribing honorary and ringing members, and resident life members.

No representative member shall be eligible as an honorary member.

The voting powers of honorary members shall be equal with those of representative members.

(Note.—Here and elsewhere in these Rules the word 'member' shall be taken as meaning 'member of the Council'.)

3. The election of representative members shall take place triennially, at least four weeks before the commencement of each triennial session, and the names and addresses of those elected shall forthwith be forwarded to the Secretary of the Council. In the event of a vacancy the new member shall be elected only for the unexpired period of the triennium.

4. Honorary members shall be elected for three years and, on retiring, shall be eligible for re-election (retirement and election taking effect as from the end of the annual meeting), provided that any honorary member who during his term of office may be elected a representative member shall, *ipso facto*, vacate his honorary membership. The Council may fill a vacancy among the honorary members at any annual meeting of the Council.

5. All societies returning representative members to the Council shall contribute annually, in January, 5s. on behalf of each representative member to which they are entitled, to meet the expenses of conducting the business of the Council, and no representative member shall be entitled to speak or vote at an annual meeting of the Council until the subscription of the Society he represents be paid.

6. The Council shall meet once annually, about Whitsuntide, in some convenient centre, as agreed upon at the previous meeting, but the Meeting following the Triennial Election shall always be in London. Any meeting of the Council may be extended to additional sittings on the same or the following day on a motion for adjournment being put and carried. The President shall have power, in case of emergency, to call special meetings of the Council, and he shall at any time summon such a special meeting on receipt of a requisition signed by twelve members.

7. At the Annual Meeting next after each Triennial Election a President, an Honorary Secretary, who shall also act as Treasurer,

and an Honorary Librarian shall be chosen from among the members to serve for three years. In the event of the President, Honorary Secretary or Honorary Librarian vacating office before the expiration of the three years, the ensuing meeting shall elect a member to fill the vacancy during the remainder of the period. The retiring President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Librarian shall be eligible for re-election at the expiration of their term of office. The President shall retire from the chair immediately his successor in office is elected, but the Honorary Secretary shall continue in office till the business of the meeting is concluded. All nominations for these offices shall be sent to the Honorary Secretary, signed by two members of the Council, not less than two calendar months previous to the meeting, and such nominations shall appear on the agenda paper. The next business after the election of the President and Honorary Secretary shall be the election of honorary members.

8. The Council shall triennially appoint at the London Meeting two Auditors, who shall audit the Annual Accounts of the Council and report to each Annual Meeting.

9. The Council shall appoint a Standing Committee and shall have power to appoint Committees for any purpose for which it may appear desirable; and also, if the state of the funds permit, to allow the necessary expenses of holding the Committee Meetings. Each Committee shall appoint a convener and shall report annually to the Council. All reports, except that of the Standing Committee, shall be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary at least 14 days before the meeting. Such reports as have not previously been published or circulated shall be read at the meeting.

10. All resolutions to be proposed shall be sent to the Honorary Secretary in writing, signed by two members of the Council, not less than two calendar months previous to the meeting, and shall be placed by him on the agenda, together with the names of the proposer and seconder of the resolution. But it shall be competent, on a vote of the majority of the meeting, for the Council to discuss a subject not upon the agenda paper, provided such subject does not affect the Rules or Constitution of the Council.

11. At the meetings of the Council the President shall take the chair, and in the event of his absence the members present shall elect a Chairman for that meeting. The Chairman shall have a casting vote. Twenty members shall form a quorum. Every new member, whether representative or honorary, shall, before taking his seat, be introduced by a member to the President, or, in the absence of the President, to the Chairman of the meeting.

12. Each member shall have one vote.

13. Full notice of the date, arrangements and agenda for each meeting shall be advertised in the ringing papers approximately seven weeks previous to such meeting, but it shall not be incumbent on the Honorary Secretary to send notice to each member. The names of the members present and the business transacted at each meeting shall be entered in the minute book and reported to the ringing paper. Copies of the resolutions passed by the Council shall be forwarded to the affiliated societies as soon as is convenient after the meeting.

14. At each Annual Meeting the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer shall submit the audited statement of accounts for the previous year for adoption by the meeting.

15. Alterations in the Rules of the Council shall be made only at the Annual Meetings, and every notice of a proposed alteration shall be sent to the Honorary Secretary, as laid down in Rule 10. All alterations in the Rules of the Council shall be passed by a majority of two-thirds of those present and voting.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Let me add my difficulties to those of the Rev. E. S. Powell, and let me add two more reasons why the Council should not meet on Whit Monday.

As Mr. A. V. Davis says on the same page, though in another context, 'Service ringing comes first.' This rules out Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays in peace time for Council meetings. For one cannot ring on Sunday, and get there or back, from the other end of England, maybe, if the Council meets on those days. And in war time such a restriction is even more necessary, for it is harder than ever to get anyone to fill one's place.

We are asked, at this crisis, to avoid travelling as much as possible, and especially on holidays. Ringers rightly pride themselves above all things on being loyal, and I am sure would avoid having meetings on holidays. Not only would the difficulty of getting on to trains or buses be insuperable (especially for us older ones), but where are we to get anything to eat or drink?

So far from the Council itself meeting on a holiday, I would ask the Standing Committee to advise all societies to avoid such days for their meetings this summer.

The end of September is the earliest time for the Council to have anything like a useful meeting, unless there is a great and unexpected change in our national outlook.

HERBERT DRAKE.

Ufford Rectory.

ACOUSTICS OF THE BELFRY.

TRURO CATHEDRAL.

Some time before the last war in a conversation with the late John W. Taylor, he told me he had just had what was for him a rather curious experience.

He had just been to the opening of the new bells at Truro Cathedral, and when he was inspecting the finished job, he had great doubts as to whether the bells would be heard sufficiently in the ringing chamber, owing to the heavy stone vaulting. But when the bells were pulled off, to his astonishment the noise was deafening. There seemed no reason for it and he could not account for it in any way.

He had to leave early to get back to Loughborough; on his journey he pondered the matter deeply, and at last he saw light. When he changed trains at Bristol he telegraphed to Dick Lane, the bellhanger, 'Look at the rope shoots.' These had been made and fixed by a local firm, and, as Mr. Taylor had guessed, were four-sided tubes instead of the usual open channels. The result was that they acted like the old-fashioned speaking tubes and brought the sound directly from the bells to the ringing room.

After so many years the details of my meeting and talk with Mr. Taylor are blurred in my memory, but the main features are distinct enough. Here is an example of how easy it is to cure the defect of inaudible bells in the ringing chamber. The device has often been used and can be completely successful.

J. A. T.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 93.)

The Church of St. George, Anstey, Hertfordshire, is a cruciform edifice of flint and stone, with a central embattled tower supported on four Norman arches. On the external south-west angle of the south transept is a turret forming a three-quarter circle with a loop-hole window which, opening into the transept, led by a winding stairway to the priests' chamber. It was afterwards used as a way of access to the belfry until the lowering of the roof in 1831, and the substitution of an internal ladder rendered it useless.

As early as 1552 there were here 'iiijor bells in the steeple' which number, if Chauncey is correct, was increased to five before 1700, in which year the present treble—making six—was added. The bells are now dated:—treble 1700; second 1778, by Pack and Chapman; third, 1764, by Lester and Pack; fourth and fifth, 1616, and tenor undated. The latter is an interesting ancient bell with an invocation to 'Sancte George' and the capitals are crowned. It is in bold Gothic letters, while the second line gives the name of the donor, Sir Richard Pantan.

The Norman church of St. Mary, Ellesmere, Shropshire, has a broad central tower, which is a solid structure supported by four arches, also presumably Norman. From the ground floor to the commencement of each arch it is about 10 feet; to the apex of each about 30 feet; and to the ringing room floor 32 feet, while the tower extends to a height of approximately 73 feet. It appears somewhat taller on account of its situation on fairly high ground overlooking the Mere.

The tower is approached by means of a spiral stone stairway on the south side of the church. These steps actually continue up the short separate spire of and on to the roof of St. Anne's or Oteley Chapel, situate at the south-east corner of the church. To reach the central tower, however, a left turn is made about halfway up them. A few more steps are then ascended, when a narrow flat passage is reached. This passage is inside one of the interior walls and leads to more spiral steps. The latter continue up the south-west corner of the central tower, past the doors of the ringing room, clock room, bell chamber and on to the leads on top. On the west side of the passage referred to, which is about ten feet in length, there are three long windows of thick plain glass, from which can be viewed the greater portion of the aisles in the interior of the church below. The only window in the ringing room looks out to the south, a few feet above the almost flat roof of St. Anne's Chapel.

There are eight bells, tenor approximately 21 cwt. in E. The treble, 4th, 5th and 6th are by Thomas Rudhall, 1768; the 2nd, 3rd and 7th are by Abraham Rudhall and dated 1727, and the tenor was recast by J. Rudhall in 1799. They were overhauled by Mears and Stainbank in 1894, but still hang in the original old oak frame upon which someone has carved the date 1712.

Shortly after the recasting of three bells in 1727 the society succeeded in ringing a peal thus recorded on a tablet still in the belfry: 'The Whole Peal of Grand-sire Triples was (on the 4th day of Feby., 1730,

within the space of three hours & 5 minutes) compleatly rung by the following Persons. Joseph Langford: Thomas Franks: John Sadler: Thos. Kynaston: Willm. Gough: Willm. Davies: Thos. Sadler: Jas. Eaton.' In the ringing room also is a board bearing typical Salop 'Ringers' Rules' in rhyme.

Although the bells go well, only some eight or so peals have been rung here, possibly because the village is rather off the beaten track. They include Grandsire Triples, Kent Treble Bob, Double Norwich and Stedman. Of the latter, the last, rung on July 1st, 1939, was the quickest, being rung in 2 hours 56 minutes. For many years (until 1920) there was only a 'stone' band of ringers, but Mr. T. Butler, sen., started a change-ringing team with good success. Although many of the band are now serving in the Forces, it is hoped ere long to have a re-union. Meanwhile, a number of new recruits are coming along.

The magnificent church of St. George, Doncaster, Yorks, with its lofty central tower, was entirely destroyed by a disastrous fire which occurred on February 28th, 1853. It was rebuilt by Sir Gilbert Scott in 1858, and is a very handsome edifice. The approach to the ringing chamber is thus described: A flight of stone steps is entered from outside, and at the top one traverses the roof of the north aisle, then up some wooden steps to the ringing room. The stairways are in good condition and lighted with electricity, while the ringing chamber is large and spacious.

The bells have had a chequered history. In 1552 there were 'iiij belles.' About 1579 two were recast by a founder named Bellingham, who received £20 for additional metal. In 1592 the 'Ladye Bell' was recast. In 1692 Cuthbert Pease contracted to find wood for yoking and hanging the great bell, and keeping it in good order for four years for £4 10s. In 1720 there were five bells, which weighed 77 cwt. 2 qr. 25 lb., and on one of them was inscribed: 'Daniel Hedderly cast vs five A.D. 1720.' In 1721 these were sent back to Hedderly to be used in making a new ring of eight with a tenor 29 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lb. In 1749 James Harrison, of Barrow-on-Humber, was employed to tune the tenor and five others, and rehang four of them. In 1834 the tenor, having been cracked by the clock hammer, and another being injured, the whole ring except the 7th (which had been recast by Hilton, of Wath, in 1791) was recast by Thomas Mears. The tenor of this ring was 31 cwt. 24 lbs.

After the fire of 1853, as much bell metal as possible was recovered from the ruins, and sent to Messrs. Warner and Sons with a view to it, or its equivalent, being employed to cast a new ring. Warner's agreed to allow four per cent. on its value till the new ring was wanted. This was designed by the late Lord Grimthorpe and cast by Warner's in 1858. The tenor of this ring is 30½ cwt. in C sharp.

It used to be customary to ring the 6th to summon the Town Council: 5th for the Highway Board; treble for Vestry. Up to 1835 it was the custom to ring the bells in full peal on November 5th and January 30th each year. It was also usual to ring a bell at the expiration of an apprentice's time of service, but this was almost entirely discontinued after a fatal accident in the belfry in 1728.

The church of St. Mary, the Virgin, Kempford,

Gloucestershire, has a central tower situated between nave and chancel. It is remarkably fine and has strongly projecting diagonal buttresses more suitable for a western tower. The upper part is of good outline, but simple in detail. It has a clock and six bells, tenor approximately 19 cwt. The treble is by Henry Bagley, 1739; second by A. Rudhall, 1700; third and fourth bear the arms of Thynne and Coventry, dated 1678; fifth by Mears, 1846; and tenor by J. Rudhall, 1830.

The church of St. Mary, Chesham, Bucks, is a cruciform building chiefly in the Early English and Decorated styles, with a central embattled tower and octagonal spire. Much interesting data on the ancient history of the bells here, is given in Cock's 'Church Bells of Buckinghamshire,' pp. 343/4. There is now a ring of six, tenor 17 cwt., all by Thomas Mears, of London, 1812, and a Sanctus by John Sturdy, who died in 1456. The bells were rehung in 1885 by Mears and Stainbank. Like many central towers, the ringing room is reached over the church roof, then through a doorway about 4 feet high. A large beam across the centre of the room, at eye level, divides the rope circle in two.

The grand central tower of St. Mary's, Nottingham—already referred to—contains a fine recast ring of ten. Here the ascent to the ringing chamber is somewhat similar to St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent; or St. Martin's, Leicester. After ascending a spiral stairway at a corner of the transept, you pass along the roof of the same, then go up about four wooden steps, and then a short stone stairway cut through the tower wall, and so into the large ringing room. Of the old ring of ten the treble was by C. and G. Mears, 1856: second, third, fourth and tenor by Lester and Pack, 1761 and 1765 respectively. Fifth, 1699; sixth, by H. Oldfield; seventh, 1690; eighth, 1605; ninth—a grand old bell bearing four impressions of the Royal Arms alternating with four founder's marks. It has three rows of decoration and lettering finely stamped. The circular mark on this bell was reserved for Henry Oldfield's more important works, among which was Great Tom of Lincoln, cast 1610. Names of the Mayor, wardens and aldermen appear on this bell, which is dated 1595. The old tenor weighed 34½ cwt.

In 1935 Messrs. Gillett and Johnston recast the whole ring except the ninth referred to above, and the tenor is now 35½ cwt. in C. The old frame was taken down, and a new massive iron A frame, supported on steel girders, has been erected. The large dimensions of the tower enabled this to be planned diagonally across the tower, so that the greatest stresses are taken on the corners of the building, where great strength lies in its buttresses.

The great interest of St. Mary's, Nottingham, to ringers is the fact that this was the church where William Doubleday Crofts, the Nottingham solicitor, who was a pioneer of change ringing in the Sherwood Forest district, did most of his ringing. The first peal recorded here was 5,040 Grandsire Triples on February 3rd, 1761, and the first of Caters (5,040 Grandsire) January 1st, 1765. In 1775 they rang 6,012 Grandsire Caters, followed by 8,046 in 1776. In 1777 the Leicester Scholars, having rung 10,080 at St. Margaret's, the Nottingham Society set out to beat this. On March 3rd, 1778, they accomplished 10,260 Grandsire Caters, still the longest in this method yet rung in the Midlands.

In 1788 they rang 5,040 Bob Royal; in 1789 a peal of 5,080 Oxford Treble Bob Royal, and in 1791 they accomplished 5,040 Double Bob Royal. They also went to many other towers, some a long distance away like King's Norton by Galby, Leicestershire; Uppingham, Rutland, and at the opening of Chesterfield bells in 1820, after ringing for morning service at St. Mary's, Nottingham, they started for Chesterfield **on foot**, after having subscribed to pay the coach fare of their conductor, Richard Peat. They arrived safely and rang their peal—5,364 Grandsire Caters—on May 23rd, being the second peal to be rung at Chesterfield that day.

William Doubleday Crofts achieved fame as a ringer and composer, not only in and around Nottingham, but as far afield as York and London. It is to be regretted that no record is available of his public life, except what we gather from his ringing MSS.; these are still in a state of perfect preservation, and were praised by Jasper Snowdon, who interleaved them with written remarks. Mr. J. W. Parker, of Sunderland, has said:

'The whole of the papers are extremely interesting, and, considering the time they were written, reveal the writer as a wonderful man. At that time there could have been little or no chance of learning from an outside source, and yet the contents of the MSS. show Crofts to have the knowledge of and a keen insight into many things which would put him to the forefront, even to-day. His touches and peals seem surprising for the time. . . . The most interesting is the writer's proof of Treble Bob methods by the lead ends. In the case of Oxford it is as exact and detailed as that published 100 years after by the late Jasper W. Snowdon, even though set out in a different way.'

Crofts' ability as a ringer is proved by his peal records. Physically a very powerful man, he performed some very remarkable feats at the heavy end, which was a much more formidable task than it is to-day. Thus, in the first peal at Gainsborough, it took two men to ring the tenor bell behind 5,040 Grandsire Triples, yet a year later Crofts turned the same bell single-handed into a peal of Bob Major. In the long peal of 10,260 Grandsire Caters at St. Mary's, Nottingham, in 1778, when the bell-ropes were 30 feet longer than they are to-day, he rang the 9th bell single-handed through the whole seven hours twenty-two minutes. He was elected a College Youth in 1765, and was one of that society's band who rang the first peal at York Minster in 1787. Two of his compositions, 5,280 Treble Bob Major and 5,000 Treble Bob Royal, find a place in Snowdon's book. He rang 31 peals in all, of which he conducted 27. His portrait, painted by Richard Bonington, hangs in the Nottingham Castle Art Museum.

(To be continued.)

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT OXHEY.

A meeting of the Watford District of the Herts County Association was held at St. Matthew's, Oxhey, on March 4th, and was attended by 40 members and friends from several counties.

Evensong was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Langmead Casserley, assisted by the Rev. T. P. Hearn and the Rev. P. L. Spencer, both local ringers. A collection made for the Benevolent Fund of the association amounted to £1 3s.

Tea was provided at the Vicarage, and at the meeting the president (Mr. H. G. Cashmore) was in the chair. Six of the young Oxhey band were elected members. A touch of six Spliced Surprise Major methods, Superlative, Cambridge, London, Bristol, Wembley and Watford, was rung on handbells, and on tower bells the beginners had rounds and the experts Bristol Surprise.

RANDOM RAMBLINGS BY A COUNTRYMAN.

To the Editor.

Sir,—First of all may I congratulate you on the standard of the ringers' journal? I was much struck by the leader on 'Rhythm.' It has been the fashion in some circles to criticise the bands of experts, who prior to the war used to tour country districts during the summer and ring peals wherever they went. Even leaving out the fact that we countrymen have always found them full of readiness to help us in our elementary efforts, they do an enormous amount of good in showing us what good striking really means.

I come from a country of perhaps precision or clockwork striking, and I well remember one of our ringers listening to a peal by one of these expert bands. The whole thing was against his ideas and principles. He was a round ringer; in his opinion the tenor must come last, an open lead was faulty striking. He gave up a bit of his dinner hour to come and criticise. He remained for the full three hours in open praise, moving from one place to another to find the best value. It was this very word 'rhythm' that he used and which so well expressed all that he was trying to say.

There has been a great deal said on Simpson tuned bells. The expert pianist will only play on the perfect piano. Those of us not so expert will often prefer the individual tone of our own cottage piano, provided it is not out of tune. Thus most ringers and most parishioners prefer the individual tone of their own bells, provided they are not out of tune with each other. That a bell may be out of tune with itself merely adds to the individuality and therefore to his liking for it.

It has often been said that once you have heard one ring of bells cast by a certain firm you have heard the lot. If the firm is aiming at perfection of tuning, it is obvious that weight for weight this must be so, and it is to the credit of the firm that they achieve their aim. I do not know very much about casting, but assume that it is the object of a reputable firm to cast as near in tune as is possible and then to tune up. In early days of Simpson tuning there were some very thin bells cast, and it did look as if a firm might be tempted to cast any sort of block of metal and then tune it into a bell. It is mainly in these earlier bells that one hears the 'howl' which some people complain of.

But in any case if you have a ring of bells each of which is tuned perfectly in five tones, it stands to reason that somewhere and at some time you can pick out each of these tones. Everything else being perfect, you will just get the music, just as in a choir. But stand in one particular place and you'll hear one tone to the detriment of the others either in bells or choir.

The tones exist, therefore they can be heard and, as towers cannot be made perfect from every angle, what is called the 'howl' must exist. In bells not tuned on this principle obviously it cannot exist, because the tones don't form any obvious tune or rhythm.

It may seem a big come down from some of the 'perfect' rings your correspondents have mentioned to a little six-bell ring at St. Veep in Cornwall. Cast by the Penningtons, they were shortly before the war rehung. Fortunately they fell into the hands of a firm who appreciated them and were not all out to produce something of their own, however beautiful that might be. They were just put right and rehung and are, in the opinion of many who have since rung there, an absolutely perfect job. Incidentally, their treatment created far more confidence in the bell founders than would have been the case (as with so many) if they had been thrown into the melting pot and reproduced as Messrs. So and So's perfect five tone principle bells.

Finally, when all the firms have found the right answer as to thickness, weight and size and all tune in the same method, will not all rings, weight for weight, be exactly alike? And shall we like it?

C. F. J.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT RUMNEY.

A meeting of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association was held at Rumney on February 26th, at which there was a good attendance of members from Aberavon, Swansea, Caerphilly, Pontypridd, Cardiff, Penarth, Llangynydd, Llanfrechfa, Ebbw Vale, Newport, St. Mellons and Newton Nottage.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. C. K. Smith, and tea followed in the Parish Hall. The Vicar presided at the meeting and welcomed the ringers. Mr. J. W. Jones, the hon. secretary, spoke of the coming meeting of the Central Council.

At present there is no regular ringing at Rumney, but the Vicar, who has recently come to the parish, has got together some learners who are being instructed with tied clappers by two of the old band. It is hoped that open ringing will shortly be done for Sunday service.

A number of new members were proposed, including 16 from the local belfry. Thanks were given to the Vicar and to the ladies who provided and served the tea.

The ringing before and after the service included the standard methods and plenty of rounds.

IPSWICH.—On Sunday, February 27th, at St. Mary-le-Tower on handbells, 720 Spliced Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Maximus. Ilkeston Variation: G. A. Fleming 1-2, H. E. Smith 3-4, C. J. Sedgley (conductor) 5-6, G. E. Symonds 7-8, W. E. Garrett 9-10, F. J. Tillet 11-12.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, March 11th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—Meeting at Weston, Bath, Saturday, March 11th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Weston, Bath.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Annual meeting, Christ Church, Blacklands, Hastings, March 11th, 2.30 to 8 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names to John Downing, Acting Hon. Sec., 2, Hughenden Road, Hastings.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Apsley End, Saturday, March 11th. Usual arrangements.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Clifton on Saturday, March 11th, 3 p.m. Tea 5.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD and KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION (Tonbridge District).—Meeting at Edenbridge, March 11th, 3 p.m.—T. Saunders and C. A. Bassett, Hon. Secs.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch.—Meeting at Outwell and Upwell on Saturday, March 11th. Upwell bells 2.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea 5.30.—W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at Royston, Saturday, March 11th, 3 p.m. Tea arrangements if possible.—A. E. Symonds, The Cottage, Windmill Hill, Hitchin.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Feltham, Saturday, March 18th. Bells 3 to 7.30 p.m. Short meeting in belfry at 5 p.m. Several cafes nearby.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., Perivale 5320.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Annual meeting, Pulborough, Saturday, March 18th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting at Church Room. Names appreciated.—L. Stilwell, Acting Sec., Pulborough.

THE RINGERS' HANDBOOK

by E. S. and M. POWELL.

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MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and East District. — Annual meeting at St. James', Clerkenwell, on Saturday, March 18th, 3 p.m. Committee meeting 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Names by 14th to T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Syston, March 18th, 3 p.m. Tea at Mrs. E. Payne's, near church, 5 p.m. Names by March 15th. Buses from bus station, Abbey Street.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Taunton Deanery.—Annual meeting, Saturday, March 18th, at Wilton. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea British Restaurant. Meeting 6 p.m., Club House, St. James' Street.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—Meeting at Tilsworth, Saturday, March 18th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—D. E. Lidbetter, Hon. Dis. Sec., 13, Grove Road, Leighton Buzzard.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at Belper (8 bells), Saturday, March 18th, 2.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting at Barnet, Saturday, March 18th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. and during evening. Names for tea by March 14th.—R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—West Dorset Branch.—Annual meeting, Bridport, Saturday, March 18th, 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea and meeting 5.15. Names for tea by March 11th.—C. H. Lathey, Sec., Malmaison, Bradpole, Bridport.

BRIGHTON.—Practice, Saturday, March 18th, at St. Peter's, 2.30 to 7.30 p.m. Tea interval 4.30 to 5 p.m. No arrangements. Methods, rounds to Double Norwich Caters and Cambridge Royal.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—Meeting at Long Ashton, Saturday, March 18th, 4 p.m. Tea available.—Percy G. Yeo, Long Ashton.

EAST MARKHAM, NOTTS.—Practice meeting, Saturday, March 18th. Bells (8), 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—H. Denman, 9, Rockley, Retford, Notts.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting at Marlborough, March 18th, St. Peter's (8), St. Mary's (6), 2.30 p.m. Names by March 14th.—T. A. Palmer, Baydon Hill, Aldbourne, Marlborough, Wilts.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—Meeting at Christ Church, Pendlebury, on Saturday, March 18th, 3 p.m. No refreshments.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Meeting at Wath-on-Deerne, Saturday, March 18th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tea in Church House 5 p.m. Service 5.45 p.m., followed by business meeting. Names for tea to W. Green, 9, Moor Road, Wath-on-Deerne, near Rotherham, by 15th.—S. F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual committee meeting at Oxford, on Saturday, March 18th, in the Chapter House, Christ Church, at 3.15 p.m.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at St. Leonard's Church, Middleton, on Saturday, March 18th.—I. Kay, Branch Sec., 30, Grafton Street, Moorside, Oldham.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Annual meeting at Dudley, Saturday, March 18th, 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Business meeting and light refreshments afterwards.—J. Goodman, Hon. Sec., 45, Holcroft Street, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Annual meeting at Balcombe, Saturday, March 25th, 3 p.m. Service and meeting. Names for tea by March 21st.—O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—Meeting at Whitstable, Saturday, March 25th, 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea, 1s. Names to Mr. C. C. Dilmot, 75-77, Oxford Street, Whitstable, by March 22nd.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—Owing to the continued illness of Mr. C. H. Jennings, 59, Portland Road, Weymouth, he is unable to answer any communications in connection with the secretaryship for the present. Any letters, therefore, may be sent to Mr. J. T. Godwin, 10, High West Street, Dorchester.

HANDBELLS WANTED.

HANDBELLS WANTED.—Set, any number.—Particulars and price to W. A. Holmes, Edenham, Bourne, Lincs.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BANSTEAD.

The annual meeting of the North-Western District of the Surrey Association was held at Banstead on February 26th and was attended by about 40 members.

The following officers were elected: Master, Mr. D. Cooper; secretary, Mr. G. Massey; treasurer, Mr. H. N. Pitstow; auditor, Mr. C. Dean; committee, Messrs. F. E. Collins, C. Potheary and H. O. Young. The present general officers were all nominated for re-election.

It was decided to leave the arrangements for meetings in the hands of the committee. It was hoped to hold the next meeting on Easter Monday. The annual general meeting will be at Croydon on May 20th.

The ringing during the afternoon and evening ranged from rounds and Grandsire Triples to London and Bristol Surprise Major.

KEWSTOKE.—On Sunday, February 27th, 1,260 Doubles (360 Union, 360 Plain Bob, 120 April Day, 420 Grandsire): W. Blake 1, W. Hart 2, J. Weaden (conductor) 3, S. Thomas 4, E. Avery 5, G. Prescott 6.

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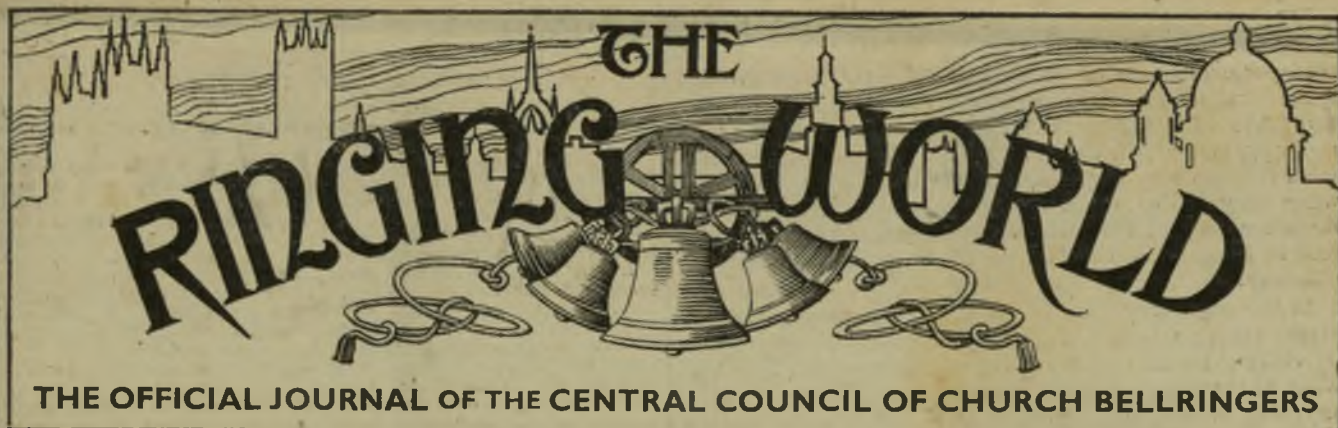
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THE RINGING WORLD

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

No. 1,721. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, MARCH 17th, 1944.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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THE FIRST PEAL ON THE BELLS.

In this week's issue Mr. Charles Tyler tells us a little story which may serve as a peg on which to hang a few remarks. He says that in his younger days he was connected with a more than usually progressive and enthusiastic band. They took to handbell ringing and succeeded in achieving peals of Stedman, Triples, Caters and Cinques. On tower bells they rang the simpler methods and Double Norwich, and began to practise Superlative with the intention of adding it to their list. Then it so happened that an outside band visited the tower for a peal of Double Norwich but, changing their mind at the last minute, rang one of Superlative instead. This deprived the local men of the opportunity of ringing the first peal in the method on the bells; and they were disappointed and offended, lost interest in their ringing and never properly recovered it.

What is the moral? Some people will be sure to blame the visitors and to see in the incident only one more instance of the selfishness of cliques, who go about ringing peals regardless of the feelings and interests of the local ringers, and so causing trouble and doing harm. What justification is there for such a view? The visiting band (we have not the least idea who they were and, anyway, it was long ago) had asked for and received permission to attempt a peal. The local band had made no objection, and would have been satisfied if the method had been Double Norwich as was at first intended. The trouble was caused by the alteration of the method to Superlative.

Now we suppose no one will question the right of a band to change the method before a peal attempt. It is continually done, and the fact that the attempt was definitely arranged for a particular method created no obligation on the part of the band to abide by it, nor would a band ordinarily think it necessary to acquaint the local men of the alteration. We are told that these men knew of no objection to an attempt for Superlative, and it is hard to see where they were to blame.

Still, it is not difficult to sympathise with the local company. They had formed an ambition and were in a fair way towards realising it, when an outside band came along and unexpectedly robbed them of the honour.

Those quarrels always do the most harm when both sides are in the right, and the cause is almost always because people do not sufficiently consider other men's point of view. In our instance, it is difficult to resist

(Continued on page 110.)

the conclusion that all trouble would have been avoided if the local men had taken some precautions and the visitors had had a little more imagination. If, when the visitors applied for permission, they had been told that there were reasons why they should not ring Superlative, or if, when they talked about changing the method, they had remembered that the local company might want the first peal of Superlative themselves, there would have been no difficulty.

In the same way most of the unpleasantness which has arisen (though very occasionally) through peal attempts by visiting bands has been due to misunderstanding and want of thought. Ringers should be very chary of doing anything which may cause offence, and equally they should be very chary of taking offence where none is intended.

There is the further question, Was the first peal of Superlative on those bells of such importance that it was worth making all that bother about? To be the first to do some particular feat has always been a great incentive to progress in change ringing, and there are first performances which are worth striving for. The first peal of London Surprise Major, or Cambridge Maximus, or Spliced Surprise, has a merit which can hardly be equalled by any subsequent peals in the same method; but the first peal on a particular ring of bells is little more than a matter of time and opportunity. Mr. Tyler's band might have gone on and rung their Superlative without paying any attention to what the others had done. Their merit would have been just as great; people would have thought just as much of them, and they could have thought just as much of themselves.

To have an ambition and to be balked of it may be disappointing, but it should be remembered that the benefit of having an ambition lies, not in its realisation, but in the striving after it. A peal when it is rung is nothing. It is in the attempt its values lies.

THE YOUTH MOVEMENT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—We are to-day hearing quite a lot about the 'Youth Movement,' but so far I have not seen the exact definition of it. One can only surmise that it is a movement designed to teach youth the best way of occupying their leisure through the medium of the various youth organisations throughout the country, such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Boys' Clubs, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., etc. These we know have done and do good work, but do they go far enough? Do they cater for the young when they have grown up? Of this I have no knowledge, but I do know that if our ringing societies were looked upon as valuable adjuncts to the Youth Movement they would cater for youth in all its stages. I therefore suggest to the Central Council that they consider what steps should be taken to link our associations with those of the Youth Movement.

JOHN P. FIDLER.

28, Naupantan Road, Loughborough.

RAISING AND CEASING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have found that in the prize ringing districts of Cornwall more attention is paid to the tenor than to any other bell. In other words, if the tenor during rising is too close to the 5th or 7th, the front bells close on each other to open the tenor.

At Redruth we have adopted this method with great success and it was noticeable that it works on any number of bells. It has also been found that, when falling, if the tenor has been left to swing free, i.e., neither checked or pulled, she will bring the other bells in with the best results.

But a lot still depends on a steady 2nd and 4th on six and 5th on eight. If these take their time from the tenor, the other bells have only the work of following them without any worry.

E. V. WILLIAMS.

59, Fore Street, Redruth.

A WOULD-BE DICTATOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I venture to make a few remarks on 'A Would-be Dictator's' letter?

I do not think it necessary for one to become a dictator in ringing matters, only as far as it applies to the early stages, which to some probationers is a bit confusing, when they try to follow all the different ideas and views that have appeared lately. To me it seems necessary for someone competent to explain what is meant in a simple, friendly way, but not as a dictator.

We do not give sufficient thought or practice to bring about a recognised standard of ringing in the matter of time which makes for rhythm, and I think it is one of our failings in not making it one of the principal lessons for the probationer to study, not only for his own benefit, but also for those listening outside.

For this purpose I used a dulcimer of eight notes, that could be used for any number from three to eight, to represent rounds, and the changes as desired when rung on tower bells, so that the probationer's ears became acquired with what is expected of them when ringing in the tower.

This may not seem necessary to some, but I found it very useful. I thought it worth trying after reading the accounts of some of the concerts given by the Ilkley Minstrels, in which Jasper and William Snowden were interested. He gave demonstrations on handbells when trying to explain the different ideas he had heard, but nothing better than how he describes it in 'Rope Sight,' which enabled several to become good ringers and strikers.

The same ideas were followed here, which kept interest in the work, and the ringers rarely failed to meet for a touch at morning and evening service and an occasional peal.

Some became interested in handbell ringing, and besides ringing touches of Triples, Caters and Cinques double handed, succeeded in ringing a peal in each, and all rung with the open lead at hand.

Having become efficient on tower bells in Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Double Norwich and Kent Treble Bob Major, there still remained the ambition to ring the first peal in a method on their own bells, which was considered to be a great help to progress, so for the next Superlative was taken up, and it did not take long for them to become sufficiently efficient to start for a peal. Unfortunately, the peal-hogs came along. I don't like this word myself, it doesn't seem to me quite the word to use in such matters, but I suppose 'Would-be Dictator' could not think of anything better.

Well, our ringing friends (this seems to me better than peal-hogs) came along to attempt a peal of Double Norwich, for which permission had been given, but instead they seemed to think there would be no objection to ringing Superlative, as it would be the first in the method on the bells. It was one of their hobbies getting the first on other people's bells. They succeeded, but it caused an unfriendly feeling with the locals. They had been disappointed in their ambition and loss of interest resulted, which never properly returned.

I consider loss of interest in other districts is partly due to the want of a little consideration as to the views and opinions of the local men in matters connected with the tower. I know some locals never know of these intended visits until they have heard the bells being pulled up.

C. TYLER.
Henfield, Sussex.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.

MEETING AT ROMSEY.

The annual meeting of the Southampton District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild was held at Romsey on February 26th, when about seventy members and visitors attended from a wide area.

At the business meeting the Rev. K. Felstead, Vicar of Weston, Southampton, who is a ringer, was elected district chairman and the other officers were re-elected. A programme for the year was drawn up. It includes meetings at Netley Abbey, Eling and Upham, as well as an all day one at East Tytherley on August Bank Holiday, and evening practices where possible.

The ringing during afternoon and evening ranged from Grandsire Triples to Cambridge Surprise Major.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BOLTON.

Youth was predominant at a meeting of the Lancashire Association held at St. George's, Bolton, on March 4th. Seven local belfries were represented and visitors were present from Leatherhead, Chester and Halifax.

Six new members were elected and it was decided to hold the next meeting at All Saints', Bolton, on April 1st.

The question of using bells to celebrate successes during the war was discussed, and the opinion was that the Prime Minister gave a lead when he replied to a question on firing guns as in Moscow. He preferred bells.

MAULDEN, BEDS.—On Saturday, February 26th, 720 Bob Minor: T. Harris (first 720) 1, H. Lawrence 2, R. J. Sharp 3, C. H. Harding 4, R. Houghton 5, A. C. Sinfeld (conductor) 6.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

PENWORTHAM, LANCs.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(PRESTON BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 11, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 cwt.

FRED RIGBY... ..	Treble	JOHN H. GARTSIDE	5
JOHN JACKSON	2	FRANCES MCCARTHY	6
WILLIAM SHARPLES	3	E. ROGER MARTIN	7
WILLIAM TAYLOR	4	F. GEORGE BRADLEY	Tenor

Composed by EDWIN TIMBRELL.

Conducted by E. R. MARTIN.

Rung as an 84th birthday compliment to Mr. J. R. Taylor, of the local company.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 11, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).

Tenor 16 cwt.

NORMAN V. HARDING	Treble	C. ALFRED LEVETT	5
FRANK H. HICKS	2	WILLIAM WELLING	6
*ELSIE M. HUNT... ..	3	GEORGE GILBERT	7
*WINIFRED E. HUNT... ..	4	WILLIAM HENLEY	Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE GILBERT.

* First attempt for a peal. Rung on the conductor's birthday.

LEOKHAMPTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(CHELTENHAM BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 11, 1944, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 cwt.

WILLIAM TOWNSEND	Treble	*WILLIAM DYER	5
JOHN AUSTIN	2	WALTER C. ROSE	6
WILFRED WILLIAMS	3	*CHARLES W. MARTIN	7
ARTHUR H. REED	4	JOHN BALLINGER	Tenor

Composed by J. PLATT.

Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.

* First peal in the method.

HELMINGHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, March 11, 1944 in Three Hours and Eight Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

MIDDLETON'S COMPOSITION.

Tenor 19½ cwt.

WILLOUGHBY E. MAULDEN Treble	WILLIAM J. G. BROWN	5
GEORGE A. FLEMING	SERG. J. O'WELLER	6
LESLIE G. BREIT	THOMAS W. LAST	7
LESLIE C. WIGHTMAN	CRCIL W. PIPE	Tenor

Conducted by T. W. LAST.

SIX BELL PEALS.

DISLEY, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 11, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF SPLICED TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven extents in 17 methods, viz.: (1) Newdigate and College Bob IV.; (2) Old Oxford and Willesden; (3) Charlwood and St. Albans Delight; (4) Wragby and Neasden; (5) Ockley and Norbury Treble Bob; (6) Duke of Norfolk and College Exercise Treble Bob; (7) Capel, Sandal, London Scholars' Pleasure, Kingston and Oxford Treble Bob.

Tenor 8½ cwt.

DAVID VINCENT	Treble	JAMES A. MILNER	4
WILLIAM FERNLEY	2	ALAN J. BROWN	5
THOMAS TAYLOR	3	JOHN WORTH... ..	Tenor

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

Forty-nine changes of method.

BLADON, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 11, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Ten different callings.

Tenor 6½ cwt. in B

*DAVID C. RITCHIE	Treble	JOHN E. SPICE	4
†MARGARET D. TELFORD	2	†WILLIAM C. PORTER... ..	5
†WALTER F. JUDGE	3	*H. PETER RAYNOR	Tenor

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal. † First peal in the method and first on six bells.
‡ First peal of Doubles. The conductor's first peal of Doubles on tower bells. Rung after meeting short for Triples at Woodstock.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, March 6, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes.

AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).

MRS. G. W. FLETCHER	1-2	JOHN THOMAS	5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS... ..	3-4	*PHILIP J. COWARD	7-8

Conducted by MRS. G. W. FLETCHER.

* First peal.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, March 7, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes.

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

MRS. J. THOMAS... ..	1-2	JOHN THOMAS	5-6
*ALBERT J. WALLMAN	3-4	†DENNIS H. LANGDON	7-8

Composed by F. BRNNETT.

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First peal of Bob Major on an inside pair. † First peal of Major.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 11, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes.

IN THE CATHEDRAL BELFRY.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5005 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

MISS JILL POOLE... ..	1-2	G. STEDMAN MORRIS	7-8
PERCY L. HARRISON	3-4	ERNEST MORRIS	9-10
HAROLD J. POOLE	5-6	JOSIAH MORRIS	11-12

Composed by F. H. DEXTER.

Conducted by H. J. POOLE.

A silver wedding compliment to Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Black, son-in-law and daughter of Mr. J. Morris.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 12, 1944, in One Hour and Fifty-Eight Minutes.

IN ST. PETER'S HALL.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings.

Tenor size 11 in G.

*PERCY W. BRAYSHAW	1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS	3-4
MISS JESSIE C. CHICK	5-6		

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* Aged 14. First peal on a working pair.

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by E. S. and M. POWELL.

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Staverton Vicarage, near Daventry.

ST. BOTOLPH'S, ALDGATE.

The Church of St. Botolph, Aldgate, which stands within the city area although outside the old city walls, contains a ring of eight which had a very high reputation among London bells. Few ringers now have heard them, for they have been for long out of order, but they escaped the destruction which befell their neighbours at St. Mary's Matfelon and St. George's-in-the-East, and it may be they have still a future before them as a ringing centre.

The old pre-Reformation church was a Gothic building consisting of three naves almost equal in height and breadth, and with a fine lofty tower at the south-west corner. The Edwardian inventory is defective and has now no mention of bells, but there was a ringing peal, probably five in number, in the sixteenth century.

When, about the year 1548, Church property was being confiscated and parishes were selling their plate and investing the money in such a way that it could not be so easily alienated, 'it was agreed by a vestry of honest men for the parish of St. Botolph-without-Aldgate in the City of London' for certain plate and bells to be sold, 'and with the money thereof to purchase a row of houses at the end of the churchyard,' one of which was to be for the curate and another for the clerk. The plate was accordingly sold, but the proposal to sell the bells met with so much opposition in the parish that it had to be abandoned, and the houses could not be bought.

Soon afterwards, 'the second bell beinge crackt was taken downe and changed with Robert Mot bell founder dwelling in Whyte Chappell.'

On February 9th, 1586, the vestry paid 'for ringing for jeye that the queene of skotts was beheaded,' the sum of xijd, and a further xijd 'for breade and beare for ye ringers.' Thomas Harridance, citizen and iron-monger, who was the parish clerk at the time, and a 'verie carefull and industrious man in his place,' recorded that 'we ded ringe at oure parishe church the ix daye of februarye in anno 1586 and was ffor jeye that the Queene of Skotts that enemy of oure most noble Queens Matie and our countrie was beheaded ffor the wch. the Lorde God be prayسد and I wold to god that all her conferrates were knowne and cut of by the lyke meanes.'

At this time the funeral charges were:—
 'for ye afternoones knell with ye greate bell ... 6s. 8d.
 for ye peales wch weare not runge ... 2s. 0d.
 ffor thee passinge bell ... 4d.'
 'Ye menester' received 11s. and the charge for 'ye grounde in ye Church' was 6s. 8d. Presumably the peals which were not rung were chimed, and when there was ringing at funerals the ringers would be paid directly.

During the seventeenth century the bells were increased to six. The church was outside the area destroyed by the Great Fire, but the churchwardens took precautions and 'paid for carrying away the pish books when ye fyre was in ve cittie, 6s.'

Laughton and the Ramblers met at St. Botolph's on December 20th, 1733, and rang Grandsire Doubles on the back five, and a 720 of Plain Bob on the six; but Laughton has nothing to say about the bells themselves.

By the year 1740 the church had become very dilapidated. George Dance, the city surveyor, was called in, and after inspection he advised that it would be better and cheaper to rebuild rather than attempt to repair.

Parliament was approached, and an Act was obtained on the then usual lines. Trustees were appointed and authorised to levy a rate not exceeding sixpence in the pound, two-thirds of which were to be paid by the landlords and one-third by the tenants. The total cost was £5,536 2s. 8d.

The church was opened in 1744, and in that year Thomas Lester cast and hung in the tower eight bells with a tenor of 28 cwt. Twenty years later the larger bells were recast by Lester and Pack.

The first peal in the steeple was rung by the College Youths on January 8th, 1745. It was 5,040 changes of Bob Major, and was conducted by Benjamin Annable. The second recorded peal was by the 'junior' Society of College Youths, and was 5,120 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major, rung on April 16th, 1758. The only other peal in the eighteenth century was one of Grandsire Triples by the Junior Cumberlands on December 19th, 1785.

In the belfry there is or was a board which records that on March 28th, 1852, a Friendly Society rang a peal of Grandsire Triples. 'The above is the 3rd Peal ever completed in this steeple and the only Peal of the kind since the year 1785. It was rung in less time than any other Peal upon the bells and was conducted by Mr. Arthurton.'

I know of no later peal in the steeple.

In mediæval times the parish of St. Botolph, Aldgate, was the headquarters of the London founders, and many bells cast there are still to be found all over the country. The earliest of note of these men was Richard de Wymbisshe, who cast a bell in 1312 for the neighbouring Holy Trinity Priory. He was succeeded by other members of his family. They were followed by many others whose names are given by Stahlschmidt, and chief among them were William Revel, William Dawe, Henry Jordan, John Danyll, William Culverden and Thomas Bullesdon.

About two hundred of Jordan and Danyll's bells still exist. Jordan, who died about 1470, by his will directed that his body should be buried 'in the Chapel of Our Lady in the northeside of the pyshe Church of Seynt Botulphes w'oute Aldgate of London that is to say in the place where as the body of Johanne my wiffe there resteth buried.' He left a bequest for the benefit of poor founders which is still paid by the Fishmongers Company to the Founders Company. Apparently he was a fishmonger as well as a founder, and on the shield he cast on his bells are a dolphin and cross keys to indicate the one trade, and a laver and a bell to indicate the other.

Another Aldgate bell founder was Robert Burford, according to the continuation of Stow's Survey, a wealthy man, as it seems, of this parish, and charitably disposed, who by his will gave £40 to the building of the aisle of St. Catherine, 40 marks towards making and raising of St. Mary's chapel to the same height and form as St. Catherine's aisle, and £40 towards building a new steeple. Stahlschmidt owned a deed of conveyance, dated 1405, from Robert Burford, citizen and bell founder, to John atte Lee, citizen and candlemaker, of a house in St. Andrew's, Cornhill. None of Burford's bells seems at present to be in existence.

HESTON, MIDDLESEX.—On Sunday, February 27th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: J. Cobb 1, W. W. Webb 2, E. R. Gladman 3, H. C. Chandler (conductor) 4, W. T. Godfrey 5, H. Belcher 6, W. J. Winter 8.

DEATH OF MR. WALTER CHARMAN.

The death is announced of Mr. Walter Charman, of Warnham, Sussex, who passed away on Monday, March 6th, at the age of 81. He was laid to rest on Thursday, March 9th, in the Parish Churchyard, brother ringers acting as bearers, and in the presence of many villagers who had come to pay their last respects. After the committal the bells were rung half-muffled.

Mr. Charman began his ringing career about 1880, and in 1886 Warnham bells were augmented to eight. In 1887 he rang his first peal, one of Grandsire Triples, conducted by H. Chandler. Practices were held every night and several peals were rung, three or four a month being the rule.

His last peal was on July 12th, 1939, and in all he rang 290, of which he conducted 42. They included 13,440 and 6,720 of Canterbury Pleasure Major, 6,720 Bob Major, and 6,408, 10,176 and 10,432 Kent Treble Bob Major. The others consisted of Grandsire Triples and Caters, Plain Bob, Place, Oxford Bob, Court Bob, Union Bob, Canterbury Pleasure and Stedman Triples; Plain Bob, Canterbury Pleasure, Collego Single, Oxford Bob, Double Oxford Bob, Double Norwich, and Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Major; six of Minor; and about 25 in several Surprise methods from Cambridge to Spliced, to which he rang the treble.

AN APPRECIATION.

To the Editor.

Sir,—By the death of Walter Charman, not only Warnham and the Sussex County Association, but the whole Exercise has lost a true friend. It did not matter what you could ring, who you were or where you came from; one and all were made welcome at the tower by Walter. After a friendship of over thirty years I cannot recall, in all my innumerable visits, once when he was not at the church. It did not matter if it was a plain method with some of the local band or if we had a Surprise band, he was there to see that everything was right, even when we started once at 5 o'clock in the morning.

It was often said that to know what real enjoyment there is in ringing one must have a trip to Warnham. A pleasant ride or walk through the park, an ideal tower, good bells and a pleasant tea and chat afterwards. Those of us who have had that pleasure have memories which will last all our lives. It is nice to know he is sleeping close to his godson Peter and the tower they both loved and served. It was with very great regret the writer was (owing to ill-health) unable to pay his last respects to such an old friend and one of nature's gentlemen.

A. H. PULLING.

Guildford.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM RICHARD MADGWICK.

Mr. William R. Madgwick, a ringer very well known in the Metropolitan area, was killed during a recent air raid, when the house he was living in was destroyed, with all its nine inhabitants, by a direct hit. He was buried, with the other victims, on February 23rd.

Mr. Madgwick was born at Fernhurst, near Midhurst, in Sussex, on December 15th, 1883, and thus was 60 years of age. He learnt to ring at Midhurst, and made a point of ringing at every possible church, both at home and abroad. His travels took him to Canada, California, New Zealand and Australia.

He went to London in the year 1927 and up to the outbreak of war was a member of the band which rang at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, but he was connected with other belfries as well and was always ready to join in any Sunday service or peal ringing. His list of peals included all the standard methods, as well as Yorkshire, Pudsey and Spliced Surprise Major, Yorkshire and Cambridge Royal, Cambridge Maximus and Stedman Caters and Cinques. He called several peals, including Cambridge, Superlative, Bristol and London Surprise Major.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM ESSERY.

The death is announced of Mr. William Essery after three years in hospital as the result of an air raid. He was for many years a member of the band at St. Luke's, Chelsea. The funeral was on February 29th.

DEATH OF THE REV W. C. BARRATT.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I think that it might be of some interest to those of your readers who are old members of the Oxford University Society of Change Ringers to note the death, on February 22nd last, of the Rev. W. C. Barrett, who was secretary of that society from 1927 to 1938, at Dormans, Surrey.

My reference as to his decease is 'The Church Times' of February 25th.

A member of Jesus College, he was one of the few surviving members of the society in its early days in the 1880's. His services to the society as secretary were marked by devotion and outstanding ability, and it should be mentioned also that he was a ringer of no mean ability, although his latter ringing days were hampered by the infirmities of old age.

P. J. M. BRYAN, Lieut. R.N.V.R.
(Master, O.U.S.C.R., 1939-1940).

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The official journal of the Central Council of
Church Bell Ringers.

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Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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'The Ringing World.'

Mr. Harold J. Poole will be installed a lay canon of Leicester
Cathedral at 6 p.m. on April 1st. There will be ringing afterwards.

The Rev. K. C. Davis, priest in charge of St. John's Church,
Swindon, has been appointed a member of the Bristol Diocesan
Advisory Committee as consultant for church bells, in place of the
late Mr. Stephen H. Wood.

Miss Agatha Lewis, second daughter of Mr. Edwin H. Lewis, has
just received promotion to a second ring in the W.R.N.S.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In view of the fact that the Central Council has not
met during the past four years, is it not rather unreasonable and
selfish to criticise the action of those in authority who have had a
very difficult decision to make regarding the holding of a meeting,
let alone on which day it should be held.

Both arguments from the reverend gentlemen do not make sense;
for, if, as one says, it takes a day to travel to your destination,
ruling out Monday, because of Sunday service ringing, the other says
rule out Monday because of annual association meetings. One could
not attend an annual association meeting if it took a day to travel
in peace time, as the Council held its meeting on Tuesday following
Whit Monday; and I don't think it could be deemed unloyal to miss
service ringing for one Sunday to attend the Central Council meeting.

Let these two gentlemen bear in mind that whilst Sunday is their
busy day, weekdays are the most important to the war production,
in which I should imagine the majority of members are engaged,
and it was obviously with this reason in mind that the Standing
Committee made their decision to hold the meeting on a public
holiday.

HILDA G. SNOWDEN.

Halstead, Essex.

HOW FAR CAN BELLS BE HEARD?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Stannard's statement that he has heard the bells of
St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, at Harwich is most interesting. This
must be very nearly, if not quite, the furthest distance that there
is real evidence that any English bells have been heard. Perhaps the
wide open estuary of the Orwell has something to do with it.

The Tower bells at Ipswich do not strike a visitor as having any
great carrying power. I remember standing in the year 1939 in the
churchyard under the steeple when the twelve were being rung. A
little way off there is a ring of five in a lofty tower, and these began
to ring at the same time. The curious thing was that the five seemed
to overpower the nearer and heavier twelve and force themselves on
the ear.

But the carrying power of sound is a curious thing. During the
last war when I was under canvas at Widford, near Chelmsford, I
could distinctly hear at night time the guns in France. Later on one
occasion I stood in the line just before one of the big battles, when
the whole sky all around was lit up by hundreds of gun flashes and
scarcely a sound reached my ears.

'X.'

BIRMINGHAM. — On Sunday, March 12th, at St. Chad's R.C.
Cathedral. 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: John N. Lindon 1,
Richard J. B. Hadden 2, John Pinfold 3, William C. Dowding 4,
Herbert C. Spencer 5, Henry H. Fearn 6, Frank E. Haynes 7, George
E. Fearn (conductor) 8.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

HENRY JOHNSON COMMEMORATION LUNCH.

The fifty-sixth annual Henry Johnson Commemoration was held on March 4th at the Imperial Hotel, Birmingham. Canon T. Guy Rogers presided and was supported by Mrs. Guy Rogers, Mr. Albert Walker (Master) and Mrs. Walker, Mr. G. E. Fearn (Ringing Master) and Mrs. Fearn, Mr. G. F. Swann (librarian), Mr. H. H. Fearn (auditor), Mr. T. H. Reeves (hon. secretary and treasurer), Mr. Councillor A. Paddon Smith and Mr. J. H. Shepherd (vice-presidents), Mr. F. W. Stevens (Rector's warden), the Provost of Birmingham, Canon S. Blofeld (Vicar of Edgbaston) and Mrs. Blofeld, the Rev. J. R. Hassett (Vicar of Bishop Ryder's) and Mrs. Hassett, Monsignor J. Canon Roskell (Administrator of St. Chad's R.C. Cathedral), Mr. A. A. Hughes, Mr. C. T. Coles, Mr. Rupert Richardson and Mrs. Richardson, Mr. J. F. Smallwood and Mrs. Smallwood, Mr. H. Poole, Mrs. Poole and Miss J. Poole, Mr. J. Worth, Mr. D. Vincent, Mr. F. Skidmore and Miss Skidmore, Mr. J. W. Jones, Mr. S. W. Freemantle, Mrs. Freemantle, Mr. F. E. Haynes, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Yates, Mr. W. A. Clark, Mr. W. Saunders, Mr. E. C. Shepherd, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Bishworth, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Pervin, Mr. F. Price, Mr. and Mrs. W. Davies, Mr. and Mrs. B. Wayman, Mr. J. W. Pemberton, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Dowding, Miss E. Foster, Miss O. M. Sanders, Mr. F. W. Perrens, Mr. and Mrs. D. T. Matkin, Mr. M. J. Morris, Mr. J. P. Fidler and Mr. F. E. Collins and Miss M. Cross. One hundred and twenty persons were present.

The Master of the Society of College Youths, Mr. E. G. Fenn, sent a telegram of good wishes.

Apologies were received from the Vicar of Aston (the Ven. H. McGowan), Mr. J. A. Trollope, Mr. W. T. Froggatt and Mr. T. B. Worsley.

CHURCH AND STATE.

Mr. W. C. Dowding proposed the toast of 'Church and State' in a challenging speech. He did not intend to propose the toast in the usual laudatory manner; indeed, he thought there was room for improvement in both Church and State. We were living in serious times, in which the only real hope for the world lay in the spread of the spirit of Christianity to the realms of business and politics. A year or so ago there had been signs that the Church really was trying to give a lead to the world, but since the Archbishop of York had been to Russia very little had been heard from him. Had the Archbishops been told not to make themselves a nuisance? He hoped not, because it was the duty of the Church to fight against the forces of evil just as vigorously as the Russians were fighting against the enemies of society.

Again, the treatment of ex-Service men after the last war had, in his opinion, been disgraceful on the part of both Church and State. He sincerely hoped that it would not happen again, but that the whole Church would make a real effort to bring about improvements in the State so obviously needed.

Canon Guy Rogers, in reply, said that the toast had indeed been proposed in a novel way. He wished to assure Mr. Dowding that the Church really was more alive to the social problems of the day than at any previous time. No longer did the idea of an old Tory squire and parson, surrounded by the village bellringers, give a true picture of the Church. There were to-day numerous organisations, closely connected with the Church, interesting themselves in the social and moral welfare of the country. At times, if it seemed necessary, the Church was prepared even to oppose the State. This, by the way, it had successfully done in the matter of the ban on church bells. Incidentally, the Rector said that the bells of St. Martin's were to be broadcast on Palm Sunday.

On the whole, however, Church and State worked well together—better in this country, in fact, than anywhere else in the world. The Church really was prepared to witness to Christianity and was making genuine efforts; the clergy were, however, only a part of the Church, and needed the support of everybody. He was pleased once again to have the privilege of replying to the toast, which Mr. Dowding had proposed in so vigorous and sincere a manner.

MEMORY OF HENRY JOHNSON.

Mr. A. Paddon Smith said that the memory of Henry Johnson had been kept green for more than half a century, not by Birmingham men only, but by ringers from all over the country. He did not ring a great number of peals, but devoted all his spare time to the study of compositions in which he was particularly successful. He died at the good age of 81 years and was laid to rest under the shadow of Aston Church tower, where he did most of his ringing. A memorial stone erected by the ringers of England marks the spot.

A well-struck course of Stedman Cinques was rung on handbells by F. E. Haynes 1-2, F. W. Perrens 3-4, A. Walker 5-6, J. F. Smallwood 7-8, G. F. Swann 9-10, F. E. Pervin 11-12.

Mr. F. E. Haynes, proposing 'Continued prosperity to St. Martin's Guild,' said some people might think that because there had been a double change of officers the prosperity of the Guild was diminishing. But it was a sign of strength when a society could change its officials at reasonable intervals and before they became old and decrepit. It showed that there were more than just one or two men capable of filling the positions. It stimulated interest. And it offered encouragement to able men who otherwise might not come to the fore.

For many years the St. Martin's Guild had occupied a position in

the Exercise quite remarkable when is considered the small area it covers and the number of its members. Why was this? Partly, of course, because several outstanding men and first-class ringers had come from Birmingham, but largely, he thought, as a result of something which had been criticised by visitors more than once. It had been said that the St. Martin's Guild can ring only one method—Stedman. True, Stedman has long been a favourite, but it had not brought monotony and decay. Rather it had brought increasing prosperity. In fact, one might reasonably claim it had been the chief cause of prosperity.

Nevertheless, there seemed to be a general tendency to-day to regard Spliced Surprise as the ultimate goal of change ringing, and while he felt they should still keep Stedman well to the fore, he would suggest they might broaden their front and try to include other methods in their activities somewhat more frequently.

MR. REEVES' GOOD WORK.

Mr. Haynes paid a tribute to the work of the secretary, Mr. T. H. Reeves. It had always seemed to him a mystery how Mr. Reeves managed to carry out his duties since his business took him away from Birmingham so often. Yet for 16 years he had retained the confidence of the Guild, during which time he had kept it financially strong, and conducted its affairs with unflinching efficiency.

Mr. Reeves, replying, said they were proud of the history of the St. Martin's Guild and the records it had achieved. At the same time, the officers were alive to the needs of the present time. During the past year they had enrolled a number of new members, of which more than half were quite young men. The new Ringing Master, Mr. George Fearn, took a special interest in these young ringers. He thanked Mr. Haynes for the nice things he had said and assured them that so long as he received their support and confidence he would be happy to continue as their secretary and treasurer.

Mr. Albert Walker proposed the toast of 'Kindred Ringing Societies.' He first mentioned that he was the fourth Ringing Master since Henry Johnson. The others were Mr. John Day, 1890 to 1902; Alderman J. S. Pritchett, 1902 to 1941; and Councillor A. Paddon Smith, 1941 to 1944. He welcomed the representatives of the various associations present and referred to the spade work which had been done during the ban on ringing. He hoped as many representatives as possible would be present at the Central Council meeting on Whit Monday.

THE VISITORS RESPOND.

Mr. Harold Poole, responding, said the Johnson dinner did not just commemorate the name of one of Birmingham's best ringers, which but for this annual function would not have been remembered at all to-day. It meant far more than that, and for the visitors it was one of the chief events of the year. The visitors were very grateful for the opportunity of coming to Birmingham and mixing with one another. Mr. Poole recalled his first visit to Birmingham one Sunday morning in 1921, when he had his first touch of Stedman Cinques. After ringing he was taken to what he was told was the Thieves' Kitchen somewhere in Bath Street, where for the first time he listened to Stedman Cinques on handbells.

Mr. C. T. Coles said that after Inspector Poole's speech there was little left for him to say. It was a pleasure to respond to the toast, for there was a long connection between Birmingham and London. Canon Guy Rogers was an incumbent in London before coming to Birmingham, and Mr. Albert Walker used to ring at his church at West Ham. Mr. Sam Reeves, a forerunner of the present secretary, also rang in London for some years, while Mr. Frank Smallwood had gone to London from Birmingham.

Mr. F. E. Pervin proposed the health of the chairman, Canon Guy Rogers had occupied the position on many occasions and was an ideal chairman. He took a keen interest in the ringers of St. Martin's and the welfare of the Guild.

Canon Rogers, in his reply, stated he was happy to be their chairman, and recalled that his first public appearance in Birmingham was as chairman of that annual gathering.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BURGESS HILL.

The annual meeting of the Southern Division of the Sussex County Association was held at St. John's, Burgess Hill, on March 4th, and was attended by about 40 members. Visitors were present from Crayford, Herne Hill and Liss, and a well-known ringing family was represented by four generations in the direct line—Mr. Frank Bennett, Mrs. F. I. Hairs, Mrs. E. A. Barnett and her daughter Jean—as well as by Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Barnett, Mr. Frank Hairs and Mr. E. A. Barnett.

The Vicar, the Rev. Eric Marsh, conducted the service and welcomed the members. At the business meeting all the officers were re-elected, and Uckfield was chosen as the place of the next quarterly meeting. A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar and to the hon. secretary for providing tea. Ringing ranged from rounds to Bristol Surprise Major.

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.—On Sunday, February 20th, at SS. Peter and Paul's Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: M. T. Symonds 1. A. F. Turner 2. S. Smith 3. S. H. Symonds (conductor) 4. W. R. J. Poulsen 5. W. Jarvis 6. F. F. Mortlock 7. L. Offord 8. Rung fully muffled in memory of F. G. Symonds, who was buried at Southgate, Middlesex, the previous Wednesday at the age of 64.

PAUL REVERE.

By DR. ARTHUR H. NICHOLS.

(Continued from page 101.)

While Revere adopted the English method of hanging his bells, the bungling sexton has generally bolted a counterweight above the headstock, fancying that by rendering the rotation more slow the instrument can be easily handled. The effect thus produced is in fact the reverse of that intended. Not only is the friction thus created adequate to make the bells more or less unmanageable, but the clapper being thus made to rest upon the sound bow at its impact, interrupts suddenly the sound waves in such a way as to cause sooner or later a fracture. Although such cracking is exceedingly rare in bells properly hung, it has proved the principal mode of destruction of Revere's bells, no less than fifty having met this fate.

The next cause of mortality has been conflagration, again due in most instances to the culpable carelessness of a sexton. Upon one occasion the writer chanced to be passing a stately church edifice, when through a cellar window he could discern a small flame just starting in some woodwork near an overheated furnace. Although a dash of water would have extinguished the fire, access to the interior was impossible, and before fire engines could reach the scene through deep snow, the entire edifice was gutted, with damage estimated at \$80,000. This story, with perhaps slight variation, will describe the loss of forty-one Revere bells. Seventy-seven of his bells are known to survive, though others are doubtless in use.

By the foregoing record it will be seen how little regard has been shown by church officials to the proper care and preservation of Revere's bells, whose superiority is often first appreciated when the attempt is made to replace them. Nor can we hope for any reform in this matter until the care and management of bells is entrusted to bell lovers, as has been the custom in England, where the organised guilds now number more than thirty thousand, supporting two weekly papers, 'The Bell News' and 'The Ringing World,' exclusively devoted to campanology and the achievements of ringers. Under this system towers and belfries, each assigned to a separate steeplekeeper, are kept neat and orderly, while their bells have a lifetime of centuries. In this country, on the other hand, our church officials are indifferent as to the care of their bells, which, like all machinery, should receive constant overhauling and adjustment. Hence we are led to the sombre reflection that in the course of another century, at the present rate of destruction, all Revere bells not preserved as relics will have been lost.

Unfortunately, by reason of an erroneous, narrow-minded conception of their commercial interests, the powerful influence of American founders has hitherto been arrayed against scientific change ringing as practised by the ringing societies of England. While admitting their inability to cast instruments equipped to meet the requirements of skilled ringers, their policy has been to discourage by misrepresentation the importation of foreign bells, upon which, furthermore, a high tariff is imposed. (In accordance with a decision of the U.S. Treasury Department, bells imported by universities, colleges, seminaries and other institutions of learning, to be used for the purpose of instruction in scientific change ringing, are classed as scientific instruments and therefore non-dutiable).

To what extent this opposition has been pushed may be illustrated by a single instance in which a generous offer to install a heavy peal of twelve bells in the lofty tower of the new Boston Custom House, reproducing the famous Bow bells of London, was defeated by the protests of a prominent American firm made before a Congressional Committee at Washington. Thus came to naught a rare and perhaps unique opportunity of introducing the art of scientific ringing upon musical bells, which would have benefited the manufacturers by stimulating the demand for better instruments and perhaps have furnished later employment to thousands.

The following table will indicate the fate of two hundred and twenty bells whose history has thus far been authentically traced:—

Still in use	...	...	...	...	78
Damaged by cracking	...	...	...	...	47
Destroyed by fire	...	...	...	...	39
Destroyed by lightning	...	...	...	...	2
Preserved as relics in good condition	...	...	...	...	4
Preserved as relic, cracked	...	...	...	...	1
Exchanged or sold	...	...	...	...	20
Recast	...	...	...	...	2
Disappeared	...	...	...	...	28

A large part of Dr. Nichols' two little books is taken up by a full and detailed account of every one of the known bells cast by Paul Revere by himself or in partnership with his son. The first list (those cast by Revere himself) contains 46 bells dating from 1792 to 1802. Of them, five are less than 1 cwt. in weight, nine are between 1 and 5 cwt., twenty-four between 5 and 10 cwt., and four are over 10 cwt. For four no weights are given. The heaviest is one cast in 1800, which weighs 11 cwt. 1 qr. 12 lb.

The following is the description of Revere's first bell, the weight of which is 8 cwt. 16 lb.: 'For the New Brick Church. It bears the inscription: The First Church Bell cast in Boston, in 1792, by Paul Revere. Many posivities may be seen in its haunch, while its sound is of short duration, harsh and panny. Hung in a lofty belfry, it was very noisy and, though rung for fire, the less discordant bell of the New North Church was swung at morning, noon and night. After the destruction of the steeple in the gale of 1869, the bell was removed in 1871 from the tower and stored until sold in 1901 to the St. James Church in Cambridge. The original bell of the New Brick Church raised in 1743 was sold in 1780 and bought for the Third Church in Jamaica Plain. It bore the inscription—Thomas Lester of London made me 1742. Its weight was 342lb. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that in 1792 a bell, still in use, weighing more than one ton, was cast at the Hope furnace in Rhode Island.'

The second list contains the full list of the bells cast by Paul Revere by himself and in conjunction with his son. The number is 398, and the dates are from 1792 to 1828. The majority are less than 10 cwt. in weight, but there are seven between 15 and 20 cwt., and three of over a ton. The largest is one weighing 25½ cwt., cast in 1817. The others are the one at King's Chapel, the account of which Dr. Nichols has given, and another, evidently a replica, which went to Providence, R.I. Both were cast in 1816, and both weighed 21 cwt. 21 lb.

All these bells by Revere are single bells. In no instance did he cast any to be rung or chimed as a peal.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 105.)

The Church of St. Michael, Stewkley, Bucks, dates from the middle of the 12th century, and was given by Geoffrey de Clinton to the Priory of Kenilworth in 1170. The Historical Monuments Commission date it as 1160, the ground floor forming a parallelogram of four rectangles, two belonging to the nave, one surmounted by the tower to the choir, and one to the Sanctuary. The nave measures 48ft. by 22ft., the choir and Sanctuary each 24ft. by 18½ft. The church at Iffley was somewhat smaller, but the proportions have been altered from the original designs by an Early English addition to the chancel. The whole length of the church here is 96ft., at Iffley 104ft. The width between the piers supporting the tower arches here is 14ft., at Iffley 11½ft. The outside measure of the tower here is 28ft. square, at Iffley 26ft. Stewkley tower, standing between Sanctuary and nave, is about 57ft. high, and supported on massive semi-circular arches, springing from piers nearly four feet in thickness, having at the angles circular columns with wrought capitals and bases, each capital of a different design. The west fronts of these arches are richly carved with triple mouldings, the lower ones consisting of beak-heads, cats' heads and grotesque figures, their tongues or beaks lapping over a large head moulding.

The ringing chamber has, in the east wall, opening into the space above the vaulted ceiling of the chancel, a doorway with a round head, which has grooves worn by bell ropes, indicating that some of the bells were rung formerly from the west end of the chancel. Above the west arch of the tower, opening into the nave, is a similar doorway. The bell chamber has, in each wall, an opening with round head, set in the middle of an external arcade of seven bays with interlacing semi-circular arches, chevron moulded and carried on attached shafts.

There are now eight bells, two trebles having been added in 1938. These were given by Mr. Bliss as a memorial to his parents. They were hung by Messrs. White and Sons, of Abingdon. The old six were retuned at the same time. Of these the 3rd was added in 1602 to commemorate the coronation of King Edward VII., and is by Mears and Stainbank. The 4th is by Richard Chandler I., of Drayton Parslow Foundry, and is dated 1636. The 5th is probably by Lawrence Wright of the second half of the 16th century. It bears a quaint inscription with unknown meaning, the letters being placed either backwards or upside down. The 6th is by Anthony Chandler, dated 1661. The 7th is by Edward Hall, 1735. This Edward Hall was probably a native of Stewkley, and cast bells between 1726 and 1754. There is an entry in the Register of Drayton Parslow in the handwriting of Dr. John Lord, the then Rector, 'Buried, Edward Hall, poor old Bellfounder, February 9th, 1755.'

The tenor (17 cwt.) is by W. and J. Taylor, 1837. There is also a Sanctus, dated 1686, by Geo. Chandler.

The Central tower of the Priory Church, Great Malvern, Worcestershire, is a reduced edition of Gloucester Cathedral in design. It has one stage less, and the parapet and pinnacles are much more restrained. Its effect, however, is very satisfactory. The extension of the window tracery downwards, forming blind panels in the compartments below, may be compared with the 'long panel' device seen in many Somerset towers. The church is dedicated to SS. Mary and Michael, and belonged to a Benedictine monastery founded here in 1085 by Aldwin. It is now the parish church, but the inhabitants had no interest in the building until after the Dissolution, when it was purchased directly from the Crown for £20. The actual parish church, which has now entirely disappeared, stood at no great distance on the north.

The central tower, 124ft. high, contains 10 bells, i.e., a ring of eight with a tenor 21 cwt., a Sanctus and a service bell. The latter—formerly the 4th of the ring—is by John of Gloucester, c. 1340/50. Sanctus is of no great antiquity. In 1552 there were here 'iiij belles in the steeple a saunce bell a lytle sacrynge bell.' Down to 1887 there were only six bells. When the ring was restored in commemoration of the Jubilee, the old 4th was taken out of the ring to ensure its preservation, and now is only used for tolling for services. The new 5th takes its place, and a treble and tenor were added to make the octave. This work was done by John Taylor and Co. The clappers of the old bells are kept in the church.

The noble Church of St. Mary, Beverley, Yorkshire, was probably founded in the 12th century, and has few rivals in dignity and beauty among the parish churches of England. The western turrets, the south porch and the great east window are noticeable features. The central tower, broad in proportion to its height, is simple in design but good in detail. The parapet and pinnacles form a crown, virtually unconnected with the buttresses. The pinnacles, sixteen in number, arise from the parapet, and consist of corner and median, with intermediate ones of smaller size. At the foot of each pinnacle is a gargoyle, and the rest of the parapet is elaborately incised with arcade patterns. The top windows are large, as is usual in many Yorkshire towers; and the middle stage windows are circular, deep set, with deep mouldings and beautiful tracery. In this tower is a noble ring of ten, all by J. Taylor and Co., 1900, with a tenor 34 cwt. 3 qr. 12 lb. in D flat. The ancient 5th bell has been preserved, also the crowns of the old 4th and 7th bells.

(To be continued.)

QUEENBOROUGH, KENT.—On Sunday, February 27th, 720 Bob Minor: W. A. Wood 1, R. Belsom 2, T. Jull 3, F. Belsom 4, L. Wood 5, B. May (conductor) 6. Rung half-muffled as a token of respect to the steeplekeeper, Mr. G. Wood, on the loss of his wife, who passed away on February 20th.

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THE BEST PEAL OF BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I express my appreciation of your excellent leader of February 4th on the subject of the best ring of bells. I have also read with great interest the opinions expressed by your correspondents, to whom I tender my sincere thanks.

'Lancastrian' was correct in assuming that I required material for publication, and your readers may be interested to know that in addition to Berkshire I have made preliminary surveys of the bells in three other counties, and, God willing, I hope these will duly be published after the war. In contrast to the majority of previous writers of county bell histories I am not solely interested in the archaeology of bells; but, as a ringer, the musical and engineering details of the rings of bells are of equal interest to me, even though my editors sometimes restrict the space which may be devoted to descriptions of these.

The published opinions of ringers on the subject of the best ring of bells has revealed many items of interest, and I sincerely hope that many more ringers will state their views. But if the opinions are to be of real value it is essential that the following details are given: (1) Number of bells in the ring; (2) strike note and weight or diameter of tenor; (3) type of tuning, if known; (4) founders' names if known. Personally, I prefer to hear opinions on 'old standard' (or, as one of your readers stated, 'ordinary') tuned bells, because our modern bell founders can be safely relied on to give us excellent Simpson or harmonically tuned rings.

As 'Lancastrian' stated in your issue of January 14th, no replies to my original letter had then appeared in 'The Ringing World,' but it may be of interest to your readers to learn that many well-known ringers personally gave me their opinions; and, in a subsequent article in 'The Ringing World,' Mr. E. J. Thomas, of Carmarthen, voiced an opinion on the ring of eight bells at Llanstephan in that county. Perhaps ringers are shy of expressing themselves! I quite expected my Berkshire friends who loudly applaud the merits of the Hagbourne and Appletton bells to be writing to you, and I would not have been surprised to see a long letter from my old friend 'Yokel.'

I expect Mr. Coles' reference to Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire, was intended for Llanbadarn Fawr, near Aberystwyth, where there is a ring of eight, of which five are by Rudhall, 1749, two by Warner, 1885, and one by Mears and Stainbank, 1924. Llanbadarn Fawr tenor weighs approximately 12 cwt., and sounds the strike note F sharp. The tuning is old standard. These bells are, in my opinion, very sweet toned, but here again the acoustics of the belfry help considerably, for the central tower in which they hang is of huge dimensions; and, as the belfry windows are very small, the volume of sound outside the tower is greatly modulated. In my humble opinion these bells would not be superior to Chewton Mendip, Somerset, but they would rank as the best in Cardiganshire. In the latter county, however, rings of bells are few. Llanbadarn Fawr is the only ring of eight. There is one ring of six, two of four, two of three and eleven of two. Apart from one chime of eight and another chime of six, the remaining churches in Cardiganshire each possess one bell, and the majority of these appear to be hung in a manner calculated to defy inspection by even the most enthusiastic campanologist.

FREDERICK SHARPE.

Derwen, Launton.

Dear Sir,—In West Somerset, at Ash Priors, Combe Florey and Fitzhead there are three modern rings of six. The tenors of these rings are only about 1 cwt. different in their weights. Two are Taylors (two styles of tuning) and the other is by Mears.

It is possible to stand between these towers (the farthest is just over a mile away) and hear all distinctly ringing at the same time. I must admit I have never heard such lovely bell music from one single tower.

Assuming we now take the bells of Chewton, Ditchet and Twerton (which are as much alike as three peas) and place them in the above towers, I am afraid, if they were ringing together, they would not sound so well as the present ones do.

From a point near Ash Common, within a radius of just over three miles, there are one ring of 8, eight of 6, and two of 5, making a total of 11 rings. If these were all recast and all tuned on the same principle by one founder, I am sure people would soon get tired of them and you would not get ringers to ring them.

Church bells (being open-air music) are, in my opinion, equivalent to the song of the birds, the beauty of which is not confined to one species, but to the combined efforts of all that we hear in our fields and hedgerows.

I have rung or heard most rings of 10 and 12 from Worcester Cathedral to Plymouth, also the three rings of Chewton, Ditchet and Twerton, besides other modern rings of eight in the west and elsewhere—about 300 towers in all. When it comes to saying which is the best, I suppose there are only a few persons able to judge. Surely the best would be found from such rings as Buckfast Abbey, Croydon, St. Paul's, Mancroft, Walsall, York, Beverley or Worcester.

B. T. JEANES.

Bridgwater.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Feltham, Saturday, March 18th. Bells 3 to 7.30 p.m. Short meeting in belfry at 5 p.m. Several cafes nearby.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., Perivale 5320.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and East District. — Annual meeting at St. James', Clerkenwell, on Saturday, March 18th, 3 p.m. Committee meeting 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Syston, March 18th, 3 p.m. Tea at Mrs. E. Payne's, near church, 5 p.m. Buses from bus station, Abbey Street.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Taunton Deanery.—Annual meeting, Saturday, March 18th, at Wilton. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea British Restaurant. Meeting 6 p.m., Club House, St. James' Street.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Derby District.—Meeting at Belper (8 bells), Saturday, March 18th, 2.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting at Barnet, Saturday, March 18th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. and during evening.—R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—West Dorset Branch.—Annual meeting, Bridport, Saturday, March 18th, 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea and meeting 5.15.—C. H. Lathey, Sec., Malmesdon, Bradpole, Bridport.

BRIGHTON.—Practice, Saturday, March 18th, at St. Peter's, 2.30 to 7.30 p.m. Tea interval 4.30 to 5 p.m. No arrangements. Methods, rounds to Double Norwich Caters and Cambridge Royal.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Meeting at Wath-on-Dearne, Saturday, March 18th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tea in Church House 5 p.m. Service 5.45 p.m., followed by business meeting.—S. F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual committee meeting at Oxford, on Saturday, March 18th, in the Chapter House, Christ Church, at 3.15 p.m.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Annual meeting at Dudley, Saturday, March 18th, 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Business meeting and light refreshments afterwards.—J. Goodman, Hon. Sec., 45, Holcroft Street, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, March 25th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate. Service ringing, St. Dunstan's, Stepney, March 19th, 9.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Annual meeting at Balcombe, Saturday, March 25th, 3 p.m. Service and meeting. Names for tea by March 21st.—O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—Meeting at Whitstable, Saturday, March 25th, 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea, 1s. Names to Mr. C. C. Dilmot, 75-77, Oxford Street, Whitstable, by March 22nd.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Meeting at Croft (6 bells), 4.30, on Saturday, March 25th. No tea. Late trains to Hinckley and Leicester.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—Annual meeting at Boston, Saturday, March 25th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Business afterwards. Tea can be obtained at nearby cafes.—W. E. Clarke, Hon. Sec., 99, Norfolk Street, Boston.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—Meeting at Rolleston-on-Dove (8 bells), Saturday, March 25th, 3.30 p.m. Bring own food. Cups of tea provided.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—Meeting at Bispham, Saturday, March 25th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Barnley, Doncaster, on Saturday, March 25th, 3 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Buses from Doncaster every ten minutes.—W. E. Lloyd, Sec.

HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS.—Practice, Saturday, March 25th, 6.30 to 9 p.m. Service ringing Sundays, 10.15 to 11 and 5.50 to 6.30.—Ralph Coles, 27, Priory Road, High Wycombe.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Annual meeting at Reigate, Saturday, March 25th, 3.15 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea 5.45 p.m., followed by business. Names to Alfred Gear, Sandy Way, Redhill.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—Meeting at Moulton, Saturday, March 25th. Bells 3.30. Service 4.15. Bring food.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—Meeting Saturday, March 25th, at Clewer, 3.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tea 1s. Names by March 20th.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Meeting at St. Mary's, Gateshead, Saturday, March 25th, 2.30 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—F. Ainsley, 30, Aysgarth Avenue, Grange-town, Sunderland.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Rural Branch.—Meeting at St. Ambrose, Bristol, E., Saturday, March 25th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m. Notice for tea by March 22nd.—C. Gifford, Jubilee Cottages, Short Hill, Westerleigh, Glos.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Malins Lee, Saturday, March 25th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Bus service from Wellington.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Annual nomination meeting, Armley, Saturday, March 25th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names by Wednesday, March 22nd. Business meeting to follow.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Armley, Leeds 12.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery.—Meeting at Weston-super-Mare, Saturday, March 25th, 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea Kalif Cafe, High Street, 4.30 p.m., followed by business meeting.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Tisbury, Saturday, March 25th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m., if notified not later than March 20th.—F. W. Romaine, 41, Green Croft Street, Salisbury.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Meeting at Aston Parish Church, Saturday, April 1st, 3.30. Service 4.30. Tea in Vicarage Room 5.15. Names for tea to Mr. W. Davies, 99, Rosary Road, Erdington, Birmingham, by March 29th.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Meeting at St. Paul's, Daybrook, Saturday, April 1st, 2.30 to 8 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea in Church Room. Names to Mr. R. A. Ward, 42, Arno Vale Road, Woodthorpe, Nottingham, by Monday, March 27th.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Worcester on Easter Monday, April 10th.—J. D. Johnson, Lay Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—Owing to the continued illness of Mr. C. H. Jennings, 59, Portland Road, Weymouth, he is unable to answer any communications in connection with the secretaryship for the present. Any letters, therefore, may be sent to Mr. J. T. Godwin, 10, High West Street, Dorchester.

UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.—It is proposed to elect a Central Council representative by postal ballot. Nominations with names of proposers and seconders should reach me by Saturday, April 15th.—J. E. Spice, Hon. Sec., New College, Oxford.

HENLEY-ON-THAMES.—On Sunday, February 27th, 1,260 Grand-sire Triples: *C. Coventry 1, P. Aldridge 2, W. Appleby 3, H. Hatto 4, E. Nash (conductor) 5, S. Coventry 6, *N. Tanner 7, I. Smith 8. *First quarter-peal.

SILEBY, LEICESTER.—On March 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: *Mrs. Bene-Roberts 1, T. Dexter 2, L. Lovett (conductor) 3, W. Swan 4, W. Draper 5, *C. Church 6. *First quarter-peal.

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THE RINGING WORLD



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

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FRIDAY, MARCH 24th, 1944.

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TWELVE-BELL RINGING.

Recently two men, both of them with exceptional experience and authority, have spoken of twelve-bell bands and, though they approached the subject from widely different angles and aimed at altogether different conclusions, they agreed on one important point. At the Johnson commemoration luncheon Mr. F. E. Haynes referred to the criticism sometimes brought against the St. Martin's Youths that they had only one method—Stedman. He did not attempt to challenge the criticism, but he maintained that the ringing of Stedman had actually brought prosperity, and was a major cause of the prominent position the Birmingham ringers occupy to-day in the Exercise. Our correspondent, who veiled rather than hid his identity under the initial 'B', stated that 'twelve-bell ringing is a full-time job, and leaves no room for variety on lesser numbers.'

An appeal to experience and history will, we think, fully confirm these views. Whenever there has existed a twelve-bell company which can fairly be said to have reached the very highest rank, they have been first and foremost twelve-bell ringers, and they have resisted the temptation to mix up twelve-bell ringing with performances on lesser numbers, and usually they have confined themselves to one method only. There is the outstanding example of the St. Paul's Cathedral band. For sixty years and more those bells have been rung with few exceptions regularly twice every Sunday, and always to Stedman Cinques. The embargo on Maximus was due in the first instance to Sir John Stainer, the famous composer and organist, whose ear objected to the turning in of the tenor; but long after his death it remained in force, a sufficient proof that the ringers themselves did not think it unreasonable. Now, though the quality of the striking at St. Paul's has naturally somewhat varied from time to time, it is certain that nowhere else has there been such a high standard of Sunday service ringing over so long a period. The closest rival is probably St. Martin's, Birmingham, where much the same custom holds.

It may be suggested that St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, is an exception which proves these conclusions to be unsound. Certainly the Ipswich band has been able without sacrificing quality of striking to introduce as much variety into their twelve-bell ringing as only the more advanced eight and ten-bell ringers are able to, into theirs. But Ipswich has been fortunate in having an ex-

(Continued on page 122.)

ceptionally long succession of really good ringers and of leaders who were admirably fitted for what was needed. And it is significant that when the band was in the making, and during its early prime, there was no other ring in the town of more than six bells.

It is generally agreed that there are difficulties peculiar to twelve-bell ringing, and that the difference between twelve and ten is much greater than between eight and ten. This is due, of course, partly to the extra number of ropes, but much more to the difference in the weights of the bells, which necessitates, very often, the bigger bells being pulled before the smaller bells over which they must strike; and to the difficulty an average ear has in adapting itself to the long-drawn-out rhythm of the twenty-four notes which make up a whole pull.

It requires long practice before the ear can really grasp twelve-bell ringing in the way it does eight-bell or even ten-bell ringing, and it is probably true to say that what the average ringer hears is the more or less steady beat of the big bells with the little bells as altogether subordinate. It is a puzzle to most, when listening outside, to tell whether ten or twelve bells are being rung.

The natural result is that usually the quality of twelve-bell ringing is not high, and that men are content with a standard which would not satisfy them on eight bells. We are speaking of average bands and average conditions. There are some men who adapt themselves to twelve bells with the same facility they do to other ringing conditions, but the strength of a band and the quality of the ringing depend on the average ringer. Twelve men who are proficient on eight or ten will not necessarily make a tolerably good twelve-bell band. Unless a full band can be got together, who are willing to devote themselves mainly to Cinques and have full opportunities of doing so, there is not much chance of even passable twelve-bell ringing. And since the outside effect is not increased by the two trebles, it is a question whether it would not be well in some towers at any rate to confine the ringing to ten bells.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT RODBOURNE CHENEY.

Ringers from nine towers met at Rodbourne Cheney on March 11th for the quarterly meeting of the Swindon Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association. Methods up to Cambridge Minor were rung. The wives of the local ringers provided tea and the Vicar (the Rev. R. S. S. Heath) welcomed the ringers. Three new members were elected, and the places of the next meetings were provisionally arranged as Purton, Blunsdon and Highworth.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY

MEETING AT DARFIELD.

At a meeting of the Barnsley and District Society, held at Darfield on March 11th, the following towers were represented: Felkirk, Meltham, Rotherham, Wath, Wentworth, Sandal, Sprotborough, Sherburn-in-Elmet and the local belfry. The Rector, the Rev. H. Drown, took the chair at the business meeting, and six ringing members and one honorary life member were elected. It was arranged to hold the next meeting at Eastwood, Rotherham, on Saturday, April 15th. The ringing ranged from rounds and Grandsire Doubles to Cambridge Surprise.

SIX BELL PEALS.

BROUGHTON, LANCASHIRE. THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

*On Sat., Mar. 18, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,*

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent of Cambridge Surprise and two each of Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob.

JOHN W. BEST Treble	THOS. W. HESKETH ... 4
WILLIAM TAYLOR 2	F. G. BRADLEY 5
GEO. R. NEWTON 3	E. R. MARTIN Tenor

Conducted by E. R. MARTIN.

HORDLE, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

*On Sat., Mar. 18, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,*

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores (ten callings). Tenor 11 cwt.

*JOHN W. DRYDEN ... Treble	*ANDREW I. PEARMAN ... 4
*PERCY W. BRAYSHAW ... 2	†JOHN V. DAVIS ... 5
*MISS MARY E. DAVIS ... 3	ARTHUR V. DAVIS ... Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* First peal on tower bells. † First peal in the method on tower bells; all first attempt. First peal in the method on tower bells as conductor. First peal on the bells.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

*On Sun., Mar. 12, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,
AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,*

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

*ERIC A. DENCH 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
*MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4	†ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 7-8
†DENNIS H. LANGDON ... 9-10	

Composed by W. H. BARBER. Conducted by J. THOMAS.

* First peal of Bob Royal on 1-2 and inside pair. † First peal of Royal.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

*On Thurs., Mar. 16, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-One Minutes,
IN THE CHOIR VESTRY OF ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH,*

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

HAROLD J. POOLE 1-2	ERNEST MORRIS 5-6
*GEO. STEDMAN MORRIS ... 3-4	*JOSIAH MORRIS 7-8

Composed by ERNEST MORRIS. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* First peal of Major in hand.

WITNESHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

(St. Mary-le-Tower Society.)

*On Sun., Mar. 19, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,
AT UPPER STREET,*

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor size 18 in G.

GEORGE A. FLEMING ... 1-2	CHARLES J. SEDGLEY ... 5-6
HOBART E. SMITH 3-4	WILLIAM J. G. BROWN ... 7-8
*PERCY MAY 9-10	

Composed by GEO. H. CROSS. Conducted by WM. J. G. BROWN.

* First peal of Kent Royal in hand.

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'THE FIRST PEAL ON THE BELLS.'*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—For once I find myself at variance with the spirit of your editorial in the current issue, for I am all for Mr. Tyler's point of view regarding the first Superlative at Henfield.

A home company surely can be entitled to the legitimate and praiseworthy desire to score a 'first on the bells' when the method is in practice for that very purpose. And it is only natural they should be aggrieved if the performance is filched away by visitors—at any rate, I should take it hardly and am not ashamed to admit it. 'Peal snatchers' was a term used years ago for a different offence, but I think the words describe the visitors to Henfield. There are usually two points of view to most things, for don't we sing—

'Everyone who is born alive
Is either a little Liberal
Or else a little Conservative'?

But I confess I cannot appreciate the point you put forward.

There is, too, a vital difference in Mr. Tyler's letter and your leader. The former says 'they seemed to think there would be no objection,' and the latter 'these men knew of no objection.' Mr. Tyler's 'seemed to think' is pregnant, for it is obvious the visiting men knew of the local ambition, and after squashing the chance of a local 'first' they 'seemed to think'! Yes, we all know the formula for self-justification, and I am not surprised at the effect on the Henfield men.

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

Red Roof, Sheringham, Norfolk.

THE JUVENILE BELL HANGERS.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—I read with interest the account of the miniature bell tower at Balscote in 'The Ringing World' of February 25th. After reading it, I felt I should like to state that a miniature peal of six bells are hung for ringing also in a wash house at Folkingham.

Over 30 years ago another lad of this village (then about 12 years old) and myself used to make model windmills of various designs. One design, I well remember, had a bell mounted on the top, and was worked by a crank connected to the sails, hence there was some noise when the wind blew. One night a gale sprang up and a neighbour who lived close by was so infuriated by the sound of the bell that he arose from his bed and came to the mill and broke it up.

The following day we were lucky enough to salvage the bell from the remains and came to the conclusion that we had better put the bell to another use, and preferably indoors. We fixed a headstock and a wheel to the bell, made a frame, and secured it to the cross beam in the wash house. We were very pleased with our effort, and thought several more bells hung with it would be more interesting.

We obtained six untuned house bells from the local ironmonger, which were specially got, so as to be in tune as near as possible. The church tower was ascended and details carefully taken as to the hanging of the church bells. The wheels are made from the ready-made children's wooden hoop, differing in size, fitted with rims and spokes. The headstocks are weighted with lead increasing in weight from treble to tenor, the tenor, weighing approximately 2 st. The frames were secured to a plank, and this was supported on the cross-beams in the wash house, giving a draught of rope of 10ft. Ropes with sally are made from sash cord. The handling of the bells is somewhat tricky owing to their weight. Nevertheless, many a lad of this village 30 years ago got his first experience as to how a church bell is managed.

A year or so later some of us thought the actual ringing of a church bell could be accomplished, and we ventured to pay the church belfry a visit on a practice night. It was not so very long after that we were looked upon as church bellringers. So after all it is an ill wind which blows no one any good.

C. T. H. BRADLEY.

Folkingham, Lincs.

'THE TOP OF THE TREE'*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I wonder whether one of the chief reasons for the short life of famous ringing bands is not the failure of those bands to procure and train new recruits at a sufficiently early stage.

The training of recruits involving much ringing of rounds and the simplest methods is not so attractive to a band of ringers as the ringing of Surprise Major or Stedman Cinques. If there is a complete band with a few spare ringers there is indeed a great temptation to neglect the training of recruits, and yet in a short time death, removals to other districts and other causes may soon render the band deficient in numbers. Then, when the band is deficient in numbers, the difficulty of training recruits is increased, for I think that few will dispute that recruits learn ringing more quickly when they can be taken one at a time among a band of competent ringers with another competent ringer to stand behind. I think that herein may lie some part of the explanation of the rapid declines of famous ringing bands.

DENIS H. BAYLES.

Biddick Lane, Fatfield, Co. Durham.

HAVERHILL, SUFFOLK.—On March 5th. 720 Bob Minor: N. Nunn 1 Miss M. Backler 2, H. Backler 3, J. W. Jennings 4, L.A.C. Peter Carter 5, L. Wright 6.

THE LATE WALTER CHARMAN.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—I would like to endorse fully the remarks made by Mr. A. H. Pulling. It could not have been better put. No matter where you came from, what you could ring, or what you wanted to ring, you always got a warm welcome at Warnham.

My friendship with Walter and the Warnham ringers goes back a long way, for I rang in a peal of Major with him in August, 1889, and now he has passed I am the only survivor of that band. The others were Messrs. T. Andrews, W. Wadey, W. Short, R. Jordan, A. D. Mills and H. H. Chandler, well-known names of that time in connection with Warnham tower.

Many enjoyable week-ends as well as other occasions have been spent at Warnham, many on peal ringing expeditions. These were mostly arranged by Walter and the late H. H. Chandler. The latter was Warnham's recognised conductor at that time, when it was thought that a peal attempt each night in the week was quite in order. In fact, it used to be said they could ring all night if they wished.

I have many times started for peals there before breakfast on a Sunday morning (many years ago) between 1885 and 1905, when we were catered for so homely and welcome by the late Mr. and Mrs. Farley, of the Sussex Inn.

The last time I met Walter was at Brighton in May, 1940, at the Sussex County Association annual meeting, and now he has passed to his long rest, thus closing the earthly career of one of England's and nature's gentlemen.

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

1, Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh.

Dear Sir,—I am indeed more than sorry to read of the death of Mr. Walter Charman, and I am in entire agreement in all that Mr. Alfred Pulling has written about him.

I am very glad to have known him for about 25 years, and every time I left him I felt all the better for having had a talk with him, and I have heard other ringers say the same thing. I am glad to know he is resting near his godson, Peter, under the shadow of the tower they both loved so well.

JOHN H. B. HESSE.

Wrighton.

DEATH OF MR. C. H. JENNINGS.

The death is announced of Mr. Charles Henry Jennings, who passed away at his home at Wyke Regis on March 10th. The funeral was on March 13th at All Saints' Church, where Mr. Jennings had been a member of the choir. The Rector conducted the service, and Canon A. W. Markby, the chairman of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, read the lesson. The church bells were rung muffled after the interment.

Mr. Jennings learnt to ring at Bridport, and at different times he had been a member of the bands at Warminster, Eastleigh and St. Stephen's, Bristol. He went to Wyke Regis in 1898 and from then until last June was associated with the local company. He helped to form the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild and was its hon. secretary for more than twenty-five years. He retained the office until the end and was engaged in promoting a fund for the restoration of Wyke bells.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—There are, and no doubt always have been, those who would like a Council meeting on a Monday rather than a Tuesday. When I started the Suffolk Guild, with 500 members, we had to elect our four members for the Central Council, and I was asked what it involved. I replied that as long as I could remember it had met on the Tuesday in Whitsun week, and it usually meant a day's travelling to and from the place of meeting.

At our annual meeting, soon after Easter, are we to elect Monday or Tuesday candidates? And for how many years?

My knowledge and experience may not be very valuable, but after all I do count as one towards a quorum, and if some people are elected as Mondayites, who think of this meeting merely as an excuse for a holiday jaunt, the quorum may not be obtained.

The loyalty I mentioned was not against war working, which we all want to help, but against travelling. We know, as far as anything can be known nowadays, that next Whit Monday will be the most difficult, and even impossible, day for travelling that ever was. Nothing could be less loyal than to choose it for a meeting which involves much moving about.

Of course, if only a formal meeting is required, to which some half-dozen members came, on their own feet, or on bicycles, what has been written is beside the mark. But, if so, the sooner this is stated the better.

It is all very well to write scornfully of 'reverend gentlemen,' but after all we owe a good deal to them in the practice of our exercise. And I speak from experience when I say that to hold a meeting on a Monday, at which members are expected to come from a distance, is to set their backs up. Nor is this alleviated when some of us cannot attend on a Monday.

HERBERT DRAKE.

Ufford Rectory, Woodbridge.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official Journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

By the decision of the Standing Committee a meeting of the Eighteenth Council will be held on Whit Monday, May 29th, 1944, in the Jerusalem Chamber, Westminster Abbey (by kind permission of the Dean) at 11 o'clock.

Notice is also given that the first Session of the Nineteenth Council is due to be held in London in 1945.

Nominations for the president, hon. secretary and treasurer and hon. librarian (to serve for one year), together with notices of motions, must be in the hands of the secretary not later than March 31st, 1944.

All nominations and all notices of motions must be signed by two members of the Council (the proposer and seconder).

Attention is drawn to Rule 5.

G. W. FLETCHER,
Hon. Secretary.

At the christening at Kingsworthy on March 12th of Robert Christopher Kippin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kippin, the four bells of the Parish Church were rung by the father, Charles H. Kippin, mother, Mrs. C. H. Kippin, grandfather, William R. Melville, and godfather, Fred E. Collins.

During the last three months, Mr. Ernest Morris (who has been placed on the Lord Bishop of Leicester's list of occasional speakers for youth movements) has given a large number of addresses and lectures mostly on bells, old Leicester, English cathedrals, etc.

Capt. Donald F. Perrens, younger son of Mr. Frank W. Perrens, was promoted to be Squadron Leader in the R.A.F. last January, and has now been awarded the D.F.C.

HOW FAR CAN BELLS BE HEARD?

To the Editor.

Sir,—Some forty years ago I was standing in the garden at Cheddar on a Saturday afternoon. It was deathly still—not a zephyr. Within the space of 20 minutes I heard Wrington bells, six miles due north, and Wedmore clock striking four, four miles away in the opposite direction.

I did not hear the first two bells at Wrington (there were only six in those days) and the third only intermittently, but heard the last three clearly and continuously. They were only in rounds and were immediately lowered, the sound completely failing before they were down.

Ebbw Vale.

R. ALSOP.

LEICESTER.—At St. Margaret's on Sunday, March 5th, 720 Bob Minor, with tenor covering: Miss Nancy Price (first 720) 1, Ernest Morris (conductor) 2, Thomas Bent 3, John R. Smith 4, Josiah Morris 5, Fred Price 6, G. Stedman Morris tenor.

MARKET HARBOUROUGH, LEICS.—On Sunday afternoon, Feb. 27th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss M. I. Barrow 1, F. Wallington 2, L. Deacon 3, R. March 4, Sgt. A. Idle, R.A.F. 5, P.C. J. W. Rawson 6, W. Hector (conductor) 7, W. Kilsby 8.

PAUL REVERE.

(Continued from page 116.)

Dr. Nichols' articles are most interesting, because they were written for Americans by an American who had gained a love of bells and who sought to impart it to his fellow-countrymen. He had acquired a large knowledge of English bells, English bell founders, and English ringers and ringing. He was a member of the Society of College Youths, and his daughter, Mrs. Shurcliff, was proficient in handbell ringing and took part in one or two peals of Stedman Triples. But since Dr. Nichols' personal knowledge was confined to what he learnt in the course of visits to this country, it was inevitable that some of it was rather superficial. This will account for those things, he says, with which the reader cannot agree.

Such, for instance, is the statement that the old English founders deliberately introduced discordant overtones into their bells; that English ringers have always understood the principles of musical counterpoint, and used them as the ground plan of scientific change ringing; and that the result is the resolution of the discords into concords. Actually the ears of founders, ringers and the general public alike normally heard (as they still hear) only the predominant strike note and ignored the overtones. This idea spoils the value of Nichols' defence of Paul Revere's 'masterpiece,' the 21 cwt. bell at Boston, in which (if they are correctly given) the overtones are far more wildly inharmonious than any English bell. We are, however, informed by a competent authority that the bell is of good average quality with a pleasing tone.

Dr. Nichols' explanation of the shortness of the vibration in Revere's and modern (presumably American) bells was surely a mistaken one. It was not in the quality of the copper used but in the quality of the craftsmanship wherein lay the superiority of Rudhall's and the Whitechapel bells.

To a lover of bells America must be a very disappointing country. In England, church bells and the music of change ringing belong to the history and the life of the people. Single bells make little or no appeal. In America bells were merely instruments for making enough noise to call people's attention to some particular time. More melodious than hooters and sirens, but answering the same purpose. Revere, we remember, never cast any bells to be sounded together, and therefore never showed whether he could make a 'tunable' peal.

American bell founders, like their bells, belong to the prosaic world of business. They have no romance or glamour, such as attaches to the founders of England and the Low Countries, and consequently it was only natural that Dr. Nichols should turn with relief to the one American founder whose story seemed worthy to be added to those of the Hemony's, the Miles Grayes, the Rudhalls and the like. For Paul Revere was not only a maker of bells but a man with a name in the history of his country.

Paul Revere was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on January 1st, 1735. He had little education and began life as a gold and silver smith in his father's workshop. Later on he engaged in copper engraving, and when he was 21 years of age took part as an artillery lieutenant in one of the military actions against the French.

In those days the country on the eastern seaboard of what are now the United States of America were English colonies, treated, as all colonies were then and for long afterwards, as 'possessions' and dependent for their safety on the strength and protection of the mother country. The French held Canada, and the lands at the mouth of the Mississippi river. They were pushing a line of fortified posts through the vast, unexplored interior, and were scheming to confine the English to the narrow strip of country by the sea. It was doubtful whether North America would belong to England or to France. The Seven Years' War, in which England conquered Canada, settled the issue, and that really settled the future of the United States. So long as the French menace remained, the Colonists were dependent on England, but when the menace was removed, and especially when England required the colonies to pay some part of the expense of the war, discontent and opposition began to appear among the colonists, especially as the English Government handled the matter in almost the worst possible way.

Revere was one of those who took a strong line in their opposition to the Government, and by their action led to war and independence.

By the year 1775 things had reached the stage when war was inevitable, and it only wanted some incident to act as the spark which would explode the powder magazine. It came when the English commander, General Gage, sent a detachment to Concord to destroy some stores which the rebels had collected. They came into conflict with the colonial militia, shots were fired, and the war began. The whole thing, in itself, was no more than a trivial skirmish, but anything which starts a war, and especially one like the War of American Independence, has an interest and importance far beyond its intrinsic value.

Until comparatively recent years America had no history and no great names, and it was not unnatural that writers of the nineteenth century should make the most of every man who in any way had taken part in the struggle for independence, and so events and persons were given an importance which they never could have gained in the history of one of the older countries. This is how Revere gained his fame as a patriot. General Gage's intention appears to have been known to the rebels and they determined to resist it. It was arranged that Revere should wait at a convenient place, and when he received a signal that the English were moving, he should ride by night and warn his friends of their approach. It was a feat calling for a strong and fearless rider, but there was nothing particularly heroic about it, and, since he was riding through friendly country, nothing of personal danger. It was the sort of thing which happens unnoticed in all military operations, and in this war would not have been thought worthy of the D.S.O. or even the M.M. But it has been Revere's fortune to have his exploit sung by Henry W. Longfellow and to have it represented as a great event on which the fate of a nation depended.

Sixty or eighty years ago Longfellow was very generally recognised not only in America, but in this country as well, as one of the greatest poets of all time. His laurels have sadly withered, but he had the gift of writing easy verse on rather shallowly sentimental subjects which greatly took the popular fancy. To-day there can

be few persons of more than middle age who did not in their school days have to learn 'The Village Blacksmith,' 'The Wreck of the Hesperus,' 'Excelsior,' or the like; and, what is more (let us give Longfellow the credit), do not still remember most of it. So when Revere's ride was made the subject of one of Longfellow's poems his fame was assured. This is how it begins:—

Listen, my children, and you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five;
Hardly a man is now alive
Who remembers that famous day and year.

He said to his friend, 'If the British march
By land or by sea from the town to-night,
Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry arch
Of the North Church tower as a signal light,—
One, if by land, and two, if by sea,
And I on the opposite shore will be
Ready to ride and spread the alarm
Through every Middlesex village and farm
For the country folk to be up and arm.'

Then follows a description of the waiting and watching of the two friends; one pacing 'through alley and street, wanders and watches with eager eyes,' while, 'impatient to mount and ride, booted and spurred, with a heavy stride, on the opposite shore walked Paul Revere.' At length he gets the signal, and

A hurry of hoofs in a village street,
A shape in the moonlight, a bulk in the dark,
And beneath from the pebbles in passing a spark
Struck out by a steed flying fearless and fleet.
That was all! And yet, through the gloom and
light
The fate of a nation was riding that night.

* * *

So through the night rode Paul Revere;
And so through the night went his cry of alarm
To every Middlesex village and farm—
A cry of defiance and not of fear.

Longfellow, say the authorities, 'paid little attention to exactness of detail,' and probably the picture is essentially a false one. No doubt all the plans had been made and Revere rode hard and silently to warn men who expected his coming. The 'cry of defiance and not of alarm' does not ring true, and it is absurd to say that 'the fate of a nation hung on the ride.' The war would have started and run its predoomed course had Paul Revere never lived.

Revere served against the English during the War of Independence and held several minor commands. He was, however, accused of disobeying orders and court-martialled, but was acquitted.

After the war he was engaged in the manufacture of gold and silver ware and copper castings. It was out of this latter that his bell founding developed, as explained by Dr. Nichols. He died at Boston on May 10th, 1818.

Paul Revere was evidently a strong-willed, versatile man, who engaged, not without success, in many things. But he acquired a fame in after years altogether out of proportion to what he actually did, and at the best his achievements were only second rate, whether as engraver, soldier, hero or bell founder.

(Concluded.)

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

FALSE PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The task of proving the peals rung by the Yorkshire Association is now completed and, I regret to say, there are further two false compositions to add to the lists that I have sent to 'The Ringing World' from time to time. They are: No. 2,389, 5,040 St. Clement's Triples, rung at Eastwood, Rothenham, on October 6th, 1913; and No. 2,508, 5,060 Grandsire Cinques, composed by Samuel Wood, and rung at Ashton-under-Lyne on September 4th, 1915.

The composition used for the St. Clement's Triples (a variation of Parker's 12-part Grandsire Triples) does not run true to St. Clement's.

The Grandsire Cinques is false in the 1st and 13th courses; the treble's handstroke lead at the 4th lead-end of the 1st course, repeats at the 3rd lead-end of the 13th course.

Out of a total of more than two thousand different compositions, ranging from Triples to Maximus, rung by the association, 38 are false; they are as follows: Treble Bob Major, 18; Bob Major, 8; Stedman Caters, 4; Grandsire Caters, 2; Grandsire Cinques, Cambridge Royal, Double Norwich Major, Grandsire Major, St. Clement's Triples and Grandsire Triples, 1 each. A full list of the false compositions that have appeared in our records will be published in the next annual report, and it is the intention of the General Committee to make the list a permanent feature of future reports.

I would like to draw the attention of those who have copies of the 1904-5 Yorkshire Association report to peal No. 1,438, 5,040 Stedman Triples by J. W. Washbrook. The footnote to this peal is very misleading and the obvious interpretation of it will produce a false composition; in fact, I sent copies of the peal, as it is printed, to six conductors some time ago and asked them to write it out in full as they would call it from the instructions given in the footnote. Five replied to my request and all produced a false peal!

To obtain the correct calling, after the course-end 254316, the two courses marked 'A' should be repeated eight times, omitting the bobs at 5-6 in the first and sixth repetitions. This will give the course-end 315426. 231456 is produced by repeating the four courses marked 'B' nine times, with an additional 12-13 in the 3rd course of the first and sixth repetitions.

Pudsey.

W. BARTON, Hon. Peal Secretary.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT BRADFORD-ON-AVON.

Thirty-one persons were present at a meeting of the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held at Bradford-on-Avon on March 11th. The Vicar conducted the service, and Mr. E. F. White, the branch chairman, presided at the tea and business meeting. He mentioned that since the last meeting the branch had lost two of its members through death, Mr. E. Stevens, Bishop's Cannings, and Mr. J. Gye, Market Lavington. Thanks were given to the Vicar, the organist, the ladies who provided tea, and to Mr. H. G. Baker, who had made the arrangements. The next meeting will be at Bishop's Cannings on April 1st.

During the afternoon and evening, Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major and rounds were rung. The towers represented were Bradford-on-Avon, Melksham, Holt, Warminster, North Bradley, Seend, Longbridge Deverell, Trowbridge, Westbury, Devizes (St. John's and St. Mary's) and Southbroom. Visitors came from Bruton, Bath, Cirencester and Southampton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ST. HELENS.

On March 11th ringers were present at a meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association, held at St. Helens, from Aughton, Halsall, Sefton, St. Nicholas', Liverpool, Farnworth, Wootton, Childwall, St. Thomas, St. Helens, and the local belfry, as well as the Rev. D. P. Roberts and Mr. J. E. Bickerstaffe. A feature of the gathering was the number of young ringers.

The Rev. J. J. Cresswell, curate-in-charge, presided at the business meeting. Tea was provided by Mr. Cresswell and the churchwardens, for which they were thanked by the Rev. D. P. Roberts. The next meeting will be on April 15th in conjunction with the Wigan Branch.

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NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, March 25th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—Meeting at Whitstable, Saturday, March 25th, 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea 1s.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—Annual meeting at Boston, Saturday, March 25th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Business afterwards. Tea can be obtained at nearby cafes.—W. E. Clarke, Hon. Sec., 99, Norfolk Street, Boston.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—Meeting at Rolleston-on-Dove (8 bells), Saturday, March 25th, 3.30 p.m. Bring own food. Cups of tea provided.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Annual meeting at Reigate, Saturday, March 25th, 3.15 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea 5.45 p.m., followed by business. Names to Alfred Gear, Sandy Way, Redhill.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—Meeting Saturday, March 25th, at Clewer, 3.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tea 1s.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Malins Lee, Saturday, March 25th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Bus service from Wellington.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery.—Meeting at Weston-super-Mare, Saturday, March 25th, 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea Kalif Cafe, High Street, 4.30 p.m., followed by business meeting.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Central Branch.—Meeting at Cottenham, Cambs, on Saturday, March 25th. Bells (6) 3.45 p.m. to 7.45 p.m. Service 7.45 p.m.—F. Warrington, Dis. Sec.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Meeting at Aston Parish Church, Saturday, April 1st, 3.30. Service 4.30. Tea in Vicarage Room 5.15. Names for tea to Mr. W. Davies, 99, Rosary Road, Erdington, Birmingham, by March 29th.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Meeting at St. Paul's, Daybrook, Saturday, April 1st, 2.30 to 8 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea in Church Room. Names to Mr. R. A. Ward, 42, Arno Vale Road, Woodthorpe, Nottingham, by Monday, March 27th.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—Meeting at All Souls', Bolton, Saturday, April 1st, 2.30 p.m. Business 6.30 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 203, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Berkhamstead, Saturday, April 1st. Bells (7) 3 p.m. Usual arrangements. Numbers for tea by 29th.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

NORTH STAFFSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Cheadle Parish Church, Saturday, April 1st. Committee meeting 4 p.m. R.C. bells available. Names for tea to Mr. J. W. H. Crabb, Hall Orchard Villa, Cheadle, Staffs, by March 28th.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Practice at Finchampstead (6 bells), Saturday, April 1st, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.—B. C. Castle, Hon. Sec.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY and MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Chesterfield District.—Joint meeting at N. Wingfield on Saturday, April 1st. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. W. H. Wain, South View, Church Lane, N. Wingfield, by March 29th.—G. G. Graham and S. Scattergood, Hon. Secs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Broughton, near Preston, on Saturday, April 1st, 2.30 p.m. Bring food.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

LEEDS PARISH CHURCH (12 bells).—Practices first Saturday in month resumed April 1st, 6 to 8 p.m.—G. Robinson, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Accrington on Saturday, April 1st, 2.30 p.m. Business 6 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. C. W. Blakey, 133, Ormerod Street, Accrington, before March 29th.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL (GLASGOW) SOCIETY.—Weekly practices resumed on Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m., commencing April 4th.—E. A. Stafford, Hon. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—Meeting at Dorking on Easter Monday, April 10th. Particulars next week.—D. Cooper, 51, Waddon Road, Croydon.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at Maidstone on Easter Monday. Committee meeting 11.30 a.m. Service at 3. Tea at 4.15 to those who notify me before April 3rd. Business meeting to follow. Ringing at All Saints', Maidstone, Leeds, Aylesford, Linton, West Malling, Boxley and Bearstead.—F. M. Mitchell, Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Worcester, Easter Monday, April 10th. General meeting in College Hall, 2.30 p.m. Evensong Cathedral 4.15 p.m. Bells: All Saints' (10), St. John's (8), St. Swithin's (6), all 11 a.m.; Cathedral (12), 12 noon to 2.15 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec., Sedgeberrow, Evesham.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Norwich, Easter Monday, April 10th. St. Miles', 11.30 to 1 (bring own lunch); Mancroft and St. Giles', 2 to 4. Service at Mancroft, 4. Tea at Ber House, 5, followed by business meeting; St. John-de-Sepulchre after meeting. Names for tea by April 4th.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

SOUTHOVER, LEWES.—Practice, Easter Monday, April 10th, 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. to all who notify W. J. Coppard, 29, Valley Road, Lewes, by Wednesday, April 5th.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting, Saturday, April 15th, at St. Margaret's, Leicester. Bells (12) 2.15 to 3 p.m. The Bishop of Leicester will preach. Committee meet in vestry after. Other arrangements later.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at St. Cuthbert's Church, Edinburgh, on Saturday, April 22nd, 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting in Church Hall. Visitors notify me by 19th.—E. A. Stafford, Deputy Hon. Sec., 16, Tabard Road, Glasgow, W.3.

UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.—It is proposed to elect a Central Council representative by postal ballot. Nominations with names of proposers and seconders should reach me by Saturday, April 15th.—J. E. Spice, Hon. Sec., New College, Oxford.

MARRIAGE.

LANXON—BRADBURY.—At Truro Cathedral, on March 7th, Cyril Edward, younger son of Mr. J. G. and the late Mrs. Lanxon, of 11, Ferris Town, Truro, to Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Bradbury, of Halcyon, Crescent Road, Truro.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ILCHESTER.

At the meeting of the Nottingham District of the Midland Counties Association, members were present from 20 towers in the Nottingham and Derby Districts as well as visitors from Leicester, Trumpington and Handsworth.

After a short service a memorial tablet was unveiled in the belfry to the memory of departed members of the company, H. Tarlton, J. W. Iliffe, A. T. Baker, G. Burgoyne, H. Straw, H. Harrison and A. Nicholson. The ceremony was performed by Mr. H. Fletcher, of Derby, who introduced change ringing to Ilkeston when it had only five bells. A course of Grandsire Triples was then rung by past and present members of the local company.

Sixty-five persons were present at tea, including the Mayor of Ilkeston, the Vicar and the churchwardens. Grandsire Triples and Caters and tunes were rung on handbells and various methods from rounds to Cambridge on the tower bells.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT CHESTER-LE-STREET.

A joint meeting of the Eastern and Western Districts of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association was held at Chester-le-Street on March 4th, at which ringers were present from Sunderland (Bishopwearmouth and St. Ignatius'), Houghton-le-Spring, Whickham, Blackhill, Benfieldside, Newcastle (Cathedral), Tanfield, Gateshead and the local tower.

The Rector, Canon Appleton, visited the belfry and welcomed the ringers. A short business meeting was held after tea, with Mr. R. L. Patterson (vice-president of the Eastern District) in the chair.

Mr. F. Ainsley proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector and churchwardens and to the ladies who waited at tea. It was decided to send a letter to Lieut. Hawkins, who is in hospital, expressing good wishes and a speedy recovery.

Meetings were arranged for the Eastern District at Gateshead on March 25th, and for the Western District at Lanchester on April 15th.

HINCKLEY.—On Saturday, March 11th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: Cyril Ison 1, William A. Wood 2, James Draycott 3, Frank K. Measures 4, Leonard Trevor 5, Frank Trotman (first 720 Cambridge as conductor) 6.

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THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

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[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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'SEEING.'

This week a correspondent asks us if we can give some advice on 'seeing' in change ringing, that is on ropesight. It is a difficult question to answer, for the art of change ringing consists very largely in the ability to find a way among the ropes, and sight is the faculty most used in so doing. We should have to attempt to give an explanation of change ringing itself, and that is not a task to be undertaken lightly. There may be, however, one or two points connected with the subject which are worth mentioning.

Complete ropesight, like most other similar things, is very largely a matter of practice. Most ringers have gained the efficiency they possess by experience, and no advice can take the place of experience. The style and quality of the experience count for much. The man who has the opportunity of practising with a skilled and efficient band has advantages which are denied to the man who has to gain his experience among ringers little better than himself. And very much depends on the man's own aptitude.

But when we have made the fullest allowance for these things it still remains true that many men do not become so proficient in change ringing as they might because, in the first place, they were not taught in the right way and did not approach the matter from the right angle. To many ringers ropesight consists entirely in being able to pick out the correct rope to follow, and hearing with them is concerned only so far as their own bell strikes clear of the one before it. This view of ropesight finds an expression in the familiar rules that in hunting up you follow the bell which first followed you and in hunting down you follow your course bell with the interval of one other bell. These rules are well enough in their way, but they are not good enough for a competent ringer. The man who really has ropesight is the man who can see not only the rope he is actually following, but all the ropes; just as the man who correctly uses his ears can hear all the bells and not merely his own.

By seeing all the ropes is not meant that the man pays equal attention to all of them. He picks and chooses among them accordingly as he has need. It may be the bell he is striking over, or the bell he is about to strike over, or the bell which closes the particular change. If he is the conductor it may be bells with which he is at the moment not working with at all.

(Continued on page 130.)

How, then, can a man acquire this faculty of seeing the ropes as a whole? We firmly believe that by far the best way is to begin on the smallest possible number of bells, and to attempt nothing, not even rounds, on a larger number until reasonable proficiency is attained on the smaller. We would not despise three bell ringing for this purpose if it is practicable (which usually it is not). Five are enough for anyone to learn on. The beginner has then a chance both to see and to hear the bells as a whole. That obviously must be so, because both eyes and ears have the least to engage their attention. They can so much more quickly obtain the mastery, and the finer points of striking, ropesight, and bell handling are so much more obvious.

With a good instructor and a good band to help him, a beginner can comparatively quickly become reasonably proficient on five bells, and once he has reached that stage he need not fear the higher numbers.

Instructors and ringers generally should realise that the question of making good ringers is not a matter of teaching them to ring a particular method such as Grandsire Triples, so much as training them to use their faculties, eyes and ears, in the right way; and to do that the simplest and easiest means should be used. To try to teach beginners even rounds on so many as eight bells is needlessly to put obstacles in their way and to hamper their development and ultimate success. *Ex-perto crede.*

HOW FAR CAN BELLS BE HEARD?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A gentleman now residing in this neighbourhood is a native of Wolferton, Norfolk, and, although not a ringer, is fond of listening to bells.

He says that at Wolferton on a very still evening it is quite a common occurrence to hear the bells of Boston Stump, which is directly across the Wash, a distance of approximately 30 miles. I should think this a record. Can any of our ringing friends of that quarter vouch for this?

T. HOYLE.

The Angles, Ashted, Surrey.

BELFRY PRAYERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In some instances I believe it is the practice of certain bands to have a short period of prayer together before commencing to ring. If this is so, there seems to me to be every reason to commend it as a most fitting thing to do.

So often, on the one hand, the ringers complain that they 'never see the parson,' and on the other the parson bemoans the fact that he never sees the ringers, who retire at one door while he comes in at another. Would not an invitation from the Ringing Master to their parson asking him to come to the belfry, whenever he had the time before the ringing commenced, to lead them in a short prayer, be a means to closer fellowship?

Such a gesture from the ringers themselves would go a long way to bridge such a gap, wherever it exists, and at the same time bring the ringing bands into line with other parochial organisations, which normally both begin and end their activities with prayer.

A. C. F. DAVIES.

Minor Canon and Warden of the Cathedral Guild.
15, College Green, Worcester.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HASTINGS.

The annual meeting of the Eastern Division of the Sussex Guild was held at Christ Church, Blacklands, Hastings, at which 17 members attended.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Dr. J. Morgan, who afterwards presided at the tea (provided by Mrs. Morgan and members of the Mothers' Union) and the business. Nine members were elected, including the Rev. F. Bolsover, of Bexhill, and Mr. F. Philpot, of St. Leonard's. A letter was read from Mr. C. A. Levett, who said that as he had been away from the district for three years and saw no prospect of returning, he wished to resign the office of hon. secretary. Mr. J. Downing was appointed in his stead. Mr. W. Booth was re-elected to the committee, and Mr. W. H. Joiner, of Hastings, was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. A. R. Miles. Reference was made to the death of Mr. S. H. Smith, of St. Leonard's. The next meeting will be at Battle in May.

TEN BELL PEALS.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., March 25, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF ERIN CATER, 5031 CHANGES;

Tenor 18½ cwt.

*J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE <i>Treble</i>	*EDWIN JENNINGS ... 6
*†CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... 2	*ERNEST C. S. TURNER 7
*FRANCIS KIRK ... 3	*†FREDERICK E. COLLINS 8
*J. FRANK SMALLWOOD 4	*HAROLD G. CASHMORE 9
CHARLES T. COLES ... 5	*CHARLES POTHECARY ... <i>Tenor</i>

Composed by J. PARKER. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal in the method. † 100th peal together. First peal in the method on the bells and by the association.

KINGS NORTON, BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Sat., Mar. 25, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATER, 5003 CHANGES;

Tenor 17½ cwt.

ARTHUR S. DOWNES ... <i>Treble</i>	JAMES F. HARVEY ... 6
ERNEST T. ALLAWAY ... 2	WILLIAM B. CARTWRIGHT 7
DANIEL T. MATKIN ... 3	HERBERT C. SPENCER ... 8
JOHN PINFOLD ... 4	FRANK E. HAYNES ... 9
WILLIAM C. DOWDING ... 5	WILLIAM T. FROGGATT ... <i>Tenor</i>

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by WM. B. CARTWRIGHT.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT BRIDPORT.

A meeting of the West Dorset Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild at Bridport on March 18th was attended by 24 members from Beaminster, Bridport, Bradpole, Burton Bradstock, Lyme Regis and Abbotsbury. They included many young recruits, who had their first experience of ringing away from their own tower and acquitted themselves creditably. The methods rung were Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Stedman Triples and Bob Major.

The Rev. Canon L. Bartlett conducted the Guild Office and spoke a few words of welcome and encouragement. Mr. B. Elsworth acted as organist.

Tea was arranged at the British Restaurant by Mr. W. S. B. Northover.

The Rev. C. Carew Cox, Master of the Guild and branch chairman, presided at the business meeting at the Friends' Meeting House. He referred to the loss the Guild, particularly the Dorchester Branch, had sustained by the death of Mr. Charles Henry Jennings, and paid a tribute to Mr. Jennings' keenness, enthusiasm and inspiring leadership. Ringing had been the joy of his life from the age of 15 when he learnt to handle a bell in Bridport tower. He had ever a warm corner in his heart for West Dorset and was a frequent and welcome visitor to the meetings of that branch. His latter efforts when ill-health prevented active ringing had been to further the scheme for the restoration of Wyke Regis bells.

Mr. Hayne, of Abbotsbury, also spoke in appreciation of Mr. Jennings' work and mentioned that of the £200 required for the rehanging of Wyke Regis bells, £169 was already in hand. He thought the restoration would be a fitting memorial to Mr. Jennings' life interest in ringing.

The Chairman also reported the death of James Norris, who had been associated with the branch for many years and was the leader of the Symondsby band. He was a good fellow and ever popular in his place in the belfry for Sunday service ringing.

In the place of Canon Hutchings, a welcome was accorded to the Rev. A. W. Wheeler, Vicar of Beaminster, who had expressed the wish to become an honorary member of the Guild.

Ten new members were elected, one each from Netherbury, Evershot, Broad Windsor and Portishead, and six from Lyme Regis.

The officers of the branch were re-elected, and the balance sheet, showing a credit of £9 12s., was received.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to Canon Bartlett, to the members who had made the arrangements for the tea and business meeting, and to Mr. C. H. Lathey, the hon. secretary.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE E. PLATT.

The death is announced of Mr. George Edward Platt, of Leek, who passed away on February 23rd. at the age of 65. He had been a member of the local band for 33 years.

After the interment handbells were rung over the open grave and the tower bells were rung half-muffled.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.HANDSWORTH, SHEFFIELD.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(Sheffield and District Society.)

On Sat., Mar. 18, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

RONALD BIRCH Treble	JOSEPH SAXTON 5
G. GORDON GRAHAM ... 2	FREDERICK CARDWELL ... 6
WALTER ALLWOOD ... 3	A. BENJAMIN COOPER ... 7
MRS. J. E. TURLEY ... 4	JOHN E. TURLEY Tenor

Composed by C. CHARGE.

Conducted by JOHN E. TURLEY.

Rung as a welcome to the new Vicar, the Rev. Heneage Ferraby.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Mar. 18, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF SPLICED LONDON, CAMBRIDGE, SUPERLATIVE AND BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

JOHN E. ROOTES Treble	FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW 5
MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT 2	FRANCIS KIRK 6
GEORGE M. KILBY ... 3	EDWIN JENNINGS 7
*JOHN E. SPICE 4	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

* First peal of Spliced Surprise. The peal consisted of 2,880 London, 800 Bristol, 736 Superlative and 704 Cambridge, with 120 changes of method.

LIVERPOOL.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Mar. 25, 1944, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER, WOOLTON,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor 20 cwt. in E.

THOMAS LEE Treble	GEORGE R. NEWTON ... 5
ARTHUR LINTOTT ... 2	WILLIAM ROBINSON ... 6
HARRY GRACE ... 3	THOMAS W. HESKETH ... 7
*FREDERICK S. ALMOND ... 4	WILLIAM EDGE Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS W. HESKETH.

* First peal. First peal as conductor. Rung half-muffled to the memory of the late Rev. F. B. Hadow, who was for 19 years Rector of this parish.

DEBENHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Sat., Mar. 25, 1944, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 21½ cwt. in E flat.

W. E. MAULDEN Treble	WILLIAM J. GROOM ... 5
*LESLIE G. BRETT ... 2	SERGT. J. O. WELLER ... 6
GEORGE A. FLEMING ... 3	THOMAS W. LAST ... 7
LESLIE C. WIGHTMAN ... 4	CECIL W. PIPE Tenor

Composed by CHARLES J. SEDGLEY. Conducted by WM. J. GROOM.

* 250th peal.

DRAYCOTT, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Mar. 25, 1944, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

JOHN G. CARTLEDGE ... Treble	ARTHUR W. HALL ... 5
REV. HUGH BENSON ... 2	R.S.M. ALB. FORD, I.C. 6
WM. P. DEAVE ... 3	ANDREW THOMPSON ... 7
EDWARD STEELE ... 4	ROBT. S. ANDERSON ... Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by ROBT. S. ANDERSON.

First peal as conductor.

THORRINGTON, ESSEX.—On March 11th, 720 Plain Bob Minor: Kenneth Mitchell 1, Alan R. Andrews 2, Charles A. Andrews 3, Miss Barbara Hill (first 720) 4, George A. Andrews 5, Leslie Wright (conductor) 6.

HANDBELL PEALS.

HAYES, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., Mar. 12, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT BOURNE CHASE, THE KNOLL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5376 CHANGES;

Tenor size 11 in G.

*HILDA OAKSHETT ... 1-2	*VERNON J. BENNING ... 5-6
GEORGE R. H. SMITH ... 3-4	*PERCY J. SPICE ... 7-8

Composed by E. MAURICE ATKINS. Conducted by G. R. H. SMITH.

* First eight-bell peal in hand.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., Mar. 19, 1944, in Two Hours,

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

EDWIN JENNINGS ... 1-2	HEROLD G. CASHMORE ... 5-6
*JOHN E. SPICE ... 3-4	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal of Surprise on handbells. First peal of Surprise on handbells as conductor.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Wed., Mar. 22, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,*

AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATER, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16½.

MRS. J. THOMAS ... 1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 5-6
MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7-8

JOHN THOMAS ... 9-10

Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Mar. 22, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-six Minutes,

IN THE CATHEDRAL BELFRY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATER, 5017 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

ALFRED BALLARD ... 1-2	PERCY L. HARRISON ... 5-6
HAROLD J. POOLE ... 3-4	ERNEST MORRIS ... 7-8

JOSIAH MORRIS ... 9-10

Composed by FRED H. DEXTER. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

LONDON.

THE UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., Mar. 23, 1944, in Two Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT ST. CLEMENT DANE'S PARISH HOUSE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

IVOR C. N. BELL ... 1-2	*WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 5-6
DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON 3-4	VERNON J. BENNING ... 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by WILLIAM L. B. LEESE.

* 75th peal.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Sat., Mar. 25, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,*

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATER, 5043 CHANGES;

*ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 1-2	MRS. J. THOMAS ... 5-6
JOHN THOMAS ... 3-4	*ERIC A. DENCH ... 7-8

*DENNIS H. LANGDON ... 9-10

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by J. THOMAS.

* First peal of Stedman.

BOURNEMOUTH, HANTS.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Mar. 25, 1944, in One Hour and Forty-Eight Minutes,

AT 11, EXTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings. Tenor size 15 in G.

MISS JESSIE C. CHICK ... 1-2	MRS. F. J. MARSHALLSAY 3-4
FRANCIS S. WILSON ... 5-6	

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

CHURCH BELLS & THE REFORMATION

It has often been said that at the time of the Reformation there was great destruction of bells, some writers going so far as to say that in whole districts—Oxfordshire, for instance, and Devon and Cornwall—the churches were stripped, only one bell, and that the smallest, being left to call the people to prayers.

When we examine the available evidence however, we shall come to the conclusion that such destruction as there was, has, at any rate so far as the parish church bells are concerned, been greatly exaggerated. There are numerous references in old books to the pulling down and sale of bells, but the writers, as a rule, repeat general rumours and do not give specific instances or relate what they themselves personally know to be true. There is a passage in Sir Henry Spelman's 'History and Fate of Sacrilege,' written in 1632, which is typical—'When I was a child I heard much talk of the pulling down of bells in every part of my county [Norfolk]. I dare not venture upon particulars, for that, I then, hearing them as a child, regarded them as a child.'

What, however, is certain, is that the dissolution of the monasteries in the reign of Henry the Eighth and the suppression of chantries, colleges and hospitals in the reign of Edward the Sixth did cause the destruction of many bells, which, though not hung in the steeples of parish churches, were yet devoted to the service of the Church and of religion.

The lesser monasteries were dissolved in 1536, the greater in 1539, and all the lands, buildings, plate and fittings, were confiscated to the Crown. The lands and buildings were, in most cases, granted to laymen in return for the payment of money, but the plate and jewels went to the royal treasury. The lands were the most valuable part of the monastic property, but the material of the buildings, stone, wood and metal was also of immense value, though necessarily it took a long time to realise. The lead and bell metal were in most cases reserved to the Crown, and there seems to have been some idea of using the latter to make cannon, as, for instance, when, in 1542, £832 worth of metal from broken bells of Lincolnshire was given to Sir Charles Morris under royal warrant to make guns and engines of war. But the material was widely dispersed, and though some attempts were made to collect it at a number of central places, much of it was sold on the spot as opportunity arose; and meanwhile in not a few cases, especially in remote country districts, the local landowners went to the derelict churches and helped themselves.

How many bells there were in the monasteries we have no means of knowing. We can guess, but we have no assurance that our guesses would be even approximately correct. The number of the lesser monasteries was 376, of the greater 645. Norwich Cathedral is the only one of the greater churches in which the bells remain practically the same as they were at the time of the dissolution, and we may perhaps take them as an average ring; for though, no doubt, many of the abbeys had fewer and smaller bells, we know that others had more and much heavier ones. At Peterborough, for instance, there was a ring of ten which weighed more than twelve tons, besides four other bells; and even at Norwich there was an extra bell tower

which contained five bells probably heavier than those in the central steeple.

The ring of five at Norwich weighs about 2½ tons, so that, if the other large monastic churches were as well supplied, they would together possess sixteen hundred tons of bell metal; and when we add that at the lesser monasteries we get a total of about two thousand tons of bell metal, and there are indications that the actual amount was still greater.

The monetary value of any commodity depends on the supply and demand. England, in normal times, produced sufficient new copper and tin to supply her own wants and, in addition, to export a certain amount to the Continent; but now, not only was the market glutted by all this old metal, but one of the largest class of consumers, the abbeys, had ceased to exist. The men who came into possession of these bells would therefore find great difficulty in selling them in England. But abroad there was a great and steady demand for this metal, especially in those countries which did not themselves produce copper and tin. They did not want it to cast into church bells, for all over Europe men were more concerned about fighting and disputing about theological questions than about building and equipping churches. They wanted it very largely for casting into cannon, for warfare was being revolutionised by the introduction of artillery.

In those days governments did not believe in unrestricted free trade and the English government did not intend to sit still and see English metal go to France or Spain to be cast into guns that might be used against her own ships and men. As far back as 1529, before there was any question of confiscating abbey bells, an Act of Parliament (21 Hen. 8, cap. 10) was passed 'against carrying out of Brass Lattin and Copper' which enacted that 'whosoever shall convey any Brass &c to any Port to be conveyed beyond the Sea shall forfeit the same or the value thereof.'

This was re-enacted in 1536 (28 Hen. 8, cap. 8), the year in which the lesser monasteries were dissolved. A certain amount of export was allowed by licence from the Crown. For instance, in 1545 an order of the Council declared that 'Whereas one Mathew Moore of the Stilliardde hadde made suite to the Kinges Highnes for the convayaunce out of fortye thowsande of bellmetall offering to bring in the Vallew thereof in wheat or rye his Majestie in consideration of the skarcite of grayne within the Realme grawnted unto him this his sayde request which was this day declared by letters unto the Customers &c of London. At Wyndesour the vj daye of Octobre, 1545.'

Notwithstanding the Acts of 1529 and 1536 the amount of bell metal exported was so large that the government became alarmed lest, while other nations were fully armed with cannon, England should find herself without the material necessary to make guns, and in 1541 a more stringent Act was passed (33 Hen. 8, cap. 8). 'Wheras,' so runs the preamble, 'Wheras in the Parliament holden at Westminster the third Day of November in the twenty-first year in the Reign of our Sovereign Lord the King that now is among other Things it was enacted That no Person or Persons should henceforth carry or convey any Brass Copper Lattin Bellmetal Gunmetal ne Shroff metal into any part or parts beyond the

Sea upon Pain of Forfeiture of the same Metal as by the said Act more plainly appeareth. (2) Sith the making of which Estatute divers Persons as well Englishmen as Strangers have deceitfully obtained licenses of the Kings Highness to carry over Bell-metal and other broken Metal Surmising the same Metals not to be meet for making of Guns and other Engines of War nor for Implements necessary to Household which Surmise is proven untrue as the common Experience thereof daily declareth so that all Realmes and Countries be full of Artillery and Munitions and this Realm is like to lack if 'more hasty Remedy to stop the Conveyance of the same be not further provided than is in the same Act,' it was therefore ordained 'that no person or persons shall from henceforth carry or convey by water or otherwise any Brass Copper Lattin Bellmetal Gun-metal ne Shroff-metal whether it be clean or mixed (Tin and Lead only excepted) into any part beyond the Seas or into any outward Realme or Dominion whatever it be' under pain to forfeit the double value of the same metal.

(To be continued.)

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT RANMOOR.

Over 40 members and friends attended the annual meeting of the Sheffield and District Society, held at St. John's, Ranmoor, Sheffield, on March 11th.

Rounds and Bob Royal were rung on the ten and methods up to Cambridge and Superlative on the back eight.

Canon Foster presided at the business meeting, at which three new vice-presidents were elected, Messrs. M. E. Wilson, F. B. Ditcher and B. Cooper. Mr. Ditcher was elected a trustee, and all the other officers were re-elected. Four new members were elected from Ranmoor, Rotherham and Handsworth.

The secretary was asked to keep in mind joint meetings with adjoining associations when possible. North Wingfield was decided upon as the next meeting place, a joint meeting with the Midland Counties Association being agreed to for April 1st.

SERVICE TOUCHES. GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

504		504	
23456		23456	
35426	Before and Wrong	35426	Before and Wrong
54326	Home	54326	Home
43526	Home	42356	Before and Wrong
32546	Before and Wrong	25346	Before and Wrong
25346	Home	53246	Home
53246	Home	34256	Before and Wrong
34256	Before and Wrong	45236	Before and Wrong
42356	Home	52436	Home
23456	Home	23456	Before and Wrong
504		504	
23456		23456	
42356	In and Out	35426	Before and Wrong
35246	Before and S Wrong	43526	In and Out
54236	Before and Wrong	52346	Before and S Wrong
43256	Before and Wrong	24356	Before and Wrong
25346	Before and S Wrong	45326	Before and Wrong
32546	In and Out	32546	Before and S Wrong
53246	In and Out	24536	Before and Wrong
34256	Before and Wrong	52436	In and Out
23456	In and Out	23456	Before and Wrong
504		504	
23456		23456	
42356	In and Out	42356	In and Out
35246	Before and S Wrong	25346	Before and Wrong
54236	Before and Wrong	54326	Before and Wrong
43256	Before and Wrong	35426	In and Out
25346	Before and S Wrong	52436	Before and Wrong
32546	In and Out	45236	In and Out
24536	Before and Wrong	53246	Before and Wrong
52436	In and Out	34256	Before and Wrong
23456	Before and Wrong	23456	In and Out

The calling is from the seventh.

WILLESSEN.—On March 19th, 1,024 Cambridge Surprise Major: Mrs. E. Lankester 1, R. C. Kersey 2, E. Lankester 3, Mrs. J. Botham 4, C. F. Bailey (conductor) 5, A. Jones 6, A. Cutler 7, H. Kilby 8.

John Taylor & Co.

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MUFFLES,
Etc,

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official journal of the Central Council of
Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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'The Ringing World.'

Notices for next week's issue must reach us not later
than the first post on Monday morning, April 3rd.

During a recent air raid a church where the brothers Pye rang
many peals 45 years ago, including their first peals of London and
Bristol, and the 15,072 of Double Norwich, was severely damaged by
blast. The tower and bells have apparently escaped injury.

The Rev. F. Ll. Edwards has been appointed to assist the Salisbury
Diocesan Advisory Committee in dealing with cases referring to bells.

THE MONTH'S PEALS, FEBRUARY.

During the month of February 34 peals were rung, 20 of them on
tower bells and 14 on handbells.

The tower bell peals consisted of: Grandsire Doubles 5, Triples 2;
Oxford Bob Triples 3; Stedman Triples 3, Caters 1; Bob Minor 2,
Major 2; Oxford Treble Bob Major 1; Kent Treble Bob Royal 1; Two
Minor methods 1; Seven Minor methods 1.

The handbell peals consisted of: Grandsire Triples 5, Caters 3;
Stedman Triples 1, Caters 2; Bob Minor 1, Major 1; Oxford Treble
Bob Major 1.

The number in January was 50.

LONDON BELLS DESTROYED.

During the early air raids the City of London suffered a greater loss
of church bells than any other part of the country, and now it seems
certain that one of the three octaves then left has been destroyed.

The church was a well-known one with a lofty stone tower sur-
mounted with a lantern top, built in the early years of the last
century. The bells, which were cast at Whitechapel in 1832, have
not been rung for many years. In the old steeple Benjamin Annable
called the first peal of Double Bob Major in 1726.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING.

To the Editor.

Sir,—No doubt all of us agree that the Central Council ought to
give their official backing to the Standing Committee's action. The
only thing we differ over is the advisability of holding the meeting
during Whitsun week-end. It may be the worst time from our point
of view of the whole war years. Considering the appeals on the wire-
less and in the papers and the difficulties there may be, I think the
Standing Committee should reconsider their decision and wait until
things are more settled and have a meeting later on in the year.

A. H. PULLING.

The Grammar School, Guildford.

A LONDON BELL FOUNDER.

In our account of St. Botolph's, Aldgate, we said that none of
Robert Burford's bells seems to be now in existence. Mr. C. E.
Borrett writes that he cast the sixth at All Saints', Sudbury, and
the sixth at Dedham in Essex. The tenor at Ardleigh is also by him.

M. A. A. Hughes informs us that William Burford, father of
Robert, cast the fifth at Cranford, Middlesex, and it was he, and not
the son, who left the legacy.

ANALYSIS OF PEALS RUNG DURING THE YEAR 1942

Compiled by the Committee appointed by the Central Council

ASSOCIATION		Number of Conductors	MAJOR															TRIPLES			MINOR			DOUBLES		TOTAL, Handbells	TOTAL, Tower Bells	GRAND TOTAL							
			Plain Bob	Stedman	Kent Treble Bob	Plain Bob	Stedman	Grandairs	Superlative	Cambridge	New Cambridge	Sup. & Cam. Spliced	Kent Treble Bob	Oxford Treble Bob	Kent & Ox. T. B. Spl.	Double Norwich C. R.	Spl. Well L. Ch. Rev.	Dbl. Gains. Little and Plain Bob	Spl. Gains. L. & Pl. B.	Plain Bob	Little Bob	Double Bob	Stedman	Grandairs	13 Methods				7 ditto	5 ditto	3 ditto	2 ditto	1 ditto	3 Methods	1 ditto
An. Soc. College Yths.	5	1																															7		7
Bath and Wells Dio.	1																																1		1
Chester Diocesan...	1																																1		1
Cambridge Univ. Guild	3																																3		3
Essex County	1																																1		1
Gloucester & Bristol	4	1		1		2																											10		10
Guildford Dio. Guild...	1																																1		1
Hertford County	4																																15		15
Irish Association	1																																1		1
Kent County	8	1		2		1									2	1				1	9	1	1		4			1	1	1	1	1	27	1a	27
Ladies Guild	1																																1		1
Lancashire Assoc.	2																																3		3
Lincoln Diocesan	5			2																													8		8
Middlesex County	6		4			1	4		1				2		3																		26		26
Midland Counties	6	1	3	2	6																												21		21
Oxford Dio. Guild	6																																12		12
Oxford Univ. Society...	2																																16		16
St. Martin's G'd, Bir.	3		5			1																											6		6
Salisbury Dio. Guild	2																																8		8
Suffolk Guild	2			2																													4		4
Surrey Association	1																																1		1
Sussex County	4				1																2	2		1									9		9
Warwickshire Guild	2					2																											3		3
Win. and Portsmouth	2																																14		14
Worcester & Districts	3																																4		4
Yorkshire Assoc	5	3		2		1									2					2	6	1											16		16
Unattached	1																																1b		1
TOTAL			6	9	6	13	10	8	1	2	1	1	6	4	2	8	2		5	46	5	1	3	34	1	1	2	2	1	3	1	14	219	2	221

a & b—Rung on Tower Bells, both Doubles.

THE PEALS ANALYSIS.

It will be seen from the Analysis that during the year 219 handbell and two tower bell peals were recorded, making a total of 221 made up as follows:—

Maximus	6
Cinques	9
Royal	19
Caters	18
Major	84
Triples	37
Minor	31
Doubles	17

Total ... 221

The footnotes to the peals reveal that 26 ringers rang their first peal, while 31 took part in their first peal on handbells. Those who rang their first peal in a different method or on a different number of bells numbered 81, and 31 conductors called their first peal or a peal in a different method or on a new number of bells.

During the year one ringer scored his 25th peal, two their 50th, one his 100th, two their 200th and two their 300th and 350th respectively; one completed his 50th and three their 100th handbell peals. One conductor called his 25th and another his 50th peal, while a third conducted his 25th handbell peal.

Thirty-five peals were recorded as being rung for birthdays, weddings, commemorations or tributes.

EDITH K. FLETCHER.
CHARLES DEAN.
GEORGE R. PYE.
WALTER AYRE.
G. L. GROVER.

ALDFORD, CHESHIRE.—On March 6th, 720 Oxford Bob Minor and 720 Plain Bob: J. Thomas 1, W. Broster 2, H. Woodfine 3, A. Bebbington 4, W. Sambles 5, A. F. Richards (conductor) 6. First in both methods by ringers of 2, 3 and 4.

HEARING AND SEEING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The advice given in your columns on handling a bell recalls your excellent leading article on 'Hearing' in your issue of September 17th, 1943. I liked especially the analogy between the ringer and the craftsman using a tool.

Attempting to learn change ringing somewhat late in life, and finding perhaps more than usual difficulty in reading the ropes, it has occurred to me that you may be able to give some advice on 'seeing,' i.e., 'ropesight.' It seems strange why some men, apparently quite ordinary chaps, appear to have little difficulty in this. Have they some simple way of 'looking'? And can one be given a tip? I remember a railway ganger once telling me his way of looking at the track, which enabled him easily to spot anything amiss during his daily examination. His way made it extremely simple. I do not think for a moment that 'ropesight' can be made as simple as that, but perhaps some advice can be given which would assist some of us and 'show us the ropes.'

R. ALSOP.

Ebbw Vale.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN BARBER.

The death is announced of Mr. John Barber, of West Bromwich, which occurred on March 10th, after an illness of eight days caused by exposure through a breakdown and loss of memory on his way to the funeral of his brother-in-law. The funeral was on March 16th.

Mr. Barber, who was in his eightieth year, was born at Clent in 1864, and learned to ring there with his father and brother, Mr. William H. Barber. He joined the Worcestershire Association in 1888. In 1890 he went to London, and while there rang over 50 peals for the Society of Cumberland Youths and the Middlesex Association. He rang the tenor at St. Martin's, Birmingham, to the long peal of Stedman Cinques, 11,111 changes. The full number of his peals was 250, and among them he rang the tenor at Shrewsbury to Stedman Cinques, the tenor at Pershore to Double Norwich Major, and the tenor at St. Patrick's, Dublin, to Stedman Caters and Bob Royal.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 117.)

The Church of St. Michael, Othery, Somerset, is cruciform and chiefly in the Early English style, with details of 14th and 15th century work. The central embattled tower is 75ft. high and rather unusual. It is on a church much older than itself, and is supported by buttresses which extend diagonally from the re-entrant angles of the building below. In the south-east buttress, in front of a low side opening, is the perforation which has given rise to much controversy. At the north-east angle, the stair turret takes the place of a buttress. The top windows are large, but are mostly blank, for only a small portion in the middle is perforated. Whether the whole window was perforated at first may be a matter of speculation, but many of the large towers of Somerset have windows partly blank. The niches with statues in the middle stage are conspicuous and effective. The tower contains a ring of five bells, tenor approximately 17 cwt. The treble is by T. Purdue, 1692, second 1620, third by T. Wroth, 1729, and fourth and tenor by Wm. Bilbie, 1811.

The Church of St. Mary, Stafford, has a good central tower consisting of an octagonal upper stage on a square base. Formerly a royal free chapel from Anglo-Saxon days, and collegiate with a dean and 12 canons in a foundation attributed to King John, it is a large and fine cruciform church in Transitional Early English and later styles. The lower portion of the tower is of very early variety of Perpendicular style, dating a little before the 13th century. The upper story is of the latest variety of Decorated style, and very beautiful in detail. The tower is square to a short distance above the nave roof level, when it becomes octagonal by angular weatherings, decorated with rich pinnacles, and finished by a panelled parapet with crocketed pinnacles at the angles. It was formerly surmounted by a lofty spire which was blown down in a violent storm March 21st, 1593-4, partly destroying the church in its fall.

There are now 11 bells in the tower—a ring of ten and a Sanctus, by Thomas Hancox, dated 1622. Of the old octave, the 1st, 2nd and 5th were by A. Rudhall, 1709; the 3rd, 4th, and 6th by Henry Bagley, 1692; the 7th by Rudhall, 1751; and tenor by Bagley, 1742. The old treble is inscribed, 'When you mee ring, Ile sweetly sing.' In 1887, two trebles were added by Gillett and Johnston, while in 1921 Mears and Stainbank retuned and rehung the peal.

A most interesting leather jack is here preserved, which belonged to the ringers and which I described in my articles on 'Ringers' Jugs and Pitchers,' on October 9th, 1942. It holds 27 pints and is inscribed with names of ringers, 1750 and 1798.

St. Chad's Church, Gateshead-on-Tyne, has a central square tower base with an octagonal upper stage of a much later and severer style than Stafford. I have no information regarding any bells there, however. Another similar square central tower with octagonal upper stage adorns the church of St. Mary, Pakenham, Suffolk. Standing on an eminence, this is a handsome cruciform building of flint in mixed styles. The lower square portion of the tower is probably Norman, and the upper octagon 14th century. Outside the south wall of the

nave is a stone coffin built into the wall, and on the south wall of the chancel are four 13th century coped coffin lids. The tower has a ring of five bells: tenor 14 cwt., treble by Mears and Stainbank, 1872, 2nd John Draper, 1626, 3rd Lester and Pack, 1760, 4th and tenor G. Mears and Co., 1862.

Ozleworth, Glos, anciently called Wozelworth, is a village six miles from Charfield station. The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, is an ancient building in Early Norman style, and here is something we can see nowhere else in England. Its tower is the only six-sided one that stands in the middle of a church. There is only one other six-sided tower of any sort elsewhere, and, strange to say, that also is in Gloucestershire—at Swindon, near Cheltenham. The latter is, however, a western tower, containing five bells, and the writer has taken part in chiming them when short for Sunday service ringing on one occasion in 1919. Of the six sides of Ozleworth tower, no two are equal, and in each side is a small window. The base is Saxon, the top story Norman. The base is now used as the choir of the church and may have once been a nave. The archway into the nave rests on two short pillars, and its beautiful zig-zag is so bold that it is thought to represent the crown of thorns. The tower contains only one bell, by John Rudhall, 1809. Its churchyard is the only round one in Gloucestershire.

The Church of St. Mary, Chesham, Bucks, stands on high ground in Chesham Park. Of the 12th century church on this site, the only certain evidence is part of a window in the north transept, and a few detached stones. The plan was apparently cruciform, the nave being of the same length as at present, with north and south aisles added in the 13th century, and probably some reconstruction of transepts and tower at the same time. The tower is 14ft. square, and of two stages above the roof of the nave, with high embattled parapet and an octagonal leaded spire. It is carried on four pointed arches, the east one of the 13th century date, and others of the 14th century. The first stage of the tower above the nave roof has a late 13th century trefoiled lancet window in each wall and a 15th century doorway in the west wall opening on to the roof of the nave.

The bell chamber has four 15th century windows, each of two lights with tracery. The ringing room is reached over the church roof, then through the doorway mentioned, which is only about 4ft. high. A large beam across the centre of the room at eye level divides the circle in two. There are six bells tenor 17 cwt., all by Thomas Mears, 1812. They were rehung about 1885 by Mears and Stainbank. Much interesting data on the ancient history of bells here is given in the 'Church Bells of Bucks.' There is a Sanctus bell by John Sturdy, who died in 1456.

(To be continued.)

THE RINGERS' HANDBOOK

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Staverton Vicarage, near Daventry.

A FORGOTTEN CITY CHURCH.

ST. CHRISTOPHER-LE-STOCKS.

Within the walls of the Bank of England there was until recently (and still may be) a small garden which marks the site of the burial ground of the destroyed Church of St. Christopher-le-Stocks. Scattered about the city are several other similar gardens, for a rule was made that, though the site of a destroyed church might be built upon, the burial ground must be kept open for ever.

St. Christopher's got its name from the Stocks Market, which was where the Mansion House now stands, and no doubt was where there were prominent stocks into which vagabonds and criminals were put in accordance with the old custom. The church was rebuilt in the early days of the sixteenth century, and Richard Shore, one of the sheriffs in 1506, gave money towards the rebuilding of the steeple. In Edward VI.'s reign there were 'in the steeple, item, fyve grette and a saunce bell.' Another inventory made in 1601 records that there were 'in the Steple v bells and one saynts bell.'

In 1589 Robert Mot recast the third, and in 1612 the tenor was recast, but either the work was not well done, or the bell was again broken, for in 1622 £13 11s. was paid to the bell founder for casting the great bell with 1 cwt. 1 qr. 26 lb. of extra metal. There are many items in the churchwardens' accounts of repairs to the clappers, wheels, and other fittings; and in 1636 Robert Turner's name appears as the bell hanger. He was one of the earliest of a family who worked in conjunction with the Whitechapel Foundry during several generations and hung many famous rings.

St. Christopher's bells were rung 'when Babington with thother traytors weare aphended & wear takinn and alsoe when queene of Scotts proclaimed conspirator to ye queene & realme'; and later on, 'on the daye of the xecution of ye skotts queene.'

In 1632 the parish was fined 17s. 4d. for not ringing 'when the Bpp went by'; which shows that it was not only the pre-Reformation bishops who stood upon their dignity in the matter of bellringing.

The church was badly damaged in the Great Fire of 1666, and all its fittings and woodwork were destroyed; but the walls and tower were left standing. The continuation of Stow's 'Survey of London' speaks of six bells, which suggests that a treble may have been added to the original five. But in 1664 apparently there were only five, and there is no mention in the churchwardens' accounts of another having been added, though that is not conclusive. Still it is most likely that the six bells were the ring of five and the saunce bell.

Just before the Fire a new set of ropes was provided, and Gadesdon, the bell hanger, employed to do some repairs. Afterwards the broken bells were taken to a Mr. Aylesworth's and a padlock and staple provided to secure them from being stolen. Some of the melted lead was

stolen, and 2s. 6d. was paid to some porters for carrying the thieves to the bridewell, and two shillings to one Gules for recovering some stolen lead.

The bell metal was sold. It may be that one bell was saved from the fire, or else one was bought; and in 1669 the tower had been repaired sufficiently to hang it. Next year a small bell was bought from a Mr. Birkhead, who does not appear to have been a bell founder, and John Hodson was paid to hang it.

St. Christopher's was the first of the post-Fire churches to be destroyed. At the time of the Gordon riots the company of the Bank of England were alarmed lest the mob should seize the steeple and use it as a place of attack on the bank, and as they owned the whole of the parish they were able to have it pulled down to save any fear in the future.

NEWS FROM OXFORDSHIRE.

To the Editor.

Dear Zur,—I bin meaning to write 'ee a letter for a long time, and I see Freddie Sharpe's bin waiting fer me too. Well, 'ere I be at last, writing in me own sort o' Basic English. About the best lot o' bells, I reckon as you and t'others 'ave said all there be to say about wot 'the best' means. The ones I reckon as best be them as I likes best, whether 'em be old or new tuned, narrer-waisted or big-bellied. All I troubles about is what they sounds like and 'ow they goo.

Well, I'll pack 'ee two lots not 'undred mile from Banbury Cross. One be Adderbury (8) and a right noble old lot they be. T'other be a funny little place, wi' as sweet a ring o' 5 as you'd a mind to 'ear, just like a horgan, and I means Croughton, near Aynho. (Aynho's the place where all the houses 'as apricot trees on their walls.) Ah, the 'eavy bells ain't the only good 'uns. I don't know nothing about Croughton, whether they be new or old; old Fred ought to know, they be nearer 'im ner me. I'd like to know if anyone 'as ever heerd the whole 8 ring at Bloxham nigh Adderbury; I 'a rung on the front 6, but they ain't rung the back two fer years 'oos of the tower. I 'ave heerd, though, as they be a beautiful lot, and the heavy tenor's a beauty be all accounts.

Arter wot you wrote I tried ringing up wi'out a coil, and I never got on nohow. But, bless 'ee, I coils that ole rope in me left 'and and still does plenty o' work wi' that 'and. I believes in as little rope flying about as possible, up and down. But there, every man to 'is own way, coil or no coil, left or right 'and, and if he could ring better standing on his 'ead, let 'im do it, says I.

I don't want to blow me own trumpet too 'ard or I might bust, but I got a way of teaching kiddies about change ringing on 'andbells as may be new to some on 'ee. If you wants to ring Minor you gets six childer and stands 'em in a straight line wi' a bell apiece (in rounds, like). When you starts, they changes place in the line, the 2nd, 4th and 6th moves down one, and the treble, 3rd and 5th goes up one, and when they strikes you've got 214365. Then off you goes till the lead-end when the 3rd stays in 2nds and t'others dodges in 3.4 and 5.6. You can ring it fast enough to keep walkin' from front to back just tanging your ole bell in each place as you goes. I got 5 kiddies about 9 or 10 year old and us 'a rung Grandsire, Plain Bob and St. Simon's Doubles, Plain Bob and St. Clement's Minor, like that. Course, they 'as to learn the method on paper first. Then double-'anded at a table us 'ave 'rolled up' to Grandsire Caters. It soon learnis 'em to strike good wi'out having to know too much about the method.

'YOKEL.'

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT MIDDLETON.

At a meeting of the Rochdale Branch of the Lancashire Association, held at Middleton on March 18th, thirty-ringers were present from Moorside, East Crompton, Oldham, Glodwick, Hamer, Milnrow, New-key, Shore Friezland, Manchester and the local belfry.

The methods rung were Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob Major, and practice for beginners.

Mr. J. Bastow took the chair at the business meeting, at which it was decided to hold the next meeting at Todmorden on April 15th.

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THE BEST PEAL OF BELLS.**ST. VEEP'S, CORNWALL.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I was interested in C. F. J.'s letter and his mention of St. Veep bells. 'The Western Morning News' of December 23rd, 1935, said: 'Throughout the West Country the bells of St. Veep are noted. They have never been tuned. They were cast "on June 16th, in the stillness of the night, 1770, by Pennington, bell-founder, of Bradford, in a meadow opposite the church gate for the sum of £17." Previously in the tower there were four bells, but one was cracked, and the remaining three were out of key. The then Vicar, the Rev. William Penwarne, the churchwardens, and parishioners, decided to recast them with the addition of two hundredweight and a quarter of metal. "When the tenor bell was cast the parishioners collected all the old silver they could and threw it in the mould to enrich its tone. The bells were all put into the furnace and cast in the moulds, and when they were cold they were hung on a girder. Pennington tapped them with his hammer and leaped for joy and pronounced them a perfect virgin peal," declares a record. He said he was more than satisfied with himself, and said those splendid peal of bells could never be excelled. He had cast and recast hundreds of bells in Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, but never did he cast such a peal as this, said he.

'The bells are in key G. The tenor weighs over 10 cwt., and to its weight cannot be beaten. On it is inscribed, "William Penwarne, Vicar, A.D. 1770," and "I call the quick to church and dead to grave." On the fourth bell is inscribed, "John Burns, churchwarden and yeoman," and on the fifth bell, "Richard Wymond, Churchwarden." Pennington was well known in the diocese and St. Veep bells are among the few of his casting remaining in their original condition. In order to preserve their character the Advisory Committee of the Diocese has stipulated that they are not to be tuned.'

There is no doubt that St. Veep bells are held in high regard by the local people and many others, but it would be interesting to know the exactness of such a ring when judged from present-day standards of tuning.

Re Truro Cathedral. 'J. A. T.'s' chat with the late Mr. J. W. Taylor is interesting, but I had always taken the tubes to be round and not four-sided. They are of lead and just big enough for the ropes to pass through with reasonable play.

Mr. Peter N. Bond gives the weight of St. Mary Magdalen, Launceston, tenor as 17½ cwt., but it should be 15 cwt. 3 qr. 26 lb. This ring was restored in 1938 by Messrs. Taylor and Co., and before recasting the tenor weighed 12 cwt. 1 qr. Perhaps this is an instance of a good ring sounding heavier than it actually is. As a point of fact there is a ring of eight by the same founders (1923) at St. Stephen-by-Launceston with a tenor weighing 15 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lb. The local ringers' own report in the Truro Diocesan Guild report in 1927 and successive years gives the weight as 20 cwt., but in 1939 it had been reduced to 18 cwt. Being proud of a good ring should not give way to such discrepancies in weight.

A. S. ROBERTS.

The Parsonage, Carbis Bay.

CHRIST CHURCH, LYE.

Dear Sir.—The many and varied letters on the subject of 'The best peal of bells' have been of great interest to me. When I read of your correspondents having rung and heard bells, the tenor being 20 or 30 cwt., I often wonder what they would think of the peal at Christ Church, Lye. The peal there is composed of eight bells, tenor 3½ cwt.; the treble, by way of interest, weighs approximately ¾ cwt. This peal is reputed to be the lightest of eight in the country, and I would like to prove this claim.

Please do not include this letter amongst those contesting for the title of the best peal. Your readers who have heard the bells will know the reason why.

D. BROOKS.

Stambermill, Stourbridge.

DEATH OF MR HENRY FERGUSON.

The death is announced of Mr. Henry Ferguson, of Scarborough, who passed away on March 20th at the age of 76.

Mr. Ferguson rang his first peal, one of Grandsire Triples at St. John's, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on July 27th, 1885, when he was 17 years of age. After going to Scarborough he formed and taught a band there, and continued to be a regular service ringer until a serious illness three years ago.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT BIRKENHEAD.**

The annual meeting of the Wirral Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild, held at St. Mary's, Birkenhead, on March 18th, was attended by 33 ringers from seven bellfries.

Service was conducted by the Rev. Mr. Manning, and tea was provided by the churchwardens. In the absence of the president, Mr. H. Cheers took the chair at the business meeting, at which Mr. J. W. Milner was re-elected president, Mr. H. Brocklebank hon. secretary, Mr. Jack Cooke Ringing Master, and Mr. Frank Varty instructor. Mr. J. Webster was elected representative on the General Committee.

A vote of sympathy was passed to the relatives of members who had passed away—Walter Battle, Edward Breeze, Smith Wood and Henry Martin.

The next meeting will be at St. Nicholas', Wallasey, on April 22nd.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT FELTHAM.**

A meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association was held at Feltham on March 18th, and was attended by 32 members and friends from Addistone, Ealing (Christ Church, St. Mary's and St. Stephen's), Egham, Feltham, Fulham, Hestham, Hillingdon (St. John's), Hounslow, Isleworth, Kensington, Leatherhead, Staines, Sudbury (Suffolk), Swindon, Twickenham, Uxbridge and Weybridge.

The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major and Double Norwich, and Cambridge Surprise, with rounds for learners.

At the business meeting, presided over by Mr. E. C. S. Turner, the secretary stated that he had received an airmail letter from the assistant secretary, Mr. W. G. Wilson, on service in North Africa, who sent his good wishes to all ringing friends.

Mr. H. G. Miles, of St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, was elected a member.

It was announced that the annual district meeting had been arranged for Brentford on Saturday, April 15th, and it was decided to hold a meeting at St. Margaret's, Uxbridge, at the end of May or beginning of June.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar, the Rev. P. D. Godfrey, and to Mr. Tony Price for the arrangements made. Mr. Price was congratulated on the improvement in the ringing chamber and on the progress of his young pupils.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT TILSWORTH.**

The meeting of the Luton District of the Bedfordshire Association, held at Tilsworth on March 18th, was well attended, members being present from Moulden, Silsoe, Meppershall, Houghton Regis, Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard, Linslade and the local tower. Various methods, including Double Court, Oxford Treble Bob, Cambridge and London Surprise Minor, were rung. At the business meeting, presided over by the Rector, the Rev. G. Dale, Husborne Crawley was selected as the place of the next meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

EDMONTON.—On Sunday, March 12th, for evening service, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Eric A. Dench 1, V. Woodards 2, P. Coward 3, Mrs. J. Thomas 4, D. H. Langdon 5, A. J. Wallman 6, J. Thomas (conductor) 7, W. D. Smith 8. First quarter of Stedman by all except 4 and 7.

HIGH WYCOMBE.—On Sunday, March 12th, 1,299 Stedman Caters: F. Hayes (conductor) 1, Miss A. Look 2, G. R. Goodship 3, E. Markham 4, J. W. Wilkins 5, W. H. Plumridge 6, C. A. Smith 7, George Hinton 8, R. Coles 9, A. C. Strathdee 10.

SUNNINGWELL, BERKS.—On Thursday, March 16th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: Miss B. Wilks 1, D. Wilks 2, James Honey 3, John Honey (conductor) 4, W. Cudd 5, J. Wilks 6. Rung half-muffled after the funeral of the Rector.

THORNE, YORKS.—On Friday, March 17th, 720 each of Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob: H. Cooper 1, T. Leask 2, Bdr. F. Flint 3, C. Thorley (conductor) 4, L.-Bdr. J. Thorley 5, Gnr. R. C. Clark 6.

SLOUGH, BUCKS.—On Saturday, March 18th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. E. Rivers 1, F. H. Hicks 2, C. A. Levett (conductor) 3, W. H. Fussell 4, E. Hudson 5, W. Henley 6, G. Gilbert 7, E. H. Preston 8.

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The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Meeting at Aston Parish Church, Saturday, April 1st, 3.30. Service 4.30. Tea in Vicarage Room 5.15.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Berkhamstead, Saturday, April 1st. Bells (7) 3 p.m. Usual arrangements.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Cheadle Parish Church, Saturday, April 1st. Committee meeting 4 p.m. R.C. bells available.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—Meeting at Elstow, April 1st. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Make own tea arrangements.—Frank C. Tysoe, Dis. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, April 8th, 3 p.m. — A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at Maidstone on Easter Monday. Committee meeting 11.30 a.m. Service at 3. Tea at 4.15 to those who notify me before April 3rd. Business meeting to follow. Ringing at All Saints', Maidstone, Leeds, Aylesford, Linton, West Malling, Boxley and Bearstead.—F. M. Mitchell, Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Worcester, Easter Monday, April 10th. General meeting in College Hall, 2.30 p.m. Evensong Cathedral 4.15 p.m. Bells: All Saints' (10), St. John's (8), St. Swithin's (6), all 11 a.m.; Cathedral (12), 12 noon to 2.15 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec., Sedgeberrow, Evesham.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Norwich, Easter Monday, April 10th. St. Miles', 11.30 to 1 (bring own lunch); Mancroft and St. Giles', 2 to 4. Service at Mancroft, 4. Tea at Ber House, 5, followed by business meeting; St. John-de-Sepulchre after meeting. Names for tea by April 4th.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

SOUTHOVER, LEWES.—Practice, Easter Monday, April 10th, 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. to all who notify W. J. Coppard, 29, Valley Road, Lewes, by Wednesday, April 5th.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Tibshelf on Easter Monday, April 10th, 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea in Church Hall 5 p.m., for those who notify Mr. H. Draycott, 14, Chesterfield Road, Tibshelf, by April 5th. — J. W. England, Hon. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—Meeting at Dorking on Easter Monday, 3.30. Tea at 4.45 at Orange Cafe, High Street, followed by meeting in belfry. Names for tea by Wednesday, April 5th.—D. Cooper, 51, Waddon Road, Croydon.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—Meeting at Parish Church, Burton-on-Trent, Easter Monday, 3 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at All Saints', Newport, Easter Monday, April 10th, 2 p.m. Service 3. Meeting in Mission House, Lyne Road, 3.45. Tea 5 p.m. St. Woolos' bells after meeting. — J. W. Jones, Hon. Sec., 94, Alteryon View, Newport, Mon.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—Aylesbeare Deanery Branch.—Meeting at Topsham, Saturday, April 15th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and business 4.30. Names for tea by Saturday, April 8th, to R. Brook, Hon. Sec., 3, Greatwood Terrace, Topsham.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Annual meeting at East Grinstead, April 15th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 4.45. Names to Miss Shepherd, 34, Cantelupe Road, East Grinstead.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Annual meeting at Ipswich, April 15th. Tea and business meeting at Co-op Restaurant 4.15. Bells: St. Mary-le-Tower, St. Margaret's, St. Clement's and St. Matthew's.—H. G. Herbert, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West District.—Annual meeting at St. Lawrence's, Brentford (6 bells), Saturday, April 15th, 3 p.m. Committee meeting in the Vicarage 4 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided in the Parish Hall 5 p.m. Annual business meeting to follow. Bells of St. Mary's, Ealing, during evening.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 1, Listoke, Edgehill Road, W.13. Perivale 5320.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Lindley, Huddersfield, Saturday, April 15th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.—Wm. Ambler, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting, Saturday, April 15th, St. Margaret's, Leicester. Bells (12) from 2 to 5 p.m. Service 3 p.m. Bishop of Leicester will preach. Committee meet in Vestry 4 p.m. Tea at Cathedral Church House only to those notifying H. W. Perkins, 53, Landseer Road, Leicester, by 12th. Cathedral bells (12) open after tea.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Annual meeting at Nuneaton, Saturday, April 15th, 3 p.m. Committee meeting 4 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business, 5 p.m., in Parish Hall. Bells until 8 p.m. Private room at Bull Hotel (opposite G.P.O.) available until 10 p.m.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at St. Albans, Saturday, April 15th. Ringing at St. Peter's, St. Michael's and St. Stephen's from 2.30 p.m. Service at Cathedral 4 p.m. Tea, Waterend Barn 5.30 p.m. Names for tea before April 13th.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, St. Albans.

PORTISHEAD, NEAR BRISTOL.—Sunday ringing, 10.15 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. Weekly practices on Tuesdays, 7.30 p.m., commencing April 11th.

DEATH.

CLARK.—At Dawood Villas, Bentley, on March 23rd, 1944, George, the beloved husband of the late Annie Clark, aged 61 years.

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THE RINGING WORLD



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STONEY.

Call change ringing is generally despised and disliked by change ringers and few of them would willingly take part in it if they could get anything else. And they have good reasons; it is dull and monotonous to ring and dull and monotonous to listen to. If our art had nothing better than that to offer it might very well be left alone.

Now a man may have likes and dislikes and hold them strongly without giving any definite reasons for his preferences either to himself or to anyone else; but it is neither wise nor prudent for him to despise a thing unless he understands it. Before we despise call change ringing it may be just as well to consider what it is, whence it came, and what are its uses, if indeed there are any.

Stoney has a very respectable pedigree. It may be degenerate, but it can trace its line back to the early days of change ringing, and the Plain Changes out of which it directly came were constructed on just as strictly mathematical lines and with just as much regard for truth as any method. What distinguished them from 'cross peals' was that only one pair of bells changed at a time, which caused slow movement and monotonous music.

This slowness of movement and monotony of music are the inherent defect of stoney. As usually rung it is haphazard in its construction, the conductor seldom having any design in his mind and then of the crudest; and every change is repeated over and over again until both ear and eye are thoroughly tired of it. But these things need not be. The conductor could call according to a prearranged plan as definite as any method of change ringing, and a fresh change could be made at every whole pull. Many conductors and many change ringers who despise stoney would find it not too easy in such circumstances.

Would it be worth doing? Definitely not, we think, in the ordinary way. There would still be the slowness of movement and the monotony of music. But the thought occurs, might it not be possible in some circumstances to turn these very defects into an advantage? When a new band is being formed and when there is no stiffening of older and experienced ringers, it is not difficult for the instructor to teach his pupils one by one how to handle a bell. When he has done that thoroughly it is not too difficult to teach the band to ring fairly good rounds. But the next stage is very difficult. Unless the pupils are of exceptional quality they

(Continued on page 142.)

cannot be expected to begin to ring changes with any idea of good striking in their minds. They have no chance to know what it means and what to aim at. Very often, having learnt something of method ringing and realising its fascination, they are inclined to push on too fast in the one direction and never gain that sense of rhythm which is essential to a first class ringer.

What is wanted is some means which will at the early stage allow both eyes and ears to be trained at the same time. This is where stoney, properly used, may be of the greatest value. Its slowness gives the learner time to adjust his eyes and ears to the different changes and to know when he is wrong and when he is striking badly. But the instructor should know his job. Call changes, as usually rung, are of little use. The instructor should insist on each change being rung properly, should quicken up the changes as the striking improves, until double changes in whole pulls can be rung. The band will have then got a solid basis on which to start change ringing.

There are two points worth mentioning. The first is that for the general public, though good change ringing is far better and more effective than the best stoney, good stoney is better than bad change ringing. The wireless time signal has made many thousands of people familiar with call changes at their best. It does not appeal to the ear of a change ringer, but it does show what good and regular striking can be like. And, secondly, it may be significant that not a few men who have made distinguished names as change ringers served a more or less prolonged apprenticeship in stoney bands.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., Mar. 28, 1944, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
At 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CINQUES, 5169 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

*ERIC A. DENCH ... 1-2	MRS. G. W. FLETCHER... 7-8
†MRS. J. THOMAS ... 3-4	*ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 9-10
JOHN THOMAS ... 5-6	*DENNIS H. LANGDON ... 11-12

Composed by MORRIS J. MORRIS. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First peal on 12 bells. † First peal on 12 in hand.

COVENTRY, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Wed., Mar. 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,
At 117, WIDDRINGTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

SERGT. E. SIBLEY, R.A.F. 1-2	FRANK E. PERVIN ... 5-6
FRANK W. PERRENS ... 3-4	HUBERT SUMMERS ... 7-8
JOHN W. TAYLOR ... 9-10	

Composed by J. GROVES. Conducted by FRANK E. PERVIN.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Mar. 30, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,
At 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16½.

MRS. J. THOMAS ... 1-2	MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 5-6
JOHN THOMAS ... 3-4	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 7-8
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 9-10	

Composed by C. H. HATTERSLEY. Conducted by E. C. S. TURNER.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

STOURBRIDGE, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Mar. 25, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor 19 cwt.

*ROBERT LEES ... Treble	FREDERICK V. NICHOLLS ... 5
†FLORENCE L. WRIGHT... 2	NORMAN G. LEECH ... 6
BERNARD LAWTON ... 3	JOHN W. SMITH ... 7
CLIFFORD SKIDMORE ... 4	JOHN LLOYD ... Tenor

Conducted by JOHN W. SMITH.

* First peal. † First attempt inside.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Apr. 1, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

JOHN E. ROOTES ... Treble	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 5
J. FRANK SMALLWOOD ... 2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 6
FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW ... 3	EDWIN JENNINGS ... 7
CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... 4	MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT... Tenor

Composed by FRANK BENNETT. Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

CRAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Apr. 1, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAULINUS,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

EDWIN BARNETT ... Treble	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ... 5
EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 2	JAMES E. BAILEY ... 6
CHARLES T. COLES... 3	HENRY HOVERD ... 7
FREDERICK J. CULLUM ... 4	PHILIP A. CORBY ... Tenor

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by E. A. BARNETT.

Mr. Edwin Barnett's 200th peal on the bells.

SIX BELL PEALS.

CRANFORD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Mar. 25, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. DUNSTAN,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one 720 of St. Clement's and two 720's each of Oxford and Kent
Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 7½ cwt. in B flat.

TONY PRICE ... Treble	WALTER SPARROW ... 4
RICHARD E. PRICE ... 2	GEORGE C. GOODMAN ... 5
G. WILLIAM MORRIS ... 3	H. WILLIAM BARRETT ... Tenor

Conducted by H. WILLIAM BARRETT.

First peal as conductor.

SOUTHBROOM, DEVIZES, WILTS.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Mon., Mar. 27, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores (10 different callings). Tenor 9 cwt.

*MISS OLIVE G. HUNT... Treble	ALEXANDER T. WEEKS... 4
JOSEPH S. WEEKS ... 2	*DAVID J. LYE ... 5
*PETER J. F. HUNT ... 3	*MILROY H. BRYANT ... Tenor

Conducted by JOSEPH S. WEEKS.

* First peal and first attempt. Rung as a 14th birthday compliment to the ringer of the treble.

WOOLWICH.—On Sunday, March 19th, 1,264 Bob Major: J. Beaumont 1, H. E. Audsley 2, D. L. Hall 3, J. Wheadon 4, R. Wake 5, N. Chadcock 6, B. Aldridge 7, J. E. Bailey (conductor) 8.

PENWORTHAM, LANCs.—On March 19th, 672 Bob Major: E. R. Martin (conductor) 1, W. Illsley 2, J. R. Taylor 3, W. Taylor 4, J. Gornall 5, W. E. Loxham 6, J. W. Best 7, Fred Haworth 8.

TWELVE-BELL RINGING.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Your excellent leader of March 12th re the above should create some interesting discussion among twelve and even ten-bell ringers. As an average one on the latter number, and having rung on most twelve-bell rings, I hope you will allow me space to place before your readers my own personal experience, comments and what may be suggestions.

My pre-war job was such that I was away from home three out of five week-ends, when I usually turned up to ring on Sundays at the place I happened to be staying. Well, I turned up at a twelve-bell tower and received the usual warm welcome to ring. I always took a middle bell to avoid as much as possible having to calculate on how close to keep to or off light and heavy bells to produce good striking.

After ringing two or three whole pulls of rounds and before anything like a regular heat is gained, 'Go, Stedman,' is called. I think to myself, why not ring rounds for a minute or two so that all may settle down to a proper compass? Then directly Stedman is called a 'Bob or Single' is called. This is where I come unstuck. I'm torn with the anxieties of striking properly, keeping my place, picking up my dodging and course bells and so on. If the touch is rung it has been no credit to the band and far from a pleasure to me.

I ask myself why must conductors call bobs at the start and why not ring a plain course? This would give me, an unpractised twelve-bell ringer, the advantage of using the natural coursing order of the bells as a guide.

Another thing I ask myself, why could not Grandsire Cinqs have been rung? Its music is, in my opinion, as good as and I think better than Stedman, for the reason that the small bells do not get so mixed up with the large bells because there is no slow work. Again, the coursing order is less broken up by the slow work and bobs. Again, all ringers' ears are more attuned to Grandsire, whether it is on five, seven, nine or 11 bells with tenors covering. To illustrate my meaning, I have a confession to make. I cannot ring an inside pair of handbells to a touch of Grandsire, and yet I have hundreds of times rung 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10 to plain courses in a perfect manner. Here I will state that I have no difficulty with Grandsire Cinqs on tower bells.

To me Stedman Cinqs is about the same as a six-bell ringer trying to ring Double Norwich Major before he has practised Plain and Treble Bob.

In my opinion, the reason why there are no more really good twelve-bell bands is that where peals of ten have been augmented to twelve (and there have been many during the last 35 years) the ringers have not practised and become efficient with the simpler method, i.e., 'Grandsire,' before going on to Stedman. I think, too, that Plain and Treble Bob Maximus should be practised before doing so. After all, that is what is done by eight and ten-bell ringers before on to twelve.

SYDNEY R. ROPER.

52, Mount Park Avenue, South Croydon.

OPEN LEADS AND OTHERS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Having recently taken part in a peal of Minor rung in a manner commonly known as cartwheeled, I feel I must make my humble confession, seeing I have always been an advocate of a good fat lead on all numbers.

Having always felt a little sympathetic for six-bell towers not possessing an octave, I now come to the conclusion that the closed lead minimises, whereas the open lead rather emphasises that there are only six bells ringing. But for Doubles with tenor covering I should imagine it would sound terrible and open to ridicule.

As for the actual ringing, my opinion is there must be no half measures, the slightest suggestion of an open lead spoils the effect. The peal in question being Spliced Treble Bob Minor, I had quite an easy job on the treble, not knowing (or caring) what the rest of the band were up to. Like the music, I simply went round and round, and I must say did not get bored or dizzy, and however great I may have sinned in the eyes of the Exercise generally, I cannot promise not to do it again. If only for a change I found it a welcome one, and I feel this so-called cartwheeling has long been condemned by others besides myself without having even heard or tried it. This talented band knew my former views before starting.

DAVID VINCENT.

6, Stanway Drive, Hale, Cheshire.

HOW FAR CAN BELLS BE HEARD?*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—With reference to Mr. Hoyle's letter in your issue of March 31st, that gentleman's friend would appear to have over-estimated the distance from Boston Stump to Wolferton. Map measurements show this to be just under 23 miles, and not 30 as stated. Even so, the distance is considerable, and the fact that the bells can be heard is probably due to the nature of the intervening country—water and low lying land, mostly the former.

G. A. PECK.

Lynden, Albany Crescent, Claygate.

SERVICE TOUCHES.**CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR.**

1,280					1,280				
23456	B	M	W	R	23456	B	M	W	R
23564	—	—	—	—	35264	—	—	—	—
52364	—	—	—	—	42563	—	—	—	—
35264	—	—	—	—	64523	—	—	—	—
42563	—	—	—	—	42635	—	—	—	—
64523	—	—	—	—	42356	—	—	—	—
42635	—	—	—	—	34256	—	—	—	—
23456	—	—	—	—	23456	—	—	—	—
1,280					1,280				
23456	B	M	W	R	23456	B	M	W	R
35264	—	—	—	—	23564	—	—	—	—
56342	—	—	—	—	52364	—	—	—	—
64523	—	—	—	—	35264	—	—	—	—
35426	—	—	—	—	56342	—	—	—	—
42356	—	—	—	—	64523	—	—	—	—
34256	—	—	—	—	35426	—	—	—	—
23456	—	—	—	—	23456	—	—	—	—

A BROADCAST.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—I have been asked by a number of ringers for information as to how they may hear Staverton bells on Friday, April 14th. They are to be broadcast in the programme for the Pacific Area at 9.30 a.m. (British Double Summer Time). See 'London Calling' No. 235, 07.30 (G.M.T.), 'From all over Britain—a programme from the Midlands.' This programme is put out on 19, 25 and 31 metres, and from what I am told reception is likely to vary enormously in different districts of England, and in some parts will probably be impossible.

I should be grateful for postcards stating how they were heard, and in view of your recent correspondence on the relative qualities of different rings, it would be valuable to know the effect these bells have on listeners 'over the air.' They are a completely new ring recast in 1938, the tenor being 10 cwt. 3 qr. 26 lb.

Staverton Vicarage.

E. S. POWELL.

THE BEST PEAL OF BELLS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The correspondence on the best ring of bells in various districts is very interesting to follow.

I do not think that the bells of Bath Abbey have been mentioned. Heard from one of the hills surrounding the city, the musical effect of that grand peal largely from Rudhall's foundry, is magnificent. Another ring, which has struck me as being exceptionally rich in tone, is that at Southgate, and when the Central Council met at Plymouth I was much impressed by Tavistock bells, which I believe to be Taylor's.

Obviously the sound outside the tower is the one thing of real importance, but for grandeur of tone as heard from the ringing chamber three peals are outstanding in my experience: Wells Cathedral, Painswick and—perhaps above all—St. Peter Mancroft.

F. LI. EDWARDS.

Dear Sir,—I was very pleased to read Mr. Bond's letter on Kent, Sussex and Surrey bells, especially Kent and Sussex bells.

In my opinion the finest peal of eight bells in Sussex is St. Saviour's, Eastbourne (tenor 25 cwt.). Salehurst eight (tenor 16 cwt.) are also worthy of note.

I think that Mr. Bond will find that Withyham's tenor is listed as 15 cwt. 9 lb. in the belfry, and also as 18 cwt., including the fittings.

I thoroughly agree that Horsmonden has a very fine six. In fact, it is the finest six that I have had the pleasure to hear. Wittersham has also a lovely six (tenor 18 cwt. approx.) almost ranking with Horsmonden.

11, Almondville, Burnham, Bucks.

FRANK H. HICKS.

DEATH OF MR. FREDERICK HUNT.

The death is announced of Mr. Frederick Hunt, of Luton, who passed away on March 19th after an illness of about two years.

He was a native of Bury St. Edmunds, and after living for a time at Wimbledon, went to Luton in 1911, where he joined the local band. His peals included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob, Kent, Oxford and Double Norwich Major, and Superlative, Cambridge, London and Bristol Surprise Major.

A service at his house, conducted by the Vicar, preceded cremation at Golders Green on March 24th. The bells were rung muffled on the following Sunday.

LYME REGIS, DORSET.—On Wednesday, March 15th. 504 Grandsire Triples: John Burlinson 1, Neil Adams 2, Mrs. C. W. Powell 3, J. E. Philbrick 4, Joan Burlinson 5, Rev. C. C. Cox (conductor) 6, H. G. Keeley 7, Alan Wellman 8.—168 Stedman Triples: Neil Adams 1, C. Tett 2, J. E. Philbrick 3, Rev. C. C. Cox 4, Mrs. C. W. Powell 5, H. G. Keeley 6, Joan Burlinson 7, Brian Wellman 8.

BELLS AND THE REFORMATION.

(Continued from page 133.)

Some attempt was made to use the metal for guns for the Royal Navy, and in 1545 the Council sent to the Chancellor of the Augmentations, the head of the Commissioners appointed to deal with the sequestrated lands and property, to take order with — Gouche for the conveyance hither of suche bell-metall as lyeth ready at Boston within the precincts of his receipt to be employed here abowte the affayre of the ordenance and to make a warrante with him for suche money as the said Gouche shall defray upon the transportation of the same.'

It was as broken metal, not as church bells, that the bells were valued and exported; probably in most cases, as at the Jesus Chapel of St. Paul's, they were broken up in the tower as the easiest way of getting them down. Yet some of them did reach the Continent as complete bells, and some of them, no doubt on account of the beauty of their tone, found a new home in tower or steeple on foreign soil.

This is illustrated by an incident so finely described by Lord Baldwin—'I remember many years ago standing on the terrace of a beautiful villa near Florence. It was a September evening and the valley below was transfigured in the long horizontal rays of the declining sun. And then I heard a bell, such a bell as never was on land or sea, whose every vibration found an echo in my inmost heart. I said to my hostess, "That is the most beautiful bell I have ever heard." "Yes," she replied, "It is an English bell." And so it was. For generations its sound had gone out over English fields giving the hours of work and prayer to English folk from the tower of an English abbey. And then came the Reformation, and some wise Italian bought the bell whose work at home was done and sent it to the Valley of the Arno, where after four centuries it stirred the heart of a wandering Englishman and made him sick for home.'

A writer in 'Notes and Queries,' who said he had known Florence intimately from his childhood, wrote that he had never heard of this particular bell, but he recollected being told that many of the church bells in the North of Italy about the Italian lakes were of English origin. And Edmund Ironsides, who wrote a 'History of Twickenham' in the year 1797, relates that 'the family of Corsini in Italy raised themselves by purchasing bells at the demolition of religious houses in England.'

But not all the abbey churches were pulled down. Some of them were cathedrals, and in them there was merely a change of constitution; the buildings with their fittings and ornaments, including the bells, remained as before; and there was no alteration in the services or ritual, or even the personnel. Much the same thing happened in six other great abbey churches which now became cathedrals. In many cases parishes were enabled to acquire the whole or part of a monastic church and to turn it into a parish church, and at the same time some of them obtained the bells.

I am able to say what became of the bells in most of the larger monastic churches of London. Those of Holy Trinity Priory at Aldgate were sold, four went to Stepney parish church (where some of the metal probably still is) and five went to St. Stephen's, Coleman Street. The ring of six at St. Bartholomew's Priory, Smithfield, went to St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill. The newly formed

parish of St. Saviour's, Southwark, bought the bells of St. Mary Overie when the church was rented from the king. The bells of St. John's Priory, Clerkenwell, were bought for All Hallows', Lombard Street, though they actually were never hung in that tower. The bells of St. Martin-le-Grand were granted with the church to Westminster Abbey and were sold by the Dean and Chapter. Henry the Eighth gambled away the four heavy bells belonging to the Jesus Chapel at St. Paul's Cathedral. The new parish of Christ Church, Newgate was granted the church of the Grey Friars, and no doubt the one bell which hung in the steeple. Westminster Abbey became a cathedral and the bells remained as before. The churches of the Black Friars and the White Friars were pulled down, but as we learn from Stow that each had but a single bell, there was no loss of a ringing peal.

Quite a large proportion of the bells in this list was secured for parochial purposes, and though I have not sufficient evidence on the point, it is a fair inference that the same thing happened in many other parts of the country.

For instance, the great bell of the abbey at Leicester was sold to the parish church of St. John at Peterborough; the great bell of the Black Friars Priory at Norwich was sold to the neighbouring church of St. Andrew; the parish of Buckfastleigh paid £33 15s. to Sir Thomas Arundel for the five bells of the old abbey; the bells of Ford Abbey were bought by the parish; the bells of Newnham Abbey were bought by the parish of Church Stoke; those of Bordesley Abbey were hung in Shensham parish church; four of the biggest bells of the Priory of Bodmin were sold to the parish of Lanivet; at Thirsk was a bell said to have come from Fountains Abbey; and the bells of Oseney Abbey went to what is now Christ Church Cathedral at Oxford, where two of them still remain. A careful inquiry would, no doubt, largely increase this list.

The dissolution of the monasteries had brought vast wealth to the Crown, but it was quickly dissipated. The government acted like a man who has inherited large estates and is not content to live on the income, but must needs sell his property and spend the proceeds. The permanent result was the enrichment of a new class of landed proprietors, and the immediate result to whet the appetite of both the government and the gentry for more spoil. By the end of Henry's reign the government was sadly in need of money on account of foreign wars, the raising of prices, and the depreciation of the currency. The abbeys were gone, but there still was a very large amount of land and other endowments belonging to chantries, hospitals, colleges and obits (the hospitals and colleges were not the same things as are now generally known by those names). The guilds owned a lot of property and there were the parish churches with their plate and ornaments, and bells.

The Protestant party in the Church was becoming strong and was demanding a simpler ritual and less ornate churches. Both the Crown and the gentry began to think of a new spoliation. Under the plea that they were the heirs of the original founders, and that the purposes for which the endowments had been given had ceased to exist, men began to seize the lands; wardens and incumbents began to sell the property; and by an Act of Parliament (37 Hen. 8, cap. 4) all colleges,

chantries, free chapels, etc., were placed at the disposal of the king to dissolve or re-establish as might seem proper. It seemed a prelude to a general confiscation of church property.

In several parishes the churchwardens sold the plate in the open market. It is generally suggested that they did it to feather their own nests, but it is more likely that they were acting for the parishioners and the object was to forestall any action by the government and to put the parish property into such a form as would make it less liable to confiscation. As when the vestry of St. Benedict's, Gracechurch Street, ordered that all the church plate should be sold for £117 16s. 5d., the money to be made up to £120, and to be laid out in the purchasing of land for the advantage and maintenance of the church. Or when 'it was agreed by a vestry of honest men for the parish of St. Botolph-without-Aldgate in the City of London' for certain plate and bells to be sold 'and with the money thereof to purchase a row of houses.'

Henry the Eighth died in 1547 and was succeeded by the Duke of Somerset as Protector of the Realm during the minority of the new king, Edward the Sixth. Accomplished, well-meaning, and popular, but weak and incompetent, the ruler, in conjunction with the extreme Protestant party, wrought more havoc in the parish churches than has ever been done, before or since, in the long history of the Church of England.

The Act of Henry was renewed in stronger and fuller terms and all colleges, chantries and hospitals; and all endowments for obits, masses, candles, and the like, were placed in the king's (that is the government's) hands; and though some things were saved from the

wreck and a number of grammar schools founded, everything that could be said to savour of superstition was swept, nominally into the royal treasury, but actually in a large degree into the pockets of a greedy hoard. What interests us here is that a lot more bells were pulled down and the metal thrown on the market.

The number, of course, was not nearly so large as when the monasteries were dissolved, but still it seems to have been considerable. The church of the late College of St. Thomas Glasney, Cornwall, and the steeple and six bells therein, were granted to John Pleysent in return for cash down. The chapel of Rothwell with three bells, which belonged to the Guild of Rothwell, Yorks, to Thomas Cargrave. The charnel house and two bells belonging to the Thorpe Chapel in St. Michael Coslany, Norwich, were granted to Edward and Richard Cattlyn. The College of St. John at Stoke-next-Care, Suffolk, was granted with lead, timber, stone and bells. And so on. Often the bells were reserved to the king's use, and in some cases towns benefited by a new foundation. Thus the Bridewell received all the implements and utensils of the Hospital of the Savoy, only two bells, one great and one little, being reserved to the Chapel of the Savoy. At Norwich the church of St. Giles' Hospital, with all its bells and bell metal, was granted to the citizens to be a hospital for poor men and a parish church. Crediton College Church, with its bells, became a parish church. St. Albans Abbey Church, which, no doubt, had stood derelict since the dissolution (for there was not enough stone in it to make it worth the while of anyone to pull it down) was granted to St. Andrew's parish, and the old parish church, with bells and fittings, to the mayor and burgesses.

(To be continued.)

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

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MEARS & STAINBANK

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MUFFLES,
Etc.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official Journal of the Central Council of
Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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'The Ringing World.'

The General Committee of the Oxford Diocesan Guild have decided
that the annual meeting of the Guild shall this year again be held at
Oxford in July.

DEATH OF MR. J. B. CHERRY.

News has been received of the death of Mr. J. B. Cherry, which
occurred last April in Vancouver, B.C., where he had been living for
some years. He had reached a great age and was one of the oldest
members of the Ancient Society of College Youths. He was a brother
of the late Sir Richard Cherry, sometime Lord Chief Justice of Ire-
land, who with Gabriel Lindoff founded the Irish Association in 1896.

MRS. SHURCLIFF.

We are informed that the reference to Mrs. Shurcliff in our issue
of March 24th is incomplete and somewhat misleading. In the year
1902, when she was Miss Margaret H. Nichols, she visited this country
with her father, and on August 14th rang the third to a peal of
Stedman Triples at St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton, with a band of
the Middlesex Association, conducted by Mr. Alfred W. Brighton.
That was her first peal. On the 20th of the same month she rang 7-8
to Stedman Triples for the same association. The others in the band
were H. P. Harman, Ernest Pye and William Pye (conductor). Be-
tween the two dates she rang another handbell peal for the College
Youths with Challis F. Winney as conductor.

BELFRY PRAYERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It would seem a pity if the letter from the Rev. A. C. F.
Davies this week were to leave the impression that the incumbent
must await an invitation from the ringers before he enters the belfry.
Surely the position is that he has as full a right there as in any other
part of the church, and to leave the belfry out of his ken or the
ringers out of his ministrations, even if he knows nothing about bells
or the art of ringing, is to make himself largely the cause of his own
lament.

I feel sure there is nothing the parish ringers would welcome or
appreciate more than a personal touch with their parish priest in the
belfry, and a personal interest in their doings, their ambitions, and
in the records of the tower. They would welcome also his concern to
see that the ringing chamber is provided with a reasonable standard
of comfort and his enquiries from time to time whether the essential
accessories for ringing, such as ropes, need renewal or not.

It does seem strange that the ringers should be expected to do
anything to educate their local clergymen in matters which are truly
part of the latter's parochial functions, and I urge that the initial
advance is due from the incumbent, who will find, in the majority of
cases, that where the belfry is not a foreign land to him the 'gap'
referred to is adequately bridged.

As regards belfry prayers, all ringers, whether for practice or for
services, should open with such. The Lancashire Association, for one,
prints a short form of prayer for such purpose at the beginning of
its annual report: an excellent example, to my mind, which every
Diocesan and County Guild might follow.

C. CAREW COX,

Master of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild.
The Vicarage, Lyme Regis, Dorset.

ST. MARY ABBOT'S, KENSINGTON.

Among the churches of the Metropolis very few are larger, finer, or better known than St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington. It is destined to become a cathedral if the scheme, oft talked of and always postponed, for dividing the great Diocese of London ever takes form. During a comparatively recent air raid the building was badly damaged, the roof being burnt off, but the tower and spire with the ring of ten bells, are happily safe, so far.

The parish of Kensington is mentioned in the Domesday Book and there was a church there before 1102. The manor and the advowson were granted to the Abbot of Abingdon, whence came the title by which the church has ever since been known. In 1370 it was wholly or partly rebuilt, and at the time of Edward the Sixth there were 'three small bells and a saunce bell in the steeple.' The church also possessed 'a sacarynge bell and a hand bell.' The sacring bell was probably hung on the screen or the wall of the chancel.

In 1694 the building had become dilapidated and was pulled down and a new church of brick erected. It was badly built, and in 1704 had to be reconstructed. As was the case with so many of the other Middlesex churches the medieval tower had been left standing and now contained a ring of six bells of which no particulars seem to have survived.

On May 2nd, 1692, the parish paid for ringing when the news came 'of the victory gained by His Majesty at and near the Boyne.' In 1704 Mr. Jackman was paid for a barrel of beer for the victory over the French and Bavarians. This was Marlborough's victory at Blenheim. The beer cost fifteen shillings and presumably was shared by many people. Another laconic and regretful entry in the parish accounts reads: 'For Limerick's being taken and 'twas false. 18d.'

In the year 1772 the steeple was taken down and a ring of eight bells with a tenor about a ton in weight, new one built; and in it Thomas Janaway hung a new The sixth (the present seventh) bears the couplet much used by Janaway:—

'The Ringers Art our grateful Notes prolong
Apollo listens and approves the Song.'

than which it would be hard to find an inscription on a church bell in worse taste. The other inscriptions—'Musica est mentis medicina' (present fourth), 'Intactum sileo Percute dulce cano' (present fifth), 'Be it known by great and small Thos. Janaway made us all' (old tenor and present ninth)—are much less objectionable, though they fall far short of the medieval mottoes, and would not nowadays be considered suitable.

Thomas Janaway seems to have at one time been in the employment of Thomas Lester at the Whitechapel foundry, for the latter in the first draft of his will left him £50, but afterwards revoked the bequest. He started a foundry at Chelsea, soon after 1760, where he cast a fair number of bells, his most important in London being the octaves at All Saints', Chelsea, 1762; St. Mary Abbot's, 1772; and St. Mary's, Battersea, 1777. The first was broken up many years ago, but the last is still in existence. Janaway's bells are rather poor in quality and when he died his foundry at Chelsea came to an end.

On the present sixth (the old fifth) at St. Mary Abbot's are the initials E. L. They stand for Edward Lulham, who was Janaway's foreman or bellhanger. The

tenor of the ring of six at Ticehurst in Sussex, which was cast in 1771 by Janaway, has the following doggerel verse:—

'This is to show to ages yet to come
That by subscription we were cast and hung
And Edward Lulham is his name
That was the actor of the same.'

The first peal on the new bells was one of Bob Major by the Cumberland Youths on March 21st, 1773, conducted by George Gross. Two men were needed for the tenor. The treble was rung by John Frazier, who seems to have some control of the belfry. Perhaps he was steeplekeeper. He joined the London Youths, and the next three peals were rung by that company. Grandsire Triples and Oxford Treble Bob Major in 1775, and Union Triples in 1775.

About this time a very excellent band was formed in the district belonging to the ancient Society of College Youths. It included William Jones, afterwards the principal author of the 'Clavis,' and James Worster. Worster called two peals of Bob Major at St. Mary's in 1776, and during the following forty years a steady succession of peals was achieved. It was this band which supplied most of the peal ringing energy shown by the College Youths during the early years of the nineteenth century, when the men at headquarters were getting older and less inclined to start for long lengths.

The principal man in the tower besides William Jones was Charles Barber, a Kensington tradesman, and apparently the son of a man who was churchwarden in 1792 and whose name is engraved on two beades' staffs belonging to the church. Another prominent local ringer was James Bartlett, a whip thong maker by trade.

The first six-thousand in the steeple was Oxford Treble Bob in 1780, conducted by John Povey, the beadle of the Society of College Youths, with Samuel Muggeridge, the younger, at the tenor.

In October, 1790, Bartlett called John Reeves' 8,448 of Oxford Treble Bob, at the time the longest length composed without parting the tenors. It still remains the longest peal rung at St. Mary Abbot's.

Six months later practically the same band, with the same conductor, rang 6,720 changes in the same method. William Jones was in this peal, and, taking everything into consideration, there can hardly be a doubt that it was the first time John Reeves' composition with the 60 course ends was performed, although Shipway definitely says it was first rung on October 20th, 1794, at St. Giles', Camberwell, when he himself took part.

The most interesting performance in the steeple was in 1803, when 'the whole peal of Triples on Stedman's Principle, as composed by Mr. Thomas Edwards, was completely rung.' It was the fourth five-thousand achieved in the method and the first that we know to have been true. Barber called it from the sixth and William Jones rang the fourth. The treble ringer, William Paris, was a Hammersmith man. He had rung the tenor to the two long peals of Treble Bob.

Thomas Edwards was a Stourbridge man, and it may seem a little strange that his peal was first rung at Kensington and not in the Birmingham district, where Stedman was already the most highly prized method. The likely explanation is that Edwards had got into touch with William Jones, who, as principal author of the

(Continued on next page.)

ST. MARY ABBOT'S, KENSINGTON.

(Continued from previous page.)

'Clavis,' would naturally be looked upon as the greatest authority on composition. Perhaps a little judicious flattery from the younger to the older man accompanied the figures, and there is evidence that it would not have been without effect. Some time later another of Edwards' composition (this time one of Grandsire Triples) was rung on the bells. It had a call at 'every Treble Leading,' either Bob, Double, or Single. The figures are lost, but clearly it was on the 3-lead course plan. Barber again conducted and Jones again rang the fourth.

Old Kensington Church was but a mean and humble structure and the time came when something larger and finer was urgently called for. The design was entrusted to Sir Gilbert Scott, and the present building is probably his most ambitious parish church. It was begun in 1869 and the tower and spire were finished ten years later. The length is 179 feet, the greatest width 109 feet and the spire, the loftiest in London, is 278 feet high. The church is a fine one, but is condemned by some as cold and lifeless.

When the tower was finished, John Warner recast the treble, second, and sixth of Janaway's ring and added a new treble and tenor, the latter about 32 cwt. The quality of the bells is rather poor. They were rung for the first time by the Cumberland Youths, muffled for the passing of the year 1879. When they were dedicated they were only chimed.

The peal boards which formerly hung in the old belfry were preserved by one of the churchwardens when the church was pulled down, and they now hang in the new tower.

Kensington bells have played an important part in the history of the London Exercise. From the year 1773 to 1896, fifty-nine recorded peals were rung on them. Forty-three were by College Youths; eight by Cumberland Youths; four by the St. James' Society; three by the London Youths; and one by the Junior Cumberland Youths.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WATH-ON-DEARNE.

A meeting of the Southern District of the Yorkshire Association was held on March 18th, when members were present from Arksey, Doncaster, Felkirk, Wentworth, Rotherham, Rawmarsh, Sprotborough, Sherburn-in-Elmet, Sheffield Cathedral, Sheffield St. Marie's, and the local company. Touches in the standard methods were rung, interspersed with full opportunities for beginners.

Tea was provided by the local company in the Church Hall.

The business meeting was presided over by the Vicar, the Rev. J. Evans, who welcomed the association.

Five new members were elected.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Ecclesfield on June 17th in conjunction with the three local societies.

A collection in aid of the Bell Repair Fund realised 9s. 6d.

Votes of thanks were given to the Vicar and the local company.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WHITSTABLE.

A meeting of the Canterbury District of the Kent County Association was held at Whitstable on March 25th. Service was conducted by the Rev. T. C. Williams, and an address given by the Rev. G. Hillyard. Tea in the Church Room was followed by the business meeting, at which five new members were elected from Teynham and six from Whitstable. Five wives of the ringers joined as hon. members. The ringing consisted of rounds, Grandsire and Stedman, Plain Bob and Kent and Oxford Treble Bob. Thirty-five ringers attended from Boughton, Canterbury, Dover, Littlebourne, Ospringe, Sturry, Wickhambreau, Whitstable and Bradford-on-Avon.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT SYSTON.

A meeting of the Leicester District of the Midland Counties Association was held at Syston on March 18th, at which 66 were present from Anstey, Asfordby, Belgrave, Great Dalby, Groby, Leicester (Cathedral and St. Margaret's), Birstall, Melton Mowbray, Ratby, Sileby, Syston, Waltham and Wigston Magna, as well as visitors from Ashby and Loughborough.

The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Major.

Tea was served in the Church Rooms, during which the Vicar, the Rev. F. Tetley, said a few words of welcome and congratulation. He remarked that more than ever bellringing was an essential part of church life, and he gave an invitation to ringers to come to Syston whenever they wished.

The local chairman, Mr. G. T. H. Walker, presided at the meeting.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Great Glen on May 13th.

Twelve new members were elected, three from Birstall, three from Leicester Cathedral, two from Great Dalby and one each from St. Saviour's, Leicester, Melton, Syston and Somerby.

Stedman Triples on handbells was rung by Miss Jill Poole and Messrs. F. Wilson, R. F. Elkington and J. Morris.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

NORTH DORSET BRANCH.

A meeting of the North Dorset Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held at Fontmell Magna, was attended by over 30 members from Mere, Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Childe Okeford, Hampton, Okeford Fitzpaine, Shroton, Lydlinch, Kingston Magna, Zeals, Hazelbury Bryan, and Fontmell Magna. Service was conducted by Dr. E. W. J. Hellins, assisted by the Rev. William Uphill. The address was given by the Rector (Canon C. P. Edmonds).

Canon Hellins presided over the meeting, at which the secretary presented the balance sheet, showing an income (including a credit balance from the previous year) of £15 11s. 11d. Expenditure amounted to £4 16s. 2d. and the credit balance was £10 15s. 9d. Mr. Ralph and Mr. B. Ridout were elected to serve on the committee. Eleven new members were elected.

The methods rung consisted of Plain Bob, Grandsire and Stedman as well as rounds.

On the invitation of Canon Hellins, the next meeting will be at Marnhull on the second Saturday in June.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICTS GUILD.

MEETING AT DUDLEY.

About fifty members and friends were present at the annual meeting of the Dudley and Districts Guild, held at Dudley on March 18th. Service was conducted by the Ven. C. P. Shepherd, Archdeacon of Dudley and president of the Guild.

At the tea and business meeting the president took the chair and was supported by Mr. W. R. Edwards, churchwarden, and Mr. A. Spittle, vice-president. The vice-presidents were re-elected with the addition of the Rev. J. H. Herbert, Rector of Brierley Hill. Mr. J. Goodman was appointed Ringing Master in the place of Mr. C. H. Woodberry, Mr. H. Shuck was re-elected hon. treasurer, Mr. F. Colclough was elected hon. secretary, and Messrs. T. Justice and H. Goodman auditors. Eighteen new members were elected, 16 of them from Rowley Regis.

It was decided that the annual peal attempt should be at Dudley, the arrangements to be left in the hands of the Ringing Master. The next meeting was fixed for Rowley on July 1st.

Mr. A. Spittle gave a short account of the early days of change ringing in Dudley. Votes of thanks were passed to the chairman, the organist, the ladies who had served the tea, and those who had made the arrangements.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT ARMLEY.

At a meeting of the Leeds and District Society, held at Armley on March 25th, members were present from Armley, Batley, Bramley, Headingley (St. Chad's), Idle, Leeds Parish Church, Rothwell and Selby, together with the Vicar, the Rev. H. G. Hutchison, the churchwarden, Mr. W. Henry, and one member of H.M. Forces.

Mr. Senior presided at the business meeting, held in the belfry, and referred to the late Mr. Joseph Thackeray and his services to Armley tower.

The question of accepting nominations from so few was discussed, and it was proposed by Mr. Helliwell and seconded by Mr. Coldrick that nominations for all officials be left over until the general meeting at Leeds Parish Church on April 29th.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar and churchwardens and to the local company and especially Mr. Coldrick for the arrangements. The Vicar referred to the work done by Mr. Lofthouse in blacking out the tower, which had allowed ringing to continue during the winter.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 136.)

The Church of St. Nicholas, Simpson, also in Buckinghamshire, has a central tower forming part of a cruciform church, which existed here c. 1280. The arches of the tower were rebuilt at this time, and were widened probably in the 14th century, when the tower was heightened. It is 8½ ft. by 9½ ft., and of three stages, two of them being above the nave roof. The parapet is embattled. The ground stage has four pointed arches of c. 1340. In each wall of the bell chamber is a window of two trefoiled lights with pointed head, probably c. 1400.

The tower was restored in 1930, and contains a ring of six bells. Of the original four, the first was the earliest known bell by Anthony Chandler; the second was by Richard Chandler, 1694; the third by Bartholomew Atton, inscribed, 'God save King James Amen 1604,' and tenor by James Keene, of Woodstock, 1630. They were hung anti-clockwise. Made into five by J. Taylor and Co., who added a treble and recast the old 2nd, and later—1926—they were increased to six by Alfred Bowell. The tenor is 7 cwt. 1 qr. 7 lb. in A flat. The ascent to the belfry is very unusual, and is by a wooden stairway in front of the chancel wall, so that the ringers can be seen by the congregation as they go up and down, to and from ringing.

The Church of St. Illtyd, or Iltutus, Llantwit-Major, Glam, is more unusual, having been extended rather than restored at various periods. This now gives from west to east, ruins of the first chapel; a nave and south porch (now used as a museum); the tower; nave and church, now in use. St. Illtyd, a celebrated monk professor, founded here 568 A.D. a school or college, which continued to flourish for 700 years with growing strength and reputation, its pupils at one time exceeding 2,000 in number. It is stated to have been the first church school in Britain, and the place at which St. David, Gildas the historian, Paulinus, Bishop of Leon, and Sampson, Archbishop of Dol, received their education. The site of the early collegiate church and other conventional buildings was on the north side of the churchyard.

The present church dates from the 9th century, with subsequent additions of the 13th century. It retains some of the most ancient monuments of the early British church in existence. I am informed that to ascend the tower you go through a 'hole in the church' up a spiral stairway that starts left foot first, then crawl along a plank under the apex of the roof, then drop down into the ringing chamber.

There are six bells by Rudhall, which were recast in 1908 by Mears and Stainbank, and the tenor is 11½ cwt. Before that time the bells were down in the churchyard for nearly 40 years, and it took a day to cut away the bushes, etc., that had grown up around them.

Some time ago I was asked through these columns to give a list of central towers where ringers stand in full view of the congregation. The following list is not by any means a full and comprehensive one. I should, however, be pleased to have details of other central towers (with five bells and over) where ringers thus perform from the ground floor.

This list does not, of course, include places where ringers stand in full view under towers that form a

porch, or west towers which are built in to, and not on to, the church; nor side towers like West Grinstead, Sussex. Of the latter type, I hope to deal with in later articles. Besides the following, there are a large number of central towers with from one to four bells where ringing is done from the ground floor, and which are most interesting both from an architectural and historical view. Such a one, for instance, is St. Nicholas', Leicester, one of the oldest churches in the city containing Saxon and Roman work. Having only three bells this does not interest ringers as such.

Algarkirk, Lincs, 6.	Hempstead, Glos, 6.
Alfriston, Sussex, 6.	Horbling, Lincs, 6.
Ashbourne, Derbys, 8.	Ickleton, Cambs, 8.
Aylesbury, Bucks, 8.	Langar, Notts, 5.
Barford, Wilts, 6.	Leckhampton, Glos, 8.
Britford, Wilts, 6.	Long Clawson, Leics, 5.
Broadway, Worcs, 6.	Magor, Mon, 6.
Boughton-Monchelsea, Kent, 6.	Melbourne, Derbys, 8.
Bramshott, Hants, 6.	Meppershall, Beds, 5.
Cricklade, Wilts, 5.	Old Duston, Northants, 6.
Chilmark, Wilts, 6.	Oddington, Glos, 5.
Charlton Queen, Som, 5.	Oulton-Broad, Suffolk, 5.
Crofton, Yorks, 6.	Ousden, Suffolk, 5.
Corley, Warwicks, 5.	Rowington, Warwicks, 5.
Cowsby, Yorks, 6.	Somerby, Leic, 5.
Dinton, Wilts, 6.	Staunton, Glos, 6.
Fairford, Glos, 8.	Tong, Salop, 6.
Foots Cray, Kent, 5.	Thurleigh, Beds, 6.
Glaston, Rutland, 6.	Wollaston, Northants, 6.
Harting, Sussex, 6.	Winsham, Som, 8.
Hanley Castle, Worcs, 6.	Wheatthampstead, Herts, 6.
Hemingbrough, Yorks, 6.	

(To be continued.)

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT REIGATE.

The annual general meeting of the Southern District of the Surrey Association was held at Reigate on March 25th. Evensong was conducted by the Vicar, and after tea in the Parish Hall the business meeting was held, the Master, Mr. G. F. Hoad, being in the chair, supported by the Vicar, the Rev. R. Talbot. The treasurer's report was read and received. The secretary stated it was hoped during the lighter evenings that ringing would be undertaken in all the towers in the district, with help given at those towers where beginners were anxious to pass on to change ringing. It was hoped to arrange combined practices at a number of towers, and so maintain a more lively interest in the activities of the association.

Mr. D. Kenneth C. Birt was nominated to serve as Master of the Surrey Association.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT MOULTON.

A meeting of the Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Moulton on March 25th with a good attendance of members and visitors. Service was conducted by the Rev. G. C. Beach, and light refreshments were provided by the Moulton ringers.

At the business meeting, presided over by the Rev. M. L. Couchman, twelve new members were elected.

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All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, April 8th, 3 p.m. — A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at Maidstone on Easter Monday. Committee meeting 11.30 a.m. Service at 3. Tea and business 4.15. Ringing at All Saints', Maidstone, Leeds, Aylesford, Linton, West Malling, Boxley and Bearstead.—F. M. Mitchell, Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Worcester, Easter Monday, April 10th. General meeting in College Hall, 2.30 p.m. Evensong Cathedral 4.15 p.m. Bells: All Saints' (10), St. John's (8), St. Swithin's (6), all 11 a.m.; Cathedral (12), 12 noon to 2.15 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec., Sedgeberrow, Evesham.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Norwich, Easter Monday, April 10th. St. Miles', 11.30 to 1 (bring own lunch); Mancroft and St. Giles', 2 to 4. Service at Mancroft, 4. Tea at Ber House, 5, followed by business meeting; St. John-de-Sepulchre after meeting.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

SOUTHOVER, LEWES.—Practice, Easter Monday, April 10th, 2.30 p.m.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Tibshelf on Easter Monday, April 10th, 2 p.m. Service 4.15.—J. W. England, Hon. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District. —Meeting at Dorking on Easter Monday, 3.30. Tea at 4.45 at Orange Cafe, High Street, followed by meeting in belfry.—D. Cooper, 51, Waddon Road, Croydon.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—Meeting at Parish Church, Burton-on-Trent, Easter Monday, 3 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Meeting at Sudbury on Easter Monday, at 2 p.m., at All Saints' Church. St. Gregory's later. Secretary will meet ringers at All Saints'.—H. G. Herbert, Hon. Sec.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at All Saints', Newport, Easter Monday, April 10th, 2 p.m. Service 3. Meeting in Mission House, Lyne Road, 3.45. Tea 5 p.m. St. Woolos' bells after meeting. — J. W. Jones, Hon. Sec., 94, Altery View, Newport, Mon.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—Aylesbeare Deanery Branch. — Meeting at Topsham, Saturday, April 15th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and business 4.30. Names for tea by Saturday, April 8th, to R. Brook, Hon. Sec., 3, Greatwood Terrace, Topsham.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Annual meeting at East Grinstead, April 15th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 4.45. Names to Miss Shepherd, 34, Cantelupe Road, East Grinstead.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Annual meeting at Ipswich, April 15th. Tea and business meeting at Co-op Restaurant 4.15. Bells: St. Mary-le-Tower, St. Margaret's, St. Clement's and St. Matthew's.—H. G. Herbert, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West District.—Annual meeting at St. Lawrence's, Brentford (6 bells), Saturday, April 15th, 3 p.m. Committee meeting in the Vicarage 4 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided in the Parish Hall 5 p.m. Annual business meeting to follow. Bells of St. Mary's, Ealing, during evening.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 1, Listoke, Edgehill Road, W.13. Perivale 5320.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division. —Meeting at Lindley, Huddersfield, Saturday, April 15th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.—Wm. Ambler, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting, Saturday, April 15th, St. Margaret's, Leicester. Bells (12) from 2 to 5 p.m. Service 3 p.m. Bishop of Leicester will preach. Committee meet in Vestry 4 p.m. Tea at Cathedral Church House only to those notifying H. W. Perkins, 53, Landseer Road, Leicester, by 12th. Cathedral bells (12) open after tea.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Annual meeting at Nuneaton, Saturday, April 15th, 3 p.m. Committee meeting 4 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business, 5 p.m., in Parish Hall. Bells until 8 p.m. Private room at Bull Hotel (opposite G.P.O.) available until 10 p.m.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at St. Albans, Saturday, April 15th. Ringing at St. Peter's, St. Michael's and St. Stephen's from 2.30 p.m. Service at Cathedral 4 p.m. Tea, Waterend Barn 5.30 p.m. Names for tea before April 13th.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, St. Albans.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Stamford, St. Martin's, on Saturday, April 15th. Service at 4 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea to W. H. Waldron, Hon. Sec., 137, Scotney Street, Peterborough.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch. —Meeting at Hilgay, Saturday, April 15th. Bells (8) at 3 p.m. Service 4.3. Tea at 5. Bring food.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District. — Meeting at Maulden, Saturday, April 15th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea at 5.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch. — Meeting at Newnham (6), Saturday, April 15th. Notify for tea. Usual arrangements. — W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan and Liverpool Branches. — Joint meeting at Aughton, Saturday, April 15th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea in School, moderate charge. Names to Mr. J. Marsh, 27, Knowsley Road, Ormskirk.—S. Forshaw, G. R. Newton, Branch Secs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch.—Meeting at Brookfield, Gorton, Saturday, April 15th, 3 p.m. Light refreshment. — Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Banbury Branch.—Meeting at Great Tew, Saturday, April 15th. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Notify E. Pearson, Adderbury West, Banbury, Oxon.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION. — Swindon Branch.—Meeting at Purton, Saturday, April 15th. Bells (heavy six) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION. — Southern District.—Meeting at Bishop Auckland, Saturday, April 15th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m.—J. T. Titt, Hon. Dis. Sec., 54, Newlands Road, Darlington.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at St. James', Milnrow, April 15th, 3 p.m. Tea in Schoolroom. Moderate charge. Notify branch secretary immediately. — I. Kay, 30, Grafton Street, Moorside, Oldham.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD. — Northern Branch.—Meeting at Scothern (6 bells), Saturday, April 15th, 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea at moderate charge at 4.45 p.m. Names by April 13th.—K. W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Carline Road, Lincoln.

BARNESLEY DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Eastwood, Rotherham, Saturday, April 15th, 2.30. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

SUTTON-ON-TRENT, NOTTS.—Meeting on Saturday, April 15th. Bells (8) afternoon and evening.—G. Burchnall, Sutton-on-Trent.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery. — Meeting at Portishead, Saturday, April 15th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m.—Percy G. Yeo, Long Ashton.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Kilburn, Saturday, April 15th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. Willesden bells 6.30 p.m. Names to E. M. Atkins, 18, Westbere Road, N.W.2. (Tel. Hampstead 4510) by previous Wednesday.—T. J. Lock, Dis. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—Meeting at Creton, Saturday, April 15th, 5 p.m. Business meeting 3 p.m. Bring food. Cup of tea provided. — C. Green, Branch Sec., Murcott, Long Buckby, Rugby.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Lanchester, Saturday, April 15th, 2.30 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—J. A. Brown, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Finchdale Terrace, Chester-le-Street.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Meeting at Sharnford, Saturday, April 22nd, 5 p.m.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES

WALTHAMSTOW.—At St. Mary's, on Sunday, March 19th, for morning service, 1,263 Stedman Caters: H. Smith 1, C. T. Coles 2, H. Rumens 3, H. Street 4, E. E. Holman 5, J. C. Adams 6, J. Bennett (conductor) 7, L. E. Last 8, F. C. Maynard 9, H. Strange 10.

STOURBRIDGE, WORCS.—On Sunday, March 12th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: D. Watson, Sub-Lieut., R.N.V.R. 1, Miss F. L. Wright 2, A. Reynolds 3, N. G. Leech 4, F. V. Nicholls 5, A. L. Dunn 6, J. W. Smith (conductor) 7, R. Lees 8.

BRISTOL.—At St. Ambrose's on Sunday, March 19th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: *Mary Bennett 1, F. Skidmore (conductor) 2, *Mrs. D. Bennett 3, C. Baker 4, Mrs. F. Skidmore 5, A. Maggs 6, G. Wiltshire 7, J. Cox 8. * First quarter-peal.

ISLEWORTH.—On Sunday, March 19th, 1,008 Bob Major: Miss K. Brooks 1, A. Thirst 2, G. Dodds 3, W. F. Gibbons 4, W. W. Bailey 5, S. Croft 6, H. W. Rogers 7, John E. Spice (conductor) 8.

EGHAM, SURREY.—On Sunday, March 19th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. C. Parker, E. Armstrong, E. Morey, W. Shepherd (conductor), E. J. Crocker, E. W. Butler, W. A. Peck, J. Greenough.

BOURNEMOUTH.—On Sunday, March 19th, on handbells, in St. Peter's Hall, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Mrs. F. J. Marshallsay 1-2, Miss Jessie Chick (first quarter on inside pair) 3-4, Arthur V. Davis 5-6, Francis S. Wilson 7-8.

KIDDLINGTON, OXON.—On Sunday, March 19th, 1,344 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: W. Judge 1, Miss V. Hill 2, J. Judge 3, V. Bennett 4, W. C. Porter 5, W. F. Judge (conductor) 6, G. Caldwell 7, Major J. H. R. Freeborn 8.

ROTHWELL, YORKS.—On Tuesday, February 29th, 720 Bob Minor: S. Dobson (first 720) 1, G. Ward (first 720 inside) 2, G. Copley 3, T. W. Strangeway (conductor) 4, P. Massam 5, H. Homer 6.

MARHAM, NORFOLK.—On Sunday, March 5th, for evensong, 1,260 Bob Minor: F. Matthews, sen. 1, E. Barker 2, J. Buckenham 3, V. Bowen 4, L.A.C. E. Nobles (first quarter-peal of Minor) 5, W. Buckenham (conductor) 6.

BURFORD, OXON.—On Saturday, March 11th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. Cornish 1, H. Parker 2, F. Soden 3, B. S. Nichols (conductor) 4, G. Horwood 5, T. W. Bond 6, C. G. Calcutt 7, W. J. Dixon 8.

CHATHAM.—On Sunday, March 12th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: R. Norris 1, E. J. Norris 2, Miss W. Gardiner 3, T. Hill 4, E. A. G. Allen 5, T. Beaumont 6, W. A. J. Knight (conductor) 7, H. Springate 8.

CRAYFORD, KENT.—On Sunday, March 12th, for a Confirmation service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Mrs. K. B. Jones (first quarter-peal) 1, H. E. Audsley 2, J. Wheadon 3, R. Wake 4, S. Anstead 5, E. H. Oxenham 6, E. Barnett (conductor) 7, W. Lemon 8.

BELGRAVE, LEICESTER.—On Saturday, February 26th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: Leonard Whitehead 1, Charles Marshall 2, James Draycott 3, Walter P. Whitehead 4, Frank Trotman 5, Leonard Trevor (first 720 Cambridge as conductor) 6.

DUBLIN.—At St. George's Church on March 23rd, 720 Bob Minor: Miss V. Crawford 1, Miss I. Eyre 2, Miss I. Rowe 3, Miss J. Rowe 4, Miss A. C. Dukes 5, F. E. Dukes (conductor) 6, A. Darlington 7, A. Worrell 8.

PORTSMOUTH.—On Saturday, April 1st, at St. Mary's, Portsea, 1,260 Stedman Triples: J. D. Harris 1, E. J. Munday 2, W. Tate 3, F. W. Burnett 4, T. R. Taylor 5, L. P. Cook 6, F. W. Rogers (conductor) 7, H. T. Macey 8. Rung for the induction of the new Vicar.

LEICESTER.—On Sunday, March 19th, for evening service at St. Margaret's, 1,120 Grandsire Triples: *Miss Nancy Price 1, *Miss Margaret L. Morris 2, Ernest Morris (conductor) 3, Thomas Bent 4, Edwin Cattell 5, George Stedman Morris 6, Charles Cattell 7, Josiah Morris 8. * Longest length.

CRADLEY.—On Sunday, March 19th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. White (first quarter-peal) 1, A. Williams 2, A. Grove 3, T. Townsend 4, A. Davies 5, H. Wyre 6, N. Leech (conductor) 7, H. Shuck 8.

JOINT MEETING AT EDENBRIDGE.

A joint meeting of the East Grinstead Guild and the Kent County Association (Tonbridge District) at Edenbridge on March 11th was attended by 30 ringers from 12 surrounding towers. Ringing ranged from rounds to Cambridge Major. The visitors included Mr. Dean, of Croydon, Mr. and Mrs. Hazelden, of Guildford, and two ringers from Luton and Tewkesbury. Meetings were arranged for East Grinstead on April 15th, and Lindfield on May 15th.

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THE RINGING WORLD



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FRIDAY, APRIL 14th, 1944.

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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.

PEAL FAILURES.

'If we could get every peal we started for peals would not be worth ringing.' How often, we wonder, has that been said by someone to compensate himself and his fellows for their disappointment when some attempt has come to an untimely end; and though the saying has become rather trite, it expresses what is really an essential feature of all peal ringing. Ringers do not merely set before themselves three hours of amusement and enjoyment such as they would expect to experience during an evening's visit to a theatre, or concert, or cinema; they put before themselves a difficult task which will tax their abilities and attention to the full, and they get their satisfaction, not only out of the actual ringing, but from the feeling they are overcoming those difficulties. It follows that the possibility of failure must always be present.

Few bands like to lose a peal when they have started for it, and failure is almost sure to bring disappointment. Some men have developed peal ringing to the extent that they collect peals in the same spirit that another man collects postage stamps, or another adds to his bank balance. We can almost imagine them gloating over their growing list, like the miser of tradition was supposed to gloat in secret over the increasing hoard of the gold he never spent and from which he derived no further advantage than the feeling of possession. Even those of us who are no more than average ringers feel a certain amount of pride when we reach the hundred, or two hundred, or five hundred mark.

These things are quite as they should be; for although a peal when it is rung is nothing more than a memory, and after a time often not even that, the urge to ring peals is one of the chief influences which keep the Exercise alive and promote the development of the art of change ringing. We should be very sorry to say that the number of peals rung by a man, or a band, or by the Exercise as a whole, is by itself an infallible guide to the extent of progress and skill. Quality should count before quantity — quality of method and (even more) quality of execution. But it will be a good sign and a bright day for the Exercise when the number of weekly peals again reaches the old totals. That cannot occur until long after victory has been won and peace proclaimed. In this respect the setback caused

(Continued on page 154.)

by the last war was never fully made up. Fewer peals were rung annually between the two wars than during the years before the first, although in some respects peal ringing more than reached the earlier standards.

Meanwhile, what ought to be done to try to raise the standards so that those peals which are rung should be only of the best. It is better to fail when the attempt has been a worthy one than to record as a success a performance which has been marred by slovenly ringing or some incident which will not bear the closest scrutiny. The brilliant conductor who can get any sort of band, no matter how they ring, through a peal, is worthy of all praise for his skill, but is by no means an unmixed blessing generally.

After all a failure is nothing to regret so long as the attempt has been a good one and the band has done its best. Some failures indeed are worthy to rank with almost the best of peals, though they may not count as peals themselves. And perhaps, when we look back over the past and get that satisfaction which comes of talking of old times and recalling old incidents, the peals we did not quite get stand out in our memories as vividly as those which were successful.

This week a correspondent raises this question of peal failures and suggests that a list of causes should be drawn up. Doubtless it would be a very interesting compilation and lead to much discussion and argument. This thing, however, we would say—Though we would do everything we could to eliminate all causes of failure in any individual peal, we should be very sorry to see the causes of peal failures removed even if it were possible. But that is not in the least likely.

HANDBELL PEAL.

COVENTRY, WARWICKSHIRE.
THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Sun., Apr. 2, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,
At 117, WIDDRINGTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
Tenor size 15 in C.

FRANK W. PERRENS 1-2	*JOSEPH H. W. WHITE ... 5-6
FRANK E. PERVIN 3-4	*HUBERT SUMMERS 7-8

Composed by W. HUDSON. Conducted by F. E. PERVIN.

* First peal of Treble Bob in hand. First peal of Treble Bob in hand as conductor.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT BISHOPS CANNINGS.

A meeting of the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held on April 1st at Bishops Cannings. The methods rung during afternoon and evening were Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Stedman Triples, Kent Treble Bob Major and call changes. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. S. L. R. Sharpe, Mr. Hillier being at the organ. Twenty-four members sat down to tea at the Crown Inn. The vice-chairman, Mr. A. T. Weeks, thanked the Vicar, the organist and the ladies, and, in reply, the Vicar said he was pleased to have the branch at his parish again. The towers represented were Bishops Cannings, Seend, Melksham, Calne, Devizes (St. John's and St. Mary's), and Southbroom (St. James').

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., April 1, 1944, in Three Hours and Forty-One Minutes,
AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt.

HARRY BROUGHTON ... Treble	HERBERT W. PERKINS ... 7
LOUIS C. ALLEN 2	SHIRLEY BURTON 8
*JILL POOLE 3	SIDNEY O. CHENEY 9
MRS. H. J. POOLE 4	†RICHARD GRANT 10
†JOHN C. SMITH 5	HAROLD J. POOLE 11
HARRY WAYNE 6	JOHN GRANT Tenor

Composed by F. H. DEXTER. Conducted by HARRY BROUGHTON.
* First peal of Cinques on tower bells. † First peal of Cinques. Fiftieth peal on the tenor. First peal of Cinques as conductor.

TEN BELL PEAL.

CHELTHENHAM.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Apr. 1, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor 22 cwt.

JOSEPH D. JOHNSON ... Treble	WILLIAM DYER 6
WILFRED WILLIAMS 2	*WALTER C. ROSE 7
JOHN AUSTIN 3	WILLIAM T. COX 8
ARTHUR H. REED 4	GEOFFREY J. HEMMING ... 9
CHARLES W. MARTIN ... 5	REUBEN HEMMING Tenor

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.
* First peal of Stedman Caters and first attempt. Rung half-muffled for the late Mayor of Cheltenham, who was buried the previous Tuesday.

EIGHT BELL PEAL.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., April 1, 1944, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

C. ALFRED LEVETT ... Treble	FRANK H. HICKS 5
NORMAN V. HARDING ... 2	TONY PRICE 6
H. WILLIAM BARRETT ... 3	WILLIAM HENLEY 7
JOHN M. GAYFORD 4	GEORGE GILBERT Tenor

Composed by FRED DENCH. Conducted by GEORGE GILBERT.
Rung on the birthday of Edna Hearn, of the local band.

SIX BELL PEAL.

WENTWORTH NEAR ROTHERHAM, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(Barnsley and District Society.)

On Sat., Apr. 1, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 of Oxford and Kent Spliced and two 720's each of Kent, Oxford and Plain Bob, called differently. Tenor 10 cwt. (approx.).

GNR. SIDNEY C. MOSS ... Treble	*R.S.M. ALBERT FORD ... 4
SIDNEY BRIGGS 2	†ERNEST SHORT 5
WILLIE GREEN 3	DANIEL SMITH Tenor

Conducted by D. SMITH.

* First peal of Minor. † First peal.

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IRISH ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Irish Association was held in Dublin on St. Patrick's Day, and was attended by members from Bray, Kilkenny, Limerick and Dublin (St. George's, St. Patrick's and Christ Church Cathedrals). Mr. William Chamney, the Dean of Christ Church, and Mr. M. Hogan were also present. The president, Canon E. H. F. Campbell, was in the chair.

Apologies were received from the Dean of St. Patrick's, the Rev. J. L. Atkinson, the Rev. R. J. Kerr, Mr. J. B. Tough and the Arklow, Waterford and Mt. St. Alphonsus, Limerick, Societies.

The annual report referred to the loss of two members through death: J. Flint, Bolsover, and Sgt. William Mackenzie, R.F.C., Bray. Two peals of Grandsire Doubles had been rung by the Arklow Guild. The memorial to the late Gabriel Lindoff is in hand and should be ready in about four months' time. The fund will be kept open for a few more months. The hon. secretary had visited or met the representatives of every country team during the year. The number of members is 248.

The statement of accounts showed balances in hand.

One society had been affiliated, Ballymodan, Co. Cork, where there is a peal of six bells. Mount St. Alphonsus, Limerick, rejoined the association.

The attendance challenge shield for 1943 was won by St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, and Waterford Cathedral Societies, each scoring 100 per cent.

Dublin was again selected as the place for the next meeting, unless transport facilities improve sufficiently to permit Waterford's invitation being accepted.

All officers were re-elected as follows: President, the Rev. Canon E. H. F. Campbell, Rector of Bray; Ringing Master, R. S. F. Murphy, Dublin (Central Council member); hon. treasurer, D. Gibson, Bray; hon. secretary, Fred. E. Dukes, Dublin.

Forty-six new practising members were elected, including the Rev. Father Magnier, Limerick, the Rev. Brian Harvey, curate of St. George's, Dublin, and nine ladies. Two honorary members were elected.

A discussion took place regarding proposed practice meetings during the summer months to encourage and help those who have little opportunity of change ringing.

Votes of thanks were passed to the president, the hon. secretary and the Dean of Christ Church.

Touques of Grandsire and Stedman Triples were rung on the bells of Christ Church Cathedral.

PLAIN BOB MAJOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have recently had the pleasure of perusing a book entitled 'Elements of Campanologia,' by Henry Hubbard, and published in 1854.

In that very excellent little treatise are three peals of Bob Major, and I notice that these are also given in 'Ropesight.'

The first two of these peals are by Henry Hubbard, and with these I am not concerned, but the third peal is attributed to different composers in each publication.

In Henry Hubbard's book the peal is shown as by 'T. Hurry,' but in 'Ropesight' it is said to be composed by 'J. Reeves.'

I append details of this peal in the hope that one of our friends may be able definitely to define the correct composer:—

23456	W	M	H
43652	—	—	—
63254	—	—	—
56234	—	—	—
23564	—	—	—
52364	—	—	—
65324	—	—	—
32654	—	—	—
53624	—	—	—
62534	—	—	—

Four times repeated.

R. S. ANDERSON.

76, Dimsdale View, Porthill, Stoke-on-Trent.

[This peal was given in the 'Clavis' of 1788, of which Reeves was one of the authors. Thomas Hurry was not yet born. The figures do not appear in Hubbard's latest edition.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ELSTOW.

A meeting of the Bedford District of the Bedfordshire Association, held at Elstow on April 1st, was attended by members from Bedford, Bromham, Tempsford, Meppershall, Silsoe, Maulden and Kempston. Ringing ranged from London Surprise Minor to Stedman Doubles, about 10 methods being rung. Mr. L. Harlow presided over the business meeting, held in the tower, and Biddenham was selected for the place of meeting on April 28th.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES

WALTHAMSTOW.—At St. Mary's, on Sunday, March 26th, 1,008 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: H. Smith 1, H. Street 2, C. T. Coles (conductor) 3, J. C. Adams 4, H. Rumens 5, E. E. Holman 6, F. C. Maynard 7, L. E. Last 8.

STAINES.—On Sunday, March 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. C. Parker 1, W. Shepherd (conductor) 2, F. E. Hawthorne 3, E. Armstrong 4, W. A. Goldstone 5, W. H. Seabrook 6, W. A. Peck 7, R. Andrews 8.

WENTWORTH, YORKS.—On Thursday, March 16th, 720 Bob Minor: *G. West 1, S. Briggs 2, *Pte. M. Thomas, A.T.S. 3, Gunner S. C. Moss, R.A. 4, W. Green 5, R.S.M. A. Ford, I.C. (conductor) 6. *First 720.

EXETER.—On Sunday, March 26th, at St. Thomas', 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Hosgood 1, W. H. Howe 2, *Miss Queenie Pring 3, J. Salway 4, R. Truman 5, *G. Retter 6, E. W. Biffin (conductor) 7, *H. Wills 8. *First quarter-peal of Triples.

BOSTON, Lincs.—On Sunday, March 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Harper 1, A. Ellis 2, S. Jessop 3, W. E. Clarke 4, A. Freeston 5, F. Leggett 6, F. Dewey (conductor) 7, B. Jackson 8.

HASTINGS.—At Christ Church, Blacklands, on Sunday, March 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Rev. P. J. Boulsover (first quarter-peal) 1, W. Bradfield 2, W. H. Joiner 3, A. E. Easton 4, T. Carlton 5, Cpl. H. D. W. Bishop 6, J. Downing (conductor) 7, G. Martin 8.

MELLS.—On Wednesday, March 22nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: S. Ashman 1, *R. Townsend 2, E. H. Nash 3, *L. Withers 4, R. G. Beck (conductor) 5, E. Chivers 6. *First quarter-peal.

ALTRINGHAM.—On March 25th, 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor: R. Elkins 1, D. Vincent 2, H. McKinnell 3, A. J. Brown (conductor) 4, W. W. Wolstencroft 5, J. Fidler 6. Rung on the front six.

BLACKWELL.—On March 27th, 720 Bob Doubles and 600 Grandsire Doubles: W. Bramley 1, A. Smithson (conductor) 2, W. Steele 3, F. Boam 4, A. Wheeler 5.

OXFORD.—On Thursday, March 30th, at St. Ebbe's, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *A. White 1, W. H. B. Wilkins 2, H. Gardner 3, W. F. Judge 4, Miss M. R. Cross 5, J. E. Spice (conductor) 6, G. Caudwell 7, *A. R. Burgess 8. *First quarter-peal.

BRAFIELD, NORTHANTS.—On Sunday, April 2nd, 1,260 Doubles, 360 each of Plain Bob, April Day and Antelope and 180 of Grandsire: F. Battison (aged 13) 1, G. Gayton (11) 2, E. Robinson (13) 3, A. Fitzhugh (13) 4, J. Fitzhugh (14) (conductor) 5. First quarter by all.

SHIRLEY, NEAR BIRMINGHAM.—On Sunday, April 2nd, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: *Arthur V. Hemming 1, S. George Chaplin 2, *Arthur D. Cook 3, George E. Fearn 4, Edward T. Lloyd 5, *Richard J. B. Hadden (conductor) 6. *First 720 of Kent.

DINDER, NEAR WELLS.—On Sunday, April 2nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: H. Collins 1, *H. Horler 2, *S. Vowles 3, P. Hull (conductor) 4, F. Bird 5, *F. Griffen 6. *First quarter-peal.

DONCASTER.—On Sunday, April 2nd, 1,260 Stedman Triples: E. C. Stacey (conductor) 1, W. E. Critchley, J. Holmes, E. Dealingwater, R. Thompson, J. McCluskey, H. Wagstaffe, P. J. Dawe. Rung half-muffled for Mr. George Clark, of Arksey.

BROMLEY COMMON.—At St. Luke's on Sunday, April 2nd, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: *C. Cullen 1, Miss H. Oakshott 2, G. F. James 3, *V. Benning 4, G. H. Kite 5, I. Emery (conductor) 6, J. Lyddiard 7, P. J. Spice 8. *First quarter-peal of Treble Bob Major.

NORTON-IN-THE-MOORS.—On Sunday, April 2nd, 720 London Surprise Minor: J. Ryles 1, S. Ryles 2, J. E. Whelden 3, W. C. Lawrence 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6. And 240 Kent Treble Bob Minor: J. Walley 1, S. Billinge 2, W. P. Deane (conductor) 3, J. Jolley 4, S. Ryles 5, J. Ryles 6.

HALESWORTH.—On April 3rd, on handbells, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: E. Codling 1-2, F. C. Lambert (conductor) 3-4, W. Barber 5-6.

DOVER.—On Easter Sunday, at St. Mary's, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: S. L. Barlow 1, T. W. Robinson 2, C. Turner 3, C. George 4, H. J. Saunders 5, Raymond Wood, jun. 6, R. Collins (conductor) 7, Bernard Smith 8.

SWINDON, WILTS.—On Tuesday, April 4th, at Christ Church, 504 Grandsire Triples: Miss N. Davis (first 504) 1, C. J. Gardiner (conductor) 2, S. Palmer 3, G. W. Townsend 4, H. Wheeler 5, T. Cullingworth 6, A. G. Wells 7, E. J. Berry 8.—On Easter Sunday, 1,440 Kent Treble Bob Royal: C. J. Gardiner (conductor) 1, *W. Daniell 2, *T. Cullingworth 3, H. Bishop 4, G. W. Townsend 5, S. Palmer 6, *A. G. Wells 7, *E. J. Berry 8, *T. Townsend 9, J. H. Shepherd 10. *First quarter in this method.

PLYMOUTH, DEVON.—On Easter Day, for evensong, at St. Andrew's, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: Sub-Lieut. R. W. Rawlings 1, A. W. Myers 2, A. S. Weatherly 3, Capt. W. J. Rawlings 4, T. G. Myers 5, A. Mitchelmore 6, H. F. Myers 7, Gnr. R. E. Coles 8, G. H. Myers (conductor) 9, G. R. Marshall 10.

CROSTHWAITHE, KESWICK.—On Sunday, April 9th, for evening service 576 Kent Treble Bob Major: F. Grisdale 1, J. Brownrigg 2, Miss Margaret Telford 3, T. Wilson 4, F. Barnes 5, W. Thompson 6, T. Hartley 7, Tyson Hogarth (conductor) 8.

KENDAL.—On Saturday, April 8th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Richard Dennison 1, William Robinson 2, Leonard Townley 3, Thomas Haslam 4, Thomas J. Clement 5, Joseph Wilson 6, Ivor J. Heap (conductor) 7, Stanley Edmondson 8.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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MR. HAROLD J. POOLE.

On April 1st, after a peal of Stedman Cinques on St. Martin's bells. Mr. Harold J. Poole was installed as a lay canon of Leicester Cathedral. The Bishop, who performed the ceremony, said candidates for the office were chosen for their work for the Church. Mr. Poole's work lay chiefly in connection with the bells, and ringers throughout the land would be glad that one of their number had been chosen for the office at a Cathedral.

Many ringers were among the congregation and the bells were rung again after the service.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR.									
1,248					1,248				
23456	B	M	W	R	23456	B	M	W	R
23564	—	—	—	—	35264	—	—	—	—
52364	—	—	—	—	26354	—	—	—	—
35264	—	—	—	—	32654	—	—	—	—
63254	—	—	—	—	63254	—	—	—	—
45236	—	—	—	—	45236	—	—	—	—
23456	—	—	—	—	23456	—	—	—	—
1,248					1,248				
23456	B	M	W	R	23456	B	M	W	R
65432	—	—	—	—	52436	—	—	—	—
43652	—	—	—	—	63425	—	—	—	—
35426	—	—	—	—	42635	—	—	—	—
42356	—	—	—	—	42356	—	—	—	—
34256	—	—	—	—	34256	—	—	—	—
23456	—	—	—	—	23456	—	—	—	—

OPEN LEADS AND OTHERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was with some regret and not a little trepidation that I read the letter from Mr. Vincent. After the continual bickering to keep a good wide lead, this sudden conversion to the ranks of the unrighteous would seem rather dangerous.

I am glad he has held his ground for so long among the cart-wheelers, but now that they have finally got him down I hope he does not carry his new found enthusiasm too far.

FRANK REYNOLDS.

Prestwich.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ACCRINGTON.

A meeting of the Blackburn Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at St. James', Accrington, on April 1st, at which Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and Plain Bob, Double Bob, St. Clement's, Double Court, Little Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise Minor were rung, including a 720 of Plain Bob, conducted by Mr. C. Blakey.

At the business meeting, presided over by the branch president, Mr. L. J. Williams, it was decided to hold the next meeting at St. Peter's, Burnley, on April 29th, at which Double Norwich will be the special method.

ST. DUNSTAN'S IN THE WEST.

A FAMOUS LONDON CHURCH.

The fate of the eight bells at St. Dunstan's, Fleet Street, seems uncertain. The top of the tower was set alight in a recent air raid and burnt fiercely, but at present we have no knowledge of the exact damage.

There was a church here at least as early as 1237, for in that year the patronage was given by Richard de Barking, Abbot of Westminster, to King Henry the Third. At the time of Edward the Sixth there were 'in the steeple flour greate belles and a small bell.' In 1632 it was said to have been a fair and beautiful church. It escaped the fire of 1666 but very narrowly, the third house from it being burnt. In 1701 it was altered and beautified at a cost of over £1,500, and by that time little of the original Gothic building was left. It projected far out into the middle of Fleet Street and was surrounded by small shops belonging to booksellers.

Its most notable feature was the clock, which had 'two figures of savages or wild men well carved in wood and painted natural colours appearing as big as life standing erect with each a knotty club in his hand where-with they alternately strike the quarters, not only their arms but even their heads moving at every blow.' They were 'more admired by many of the populace on Sundays, than the most elegant preacher from the pulpit within.' The figures were first erected in the year 1671, and in 1829, when the church was rebuilt, they were purchased by the then Marquis of Hertford, and set up at his house, St. Dunstan's Villa, Regent's Park. In recent years they have been restored to St. Dunstan's Church.

The old church was pulled down in 1829 and the present building was consecrated in 1833. The church itself, built of brick and octagonal in shape, has no merits, but the lofty stone tower with its open lantern is a fine building and one of the best examples of modern Gothic architecture in the city of London.

At the beginning of the eighteenth century there was a ring of eight bells in the steeple, and on them in 1727 the College Youths rang the first peal of Double Bob Major. A year later they rang the first peal of Dunstan's Triples. Both were conducted by Benjamin Annable. In 1735 and 1749 the Eastern Scholars rang peals of Bob Major, one conducted by Philemon Mainwaring, the other by George Meakins. During the remainder of the century only three peals are known to have been rung in the tower, all of them by the College Youths. One of them, on March 12th, 1778, was 5,184 changes of Real Double Bob Major with two bobs in a lead, one before and one behind. Charles Purser called the peal and presumably composed it. It was claimed as the first of the kind ever completed, and a board was erected under the tower to commemorate the performance, but it is almost certain that the composition was false.

In 1823, not long before the church was pulled down, three peals were rung, two of them Grandsire Triples and Oxford Treble Bob Major, by the Junior College Youths, and the other, Oxford Treble Bob, by the College Youths.

In 1832 the bells were recast at the Whitechapel Foundry and rehung in the new tower. In the following year the Cumberland Youths rang 5,600 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major on them.

(Continued on next page.)

CENTRAL TOWERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 149.)

At Chicheley, St. Lawrence, Bucks, the belfry is very unusual and quite unique. The chancel is ceiled over to form a ringers' floor, thus they stand in full view of the congregation when ringing for Sunday services. The rood with crucifix and attendant figures in front of the balustrade of this ringers' gallery was given by Mrs. Easson, wife of the Rector, in 1927, as a memorial to her mother. The church dates from the 12th century. Late in the 15th century the central tower was built on the site of the chancel, and the chancel built further towards the east. The chancel was again rebuilt in the 18th century. The central tower is 15½ feet by 12 feet, and of three stages with shallow square buttresses at the angles of the first and second stages, and an embattled parapet. All the detail except the gallery is of the 15th century date. The south wall has in the S.E. angle a newel staircase carried up to the bell chamber—it led originally also to the rood loft and was entered from a doorway (now blocked) inside the tower. It is now entered from an external doorway in the south wall.

The six bells are all by Abraham Rudhall and dated 1718. The frame (like Bletchley) is fixed cross-cornered instead of parallel to the sides of the tower. On it, opposite the door, is incised: 'John and Richard Williames made Thees Frames Lining in King Sutton in the County of Northampton neare Banbury in the yeare of our Lord 1718.'

The 3rd bell bears the name 'Sr. Iohn Chester Bart. Benefactor.' This family was descended from John Chester, Citizen and Draper of London, who was buried in Mercers' Chapel 1437. In 1546 the King granted to Anthony Cave, Esq., the Manor, Rectory and Advowson of the Vicarage of Chicheley. Having no son, they passed, on his death, September 9th, 1558, to one of his daughters, Judith, who was married to William Chester, Esq. Their son, Anthony, was High Sheriff of the county in 1601, being first knighted, and later created a Baronet by James I. in 1635. Sir John, 'the benefactor,' recorded on the bell, was 4th baronet. He was buried February 16th, 1725/6. Tradition says that he used to ring, using a silken rope: and that, when he had the bells recast, he threw the old family plate into the furnace containing the bell-metal. In 'Genealogical Memoirs of the extinct family of Chester of Chicheley' (London, 1878, vol. ii., p. 531) it states that 'Sir John Chester was enthusiastically fond of the music of church bells, and the tower of Chicheley Church is so close to the hall, that an amateur would be driven to distraction by bells of inferior tone. Sir John therefore sent the old bells to Abraham Rudhall, the famous Gloucester bellfounder, to be recast, and purchased from him a new peal of six bells, which are so celebrated for their silvery tones that it is firmly believed among the local traditions that Sir John threw in during the casting a cap full of silver crowns. . . . It was Sir John's delight to ring these bells with his own hands, and the silken rope attached to a wheel, with which he used to practise ringing, is still preserved at Chicheley Hall. The exercise served him as a substitute for hunting, for which he was getting too old, and for which Chicheley afforded fewer opportunities than Shenton.' Sir John was married at Shenton, Leicestershire, in November, 1686, and

resided there until the death of his wife in 1704. Ten years later he married Frances, Lady Skrimshire, and then came to Chicheley, where he died in 1726.

Of Algarkirk Church of SS. Peter and Paul, Lincs, one remembers the great performances by the local band under the conductorship of Mr. Vernon Taylor, in ringing the multi-method peals of Spliced Minor. There was originally a ring of five by Thomas Norris in 1662, and in 1935 a treble was added by Mears and Stainbank. In writing of the old five, Mr. Thomas North, in 'Church Bells of Lincs,' remarks: 'There is no approach to the bell chamber. The only means of reaching the bells is by climbing on to the chancel roof, thence to the north roof, and then crawling through a latticed window which is too small to admit an adult.' In addition to the six, there is a priests' bell (blank). The bells are rung from the floor of this very handsome cruciform church, at the entrance to the chancel, and on Sundays, therefore, the ringers perform in full view of the assembling congregation.

(To be continued.)

THE BEST PEAL OF BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I know practically nothing about peals of bells north of the Thames, but, in my opinion, the best peal of bells in the southern part of the country, both for tone and go, is at Christ Church, Swindon. I have no particulars with me of this peal of bells, but whether one hears the eight or ten, one cannot but be impressed by this fine peal.

H. BADGER.

Thame, Oxon.

PEAL FAILURES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I think that it is safe to say that no one other than the very beginner at peal ringing has ever been 100 per cent. successful in his peal attempts, and most people can record, in addition to their successful peals, a number of attempts that failed. Probably the greatest cause of failure is the fact that ringers are human and consequently lose their places, forget to call bobs, etc., on occasions. But there are many other causes which are beyond the ringers' control, such as mechanical defects leading to broken ropes, broken clappers and the like. Then, too, there is external interference usually by people who do not appreciate the full significance of a peal attempt. This last is probably the most exasperating of all.

I have not taken part in many peal attempts—perhaps thirty or so—and most of the failures have been due to the human element; but I feel sure that more experienced ringers must have encountered unusual causes of stoppage and their experiences would make very interesting and sometimes amusing reading. Maybe it would be possible to draw up a list of the possible causes of failure that the would-be peal ringer has to contend with.

DENIS A. BAYLES.

Biddick Lane, Fatfield, Co. Durham.

ST. DUNSTAN'S IN THE WEST.

(Continued from previous page.)

There was, and still may be, a board in the belfry recording a peal of Grandsire Triples rung by the St. Dunstan's Society in 1834. 'St. Dunstan's Society, on Tuesday, April 1st, 1834, was rung by this Society a true and complete Peal of Grandsire Triples consisting of 5,040 changes in 3 hours and 5 minutes by the following members: Wm. Graham 1, Jno. Rogers 2, Jno. Harrison 3, Philip Symondson 4, Chas. Randall 5, Chas. Goozer 6, Thos. Tolladay 7, Wm. Watkins Tenor. This being the first Peal rung in the above Method in this Steeple and conducted by Mr. Thos. Tolladay.'

The bells have not been rung for many years, and few living ringers can have heard them. Occasionally they have been chimed, and it seems that one or two of them are cracked.

A VISIT TO WILTSHIRE TOWERS.

One Saturday afternoon in March, a band of ringers, composed in the main of youthful enthusiastic learners, set out on bicycles for three neighbouring towers. There were nine of them altogether, three old hands and six boys. The youngsters, in common with so many of the war-time ringers, had never seen a bell until a few months ago, but they were now capable of handling any bell they had so far come across, and visits to adjacent belfries on practice nights had increased their experience and deepened their enthusiasm. But their trips to date had been to well-kept ringing chambers, and the bells were usually in excellent order; this time, however, their afternoon outing took them to long neglected ringing lofts, towers no longer affiliated to the Diocesan Guild.

The first stop was made at the Church of St. Giles, Wishford Magna, where a melodious old five hang in one of the smallest towers in the diocese. The ringers were not accustomed to ample elbow room, and their own belfry is very small, but this ringing chamber was really midget. Moreover, a clock occupied half the available space, while the ladder to the bell chamber (a fixture) straddled right across the room. The treble came down in a corner, a few inches from the angle of the wall; the second rope emerged in some mysterious way from the clock case, but this also was close to the wall; the third hung grandly in the centre of the belfry, with the fourth immediately behind it; the tenor was rung on the top step of the stairs, the ringer facing down the steps, away from everybody else.

In view of these facts, it was decided to raise the bells singly, and a start was made on the treble; it was disconcerting, however, to ring standing in a corner with one's face to the wall, reminiscent of infant school days, but the bell was soon raised. The second, third and fourth followed, but when it came to the tenor's turn, a terrific thumping noise was heard, completely drowning the sound of the bells. The tenor was hurriedly set, and a local ringer appealed to. He said they knew all about it, the bell had been making that row for nearly a year, but they didn't know what it was. It was quite all right to ring it, nothing happened.

The visitors were less sure, and preferred to know what was happening, so one went aloft with a torch, while another rang the bell, expecting every moment to have it down on his head, as the floor was very thin and the noise awe-inspiring. It was eventually discovered that the clapper was striking the frame. The man aloft, who was a carpenter, said that a few minutes with a chisel would solve the problem.

Ringing now began, but never had the visitors rung under such conditions. How could the treble man be expected to watch the tenor, when his nose was about three inches from the angle of the wall, while the tenor was away in the opposite corner? The ringer on the second could just see the treble, by squinting sideways, but he was afraid to move his head too far round, otherwise he hit it on the clock-case. The third could see the second, and the fourth could see the third, but the poor fellow on the tenor could see nobody; he had to look down the stairs. Accustomed as these youngsters were to their own light ring on ball-bearings, this old ring of five, with tenor 14 cwt., proved hard going, but everybody had a pull, and there were some well-struck rounds and call-changes, and at least it was a unique experience.

The next stop was at Stapleford, a fine old church with some wonderful Norman arcading and a large tower. No cramping here, plenty of room to move about, and five ropes hanging in a circle. The bells had not been rung, however, since before the war, and on entering the ringing chamber through a trap-door in the floor, a bird's nest fell on the first man's head, followed by straw and other debris. It was easy to raise these bells in peal, they went well, even if they had not been touched for years, but they were a harsh lot, different from the tuneful notes of the Wishford peal. They were old, the treble and the second having been cast in 1655 by Nathaniel Bolter; the other three by Mears and Stainbank in 1887 and 1907.

The last tower to be visited was St. Andrew's, South Newton. Here were six bells, very shrill and penetrating, but at this church the two remaining old hands have commenced to train some youngsters, and conditions were more like those prevailing in the visitors' own belfry. This was the most enjoyable visit of the outing. A little method ringing was attempted here, and as the ringing chamber was blacked out, a longer practice was possible.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Annual meeting at East Grinstead, April 15th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 4.45.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West District.—Annual meeting at St. Lawrence's, Brentford (6 bells), Saturday, April 15th, 3 p.m. Committee meeting in the Vicarage 4 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided in the Parish Hall 5 p.m. Annual business meeting to follow. Bells of St. Mary's, Ealing, during evening.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 1, Listoke, Edgehill Road, W.13. Perivale 5320.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Annual meeting at Nuneaton, Saturday, April 15th, 3 p.m. Committee meeting 4 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business, 5 p.m., in Parish Hall. Bells until 8 p.m. Private room at Bull Hotel (opposite G.P.O.) available until 10 p.m.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch.—Meeting at Hilgay, Saturday, April 15th. Bells (8) at 3 p.m. Service 4.3. Tea at 5. Bring food.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—Meeting at Maulden, Saturday, April 15th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea at 5.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Banbury Branch.—Meeting at Great Tew, Saturday, April 15th. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Notify E. Pearson, Adderbury West, Banbury, Oxon.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Scothern (6 bells), Saturday, April 15th, 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea at moderate charge at 4.45 p.m.—K. W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Carline Road, Lincoln.

BARNSELY DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Eastwood, Rotherham, Saturday, April 15th, 2.30. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Kilburn, Saturday, April 15th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. Willesden bells 6.30 p.m.—T. J. Lock, Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District.—Meeting at Dalton Parish Church on Saturday, April 15th, 2.30 p.m.

ST. MARY'S, PUTNEY.—Weekly practices resumed Wednesday, April 19th, 8 p.m. Service ringing 2nd and 4th Sundays, 5.30.—W. T. Elson, 59, Pursers Cross Road, S.W.6.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Meeting at Sharnford, Saturday, April 22nd, 5 p.m.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

THE RINGERS' HANDBOOK

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BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Frome Branch.—Meeting at Publow (6 bells), Saturday, April 22nd, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Names for tea by April 18th to E. H. Nash, The Talbot, Mells.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Luton District.—Meeting at Husborne Crawley, Saturday, April 22nd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—D. E. Lidbetter, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Meeting at Willenhall, Saturday, April 22nd. Bells (10) 3. Service at 4.45. Tea 5.30. Names by April 18th.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch.—Meeting at Grantham, April 22nd. Bells (10) 2 to 9 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Business meeting in belfry 6 p.m. Cafes in town. Own tea arrangements.—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—Annual meeting, Beaconsfield, Saturday, April 22nd, 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.45 p.m., 1s. 6d. Names by April 17th.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

'WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION. — Northern Branch. — Meeting at Lye, Saturday, April 22nd, 3 p.m. Usual arrangements. — Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Rossendale Branch.—Meeting at Waterfoot, Saturday, April 22nd, 3.30. Meeting in tower 6.30. Names to Mr. Morten, 92, Fairfield Avenue, Edgeside, Waterfoot, by April 19th.—J. Porter, Branch Sec.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Axbridge Deanery.—Meeting at Bleadon, Saturday, April 22nd. Bells (6) 6.30 p.m. to 9 p.m.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, E.1, Saturday, April 22nd, 3 p.m. Ringing afterwards at St. Dunstan's, Stepney. Sunday ringing, St. Dunstan's, Stepney, April 16th, 9.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch. — Meeting at St. Peter's R.C., and St. John's, Lytham, Saturday, April 22nd. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food.—J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch. — Meeting at Westhoughton, Saturday, April 22nd, 2.30 p.m. Business 6.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Unveiling of peal tablet.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellingborough Branch.—Meeting at Mears Ashby (6), Saturday, April 22nd. Names for tea by April 18th.—A. Bigley, Hon. Branch Sec., 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Kington District. — Meeting at Lyonshall, Saturday, April 22nd. Bells (6) 6.30 to 9.30. Business meeting 7 p.m. — J. Preece, Dis. Sec., Lea Lodge, Staunton-on-Arrow, Leominster.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Croscombe, Saturday, April 22nd, 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Numbers for tea by April 18th. — W. H. Marsh, 4, Dovecotes, Street, Somerset.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District. — Meeting at Shipbourne, Saturday, April 22nd. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea in Vicarage Work Room. Names to Mr. G. H. Hewitt, Shipbourne Vicarage, Tonbridge, by Wednesday, April 19th.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION. — South Forest Branch.—Meeting at Ruardean, Saturday, April 22nd, 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Names by April 19th.—Oliver Thomas, Branch Hon. Sec., 11, Victoria Road, Lydney, Glos.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Portsmouth District. — Meeting at Havant, Saturday, April 22nd, 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea, 5 p.m., at Bear Hotel. Names for tea by Tuesday, April 18th.—R. G. Stone, 16, Penhale Road, Portsmouth.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting at Lincoln, Saturday, April 29th. Bells, Cathedral (12) 2 to 3 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m., St. Giles' (8) and St. Peter at Gowts' (6) by arrangement. Business meeting at 3 p.m. in Chapter House: Evensong 4 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—F. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec., Blankney, Lincoln.

LAMBETH PARISH CHURCH. — Practices every Wednesday, 7.30 to 9 p.m.—C. M. Meyer.

SALSBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT TISBURY.

A meeting of the Salisbury Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held at Tisbury on March 25th, was attended by members from Amesbury, Berwick St. John, Britford, Fisherton St. Paul, Semley, Swallowcliffe, Wilton, Salisbury (St. Martin's and St. Thomas'), with visitors from Longbridge Deverill, Warminster and Westbury in the Devizes Branch. The Tisbury ringers were represented by six members of the Women's Land Army, who have recently taken over the tower. Service was conducted by the Vicar, Canon A. H. Barnes, and Mr. H. Roles was at the organ.

At the business meeting the branch chairman (Mr. E. G. Caple) presided, supported by Mr. G. K. Norton, vice-chairman, and Mr. F. W. Romaine, branch secretary.

New members were elected from Wilton and Semley, and it was resolved to hold the next quarterly meeting at Shrewton, in June, the date to be fixed with the Vicar.

Mr. E. F. White (chairman of the Devizes Branch) said he thought in these days of difficult travel it would be a good idea to hold inter-branch meetings and so support each other.

The secretary reported that arrangements were well in hand for the Guild festival on May 20th in Salisbury. The service would be at St. Martin's and the four city towers would be open. The bells at Britford, Coombe Bissett and Wilton had also been asked for.

Thanks to the Vicar, to the organist, and to the ladies who had provided the tea, closed the business of the meeting.

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Copies of this book are now sold out, and for the present we are unable to supply any.

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THE RINGING WORLD

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

No. 1,726. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, APRIL 21st, 1944.

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TWELVE MONTHS AFTER.

Twelve months ago to-day an order was issued by the Minister of Home Security which ordained that 'no person shall in Great Britain sound any church bell except for the purpose of summoning persons to worship on a Sunday, Christmas Day, or Good Friday.' Worded as a prohibition, it was really a permission; for it ended the long silence which for more than three years had been imposed on bells and had been broken on two brief occasions only. A month later the new order was rescinded, and ringers recovered completely their former freedom from official interference. Now that a year has gone by it is as well to take stock of the situation.

When the war came, and still more when the ban was imposed, the outlook for ringing was very dark and doubtful. At the first seemed possible to do no more than keep a small amount of ringing going to serve as a nucleus round which change ringing might again be built up when peace returned. When the ban was imposed there were great fears that in perhaps the majority of places the art would simply die out, with very feeble hopes of revival within any measurable time.

The expected did not happen. The imposition of the ban, though it put a stop to most of the ringers' activities, did not weaken the Exercise to anything like the same extent that the outbreak of war did. That caused permanent loss; the ban caused not much more than a temporary cessation of activity. Here we have a great cause for satisfaction, for it shows that there is at the centre of the Exercise a hard core of men whose devotion to ringing is proof against all changes and adverse circumstances. The outbreak of war had already left them practically alone and the ban did not to any extent diminish their numbers. It is on them that the future of the art depends, and since their loyalty is assured, the defection of the many whose interest in the belfries sits lightly on them is of no more than temporary importance.

It is proverbally true that men do not know how much they value some things until they lose them. So it was with the people of England and their bells. We know now that church bells have not lost their old appeal, and any harm we may have suffered through the ban has been more than compensated by that knowledge.

The past twelve months have given ringers great cause for satisfaction and thankfulness. The loss caused by the war has been great and it will be long before

(Continued on page 162.)

the Exercise recovers its old strength and activity. But we know it can be done. Almost everywhere there are already signs of revival and growing activity, and two things especially encourage us to hope for the best in the future.

One is the large number of young recruits that have come to the belfry. They have had exceptional opportunities, for bands are depleted and there is much more room for newcomers. But even so an exceptionally large proportion of these young ringers have proved themselves of more than average ability. It were invidious to mention names, but at Enfield and Birmingham and elsewhere there are those who may be leading ringers of the future.

The other good sign is the great sale of the leading text books on ringing. That means that the best available information is being widely spread among the newcomers, and it cannot but have an excellent effect in the future years.

Taking all things together we may conclude that the Exercise is alive and healthy, and we need not doubt that the effort necessary to re-establish the art will be made when the time comes and will be successful.

TEN BELL PEALS.

SHEFFIELD, YORKS.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Monday, April 10, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

At the Church of St. John-the-Evangelist, Ranmoor.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt. 1 qr. 5 lb. in F.

JOHN THORPE Treble	JOHN H. BROTHWELL ... 6
J. EDWARD CAWSE 2	RONALD H. DOVE ... 7
*F. BERNARD DITCHER ... 3	†JOHN W. SMITHSON ... 8
*ERNEST A. THORPE 4	HERBERT CHADDOCK ... 9
*G. GORDON GRAHAM 5	*JOHN E. TURLEY Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by J. EDWARD CAWSE.

* First peal of Kent Treble Bob. † First peal on ten bells and of Treble Bob. First peal on the ten bells.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, April 14, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt.

HAROLD J. POOLE Treble	JOSIAH MORRIS 6
MRS. H. J. POOLE 2	PERCY L. HARRISON ... 7
JILL POOLE 3	HARRY BROUGHTON ... 8
PTB. SIDNEY HARRISON ... 4	ARTHUR DEBENHAM ... 9
JOHN E. SMITH 5	RALPH HUBBARD Tenor

Composed by F. H. DEXTER. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

APPLETON, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 15, 1944, in Three Hours,

At the Church of St. Lawrence,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5039 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

WALTER F. JUDGE Treble	ARTHUR H. WHITE 6
WILLIAM JUDGE 2	†JOHN E. SPICE 7
*WILLIAM C. PORTER 3	GEORGE HOLIFIELD ... 8
HENRY C. WHITE 4	RICHARD WHITE 9
FREDERICK G. MESSENGER 5	FRED WHITE Tenor

Composed by the late G. HOLIFIELD. Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE

* First peal of Caters. † First peal of Grandsire Caters on tower bells.

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Monday, April 10, 1944, in Three Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

At the Church of SS. Peter and Paul, Aston,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt.

GEORGE E. FEARN Treble	*JOHN PINFOLD 7
ALBERT WALKER 2	WILLIAM C. DOWDING ... 8
FRANK W. PERRENS 3	FRANK E. HAINES 9
DANIEL T. MATKIN 4	*S. GEORGE CHAPLIN ... 10
FRANK E. PERVIN 5	A. PADDON SMITH 11
HERBERT C. SPENCER 6	WILLIAM DAVIES Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by GEORGE E. FEARN.

* First peal on twelve bells. A wedding compliment to Mr. Fred Price.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, April 8, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

At the R.C. Cathedral of St. Chad,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

MIDDLETON'S COMPOSITION.

Tenor 14 cwt. 3 qr. 6 lb. in F.

GEORGE F. SWANN Treble	DANIEL T. MATKIN 5
*RICHARD J. B. HADDEN ... 2	JAMES G. PRIOR, R.A.F. ... 6
*JOHN PINFOLD 3	NELSON ELLIOTT, R.A.F. ... 7
FRANK W. PERRENS 4	GEORGE E. FEARN Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. FEARN.

* First peal in a Surprise method. First Surprise peal on the bells. A compliment to Mr. Fred Price on his wedding day.

NORBURY (HAZEL GROVE), CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, April 10, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Thomas,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt. 3 qr. 21 lb.

*ANTHONY BEAUMONT Treble	JOHN WORTH 5
WILLIAM FERNLEY 2	*ARTHUR PRITCHARD ... 6
JAMES A. MILNER 3	ALAN BROWN 7
TOM WILDE 4	PETER LAFLIN Tenor

Composed by J. S. WILDE.

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

* First peal of Surprise.

ILKESTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, April 10, 1944, in Three Hours,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 17 cwt. 9 lb.

EDWARD C. GOBEY Treble	WILLIAM LANCASTER ... 5
WILLIAM THORNLEY, SEN. 2	ALEX HUTCHINSON ... 6
*WILLIAM H. KING 3	ALFRED MOULD 7
JACK BAILEY 4	EDWARD F. GOBEY Tenor

Composed and Conducted by EDWARD F. GOBEY.

* First peal in the method.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, April 10, 1944, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

At the Church of All Saints, Edmonton,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION.

Tenor 17½ cwt.

ERIC A. DENCH Treble	DENNIS H. LANGDON ... 5
VICTOR R. WOODARDS 2	ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 6
PHILIP COWARD 3	JOHN THOMAS 7
MRS. J. THOMAS 4	*W. DOUGLAS SMITH Tenor

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First peal. First tower bell peal by all except 4 and 7.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

TUNSTALL, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, April 9, 1944, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 8½ cwt.

GEORGE KENWARD Treble	JOHN E. SPICE 5
STANLEY B. DOBBIE 2	WALTER H. DOBBIE 6
* BETTY SPICE 3	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE 7
DORIS G. DOBBIE 4	HARRY PARKES Tenor

Composed by H. W. WILDE.
* First peal in the method.

BISHOPS CANNINGS, WILTS.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, April 10, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).

Tenor 16½ cwt.

THOMAS MERRITT Treble	† FREDERICK W. HALE 5
WILLIAM HACKER 2	* FREDERICK A. WILSHIRE 6
WILLIAM G. MORTIMER 3	SIDNEY G. GRANT 7
* JOSEPH S. WEEKS 4	† GEORGE ORAM Tenor

Conducted by S. G. GRANT.

* First peal of Triples. † First peal. First peal as conductor.

MILVERTON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, April 10, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE PART (7th the observation)

Tenor 19 cwt.

ALFRED J. WYATT Treble	CLAUDE TARR 5
HERBERT H. WALKER 2	CYRIL J. STEVENS 6
ALEC A. WALKER 3	W. G. GIGG 7
ARTHUR H. REED 4	WALTER STEVENS Tenor

Conducted by W. G. GIGG.

SLOUGH, BUCKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 15, 1944, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).

Tenor 17 cwt. 2 qr. 19 lb. in E.

WILLIAM H. FUSSELL Treble	E. DENNIS POOLE 5
FRANK V. SINKINS 2	FRANK H. HICKS 6
GEORGE H. GUTTERIDGE 3	NORMAN V. HARDING 7
* JOHN M. GAYFORD 4	† EDWARD H. PRESTON Tenor

Conducted by NORMAN V. HARDING.

* First peal of Grandsire. † First peal. First peal as conductor and first attempt.

POULTON-LE-FYLDE, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 15, 1944, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CHAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5086 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 cwt.

ARTHUR TOMLINSON Treble	CPL. WM. PROCTOR, R.F.A. 5
STEPHEN LAWRENSON 2	SGT. RD. WILSON, R.F.A. 6
BERNARD H. HALL 3	CPL. C. H. MOORE, R.F.A. 7
JOHN H. FOSTER 4	* GNR. H. E. JEANES, R.A. Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by ARTHUR TOMLINSON.
* First peal on eight bells. The 7th ringer was elected a non-resident member prior to peal. Arranged for the four Service ringers, who are stationed in the district.

BOLSOVER, DERBYSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, April 15, 1944, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt. in F.

F. BERNARD DITCHER Treble	JOSEPH SAXTON 5
JOHN E. TURLEY 2	* JOHN W. SMITHSON 6
JOHN H. BROTHWELL 3	A. BENJAMIN COOPER 7
STANLEY SLANEY 4	G. GORDON GRAHAM Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by G. GORDON GRAHAM.

* First peal of Treble Bob Major.

SIX BELL PEALS.

BISHOP'S CLEEVE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, April 10, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings.

Tenor 20 cwt.

* ERNEST RICHENS Treble	* CPL. W. FOLLEY R.A.S.C. 4
GEORGE F. CANTRILL 2	WILFRED G. FOLLEY 5
* LESLIE E. ASTON 3	FRANK PENDRY Tenor

Conducted by L. E. ASTON.

* First peal. First peal on the bells.

CREECH, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(TAUNTON DEANERY.)

On Monday, April 10, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings.

Tenor 18 cwt. (approx.).

WILLIAM T. JEANES Treble	JACK ROY 4
* MISS FREDA M. POOLE 2	† WALTER H. POOLE 5
CHARLES H. FLOYD 3	WALTER E. PRIDDLE Tenor

Conducted by W. H. POOLE.

* First peal. † 50th peal.

BEXHILL-ON-SEA, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, April 12, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, 10 callings.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

* G. A. FREEMAN Treble	H. D. W. BISHOP 4
† REV. P. J. BOULSOVER 2	H. C. R. VINE 5
L. A. WOODWARD 3	* V. H. LAMBERT Tenor

Conducted by H. D. W. BISHOP.

* First peal and first attempt. † First tower bell peal.

KINGSLAND, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(EARDISLAND ST. MARY'S SOCIETY.)

On Friday, April 14, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL-AND-ALL-ANGELS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings, and one 240 of Lindoff's arrangement.

Tenor 12 cwt.

* FREDERICK R. HARRIS Treble	E. PETER ROCK 4
* RONALD H. MEWIES 2	LESLIE EVANS 5
LAURENCE T. MAINWARING 3	FREDERICK A. JAINE Tenor

Conducted by LESLIE EVANS.

* First peal and first attempt.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, April 12, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5079 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B.

ALBERT J. WALLMAN 1-2	MRS. J. THOMAS 5-6
ALFRED H. PULLING 3-4	ERIC A. DENCH 7-8

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, April 16, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B.

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE 3-4	ALBERT J. WALLMAN 7-8

DENNIS H. LANGDON 6-10

Composed by H. J. TUCKER.

Conducted by W. L. B. LEESE.

BELLS AND THE REFORMATION.

(Continued from page 145.)

Meanwhile, notwithstanding the Acts of Parliament, the export of bell metal still went on. The difference in the prices that could be got for it at home and abroad was so great that men were prepared to run the risk of forfeiture and to resort to various stratagems to evade the law. One way was to ship the metal on pretence that it was to be landed at some English port and then run it across to the Continent; another was to pack it in small creels, sugar chests, and hogsheads, and then bribe the customs officers not to search too narrowly. To counteract these things Parliament passed a further Act (2 & 3 Ed. 6, cap. 37) against carrying of Bell Metal out of the Realm.

'Where in the Parliament holden at Westminster in the three and thirtieth year of our late Sovereign Lord of famous Memory King Henry the Eighth it was enacted that no Person or Persons should carry or convey by water or otherwise any Brass Copper Latten Bell-metal Pan-metal or Gun-metal or Shroff metal whether it be clean or mixed Tin and Lead only excepted into any part beyond the Sea or into any outward Realm or Dominion whatever it be upon Pain of Forfeiture of double the value thereof (2) and where also by the said Statute it was likewise enacted That no Person or Persons should at any time ship or carry any of the said metals to carry or discharge the same in any Port of this Realm unless the said Person or Persons before the shipping thereof did declare and manifest unto the Customers of such Port or Creek where the same Metal should be shipped the true weight of all such Metal as should be shipped (3) and should also make a sufficient Obligation in the Law in which he should be bounden to the said Customers to the King's use in such sum as should amount to the double Value of the said Metal so declared and manifested with Condition that the same should be discharged at some Port or Creek within the Realm and in no other place upon Pain to forfeit the same in Manner and Form above rehearsed as by the same Act among other things more plainly appeareth.

'Forasmuch as the Pains and Forfeitures in the said Estatute are not great enough and forasmuch also as divers covetous and greedy persons having no Respect or Obedience to the Laws have craftily and by all sinister Means practised to defraud the said Estatute some by bribing and rewarding the Searchers Masters Pursers or other officers of Ship some by secret conveying thereof in small Creeles Sugar Chests Hogsheads and otherwise—it was enacted that the penalty should be twice the value and £10 for every thousand weight of the same metal so carried; the customs officer who 'by covin or other undue means' assisted was to forfeit his office and the value of the metal; penalties were provided against the master of the ship which carried the metal; and no metal was allowed to be shipped except where there was a customs officer.

Even so a great deal of smuggling went on, and in 1551 the Council sent to Sir Anthony Kingston a letter of thanks 'for his travaill susteyned upon that coast and to staie bell metall and other things prohibited from goinge beyond the seas' with promise that the stayer thereof shall be sure of so much thereof as the statute giveth unto him.'

On June 4th, 1551, a letter was sent from the Council 'to James Bascamb and John ap Philips to cause certain bells seased for a forfait in Milford Haven to be brought to Penbrooke Castle and there kept untill the Kinges pleasr wer further known.'

A certain amount of lawful export was done and on June 1st in the same year a licence was granted to Thomas Hayes, of London, merchant, to export 50 tons of bell metal within six months ensuing.

In many cases unauthorised persons had gone to the abandoned churches and chapels and stripped the lead from the roofs and taken down the bells from the towers. The Council sent a letter 'to the Chauncellour of thaughtmentacions to give straight order for the restrainte of lede and belmettal being the King's Majesties not to be solde or put awaie from his Majesties owne use except the lede which Ancellyne Savage must have by warrante which neverthesse he shall not be served either of the leade at Burye Notingham Bridlington or any other of the Kinges howses.'

The Government had seized the abbeys, colleges and hospitals for the sake of the loot, and in the end they found, not unnaturally, that a lot of it had slipped through their fingers and into the possession of other persons who were on the spot and had no scruples about helping themselves. So great was the deficit that a commission was appointed consisting of the Duke of Northumberland, the Earl of Bedford, and other leading men, that is practically of all the chief ministers of the Crown (for the Duke of Somerset's head had fallen on Tower Hill), 'to enquire whereas by reason of visitations and commissions, surrenders and suppressions of religious houses the king is by law entitled to a great and notable quantity of lead bell-metal plate jewels etc which ought to have come to him or his father: To enquire what lead and bell-metal ought to have come to the king or his father how much of it has been sold and for what money and to what authority how much remains unsold and where.'

It is proverbially useless to try to bolt the door after the steed is stolen, and there is no reason to think that the big thieves had much success in trying to recover the swag from the little thieves.

All that I have written so far refers to the bells of the suppressed religious houses and the thought that strikes us is the great number of them. There must indeed have been 'a great and notable quantity of bell metal' if, besides the tons which were legally exported under licence, there was so much smuggled out of the country as to cause three Acts of Parliament to be passed in the attempt to stop it. I made a conservative estimate of two thousand tons as the weight of the bells in the abbey steeples, but large as is that amount, we should multiply it several times if we judged by the Acts of Parliament and the Acts of the Privy Council.

There remained the bells in the parish churches. It is these that we are usually told were confiscated, but actually there seems to have been very few of them destroyed. That Sir Henry Spelman should have heard when he was a child much talk of the pulling down of bells is understandable, and it was natural for later writers to confound bells in religious houses with those in parish churches. The former were all destroyed (or nearly all); the latter survived, but they only just sur-

vived. The men who remembered the loot of the abbeys and had themselves looted the chantries, guilds and colleges, were not likely to have much respect for the parish churches. And there were others, some of them fanatical, but many of them sober, pious and moved by a real devotion to pure religion, who set themselves to simplify public worship and rid the churches of everything that tended to superstition. Reform of the sort was necessary, but the thing was altogether overdone. The churches were stripped bare, monuments were defaced, and part at any rate of the brass and latten that was being exported consisted of old memorial brasses. Some of the Reformers were active in opposition to 'superstitious ringing,' and Martin Bucer, one of the most learned and influential of their leaders, would allow no ringing at all except such for which a single bell would suffice.

When the church plate, ornaments and vestments had been seized and sold, nothing else remained worth looting except the bells, unless the lead should be stripped from the roofs and the buildings themselves pulled down. That did happen in a few instances, but as a general proposition was out of the question. The Government did seriously consider seizing the bells. Owing to extravagance, mismanagement and dishonesty, the country was deeply in debt, and loans were raised with the money lenders of Antwerp. They not only charged a high rate of interest, but required an extra percentage on account of the exchange; and the Council suggested that if they would not accept the debased English currency at its face value, the interest might be paid in 'kerseys lead and bell metal.' By this time the bells of the abbeys had been disposed of, and we can easily see where the new bell

metal was to come from. Fortunately the Antwerp Jews do not appear to have favoured the idea.

In the Isle of Jersey the bells actually were taken down, and tradition afterwards related that fourteen of them were lost at sea on their way to St. Malo. It may, however, be well to point out that this is a good example of how unreliable are the traditions and rumours about the bells which were repeated by writers of a little later date. Sir Henry Spelman said the bells were pulled down by Sir Hugh Paulet 'at the end of Queen Mary's days,' which seems unlikely. The actual commission was issued in the year 1549 'to Henry Cornyshe esquire and Charles Mabson gentleman to sell lands in the Isle of Jersey which came to the king by the Act of I Edward VI for dissolution of chantries, etc. . . . also to sell lead bells bell-metal, ornaments, etc.' This would not refer to bells in the parish churches.

(To be continued.)

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

BRADFORD, YORKS.—On Easter Sunday, at the Cathedral, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. C. Buckley 1, J. Briggs (first quarter-peal of Grandsire) 2, T. B. Kendall 3, J. W. Cundall 4, J. Hardcastle 5, Capt. Debenham 6, E. H. Rayner (conductor) 7, E. H. Simpson 8.

MALDON, ESSEX.—On Easter Sunday, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: E. W. Richardson 1, E. R. Linnett 2, J. H. Waldo 3, A. South 4, E. E. Johnson 5, H. J. Mansfield (conductor) 6.

OXFORD.—On Easter Day, at St. Giles' Church, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Victor Bennett, J. W. Linnett, Marie Cross, Margaret Tutt, W. F. Judge, Neil Allnutt, Major J. H. R. Freeborn (conductor), R. Challen.

WRINGTON.—On Easter Sunday, 845 Grandsire Caters: D. Clift 1, J. H. B. Hesse 2, T. Ferris 3, E. Fisher 4, H. Yates 5, C. Glenn (conductor) 6, *Prebendary A. J. Hook (Rector) 7, H. Knight 8, H. Vowles 9, H. Steer 10. *Longest length of Caters.

HARSTON, CAMBS.—On Easter Sunday, 1,260 Bob Minor: J. Green 1, C. W. Cook (conductor) 2, B. Dean 3, G. Easy 4, A. Hurst 5, E. H. Finch 6.

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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official Journal of the Central Council of
Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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THE MONTH'S PEALS.

MARCH.

During the month of March, 37 peals were rung, 19 of them on
tower bells and 18 on handbells.

The tower bells consisted of Grandsire Doubles 3, Triples 3, Caters
1; Bob Major 3; Kent Treble Bob Major 2; Erin Caters 1; Super-
lative Surprise Major 1; Cambridge Surprise Major 1; Spliced London,
Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major 1; Four Minor
Methods 1; Seventeen Spliced Minor Methods 1.

The handbell peals consisted of Grandsire Doubles 2, Triples 1,
Cinques 1; Bob Major 4, Royal 1; Spliced Plain and Kent Treble Bob
Major 1; Stedman Caters 4; Cinques 1; Kent Treble Bob Royal 2;
Cambridge Surprise Major 1.

The number of peals in January was 50, and in February 34, making
a total for the year, so far, of 121.

GEOFFREY V. MURPHY,

News has been received about Geoffrey V. Murphy, of whom noth-
ing had been heard since the collapse of Italy, where he had been a
prisoner. He was captured in the desert not long after successfully
coming through the first siege of Tobruk. He escaped on September
15th, and after what he calls 'an exciting time,' was recaptured at
the end of January and is now in Germany. Easter Sunday was his
25th birthday.

PEAL FAILURES.

Talking about peal failures, I wonder which is the longest failure
on record. I imagine it must lie between the eighteen thousand of
Kent Major at Mottram, the seventeen thousand of Grandsire Cinques
at Painswick, and Barham's nearly twenty-five thousand in an attempt
at Leeds to ring the extent of Plain Bob Major. Be that as it may, I
don't think there is much doubt about which was the shortest.

It was like this. Many years ago before the last war we used to
ring peals fairly regularly at St. John's, Waterloo Road. The band
came from widely scattered distances, and as they worked for their
living, they could not get to the church much before seven o'clock.
There was a rule that the ringing must be finished and the bells
down before ten. Whether this was an official rule or a self-denying
ordinance, I don't know, but it was strictly observed.

Well, one day we met for a peal of Double Norwich, raised the
bells, and got ready to start. The treble man gave the signal, pulled
his rope, and it broke at the wheel without the bell coming off. I
was at the second. I had got her on the balance, but when I saw
what happened I let her go back on the stay, and so we started for
and lost that peal without a single blow being struck. If that isn't
the record, I should like to know what is.

BELFRY PRAYERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I quite agree with the Rev. A. C. F. Davies' suggestion
that some form of prayer should be used before ringing for service.
I have rung in nearly 200 churches all over England, and in only
one tower, viz., Lyme Regis, Dorset, was a prayer said. We each
stood under our ropes while the Vicar offered up a prayer.

(Mrs.) MAUD M. GATHOUSE,
Canterbury.

WEDDING OF MR. FRED PRICE.

An event of interest to a considerable number of ringers took place at Royston, Yorkshire, on April 8th, when at the Parish Church was celebrated by the Rev. J. G. Seebold the marriage of Mr. Fred Price, a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Price, of Welland, Worcestershire, to Miss Violet Parks, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Parks, of 266, Midland Road, Royston. The bride, wearing a gown of white moiré taffeta and carrying a bouquet of red roses, lilies of the valley and white heather, was attended by Miss Hilda Parks, her sister, and Miss Lilian Godwin, niece of the bridegroom, who were attired in pale blue satin, with bouquets of daffodils.

Miss Parks was given away by her father, and Mr. F. E. Haynes acted as best man. After the ceremony a reception, attended by some forty guests, was held at the Pack Horse Hotel, adjoining the church. Later in the afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Price left for the Lake District, where the honeymoon is being spent.

Among many congratulatory telegrams received were several from members of the St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham, of which Mr. Price has for many years been an esteemed member. During the reception tribute was paid by Mr. W. L. Whiston to Mr. Price's work at Aston Parish Church, since the augmentation of the bells to twelve; he also offered congratulations on behalf of the Aston band. Among the guests was Miss Nancy Price, sister of the bridegroom, who is now capable of ringing the treble to a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. Mr. Price's father was a ringer at Longdon, Worcestershire, at least one of his brothers is a ringer, and now, we understand, his wife is learning to ring.

Another well-known ringer, Mr. Christopher Woolley, at present stationed at Wakefield, made his way over to Royston during the afternoon. His presence was naturally particularly gratifying to the best man, as they were contemporaries at Cambridge, and are, of course, both members of the Cambridge University Guild.

The future home of Mr. and Mrs. Price will be at 172, Marsh Lane, Erdington, Birmingham, 23.

Two peals were rung to celebrate the wedding, Cambridge Surprise Major at St. Chad's R.C. Cathedral, Birmingham, and Stedman Cinques at Aston Parish Church.

PILOT OFFICER DEREK M. SHARP.

The Air Ministry have recently presumed the death of Pilot Officer Derek M. Sharp, who was reported missing over enemy territory on the night of June 25th, 1943.

His Squadron Commander (Wing-Commander Nettleton, V.C., himself killed early this year) wrote that Pilot Officer Sharp, as captain of a Lancaster bomber, had made 19 operational flights in three months with the squadron and had pressed home these attacks with courage and determination. Thus a week before his 27th birthday ended the career of a very gifted young ringer. As far as can be ascertained, Derek Sharp rang 180 peals and conducted 34. His first peal was Grandsire Doubles at the age of 18 on November 29th, 1934, and his last Double Norwich on handbells on January 21st, 1940, when he was 25. Over 150 were rung between September, 1936, and September, 1939, and the peals were in 44 different methods or extensions as follows. The numbers in parentheses are those he conducted.

Doubles, 3, handbells 4 (3); Minor, 4 (1), handbells 3 (3); Cambridge Minor, 1 (1); Grandsire Triples, 8 (1), handbells 3 (1); Bob Triples, 2 (1); Stedman Triples, 18; Bob Major, 19 (3), handbells 9 (6); Reverse Bob, 1; Double Bob, 1; Canterbury, 1; Double Norwich, 14 (1), handbells 1; Real Double Norwich, 1; Double Oxford, 1; Hereward Bob, 1; St. Clement's, 2; Pulford Bob, 1; Cheltenham Bob, 1; Little Bob, 1 (1); Dartford Little Bob, 1; Erith Little Bob, 1; Kent Treble Bob, 12 (2); Oxford, 2; Granta, 1; Cam, 1; Cambridge Surprise, 23 (2); New Cambridge, 1; Superlative, 9 (1); Yorkshire, 3 (1); Lincolnshire, 1; Wheatley, 1; Painswick, 2; Ashted, 1; London, 1; Bristol, 1; Grandsire Caters, 1 (1); Stedman Caters, 2; Bob Royal, 1 (1), handbells 6 (3); Little Bob Royal, 1; Kent Treble Bob, 1; Granta, handbells 1; Grandsire Cinques, 1; Stedman Cinques, 1; Bob Maximus, handbells 2 (1); Kent Treble Bob Maximus, 1.

DUTIES OF A RINGING MASTER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Whilst agreeing in sentiment with the last paragraph of Mr. Russell G. Spears' letter in the issue of December 24th last (which, unfortunately, has only just reached me), I should like to offer a little criticism.

Has Mr. Spears considered the difficulties which stand in the way of a Ringing Master who no doubt would like very much to visit the towers in his district on their practice nights—I mean those of travel and time? Outside of London, these factors become of much greater importance, and are often insurmountable for many people.

As for his remarks re the 'local' ringer—i.e., that the association takes very little interest in him—I should like to repeat what I have heard Mr. Rupert Richardson say at many a meeting—'put plenty into ringing and then you will get something out of it.'

Every enthusiastic ringer I have met has got plenty out of ringing. As in every other art and sport, there are a few in ringing—just a few—who expect everything for nothing.

KENNETH S. B. CROFT, Lieut.

By Air Mail.

FIFTY YEARS AGO.

'Romford, Essex. The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths. On Wednesday, April 18th, 1894, in Eight Hours and Sixteen Minutes. At the Church of St. Edward. A Peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 13,440 changes. Tenor 17½ cwt. in F. Benjamin Foskett Treble, Edwin Barnett 2, Henry Dains 3, George Smith 4, Charles Wilkins 5, Albert Pittam 6, Arthur Jacob 7, George Newson Tenor. Composed and Conducted by George Newson. The band is the same as in the attempt at Brentwood on Easter Monday, when the treble rope broke after ringing 13,072 changes in 8 hrs. 15 mts. This is the first time the extent with the tenors together has been rung in the method.'—'The Bell News.'

SERVICE TOUCHES.

GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

1,260	1,260
23456	23456
34526 S Before, Home	43526 S 4-5 up, S 6-7 down
45326 Home	35426 6-7 down
52346 Before, Wrong	54326 6-7 down
34256 Before, S, Wrong	42356 In and Out
Five times repeated. B	Five times repeated. S for
for last S in third and	last B in third and sixth
sixth parts.	parts.
Seventh the observation.	Sixth the observation.
1,260	1,260
234567	234567
436527 6-7 up	357246 S 4-5 up, S 6-7 down
362574 6-7 down 4-5 up	573246 6-7 down
623574 4-5 up	735246 6-7 down
236574 4-5 up	354267 In and Out
Five times repeated. S	Five times repeated. S half-
half-way and end.	way and end.
Fifth the observation.	Fourth the observation.
1,260	1,260
234567 1 2	234567
436257 S —	342567 Out at 4 leads
536472 — S	263475 In at 3
637524 — —	642537 S out at 5
732645 — —	756342 6-7 up
234756 — —	237456 In
Five times repeated. B	P.L. 243675
for first S in third and	Five times repeated.
sixth parts. Three-lead	Second the observation.
courses.	
Third the observation.	

STONEY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your leader on Stoney was most interesting. It fits our case admirably. I have a very young band composed chiefly of boys from 12 to 14 years old, and although the boys have got the idea of change ringing (two of them have rung quite a lot of Plain Bob and the rest are still in the early stages), we do not as yet do any on Sundays.

As soon as they could ring in rounds I put them on to call changes, and my system is, first to call the treble out in whole pulls until he is behind and the rest to follow in rotation until the bells come round.

This might seem monotonous to the experienced ringer, but, believe me, the boys enjoy it, and, young as they are, they can strike remarkably well.

The system teaches them to strike over different bells and gives them plenty of time to do it. It keeps them calm, and gives them confidence, which you will agree is one of the chief essentials in change ringing. I also allow the boys to call the bells round, and this demands of them full knowledge of the system, which, although it seems easy, is not as simple as it sounds.

As to the musical effects of call changes, I find that the listening public are not at all particular. In fact, I am certain that well-struck rounds are much more appreciated than even the most musical Treble Bob or Stedman. There are some people who argue that if the bells are not ringing 'Put on your hats and come to church,' then they are not ringing properly. Which illustrates quite clearly that the experienced ringer rings to please himself first of all, the church comes a bad second and the public last of all.

F. LINFOOT.

78, Elland Lane, Elland, Yorks.

DEATH OF THE REV. W. P. WRIGHT.

The death is announced of the Rev. William Peter Wright, which occurred on April 8th at Eyam Hall, near Sheffield, in his 80th year. He was formerly Vicar of Hemingbrough, Yorkshire, and a practical ringer.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

(Continued from page 157.)

Another tower that should be noted in my list of central towers where ringing is done in full view of congregation is at Amport, Hampshire. The church of St. Mary is cruciform with a tower $13\frac{3}{4}$ feet square. This has plain plastered walls with a projecting stone parapet at top, below which is a hollow moulding enriched with four-leaf flowers and ball flowers. In each surface, just below the parapet, is a small window of two trefoiled lights. This tower contains a ring of six, the treble being by Mears and Stainbank, 1895; 2nd by Clement Tosier, 1717; 3rd by the same, 1686; 4th by I. D., 1703; 5th and tenor by W. Purdue, of Salisbury, 1662.

Another famous Hampshire church with central tower is that of Romsey Abbey. The first settlement of a monastic body here dates from A.D. 907, when King Edward the Elder founded a house of nuns, and set his daughter, S. Elfeda, at their head. The 10th century church is said to have been burnt during Danish wars after the massacre of 1002. In 1900, during the laying down of a new floor in the nave and crossing, the remains of an apse were found, proving that the east end of the church stood on the site of the present tower. Its walls continued under the western piers of the tower, and were $4\frac{3}{4}$ feet thick. There can be little doubt that the apse remained standing until the building of the tower, and was then taken down to floor level. The setting out of the eastern part of the present church began about 1120 and finished about 1230.

The church, as it stands to-day, is a fine and dignified building, but from the lack of an adequate finish to the tower, and the nature of its site, is far less picturesque externally than many churches of less interest. The interior, on the other hand, is one of the most attractive pieces of 12th century work to be found in the country, full of interesting details and singularly unspoiled by later alterations. The plan is cruciform with the tower over the crossing. It rises only 92 feet to the parapet, and it is not likely that its walls were ever much higher, but it was doubtless capped by a pyramidal roof which must have been a far more satisfactory finish than the present low octagonal wooden turret. The ring of eight bells hangs in the octagon. They are by Thos. Mears, 1791, and the tenor is 25 cwt. 8 lb. In 1933 Mears and Stainbank recast the 3rd, 5th and 7th and tuned the others. A fair number of peals have been rung on these bells. The 'approach' to the ringing chamber is by spiral stairway at the end of transept, thence along the triforium to the central tower, whence a very narrow and dark flight of stairs leads to the ringing room. This is spacious and contains the huge clock.

A further interesting Hampshire example is that of All Saints', East Meon. This church seems to have been begun 1130 to 1140. The central tower is of three stages, the ground stage being open on all four sides with slightly stilted round-headed arches. The second stage has plain round-headed openings on all four faces, and is reached by a stair from the north-west angle of the south chapel, which leads to an opening in the east wall of the south transept, and thence by a landing to a narrow 15th century doorway in the south-east of the tower. From this a stone spiral leads to the ringing room and bell chamber. The third stage has a group

of three windows in each face with round-headed arches, and the whole is topped by a leaded octagonal broach of moderate height. Here are eight bells, tenor 19 cwt. 18 lb. The treble, 2nd, 7th and tenor by J. Taylor and Co., 1890; 3rd by Chapman and Mears, 1782; 4th and 5th by Thomas Mears, 1834 and 1819; 6th by William Tosier, 1722.

St. Paul's Church, Bedford, is in Early English, Decorated and Perpendicular styles of architecture with embattled central tower and a spire. It was a collegiate church prior to the Conquest and retained this rank until between 1148 and 1170, when its prebends were transferred to Newnham by Simon de Beauchamp, who was buried in this church in 1206, the stone slab said to mark his grave still remaining on the south side of the High Altar. The edifice was rebuilt in 1224 on the site of the old church which had been pulled down by order of King John in order to fortify the castle. In the latter part of the 15th century the church was materially altered by several additions. In the reign of Henry VIII. the church became for a time the cathedral of a suffragan bishop. In 1868 the tower and spire were rebuilt, the design of the tower being modified and its plan enlarged, and the old spire re-erected upon it. The church was further enlarged in 1884.

The central tower is 18 ft. 8 ins. square, and stands on four piers with hollow chamfered arches and clustered responds. It has angle buttresses above the church roof and an embattled parapet, above which rises the tall stone spire with three sets of spire lights. There are two windows in each face of the belfry stage, each of two trefoiled lights with tracery under pointed heads. There is a clock with noted chimes, and a ring of 10 bells with tenor $28\frac{3}{4}$ cwt. The old eight were recast and two additional bells added by J. Taylor and Co., 1896/7, and these were rehung in 1929. Prior to 1744 there were five bells only. The old ring of eight was opened in the spring of 1745, as is shown by the following entry in the minutes of the Common Council held on the 19th April that year:—

'It is voted ordered and agreed unto at this Court of Common Council. That the Chamberlains of the Corporation shall pay amongst eight men that shall come from Saint Michael, Cornhill, London, the sum of six guineas for their trouble in ringing the new Peal of eight Bells which are hung up in the steeple of the Parish Church of Saint Paul in this Town.'

The treble of this ring of eight was recast in 1755 and again in 1868. In 1896 two trebles were added and the tenor recast. All the others except the 9th (old 7th) were recast in 1897. The first peal on the ten was 5,003 Grandsire Caters, conducted by the late Charles W. Clarke on November 9th, 1896, and since that time a number of other peals in various methods have been rung. Like many central towers, the approach to the ringing chamber is first by a good spiral stairway and thence over the roof for some 14 feet.

Bedford also has another central tower at St. Mary's Church. This is 12 feet by 13 ft. 2 ins., and is a very interesting piece of early masonry in rubble walling with heavy ashlar groins. No herringbone masonry is visible. It is of four stages, the second being hidden by the roofs and has lost its original finish, now ending with an embattled parapet, having crocketed pinnacles and gargoyles at the angles of 15th century date. The third

stage is architecturally the most important with wide round-headed openings on each face, enclosing two smaller openings, whose arches spring from a central shaft. There are six bells, treble by J. Eayre, of St. Neots, 1748; 2nd by Richard Chandler, 1682; 3rd by Newcombe, of Leicester, 1604; 4th bears shields but no date or inscription. It is probably by Hy. Jordan or his successor; 5th by R. Chandler, 1682; and tenor by Hugh Watts, of Leicester, 1609.

The church of St. Mary, Aylesbury, Bucks, stands near the middle of the town. There was probably a 12th century church on its site, but it appears to have been entirely rebuilt in the first half of the 13th century. The plan is cruciform, and the building, with its massive central tower is of fine proportions. The tower, 23½ feet by 18½ feet, is of three stages, and has diagonal buttresses above the ground stage, a north-east stair turret and embattled parapet with carved traceried panels, and a lead lantern and spire. Externally the tower has been almost entirely restored and refaced, but the original design is said to have been followed. The lantern and spire were copied from the former 17th century design. On the ground stage the four arches which support the superstructure are two centred, and of two chamfered orders originally of the 13th century rebuilt 1850, some of the old voussoirs being re-used. The tower stairs start from the west wall of the north transept, cross to the north-west pier of the tower and continue to the triforium level. The lower part of the stairs was altered apparently in the 15th century, when heavy abutments, since removed, were built to counteract the weakness of the piers. At the triforium level the stairs pass from the north-west to the north-east angle. The inner walls are pierced with an arcade of late 13th century date considerably restored, of two bays in each wall. The bell chamber is lighted by two large lancet windows in each wall.

There is a ring of eight bells and a Sanctus. The history of these is given in 'Church Bells of Bucks.' The weight of the tenor is quoted as 22 cwt., and a note is added:—'These fine bells, unfortunately, cannot be rung. The tower is a central lantern, and not only did the late Sir G. G. Scott give his opinion that it was not safe for ringing, but in the restoration of the church (1850) the lantern was opened up, and the floor of the old ringing chamber removed, so that it is now impossible to ring them, the drop to the floor of the nave (whence they are chimed) being far too long a draught.'

A peal tablet gives details of 5,040 Grandsire Triples having been rung here 12th November, 1804, by the Aylesbury Society in 3 hours 16 minutes. These bells were originally opened by the College Youths 'July ye 12th, 1773.'

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EAST DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT TIBSHELF.

The annual meeting of the East Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Association was held on Easter Monday at Tibshelf, Derbyshire. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. T. A. Fowler, who gave an address. The lesson was read by Mr. J. W. England.

Nearly 50 members and friends sat down to tea, provided by the local company and ladies connected with the church. The president, Mr. John E. Hobbs, took the chair at the business meeting, supported by the officers of the association. Mr. Hobbs commented favourably upon the attendance, particularly of the younger element. The balance sheet, showing a credit balance of £19 11s. 11d., was accepted. It was agreed to hold the annual meeting in 1945 at Alfreton, and quarterly meetings at Sutton-in-Ashfield, Blackwell and Morton. Monthly meetings will be held during the summer months.

The shield, which is awarded annually to the most progressive tower, was presented to the captain of Tibshelf tower, Mr. H. Draycott, who has been a ringer there for 55 years.

The president (Mr. J. E. Hobbs), the vice-president (Mr. Wilson Dobb), the treasurer (Mr. C. M. Heathcote), the secretary (Mr. J. W. England) and the Ringing Master (Mr. C. Bleby) were re-elected, with Mr. C. Metcalf Central Council representative. Messrs. J. Machin and H. Doughty were re-elected auditors, and Messrs. J. Bleby, F. Robey, J. W. Price, A. L. Bawson, T. Jennings and the Rev. T. A. Fowler were elected to the Executive Committee. Thanks were accorded the Vicar, the local band and the ladies. Nearly all the towers in the association were represented. Some good ringing was heard in various methods of Doubles and Minor from Grandsire to Cambridge Surprise.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT LINDLEY.

A quarterly meeting of the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association was held at Lindley on April 16th, at which about 30 members from a wide area were present.

After tea the business meeting was presided over by the vice-president, Mr. P. J. Johnson, who was supported by the president, Canon C. C. Marshall, and the general secretary, Mr. L. W. G. Morris. Mr. William Ambler, who had been acting pro tem., was appointed hon. secretary. Messrs. J. Ambler, F. Hodgson and P. Birkett were elected to the District Committee, and Mr. J. Ambler was re-elected to the General Committee.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens was moved by Canon Marshall, and a vote of thanks to the local company and ladies by Mr. H. Lofthouse. Mr. Hargreaves responded.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Rothwell in July.

Seven new members were elected, and the collection to the Belfry Repairs Fund realised 13s. 3d.

GOLDEN WEDDING.

The ringers of Rochdale Parish Church have presented Mr. Stephen Hodgkinson, their oldest member, with a walking stick and a sum of money on the occasion of his golden wedding.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES

HALIFAX.—On March 25th, at the Parish Church, 720 Bob Minor: K. Hattersley (first 720) 1, R. Squires 2, H. Jones 3, P. Ingham 4, R. Mann 5, V. Jarrett (conductor) 6.

BOURNEMOUTH.—On March 25th, at St. Peter's Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Osborne 1, Mrs. F. John Marshall 2, *Mary E. Davis 3, Charles R. Forst 4, *Andrew Pearmain 5, Eli Waters 6, Arthur V. Davis 7, John Coles 8. *First quarter of Triples.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD.—On Easter Sunday for morning service, 1,260 Oxford Bob Triples: Miss D. Wacey 1, W. Prior 2, R. Wood 3, F. Bird (conductor) 4, E. Garbett 5, H. M. White 6, W. T. Prior 7, T. Ward 8.—For evening service, 1,260 Oxford Bob Triples: Miss D. Wacey 1, W. Prior 2, R. Wood 3, F. Bird (conductor) 4, H. Bull 5, W. T. Prior 6, H. M. White 7, T. Ward 8.

CHATHAM.—At St. Mary's on Sunday, April 9th, 1,280 Bob Major: Miss N. Gardiner (first quarter-peal of Treble Bob) 1, F. Richardson 2, H. Springate 3, D. T. Hills 4, W. A. J. Knight (conductor) 5, W. J. Walker 6, E. A. G. Allen 7, C. E. J. Norris 8.

EYNHAM, OXON.—On Easter Day, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: Miss Lottie Pimm 1, J. Gardner 2, T. W. Bond 3, C. Calcutt (conductor) 4, C. Bennett 5, H. Caves 6.

OAKHAM.—On Easter Day, 504 Grandsire Triples: W. Stimson 1, W. H. Smith 2, S. B. Higgs 3, S. Towell 4, C. Prince 5, W. E. Higgs 6, F. C. Towell (conductor) 7, C. Ball 8.

TAMWORTH, STAFFS.—On Easter Sunday, 840 Stedman Triples: L. B. Hodgetts 1, G. H. Peers, jun. 2, E. Elton 3, H. Curzon 4, G. H. Peers, sen. 5, H. J. Dakin 6, C. Pratt (conductor) 7, S. Dunkley 8.

LYME REGIS, DORSET.—On Easter Sunday for evening service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *John Burlinson 1, J. E. Philbrick 2, Mrs. C. W. Powell 3, *Joan Burlinson 4, E. Hawker 5, Rev. C. C. Cox (conductor) 6, G. H. Whitmore 7, C. Tett 8. *First quarter-peal.

THE BEST PEAL OF BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The reference by the Rev. A. S. Roberts to Penningtons, of Exeter, was of interest because in Devon many bells cast by the firm still hang in towers up and down the county.

The old third and present fifth of the Exeter Cathedral ring was cast by I. Pennington in 1658. It weighs 10 cwt., which is about the same as the tenor at St. Veep's, Cornwall. Many of the tenors of Pennington peals, as I know them, are from 10 to 14 cwt., and each are strikingly impressive bells, conveying the idea of being heavier than they really are. The peal of six at Parkham, near Bideford, cast by the firm in the churchyard in 1778, is a maiden peal, particularly pleasing in tone and famed locally. The tenor is 10 cwt. One is inclined to wonder if the same mould dimensions were used here as at St. Veep's. Parkham bells were rehung by Taylors in A frames in 1887.

Penningtons seem to have been more successful with medium weight bells than with heavier ones, and for that reason were refused certain contracts with the Cathedral authorities.

Much has been said about the best peal of bells, but no mention, as I have seen, has been made of the really magnificent eight at Pilton, near Barnstaple—though Barnstaple has been mentioned. The tenor of 25 cwt. is a very fine bell.

As I remember, one of the very best peals in Devon is at Uffculme, tenor, by Mears, 24 cwt., and their go seemed perfect.

Many rings of bells, e.g., Exeter Cathedral, Heavitree, St. Cuthbert's, Wells, Horsham, St. Saviour's, Eastbourne, have been spoken of by experienced ringers as sounding 'like a band of music,' and one wonders by what standards the superior qualities of all or any may be assessed. They are all so beautiful and each has its peculiar quality, clang-tint if you like. What about the Stafford (minor) eight in Exeter Cathedral?

F. C. S.

N.B.—Mr. Morris has omitted to mention Tawstock in his interesting series of 'Central Towers.' Does he need details?

VISITORS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Since I have been back in England I have been very unfortunate as far as ringing is concerned. I have visited various towers on various occasions, only to find them silent.

I would like to suggest that steeplekeepers should pin a note up on the church notice board informing visitors of times of ringing, change of service, etc. More than once in large towns I have gone to what I thought looked the most likely church for a ring, only to find after hanging about for 30 minutes or so no one turning up. I have then gone in search of another church, only to find I am too late and they are just 'falling.' A simple little note would save myself and others needless trouble and give a hand to towers where they are still ringing with depleted bands.

I would like to express my admiration of some of the bands who are carrying on in spite of incredible difficulties. One tower I visited on the East Coast, although the tower was bomb shaken, which made ringing unsafe, the ringers used to turn up every Sunday and chimed the bells for 30 minutes. A praiseworthy effort, in my humble opinion.

J. F. BUTLER, formerly of St. Chad's, Shrewsbury.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association was held at All Saints', Newport, on Easter Monday, and was well attended by members from Glamorgan and Monmouthshire.

The Vicar, who is treasurer of the association, conducted the service and welcomed the members in the course of his address.

At the business meeting, Mr. W. Powell, of Llanfrecfha, was elected Master, and the hon. secretary, Mr. J. W. Jones, and the auditors were re-elected.

It was decided that the two representatives should attend the Central Council meeting in London on Whit Monday. A number of new members were elected, including the whole of the Usk tower members and practically all the Aberdare ringers.

The next annual meeting will be held at Cardiff, and quarterly meetings were arranged for Pentre and Usk.

The ladies of the parish combined to make the ringers welcome and provided tea. After the meeting the bells of St. Woolos' Church were available.

ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Just before the war I was thinking of voicing my displeasure of the way meetings were arranged by organisations whose one object should be to help in the promotion of friendly relations.

Often once a year joint meetings were arranged, and one such gathering at Hillingdon was a great success. Then for the rest of the year each association went its own way.

Now more than ever I think we should pull together. Many cannot attend meetings for various reasons and attendance drops. Difficulties in arranging meetings are many, but it is generally the locality and not the date with which there is trouble and secretaries have a hard task.

The last two meetings of both districts of the Middlesex Association have been on the same date. Surely this could have been averted. Coupled with this the Hertford Association arranged a meeting at Barnet on the North and East District's doorstep on the same day as the first of them.

Many districts before the war kept the same Saturday each month, and this must be to the benefit of everyone. In any case, it should be part of the duty of every secretary to notify all his neighbours of his meetings. If one started this I am sure the others would soon take it up.

F. G. BALDWIN.

49, Windsor Avenue, Hillingdon.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT DAYBROOK.

The monthly meeting of the Nottingham District of the Midland Counties Association at St. Paul's, Daybrook, on April 1st, was attended by over 60 members and friends, representing 18 towers.

A short service, with an address by the Vicar, preceded tea, arranged and prepared by Mrs. R. A. Ward, one of the local company, and a band of lady helpers. Four new members were elected, including Master Michael Ward, a grandson of Mr. R. Elson, of Daybrook tower, thus completing three generations active there.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar and to Mrs. Ward and her helpers. Methods from rounds to Cambridge Surprise were rung.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

A meeting of the St. Martin's Guild at Aston Parish Church on Saturday, April 1st, was attended by between 60 and 70 members and friends. In the absence of the Vicar, service was conducted by the curate, the Rev. R. Stevens, who gave an address on the importance of the office of bellringers in the service of the church.

Tea, provided by the Aston ringers and their ladies, was followed by the business meeting, presided over by the Master, Mr. Albert Walker, who referred to the death of three members, Percy Rainey, who had been killed in action in North Africa, and who previous to joining the Army was a ringer at Aston; W. Farley, a member of the Guild for over 20 years, and John Barber, who had been a member for more than 40 years, and who rang the tenor to the record peal of Stedman Cinques, 11,111 changes, at St. Martin's in 1901.

The following new members were duly elected: H. L. Hooper and L. L. Willis, of Coleshill Parish Church; John W. V. Conduct, of Erdington; W. A. Blake, of Alum Rook, and Edric J. Franklin, of Ward End.

On the proposition of Mr. G. F. Fearn, Ringing Master, it was decided to hold bi-quarterly meetings, the next at Coleshill Parish Church about the middle of May. The next quarterly meeting was fixed to take place at King's Norton on Saturday, July 1st.

A vote of thanks to all who had made the meeting enjoyable, particularly to Mrs. Davies and the other ladies, was proposed by Mr. Walker. Mr. Fred Price was congratulated on his marriage, which was to take place at Easter, and the best wishes of the Guild were accorded to him and his bride.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT DORKING.

A meeting of the North-Western District of the Surrey Association was held at Dorking on Easter Monday, at which about 40 members and friends attended from Addlestone, Benhilton, Carshalton, Clendon, Crawley, Croydon, Claygate, Dorking, Epsom, Ealing, Fulham, Leatherhead and Reigate. The methods practised during the afternoon and evening included Cambridge and London Surprise Major.

Tea at the Orange Cafe was followed by the meeting, at which the Vicar of Dorking presided. It was decided to hold the next meeting at the end of June, and Hersham was suggested as the place.

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NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—Annual meeting, Beaconsfield, Saturday, April 22nd, 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.45 p.m., 1s. 6d. — A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch. — Meeting at Lye, Saturday, April 22nd, 3 p.m. Usual arrangements. — Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, E.1, Saturday, April 22nd, 3 p.m. Ringing afterwards at St. Dunstan's, Stepney. Sunday ringing, St. Dunstan's, Stepney, April 16th, 9.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellingborough Branch.—Meeting at Mears Ashby (6), Saturday, April 22nd.—A. Bigley, Hon. Branch Sec., 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Croscombe, Saturday, April 22nd, 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow.—W. H. Marsh, 4, Dovecotes, Street, Somerset.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District. — Meeting at Shipbourne, Saturday, April 22nd. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea in Vicarage Work Room. —T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Portsmouth District. — Meeting at Havant, Saturday, April 22nd, 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea, 5 p.m., at Bear Hotel.—R. G. Stone, 16, Penhale Road, Portsmouth.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Hunts Branch. —Meeting at Eynesbury, Saturday, April 22nd. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. (if it can be arranged).—H. J. Parker, Dis. Sec., Great Staughton.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting at Lincoln, Saturday, April 29th. Bells, Cathedral (12) 2 to 3 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m., St. Giles' (8) and St. Peter at Gowts' (6) by arrangement. Business meeting at 3 p.m. in Chapter House. Evensong 4 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—F. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec., Blankney, Lincoln.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Cambridge, Saturday, April 29th. St. Bene't's bells 2.30-4 p.m.; Great St. Mary's 2.45. Service 4.15. Committee meeting 3.45 p.m. General meeting after service in Consistory Court.—K. Willers.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—Meeting at Bugbrooke, Saturday, April 29th. Committee meeting 3.45 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea provided. — R. S. Cowley, 83, Beech Avenue, Northampton.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District. — Meeting at Biddenham, Saturday, April 29th. Own tea arrangements.—Frank C. Tysoe, Dis. Sec.

HIGH WYCOMBE.—Ringing, Saturday, April 29th, 3 to 4.30 and 6.30 to 8. Sunday, April 30th, 10.15 to 11 and 5.55 to 6.30.—Ralph Coles, 27, Priory Road, High Wycombe.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.— Meeting at St. Nicholas', Wallasey, Saturday, April 29th, 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Tea 6 p.m. Names by April 24th. — Harry Brocklebank, Hon. Sec., 30, South Hill Road, Birkenhead.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Crewkerne Deanery.—Meeting at Barrington, Saturday, April 29th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Names for tea by April 25th.—J. T. Locke, Hon. Sec., School Street, Drayton, Taunton.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Thrapston Branch. — Meeting at Ringstead, Saturday, April 29th. Bells (6). Service at 4.30. It is hoped to arrange tea.—W. R. Butcher, Hon. Sec., Brigstock.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District. — Meeting at Whitwick, Saturday, April 29th, 4 p.m. Special business 6 p.m. — A. E. Rowley, Dis. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Annual general meeting at Leeds Parish Church, April 29th, 3 p.m. Business in tower 7 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District. — Meeting, West Hartlepool (St. Oswald's, 10 bells), Saturday, April 29th, 2.30 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. F. Robson, 13, Grainger Street, West Hartlepool, by 27th.—Frank Ainsley, 30, Aysgarth Avenue, Sunderland.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch. — Annual meeting at Wokingham, Saturday, April 29th, 3 p.m. Service in St. Paul's 4 p.m. Tea and meeting in Parish Room. Names for tea by April 25th.—B. C. Castle, Hon. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at Leeds Parish Church, Saturday, May 6th, 2 p.m. Service 3 p.m. Tea (1s. 3d.) in St. Peter's Hall 4 p.m. Names to G. Robinson, 32, Heathfield, Adel, Leeds 6, by May 3rd. General meeting in St. Peter's Schools immediately afterwards.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District. — Meeting at Sandiacre, Saturday, May 6th, 2.30 to 8.30. Tea 1s. 3d. Names to Mr. P. L. Parrott, School House, Lawrence Street, Sandiacre, by Tuesday, May 2nd. Vital business affecting all towers. —T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Meeting at Beckenham, Saturday, May 6th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Names for tea not later than Monday, May 1st, to A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting, Brighton, May 6th. St. Nicholas', 2.30 to 4.30; St. Peter's, 6.30 to 8.30. Service, St. Nicholas', 4.30. Tea 5s. (1s. to members), followed by business meeting. Names by May 1st. Half rail fare, maximum 2s. 6d. to resident members. If outside defence area, send for agenda (1d. stamp).—S. E. Armstrong, Gen. Sec., 21, Kenmure Avenue, Brighton 6.

LAMBETH PARISH CHURCH.—Practices every Wednesday, 7.30 to 9 p.m.—C. M. Meyer.

ST. MARY'S, PUTNEY.—Weekly practices Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Service ringing 2nd and 4th Sundays, 5.30. Other times by arrangement.—W. T. Elson, 59, Pursers Cross Road, S.W.6.

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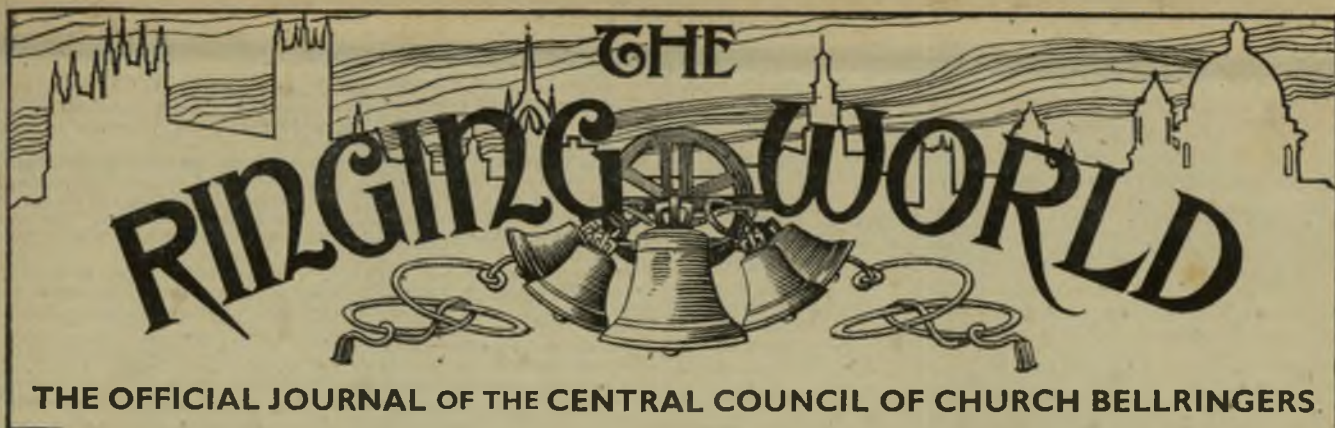
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SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT METHODS.

The number and variety of the methods suitable for ringing are very large, so large that we may look on them as unlimited, but there is a very small group which has proved itself to be by far the best for practical purposes. These standard methods, as we call them, differ among themselves very much. Some are very simple, and some are very difficult. Some will produce the best music that change ringing is capable of, and some are distinctly defective in that respect. Some will readily produce the extent of the changes required, and some are very liable to falseness. But, however much they may differ, they have this in common, that they have been tried by the experience of more than two centuries and have stood the test.

Grandsire is one of these methods, and it is unnecessary and almost absurd to stress the merits of Grandsire. It is very simple, of course, as a method; but it is always interesting to ring, and always interesting to call, whether on seven or nine bells. It is always worth listening to, and the music of Grandsire Caters is hardly equalled by anything else. We are assuming that the striking is what it should be.

Stedman is another method whose popularity is never likely to fade. Plain Bob, considered as an end in itself, is not so good as either of these two, though it has many merits, but as a stage in progress and a stepping-stone to other things, whether actual ringing, or conducting, or composing, it is unrivalled. Kent Treble Bob, better than almost anything else, lends itself to the production of that musical rhythm which is one of the greatest charms of ringing.

For very many years the Exercise was content with these few methods which were able to give ringers all the majority of them asked for. The time came, however, when the fascination of the more difficult methods was discovered. First one or two more skilful companies began to practise the Surprise methods, then an increasing number, until at present Cambridge is as extensively rung as Stedman was sixty years ago.

This is all to the good provided that ringers do not deceive themselves by false values, and do not go astray after false ideals. The value of ringing, either to those who take part in it, or to those who listen to it, is not to be measured solely by the difficulty of the method. Difficulty is one of the main attractions in ringing, but it is by no means the only one. Many ringers think it

(Continued on page 174.)

more meritorious to ring Cambridge than Treble Bob. It may be so in some cases, but Cambridge is not really very difficult, and a first class band would probably find that it would tax their abilities just as much to ring a first class peal of Treble Bob as it would to ring a first class peal of Cambridge. Whether one would be as interesting to ring as the other would depend not on the method, but on the spirit in which the ringers faced it.

It is a matter for discussion whether the present popularity of Cambridge is altogether an advantage. The method has many good qualities, but it has also many serious defects. It cannot be denied that it has made good its claim to be a standard method, but whether it deserves its present reputation is another matter.

Now there is a method which is really worth ringing by any company, and that is Double Norwich. However it is judged it will stand the test. Its merits, of course, no one would venture openly to deny; but it is pretty certain that the majority of ringers rank it below Cambridge, and few bands who had met for a peal would ring Double Norwich if they were able to attempt Cambridge. There they would be wrong. There is scarcely one thing in which Double Norwich is not much superior to Cambridge. Unfortunately, too many people have got into the habit of looking on the latter as one of the select Surprise class, and the former as only a half-way stage between the elementary methods and what they suppose are the highest group.

OPEN LEADS AND OTHERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—And so, according to his letter in your issue of April 7th, my old friend, David Vincent, is advocating the closed lead—what he calls 'cartwheeling.' Well, everybody to his taste, of course. Personally, I prefer the rhythm brought by the open lead, as practised so well (we proudly think) in the six-bell days of St. John's, Leytonstone, where, incidentally, Mr. Vincent spent much time and rang so many 720's; and they were not too fat—those open leads, either. A band cannot put up a 720 of (say) Spliced Surprise, with a 15 cwt. tenor, in 23 or 25 minutes—bells half-down, and well struck, and use 'fat' open leads. But the slightest of pauses were always there, and with them came the rhythm so dear to most of us.

I do not take issue on the question for or against, however. What has got my goat is the reason offered in support—the sympathy for six-bell towers being short of the octave. Let me say, now, that in our heyday of six-bell ringing we thought ourselves the salt of the earth—alas, we now possess eight, and, curiously enough, we no longer ring six by desire—only if we are short. Perhaps, in time, we, too, shall look down on 'those poor six-bell fellers,' but our memories of our six-bell ringing are too recent for that. All power to their elbows and to their fat open leads.

And do not let Mr. Vincent's letter convince anyone that the emphasis on the Minor matters a hoot. The ringer, outside, would not require the open lead to inform him that it was Minor; the layman, outside, would neither know—nor care! Listen to one of our pet crooners on the radio, wearily drooling through some song or another, without the slightest shade or expression, and you have the analogy. 'Music' in ringing—bah! Rhythm—yes. Talk of music, as such, is so much hokey, so much 'banging of the drum' by the highbrows of the ringing world. What, then, is left? Only the rhythm of the open lead—may it live for ever.

G. DAWSON, Hon. Sec., St. John's, Leytonstone.

Sir,—As a six-bell cartwheeler, I feel that I must take up my pen in defence of Mr. Vincent, and help to defend him in the criticism from Mr. Reynolds.

Without wishing to detract from anything Mr. Reynolds may have seen, heard or done, it may probably be that Mr. Reynolds has never heard any genuine cartwheeling, rung practically faultless, and maybe is denouncing something he knows not of.

However, although I know what is meant by open leads, I am afraid I am unaware of any ruling as to how much pause there shall be between the last bell of a back stroke change, and the first bell of a hand stroke change, on any number of bells, and even if Mr. Reynolds can enlighten me as to such a ruling, I am afraid that the ringers of two such nearby counties as Lancashire and Yorkshire put different interpretations on this ruling.

566, Halifax Road, Liversedge, Yorks.

F. HODGSON.

DEATH OF FLIGHT-SERGT. BRIAN WAYMAN.

The war claimed another victim from the younger members of the Exercise when Flight-Sergt. Ashley Joseph Brian Wayman recently met his death in the course of his duty.

Sergt. Wayman, it will be remembered, was married last September at Surfleet to Enid, only child of Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson, a wedding which attracted much interest among ringers and for which two peals of Stedman Cinques and two others were rung. The best man at the wedding was killed a few weeks later while returning from operations.

Before joining the R.A.F., Sergt. Wayman had been in the Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regt. He served in France and Belgium in the early stages of the war, and was among the last to be evacuated from Dunkirk. He was in his twenty-sixth year.

Before the war he was a member of the band at Kingston-on-Thames. He rang a few peals for the London County Association and was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths and the Middlesex County Association. His last peal was one of Grandairs Doubles at Whimple in Devonshire on February 26th in this year. He conducted the peal.

At their meeting last Saturday a vote of condolence was passed by the Society of College Youths, and the deepest sympathy will be widely felt in the Exercise with Mr. Rupert Richardson and his family.

STONEY AND CHANGE RINGING.

To the Editor.

Sir,—With reference to a recent leading article and correspondence, I venture to send you some ideas on the teaching of change ringing to 'stoney' bands. My ringing days are over I suspect; but during a lifetime experience mainly with 'stoney' bands I have tried to flog out some of the difficulties, and these notes may prove useful to others.

The good 'stoney' bands are experts. They aim at perfection in rounds, rising and falling and often in call changes. A bell the slightest trifle out of place is looked upon with horror.

It follows that they have to be made interested in change ringing and that this can only be done by letting them hear a perfect band, which can perfectly rise, ring the bells in rounds and at the end of their touch or peal lower the bells perfectly. Only in this way can they realise that there is something to be learnt beyond what they can do perfectly. An indifferent change ringing band, especially if the tenor is turned in, cuts no ice at all, as they are incapable of appreciating the difficulties and only hear the resultant noise.

When sufficiently interested to learn, go very slow, aiming all the time at learning something new whilst retaining the striking.

Stage A. Get rid of the belfry cards of changes and encourage call changes by rope-sight. Gradually quicken the calling until changes can be made every other handstroke. All this is perfectly understandable and they can appreciate it.

Stage B. Start dodging 2 and 3, 4 and 5 with treble leading and tenor behind; six bells is quite enough. Then vary by 1 and 2, 4 and 5, and let them ring this for Sunday services when they are proficient.

Stage C. Lead them on to plain hunting, one bell at a time, treble up behind and back to lead; come into rounds, give them time to think and then start with 2 and so on.

Stage D. Plain hunt with all bells except tenor. Call it 'original' and you will show them that you have now got on to a method.

Stage E. Take one of the simplest methods.

In no practice night should the old ringing ever be neglected, and always end up with some good rounds and fall. I am certain that most of the difficulties and most of the bad ringing is due to trying to force unwilling ringers and pushing the willing on too fast. C.F.J.

TEACHING A BAND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should just like to say how much I appreciated your leaders on 'Seeing' and 'Stoney,' and the following short account of the progress of the Wadhurst band will show you why.

Although the bells have always been rung regularly for both services, there has not been a method band here for nearly 40 years. Of that band only one survives, and he can only come on Sundays. With the help of the other ringers I proceeded as follows: Four ladies and two men learnt singly 'dumb,' singly 'open,' rounds on four 'dumb,' rounds on six 'open.' Black-out then prevented tower practice. Practising at home with handbells single handed. I explained hunting, call changes were used, stopping in each change till each one could see how the bell had moved one position. Calls became quicker, then whole pulls, then to half-pulls.

Tower practice again, half-pull changes on 2, 3 and 4, then 2, 3, 4, 5. After learning to lead we now have plain hunting on five bells. Quite successful while tenor covers, but on the back five not so successful, and I do not intend going any further until they can hunt without a cover bell, then I hope to start on Plain Bob Minimus on the front four, then Doubles, and some day to Minor. I have been told that it is practically impossible for one man to teach a band, but with the foregoing idea it has been quite simple.

C. A. BASSETT.

Wadhurst, Tunbridge Wells.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

KINGSTON, DORSET.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, April 10, 1944, in Three Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes;

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).

Tenor 28½ cwt. in D.

*WILLIAM J. G. HISCOCK ... Treble	HERBERT A. MITCHELL ... 5
*LIONEL H. PINK ... 2	SERG. P. H. TOCOK ... 6
*DR. A. M. CUNNINGHAM ... 3	WILLIAM C. SHUTE ... 7
FRANK HAYSON ... 4	†CECIL H. LUFF ... Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM C. SHUTE.

* First peal of Triples. † First peal and first attempt.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 22, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Consisting of 1,472 Bristol, 1,408 Cambridge, 1,408 Superlative and 768 London, with 126 changes of method. Tenor 15 cwt.

FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... Treble	CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... 5
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 2	*EDWIN JENNINGS ... 6
FRANCIS KIRK ... 3	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 7
FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW ... 4	MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT ... Tenor

Composed by A. J. BITMAN. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER

* 100th peal for the Hertford Association.

KINGHAM, OXON.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Saturday, April 22, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 12 cwt.

*ALAN WHITE ... Treble	§BETTY SPICE ... 5
†MARGARET D. TELFORD ... 2	HARRY MILES ... 6
JOHN E. SPICE ... 3	REV. C. ELLIOTT WIGG ... 7
†JOAN HOLDSWORTH ... 4	||ARTHUR R. BURGESS ... Tenor

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First attempt for a tower-bell peal, first peal in the method and first of Triples. † First peal of Grandsire Triples. § First peal on eight tower bells. || First peal of Grandsire Triples on tower bells. || First attempt for a peal. The conductor's 150th peal and his first tower-bell peal of Triples as conductor. Also the first peal in the method on tower bells for the society.

BURFORD, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 22, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 19½ cwt. in E flat.

*ALBAN R. POYNITZ ... Treble	WILLIAM JUDGE ... 5
BERNARD S. NICHOLS ... 2	WILLIAM J. DIXON ... 6
VALHALLA V. H. HILL ... 3	WALTER F. JUDGE ... 7
WILLIAM C. PORTER ... 4	GEORGE HOLTON ... Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE

* First peal in the method.

WHISTON, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, April 22, 1944, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION OF MIDDLETON'S.

Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 22 lb. in F.

*JACK BROTHWELL ... Treble	*ERNEST A. THORPE ... 5
F. BERNARD DITCHER ... 2	*G. GORDON GRABAM ... 6
J. EDWARD CAWSE ... 3	†ARNOLD HILL ... 7
JOHN H. BROTHWELL ... 4	*JOHN E. TURLEY ... Tenor

Conducted by J. EDWARD CAWSE.

* First peal in the method. † First peal of Cambridge Surprise Major. First peal in the method on the bells.

SIX BELL PEALS.

HITCHAM, BUCKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 15, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Double Court, Double Oxford, St. Clement's, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 6½ cwt. in B.

GEORGE GILBERT ... Treble	WILLIAM HENLEY ... 4
*RICHARD E. PRICE ... 2	H. WILLIAM BARRETT ... 5
WILLIAM WELLING ... 3	TONY PRICE ... Tenor

Conducted by TONY PRICE.

* First peal in seven methods, age 12½ years.

WISTASTON, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 15, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents.

Tenor 6 cwt. 6 lb.

*GEORGE E. PORTER ... Treble	GEORGE LEDSHAM ... 4
RICHARD T. HOLDING ... 2	JOHN E. BROUGH... 5
LT. F. CRAWLEY, R.N.V.R. 3	ALBERT CRAWLEY ... Tenor

Conducted by A. CRAWLEY.

* First peal.

SALISBURY, WILTS.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 22, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores (ten different callings).

Tenor 12½ cwt.

*FREDERICK E. MANN ... Treble	LEONARD HARRIS... 4
JAMES E. FIGGURES ... 2	WILLIAM C. SHUTE ... 5
*WILLIAM A. THEOBALD ... 3	AUSTIN F. YULE ... Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM C. SHUTE.

* First peal. First peal on the bells. Rung for the birthday of Princess Elizabeth.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, April 20, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B.

MRS. JOHN THOMAS ... 1-2	JOHN THOMAS ... 5-6
*WILLIAM L. B. LERSE ... 3-4	MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 7-8

Composed by J. HUNT. Conducted by MRS. G. W. FLETCHER.

* First peal in the method on an inside pair.

TAMWORTH, STAFFORDSHIRE.—On Easter Sunday, for morning service: 840 Stedman Triples: L. B. Hodgetts 1, G. Peers, jun. 2, E. Elton 3, W. H. Curson 4, G. Peers, sen. 5, H. Dakin 6, C. Pratt (conductor) 7, S. Dorkley 8.

LITTLE SHELFORD, CAMBS.—On Easter Sunday, 360 Stedman and 900 Grandsire Doubles: C. W. Cook (conductor) 1, E. H. Finch 2, B. Dean 3, G. Easby 4, A. Hurst 5.

THE-RINGERS' HANDBOOK

by E. S. and M. POWELL.

Containing full and complete instruction from the first handling of a bell to the ringing and conducting of peals of Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob.

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Staverton Vicarage, near Daventry.

BELLS AND THE REFORMATION.

(Continued from page 165.)

Bad government, the changes in religion, and agrarian grievances caused bitter discontent throughout the country, and in the east and the west and the Midland Counties it flamed up into revolt. Everywhere the rebellion was extinguished in blood and after hard fighting. Round Oxford the leaders were hung and, says James Anthony Froude, the historian, 'the bells which had been used to rouse the peasants were taken down and sold for the benefit of the government, leaving only one of the smallest size to tinkle feebly for the English prayers.' He admits in a note that he had found no especial directions for the Oxfordshire bells, but says that 'there was a general order of council applying to all the disturbed districts, and I see no reason why Oxfordshire should be spared.' Froude was wrong.

Further west in Cornwall and Devon the revolt was much more serious and was not put down without great difficulty. The leader on the Government side was John, Lord Russell, one of the new landowners who had been enriched by abbey lands and was afterwards Earl of Bedford and the founder of the present ducal house. To him, after the suppression of the rebellion, the Council sent the following letter:—

'After our hearty Commendations to your Lordship. Whereas the rebels of the counties of Devonshire and Cornwall have used the bells in every parish as an instrument to stir the multitude and call them together; thinking good to have this occasion of tempting the like hereafter to be taken away from them, and remembering withal by the taking down of them the King's Majesty may have some commodity towards his great charges that way, we have thought good to pray your good lordship to give orders for the taking down of the said bells in all the churches within these two counties leaving in every church one bell the least of the ring that now is in the same which may serve to call the parishioners together for the sermon and divine service. In the doing thereof we require your lordship to use such moderation as the same may be done with as much quietness and as little offence of the common people as may be and thus we bid your lordship most hearty farewell. From Westminster September 12 1549.'

This is signed not only by the Duke of Somerset and such old and experienced civil servants as Sir William Paget and Sir William Petre, but also (be it noted) by Archbishop Cranmer.

This order is explicit enough, and that the Council not only intended the bells should be pulled down, but thought that they actually had been pulled down, is shown by the following entry in the Patent Roll of Edward the Sixth: 'Whereas of late the bells of churches or chapels in Devon, Cornwall and the City of Exeter were by command of the Earl of Bedford, Privy Seal, late the king's lieutenant in those parts, taken down all save one bell in each church to call the people to divine service: Grant to the king's servant, Sir Arthur Champernon, knight, and John Chechester esquire all the Clappers of the said bells so taken down with all the iron and other furnyshire of them. Westminster, 2nd December, 1550.'

Nevertheless, it is quite certain that the bells were not taken down. This is evident not only from the fact

that many of them still remain, representatives of the much greater number which from one cause or another have been recast during four centuries; but also from the inventories taken a few years after the rebellion, and when the churches were despoiled of nearly all their goods and ornaments the commissioners were empowered 'to sell or cause to be sold to our use all parcels or pieces of metal except the metal of great bells and saunce bells.'

Russell may have attempted to remove some of the bells and found the public feeling was so strong on the point that he did not think it worth while to risk a further outbreak. He was on the spot, he was a singularly level-headed person, he knew how hardly the recent revolt had been put down, and there was the saving clause in his letter of instructions to fall back upon.

It was to these incidents that Strype was referring when he wrote of the Duke of Somerset: 'He is generally charged for the great spoil of churches and chapels; defacing ancient tombs and monuments, and pulling down the bells in parish churches and ordering only one bell a steeple as sufficient to call the people together, which set the commonality almost in a rebellion.'

A modern person might think it ridiculous to suppose that the Englishmen who three or four years later saw their churches stripped bare of ornaments without any overt protest (whatever they may have thought or said among themselves) would have risen in rebellion to defend the bells in the steeples, but it is undoubtedly the fact that those bells had a place in men's affections which is difficult for us nowadays wholly to realise. They were something much more than instruments which ministered to the service of religion. They were part of the very life and soul of the people, secular as well as religious. Nothing connected with the parish church was so much valued as the bells in the steeple, on nothing else were the people prepared to spend so much money, and nothing else did the laity so much keep in their own hands and control. In addition, ringing had already become a popular pastime, and by confiscating the bells the government would have outraged the feelings of every class of man.

The Duke of Somerset, headstrong and reckless in doing what he believed to be right, not too disinterested to enrich himself out of church property, and influenced by men far more rapacious than himself, was prepared to flout public opinion and loot the church bells; but his hour of power was a short one, and after his fall the Council, though they still hankered after the bells and formally took possession of them, seem to have come to the conclusion that the game was not worth the candle.

With the government setting so bad an example it was inevitable that other people should try to follow it and attempt to seize church bells for their own purposes. The rebellion in Norfolk began in some dispute between the people and a local gentleman who had taken down the lead and bells of the abbey church at Wymondham, though that matter was quickly lost sight of in the larger question of enclosures and other agrarian grievances. The parishioners of Orleston in Yorkshire complained that two bells in the chapel of Tokington in the same parish had been removed by Sir M. Petrie. 'Bishop Bulkley of Bangor, anno 1541, not content to

alienate the lands and weaken the estate, resolved to rob it also of its bells (for fear perhaps of having any knells rung out at church funerals) and not content to sell the bells which were five in number he would needs satisfie himself with seeing them conveyed on board ship, and had scarce given himself that satisfaction but was immediately struck blind and so continued from that day to the day of his death.'

At Steyning in Sussex there appears to have been some unauthorised sale of bells, for the Council sent 'a letter of thanks to the Lorde Laware for his paynes taken in sending up James Norton and bowlting out of the hole circumstance of his and others doinges touching the sale of belles and other thinges. Requiring his lordship to call before hym and summe other Justices of the Peace of that Countie the parishioners of Steyning causing suche of them as by theyr examinacions shall appear faultie in the matter to be committed to warde there to remayne untill they shall put in sufficient bond for the restitution of all those things that they have solde or the juste value thereof to the Kinges use and to stand such furdre ordre for theyr contempt as shalbe awarded against them.'

Very often old documents suggest some drama but give no clue to its action. When John Ely and Thomas Chapman broke into St. Giles' Church at Norwich and stole three bell clappers and some organ pipes it seems merely a commonplace theft like scores of others that take place every year. But why did it come before the Council, and why did the Council grant a pardon? No doubt there was something behind it all, and Ely and Chapman were agents for some more influential persons. 'Whereas John Ely smythe and Thomas Chapman

laborer both of Norwich are indicted of having on 9 Dec. 6 Edward VI broken into the parish church of St. Giles in the Ward of Mancrofte between 9 and 12 p.m. and stolen three bell clappers weighing 104 pounds and worth 16s., 200 lez organ pipes worth 16s. and two lez rochettes worth 11½d. the property of the parishioners in the custody of the churchwardens. Pardon to the said John Ely and Thomas Chapman for the said felony.'

(To be continued.)

SERVICE TOUCHES.

BOB MAJOR.

1,264					1,264				
23456	W	B	M	R	23456	W	B	M	R
35264	—	—	—	—	23564	—	—	—	—
42356	—	—	—	—	45236	—	—	—	—
34256	—	—	—	—	24536	—	—	—	—
25346	—	—	—	—	24365	—	—	—	—
32546	—	—	—	—	32465	—	—	—	—
53246	—	—	—	—	43265	—	—	—	—
24536	—	—	—	—	52436	—	—	—	—
52436	—	—	—	—	35426	—	—	—	—
23564	—	—	—	—	42356	—	—	—	—
45236	—	—	—	—	34256	—	—	—	—
23456	—	—	—	—	23456	—	—	—	—
1,264					1,280				
23456	W	B	M	R	23456	W	B	M	R
52436	—	—	—	—	23564	—	—	—	—
43526	—	—	—	—	52364	—	—	—	—
24365	—	—	—	—	35264	—	—	—	—
32465	—	—	—	—	42356	—	—	—	—
43265	—	—	—	—	42563	—	—	—	—
24536	—	—	—	—	54326	—	—	—	—
32546	—	—	—	—	32546	—	—	—	—
54326	—	—	—	—	24365	—	—	—	—
35426	—	—	—	—	53246	—	—	—	—
35264	—	—	—	—	45236	—	—	—	—
23456	—	—	—	—	23456	—	—	—	—

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MUFFLES,
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THE RINGING WORLD.

**The official journal of the Central Council of
Church Bell Ringers.**

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER,
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

Will all Secretaries of Associations who have not already sent the names and addresses of their representatives, please do so without further delay, and also remit any affiliation fees outstanding.

G. W. FLETCHER,
Hon. Sec.

A handbell peal of Stedman Caters rung at Edmonton last week was reported without the name of the ringer of the tenors. It should have been 'John Thomas 9-10.'

One peal of Painswick College Bob should be added to the list of peals rung by the late Derek Sharp.

Members of the Essex Association should note that the meeting which had been arranged for Hornchurch to-morrow has been cancelled, as the tower is within the prohibited area. Instead a meeting will be held at Woodford on May 13th.

DEATH OF MR. THOMAS B. WORSLEY.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Thomas B. Worsley, of Bolton, who passed away last Sunday at the age of 57 years.

Mr. Worsley, who was a past vice-president of the Lancashire Association and a member of the Central Council, had not only an outstanding career as a practical ringer, but was a composer of exceptional merit. The funeral was yesterday at St. Mary's, Deane, Bolton.

MR. NORMAN H. MANNING.

It has been learnt that Mr. Manning, of whom no news had been received since the invasion of Italy, has escaped and is possibly on his way to England. Mr. Manning was taken prisoner at Tobruk. Readers may remember a reference in a letter from Mr. R. Darvill, recently published in these columns, to the effect that Mr. Dennis Brock, of Sunbury, had met Mr. Manning at a P.O.W. camp in Italy.

FIFTY YEARS AGO.

'Norwich. The Norwich Diocesan Association and the St. Peter Mancroft Society. On Thursday, April 26th, 1894, in Five Hours, at the parish rooms, St. Peter Mancroft, on handbells retained in hand, a peal of Bob Major, 11,200 changes. J. Armiger Trollope 1-2, George P. Burton 3-4, John E. Burton 5-6, Charles E. Borrett 7-8. Composed by J. Armiger Trollope and Conducted by Charles E. Borrett. Umpires—A. W. Brighton and G. Howchin. This is the longest peal ever rung on handbells in any method, and the longest in Norwich for 157 years.'—'The Bell News.'

MAIDENHEAD.—On April 10th, at All Saints', 1,260 Stedman Triples: J. Bales 1, T. Goodchild 2, W. Welling 3, H. Wingrove 4, W. Walker 5, J. Fowler 6, J. Eldridge (conductor) 7, H. Baldwin 8.

LONDON.—At St. Giles-in-the-Fields, on Sunday, April 16th, 1,280 Superlative Surprise Major: W. Nudds 1, J. A. Trollope 2, C. T. Coles (conductor) 3, E. C. S. Turner 4, W. Hewitt 5, T. J. Lock 6, L. E. Last 7, J. Bennett 8.

RINGING AND LIFE.

By F. E. HAYNES.

It frequently happens in the life of men, and indeed in the life of a nation, that a point is reached where serious thought has to be given to the future, and important decisions have to be taken. We stand, as it were, at the cross-roads, and upon our choice of road depends our future success or failure, survival or extermination. At such a point, I feel, ringing finds itself to-day. Are we setting our feet upon the right path? Are we proceeding in the right direction? This essay is, in the main, an attempt partly to answer, but mainly to stimulate inquiry into these questions.

Consider first the purely physical question of muscular exertion, something that we rarely think of, but which undeniably contributes to the value of ringing. This exertion, if continued for some considerable period of time, will in itself produce a pleasurable feeling of 'delicious fatigue,' akin to that experienced after an afternoon's digging, or a really vigorous walk. The resultant thirst, incidentally, is no wise inferior to that acquired by these alternative methods! But the present generation may claim that in these days of ball-bearings and super-scientific bell-hanging, when a bell of fifteen hundredweight can be rung 'by a girl of ten with a piece of cotton,' the value of bell ringing as physical exercise is rapidly disappearing. Although, be it noted, this need not be the case. For, is it not possible to put as much exertion into ringing a perfectly-hung and easy-going little bell as any of our ancestors did into the manipulation of a thirty-hundredweight odd-struck, non-lubricated, lopsided tenor of a century or more ago?

Are there not among our number some who, by pulling hard and checking hard both at handstroke and backstroke, succeed in exerting the maximum of effort in the minimum of time! These might be called the 'spendthrift of energy'; yet are they not more worthy than those who go to the other extreme and fear to exert a hundredth of a foot pound of energy more than is just sufficient to allow the other fellow to get his bell clear of theirs? And who can resist a smile when one of these, who does not trouble to bring his bell properly to the balance and is unable to hold it there, allows his bell to 'slip wheel' in the middle of a course of London specially arranged at his request? For is it not true that this form of exertion, this dislike of work, is often accompanied by a slack rope?

But we digress. These physical considerations are comparatively unimportant: as in life, so in bell ringing, there are aesthetic, mental and even moral aspects that bring far greater satisfaction. Inherent in every man there is a desire to do something, to achieve something worth while, to produce something different, or to go 'one better than the next man.' What fertile soil is provided by bell ringing for the cultivation and satisfaction of these desires? We can ring longer than any one has ever done before; we can join together more

methods than was even thought possible; we can attempt to ring a tenor of $x+2$ tons, where x =the heaviest yet; we can call a composition of Stedman Triples with a call at every six-end; we can ring a peal half-an-hour quicker than has ever been done before! Our ambition can, indeed, to abandon irony, be satisfied in many different ways.

When we first start to ring we are at once presented with an obstacle to overcome, a difficulty to conquer—we are asked to manage the patently unmanageable and to control the obviously uncontrollable, we have to 'handle' our bell. How easy it seems to us when first we poke our timorous noses round the belfry corner, and watch the sallies rise and fall in regular succession! How easy, of course, to the uninitiated, does anything appear when performed by experts: how difficult when first we ourselves try to do likewise!

It is this initial difficulty, overcome by some in a few weeks, by more in months or years, by many not at all, that really makes bell-ringing worth while, and which, rightly regarded, gives encouragement to the learner to proceed. At the same time, too, it is this initial difficulty that tests the character, the will power, the stamina of the would-be campanologist, and ensures that those who go on to further fields are of the right kind. At least it should do so. Do we always make sure that this initial difficulty has been overcome before we proceed to the next step, the ringing of rounds? Then from rounds to changes, from Minor to Major, from plain courses to touches, from touches to peals, from Caters to Cinques—do we always make certain that the pupil is ready for the next step? Alas, how many there are in our belfries who have never placed their foot firmly upon the bottom rung of the ladder, but have, nevertheless, been pushed, some half-way up, some almost to the top, to the detriment of the Exercise at large? A man who could not learn to handle an oar would never be given a place in his college 'eight'; after a week or two his captain would suggest that he find some other outlet for his energies. Why, then, are recruits who obviously are going to find it a task of the utmost difficulty ever to handle a bell properly persisted with, often with the result that others endowed with greater aptitude are discouraged at their own slow rate of progress, become irregular in their attendance at practice, and finally disappear? Why are such recruits not politely thanked for their interest and efforts and then kindly but firmly advised to find some other hobby more adapted to their particular capabilities?

I would suggest that it is due to a quite unwarranted fear that our art is dying out. This fear is, of course, accentuated and in many places apparently justified by the special circumstances prevailing to-day, which have doubtless led to a temporary dearth of ringers in many belfries. But surely that is no reason why we should be unduly anxious to admit ever-increasing numbers of recruits, with a consequent decrease in the standard of

(Continued on next page.)

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RINGING AND LIFE.

(Continued from previous page.)

striking? One tendency of life to-day is to make everything easy of access to all and sundry—education, entry into the professions, entertainment of every kind, to give just three examples. This tendency is, I suppose, one would say democratic, but who can claim with certainty that it is going to be of any great ultimate benefit to our race? Similarly the tendency in ringing to-day is to open wider our belfry doors to all who may care to enter, to make each step up the ladder more easy. Here again I must confess to doubts of any ultimate benefit.

To my mind we should do well to make our towers not more easy, but more difficult of access, not only to beginners, but also even to visitors. This is dangerous ground that I now tread, and I can hear many of my readers pouring ridicule upon my head. Before they throw the paper down in disgust, however, would they ask themselves this question, 'When do we get the best ringing?' Is not the answer: We get the best ringing when there are just enough of us present to man the ropes, when the Vicar does not bring up a crowd of visitors to 'see the bells rung,' when there is nothing to distract our attention from the matter in hand?

Particularly since the raising of the ban, the interest shown in ringers and ringing by people who can be of no possible use to the Exercise has been almost embarrassing. At the time it was felt, not least by myself, that this interest would be of great help to us, but now I am not so certain.

The nature of bell-ringing is, I think, such that if we are to maintain a high standard, then we must be exclusive, and we must be chary of admitting newcomers to our circle too readily. But, then, some will say, many of our bells are doomed to a long silence! So then I would say, 'Why not? Better that some bells should be silent now, at any rate on Sundays, if it means an eventual return of really good striking in service ringing, which surely should be our main concern. Quantity rather than quality is an inevitable result of the mass production of the age; let us beware lest that become the prevailing fashion in ringing also.

(To be continued.)

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES

LINCOLN.—On Easter Sunday at the Cathedral, 1,260 Stedman Triples: A. Howes 1, T. W. Taffender (conductor) 2, H. Lowman 3, L. Snell 4, J. A. Freeman 5, L. Pask 6, J. Walden 7, A. Marcon 8.

TERRINGTON ST. JOHN, NORFOLK.—On Easter Sunday, 720 Double Court Minor: J. W. Rodwell 1, T. Bunting 2, G. Hockley 3, E. Bunting 4, W. Cousins (conductor) 5, C. Cousins 6.

PUTNEY.—On Easter Sunday, 630 Grandsire Triples: J. Bilby 1, P. A. Corby 2, C. E. Cassell 3, J. Kent 4, G. R. H. Smith 5, A. Williams 6, W. T. Elson (composer and conductor) 7, J. Winter 8.

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS.—On April 9th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: *Miss V. Maberly 1, Miss P. Marsh 2, L. H. Pink 3, †G. Wareham 4, H. E. White (conductor) 5, *D. King 6. *First quarter-peal. †First quarter-peal inside.

GLASGOW.—At St. Mary's Cathedral on Easter Day, 1,239 Stedman Caters: R. O. Street 1, H. F. Sargent 2, P. O. F. J. Cheal, R.N. (first quarter-peal of Caters) 3, F. Wilson 4, R. G. Townsend 5, E. W. Yates 6, E. Bounphrey 7, E. A. Stafford 8, W. H. Pickett (conductor) 9, A. E. Haines 10.

DORCHESTER, DORSET.—On April 15th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples half-muffled for the late C. H. Jennings. Miss P. Marsh (first quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples) 1, L. H. Pink 2, A. F. Martin Stewart 3, F. B. Stedman 4, Sgt. P. Toccock 5, J. Squire 6, W. C. Shute (conductor) 7, D. W. C. Chant 8.

SELWORTHY, NEAR MINEHEAD, SOMERSET.—On Sunday, April 16th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: D. Farmer 1, M. Arscott 2, R. Arscott 3, L. Arscott 4, H. L. Arscott (conductor) 5, W. Pugsley 6. First quarter-peal by all except conductor.

WOOL.—On April 21st, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Sgt. P. Toccock (conductor) 1, *L. Williams 2, W. Sturmer 3, *A. Dorey 4, J. Sturmer 5, *H. Stevens 6. *First quarter-peal.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BRENTFORD.

The annual meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association was held at Brentford on April 15th, and was attended by about 30 members and friends from Brentford, Ealing (Christ Church, St. Mary's and St. Stephen's), Heston, Hillingdon (St. John's), Hounslow, Leytonstone, Ruislip, Swindon, Twickenham, Uxbridge and Weybridge. The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise Minor.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. W. Paton. Before the lesson, a course of Grandsire Caters was rung on handbells in the chancel by J. A. Trollope, J. Herbert, E. C. S. Turner, F. W. Goodfellow and T. G. Bannister.

Cups of tea were provided in the Church Hall by the Vicar and Mrs. Paton, and the annual business meeting followed.

The vice-president, Mr. J. A. Trollope, proposed the Vicar as an honorary member of the association and referred to his many acts of kindness to the society. Reference was made to the recent tragic death by enemy action of Mr. W. R. Madgwick. The hon. secretary's report was read and adopted, and the accounts were presented by Mr. E. C. S. Turner, and showed an amount of £8 handed over to the treasurer out of a total received of £9.

The election of officers resulted as follows: Hon. district secretary, Mr. J. E. Lewis Cockey; assistant hon. district secretary, Mr. W. G. Wilson. It was desired to keep Mr. Wilson in this position, although he is still on service in North Africa, and Mr. T. G. Bannister agreed to carry out any necessary duties. The secretary was requested to write Mr. Wilson, conveying good wishes from everyone present. Mr. E. C. S. Turner was re-elected Ringing Master, with Mr. T. G. Bannister as deputy. Messrs. F. G. Baldwin, F. W. Goodfellow and G. M. Kilby were elected to the Central Committee, and Messrs. E. C. S. Turner and J. C. Churchill as auditors. One new member was elected, Mr. W. Architon, of St. Mary's, Ealing.

Two summer meetings were arranged—St. Margaret's, Uxbridge, for June 10th, with Cranford to follow later. A discussion as to the possibility of appointing an official instructor for the district was initiated by Mr. A. Harding, but it was not felt that the time was opportune; and the question of the preservation of a valuable old peal board at St. John's, Hillingdon, was raised by Mr. J. J. Platt, of Hillingdon.

Ringing took place later in the evening at St. Mary's, Ealing, touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Major being brought round.

BELLS IN INDIA.

A LETTER FROM MR. A. P. CANNON.

We have received a letter from Mr. A. P. Cannon, who tells of some of the bells in India he has had an opportunity of visiting. On February 11th he met Mr. Edward Rapley, of West Grinstead, at Poona, and the two visited the Church of the Holy Name in that city. 'The church is R.C.,' says Mr. Cannon. 'It has a very tall and slenderly built detached tower of brick, and did not at all look the best place to hang a heavy peal. We climbed up five floors and eventually found a most pleasant sight—a modern ring of eight hung by John Taylors in 1894, complete with wheels, Hastings slays and sliders, and hung in a massive iron frame on the "H" pattern. There were no ropes and the bearings were clogged with 50 years of accumulation of grit and dust.

'Enquiries from a few of the older inhabitants revealed that owing to the tower being cracked the bells had not been rung since the day they were opened, and even then it is very doubtful if they had been swung, probably only chimed. It did seem such a waste of money and good bell metal for a splendid peal like these to be hanging silent and unattended for so many years. But I suppose this will continue for a long time yet, as even if they were put in order again and the tower strengthened it is very doubtful if any ringers could be trained to man them—certainly none of the "locals."

'We came away with a real feeling of regret that such was the condition of what could be, if hung in the right tower, a magnificent and active peal.

'Peals in India are very rare and I am trying to collect all the information I can about them. At Lahore Cathedral there is a peal of six, tenor 20 cwt., hung in the approved style in 1904 by Taylors, but in a bad state of repair. On Easter Sunday, 1942, I did succeed in raising the tenor until the sally was bobbing up and down, but to raise it any more was a physical impossibility, especially as the temperature was in the neighbourhood of 100 degrees.

'The Afghan Mission Church, Colaba, Bombay, has a clime of eight, tenor 14 cwt., hung by Mears and Steinbank in 1904, which I chimed one Sunday morning, and at Madras the same firm sent a ring of eight, tenor 20 cwt., in 1871, but in what condition these are in I do not yet know.'

'There are also chimes of six at Darjeeling and five at St. Paul's Cathedral, Calcutta, which I have visited. But the Church of the Holy Name, Poona, seems to be the nearest approach to home conditions that one can expect in India, and we were both very thrilled at having an opportunity of inspecting them.

'If anyone has any more knowledge of rings of bells, five or more, in India, I should be delighted to hear about them.'

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**ANNUAL MEETING.**

The sixty-fourth annual general meeting of the Kent County Association was held at Maidstone on Easter Monday and attracted a fairly representative gathering, nearly 100 attending.

The committee met in the morning, and service in All Saints' Church was conducted by the Vicar, Canon A. O. Standen, who gave an address. A collection for the Benevolent Fund realised £2 0s. 3d.

Tea was in the Corn Exchange, and Mr. F. White was voted to the chair at the general meeting.

The hon. secretary (Mr. F. M. Mitchell) read the annual report. He said that 19 peals had been rung during 1943, 12 on handbells and seven on tower bells as follows: Spiced Royal (2 methods) 1, Major 11, Triples 1, Minor 4, Doubles 2. Sixteen were rung in Kent and one each in London, Heris and Oxford. J. E. Spice headed the list of conductors with eight, G. R. H. Smith 4, P. A. Corby 2 and Miss Richardson, Messrs. E. H. Lewis, G. H. Cross, L. Head and E. Barnett one each. Spiced Royal in two methods, Plain and Gainsborough Little Bob was rung for the first time for the association.

The number of practising members had not increased during the year, although many had paid the arrears, consequently the income of the general account had suffered. During the year the arrears to 'The Ringing World' and Central Council subscriptions had been paid, and there remained a balance in hand of £87 9s.

No grants had been made from the Belfry Repair Fund, and that balance had increased to £182 6s. 5d. It was expected that calls will be made on the fund when the war is won.

One grant was made from the Benevolent Fund to a deserving member. The income exceeded the expenditure by £15 and the balance stood at £351 4s. 8d.

With the invested funds and the balances in the various accounts the total worth of the association is £1,100 13s. 3d.

Since the last annual meeting the association had lost by death a member of the committee, Mr. W. J. Beer (Gravesend), life member; Messrs. G. Webb (Tunstall), J. W. Steddy (Edenbridge), M. Exeier (Minster, Sheppey), F. E. Pitman (Bromley), R. Smith (Gravesend), W. Lambert (Benenden), and Messrs. W. R. Madgwick and A. J. Turner, non-resident members.

District meetings had been held at Woolwich, Sevenoaks, Shoreham, Hawkhurst, Rainham, Ospringe, East Peckham, Bexley, Leigh, Sturry, Penshurst, Canterbury, Tonbridge, Chislehurst and Tunbridge Wells.

The report was adopted with thanks.

The hon. auditor (Mr. G. H. Cross) submitted the various balance sheets.

The vacancy on the committee caused by the death of Mr. W. J. Beer (Gravesend) was filled by the election of Mr. R. A. Constant (Gravesend) who was also elected on the Benevolent Committee.

It was decided to carry on the trusteeship as formerly, and for the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. W. J. Jeffries (two nominations were received, Mr. E. Barnett (Crayford) and Mr. F. S. Macey (Sutton Valence). Mr. Macey was elected to act with Messrs. F. White (Cranbrook) and G. H. Spice (Sittingbourne).

All the other officers were re-elected. Eight new members were also elected.

It was decided to hold the next annual general meeting at Maidstone.

Votes of thanks were accorded the Vicar, the organist and the chairman.

During the day methods up to Cambridge Royal were rung at All Saints', and various towers in the district were also placed at the disposal of the association.

DEATH OF MR. J. R. TAYLOR.

The death is announced of Mr. J. R. Taylor, of Penwortham, Lancashire, who passed away on April 19th at the age of 84.

Mr. Taylor had been a member of the band at Penwortham for over sixty years and was largely instrumental in increasing the bells to eight. He served the church as churchwarden, sidesman and member of the Parochial Church Council. He rang for the Sunday services as recently as Easter Day and a few weeks before took part in a quarter-peal.

The funeral service was conducted by the Vicar, who was assisted by the curate. The Vicar spoke of the work Mr. Taylor had done for the church. Four members of the band acted as bearers. The tower bells were rung muffled before and after the service, and handbells were rung over the grave by young ringers.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY**MEETING AT EASTWOOD.**

A meeting of the Barnsley and District Society, held at Eastwood, Rotherham on April 15th, was attended by members from Felkirk, Handsworth, Rotherham Parish Church and the local belfry, with Mr. Bradley, of Sutton, Mr. Mansfield and Mr. Pashley, of Grimaby.

The Vicar, the Rev. A. M. Cook, presided at the business meeting and welcomed the ringers. Mention was made of the death of Mr. G. Clark, of Arkey. Mr. Pashley was elected an honorary member and Mr. Field a ringing member.

Thanks were given to the Vicar and to Mr. G. Lee, of the local company.

The ringing included Doubles, Minor, Triples and Major.

ASSOCIATION MEETINGS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I do not agree with Mr. Baldwin's remarks in your last issue. Surely he realises that these are not normal conditions. Referring particularly to the Middlesex County Association, whilst under normal conditions it was possible to keep to a stated Saturday in each month, generally speaking, it is not so now. Neither do I agree that it is the locality and not the date which is in question. In arranging meetings of late, I have encountered difficulties in both directions, and all meetings are now in effect a compromise of conflicting requirements.

As quite a number of people are engaged on war work on Saturdays, I have several times found that only a particular date is suitable for a tower secretary, and often when I have fixed a date I have been told by one or other of the officers that it is not suitable for them. At each of our meetings, the time and place of the next is fixed after full discussion, and I have been particularly careful to see that this item is included in the report in 'The Ringing World,' some time before the official notice is inserted, in order to give anyone interested plenty of time to consider the matter.

Further, I entirely disagree that it should be part of the duties of the secretary to notify all his neighbours of his meetings, under present conditions anyway. They presumably take 'The Ringing World,' and can read the reports, and I have neither the time nor the inclination to write to perhaps half a dozen other secretaries after each of our meetings. On the other hand, at each meeting suggestions are asked for for forthcoming meetings, and it is open for anyone to propose a meeting, joint or otherwise. I would add, too, that I have no recollection of having heard a single suggestion for another joint meeting since that at Hillingdon, but if one is received I shall be only too pleased to act accordingly.

J. L. LEWIS COCKEY, Hon. Dist. Secretary,
Middlesex County Association.

1, Listoke Edgehill Road, W.13.

RAISING A BELL.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I have only recently seen in the March 3rd number of 'The Ringing World' the letter from Mr. A. W. Davis on the mechanics of bell-raising, or I would have written to you sooner on the subject.

To my mind, Mr. Davis is hardly justified in comparing the motion of raising a bell with that of raising a load with block and tackle. In the former case, the bell while on the swing must possess a large amount of kinetic energy of rotation which ultimately must have been provided by the ringer. True, this energy is all given back in the end, but the fact that it must be imparted to the bell and that angular speed must be developed probably account for the heavy work necessary half-way up.

G. A. S. DIBLEY.
5, The Green, Aston Rowant, Lewknor, Oxford.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

SOUTH WIGSTON.—On Easter Sunday, 1,296 Stedman Triples: J. E. Clark 1, A. Patrik 2, G. Deacon 3, S. Cox 4, R. Perry 5, C. Marshall (conductor) 6, J. L. Willars 7, F. Ford 8.

WILLESBOROUGH, KENT.—On Easter Sunday, 840 Doubles: R. Booth 1, J. Ireland 2, E. S. Puck 3, M. Lancefield 4, W. J. Lancefield 5, M. Gilliam 6.

ST. ALBANS.—On Easter Sunday, at St. Peter's, 1,264 Bob Major: R. Smith (first quarter-peal) 1, K. A. Roe, R.A.F. (first in method) 2, E. J. Gale 3, G. Blake 4, R. Dobson 5, A. Dale 6, R. Darvill 7, W. Ayra (conductor) 8.

SOUTHOVER, LEWES.—On Easter Sunday, 720 Bob Minor: T. W. Woolston 1, F. J. Crees 2, B. Heasman 3, G. Wiggins 4, W. J. Coppard 5, R. Hide (conductor) 6.

KINGSTHORPE, NORTHAMPTON.—On Easter Sunday, 720 Bob Minor: Rev. M. L. Couchman 1, H. Parker 2, H. Clarke 3, J. Dunkley 4, G. Parker 5, G. Allard (conductor) 6.

HENLOW, BEDS.—On Easter Sunday, 840 Grandsire Doubles: P. Thompson 1, L. H. Bywaters 2, Wing-Comdr. T. V. Lister 3, I. Church 4, P. W. Tompkins 5, D. Pearson 6.

BROMHAM, BEDS.—On Monday, April 10th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. L. Harlow 1, H. Gayton 2, Miss P. L. Gilbert (first quarter-peal) 3, L. H. Bowler 4, C. H. Harding 5, J. Church 6, L. H. Bywaters (conductor) 7, B. F. Sims 8.

OXHEY HERTS.—On Easter Monday, 1,260 Stedman Triples: *L. Tarr 1, S. Hoare 2, *Sgt. R. Cadamy 3, H. Hodgkiss 4, J. Rootes 5, W. Hodgkiss 6, F. W. Brinklow (conductor) 7, C. Kazer 8. *First quarter-peal of Stedman Triples.

ASHFORD, KENT.—On Sunday, April 16th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. Huckstepp (first quarter-peal) 1, Miss L. Wickens 2, H. C. Castle 3, P. Page 4, W. A. Oldfield 5, H. S. Wickens 6, C. W. Everett (conductor) 7, Dan Godden 8.

HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX.—On Sunday, April 16th at St. Andrew's Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: T. G. Bannister 1, G. H. Gutteridge 2, F. W. Goodfellow 3, P. Jones 4, A. A. Fitch 5, W. S. Childs 6, J. J. Pratt (conductor) 7, C. A. Over 8. Rung on the 50th anniversary of a peal of Grandsire Triples at St. Andrew's, in which the conductor took part.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD. ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Warwickshire Guild, held at Nuneaton on Saturday, April 15th, was attended by over sixty members from Allesley Arley, Bedworth, Birmingham, Bulkington, Chilvers Coton, Coleshill, Stoke, Rugby, Warwick and Wolvey. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. M. Knight, and tea in the Parish Hall was followed by the business meeting, the Vicar taking the chair. Apologies were received from the president, the Rev. F. W. Moyle, Mr. J. F. Smallwood and Mr. L. J. Hinde.

Mr. Pervin's proposition that members under 18 years of age should be admitted free was seconded by Mr. Perrens. Mr. Stote moved an amendment that young members be admitted free, but subject to Rule 14, which would debar them from voting at any meeting. The amendment was defeated.

Mr. Stone's proposition that the subscription should be reduced from 2s. to 1s. 6d., as no reports had been issued since 1939, was supported by Mr. White, but opposed by Messrs. Pervin, Perrens, Beamish, Stote and Beale. The motion was lost.

The report for 1943 showed that three business meetings had been held, at Chilvers Coton, Stoke and Bedworth, with three monthly meetings at Nuneaton, Wolvey and Earl Shilton, the latter combined with the Hinckley District of the Midland Counties Association.

The balance sheet showed a balance in hand of £20 2s. 9d., with £20 in Defence Bonds.

Six peals had been rung during the year, five on handbells in Coventry and one on tower bells at Allesley. Three were Bob Minor, two Bob Major and the tower-bell peal was Cambridge Minor. Four were conducted by Mr. F. E. Pervin and two by Mr. F. W. Perrens.

The Rev. M. Knight was elected president; the Rev. R. T. Murray, Vicar of Chilvers Coton, vice-president; Mr. F. E. Pervin, Master (in place of Mr. J. H. W. White, who held the office for 14 years); Mrs. D. E. Beamish, hon. secretary and treasurer, and Mr. A. H. Beamish, hon. auditor. The Central Council representatives remain as elected in 1939, Mrs. D. E. Beamish and Mr. F. W. Perrens.

Meeting places for the next three months were fixed: Kenilworth, Hampton-in-Arden and Stratford-on-Avon.

New members elected were D. Harwick and H. Wilding, of Allesley; H. Ashley, of Bulkington; H. Folwell, of Keresley; J. Robinson, of Arley; T. Hastings, of Stoke (re-elected); Barbara Moreton (aged 16), Margaret Beamish (aged 8) and Derek Gibbons (aged 9), of Chilvers Coton.

Mr. Pervin suggested that the districts should be revived each with its district secretary. He proposed that a committee be formed to examine the position. Mr. W. Stote seconded and the proposition was carried.

Mr. A. Walker moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, to the ladies who had arranged tea, and to all who had worked for the success of the meeting.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT LEICESTER.

About 200 ringers and friends were present at the annual meeting of the Midland Counties Association, held at Leicester on April 15th. Service at St. Margaret's was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. E. N. Ducker, and the sermon was preached by the Bishop of Leicester.

Tea was served in the Cathedral Church House and over 130 were present, representing some 30 towers from all districts of the association. The president, the Rev. Canon R. F. Wilkinson, presided, supported by Mr. Colin Harrison (vice-president), Miss I. B. Thompson (hon. treasurer), Mr. Ernest Morris (hon. secretary), the Bishop of Leicester, the Very Rev. H. A. Jones (Provost of the Cathedral), the Ven. Archdeacon C. L. Matthews, the Rev. Canon Linwood Wright (St. Mark's) and the Rev. E. Pillifant (St. John's).

Thirty-five ringing and two rejoins were elected. The hon. secretary, in his review of 1943, said that the districts were keeping up Sunday service ringing and practices, though in many cases with depleted bands, and membership had been considerably increased by a number of old lapsed members rejoining, and by a large influx of new members. During the year 10 tower and 13 handbell peals had been rung.

The hon. treasurer reported that the financial position was satisfactory, and an increase in the balance in hand over the previous year was a good sign of interest and progress. The officers were re-elected.

Mr. H. J. Poole brought forward a scheme for the decentralisation of the association into diocesan guilds, having previously sent full details of this to each of the seven district secretaries for discussion among members. For a long period it has been felt that the area covered by the association is much too large to be worked properly, and the hon. secretary read a letter from a 'Ringing World' of 1928 by the then president, Alderman R. B. Chambers, voicing the same feelings. The late Mr. W. E. White formulated a similar scheme just before his death. It was eventually proposed to call a special meeting to be devoted to the subject, in about four months' time, after each district had had time to discuss and report on the matter.

St. Margaret's bells were rung before the meeting and afterwards. The Cathedral bells (12) and St. John's (10) were available.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT NORWICH.

The annual meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held at Norwich on Easter Monday, and over 50 ringers were present from New Buckenham, Garboldisham, Acle, Hitchin, Whittle-le-Woods (Lancs), Ely, Diss, Mulbarton, Fornsett, Norwich, Harwich, Wroxham, Norton Subcourse, Palgrave, Ranworth, Bergh Apton, Buxton, Aylsham, Redenhall, Wymondham and Great Yarmouth.

During the day ringing took place at St. Peter Mancroft, St. Miles', St. Giles' and St. John-de-Sepulchre, in methods up to Cambridge Surprise Major, Bob Royal and Grandsire Caters.

At the service at Mancroft, the preacher was the Rev. A. St. J. Heard, president of the association. The tea and business meeting were held at Ber House. The officers were all re-elected. It was decided not to issue an annual report for the past year. New members elected included Mr. W. Simmonds, non-resident life member, Mr. W. Steele, who rejoins the association, and Miss Kathleen Harrison and Mr. George Ford as probationers. It was agreed to continue having general meetings for the president instead of branch meetings, the next meeting to be on May 6th at Redenhall if possible, with Fulham Market as an alternative. A tentative date for the following meeting was fixed as June 3rd.

Mr. G. Walpole was congratulated on having collected £32 1s. 7d. for Norton Subcourse bells. A letter was read from the B.B.C. expressing appreciation of the ringing for the recent 'Home Flash' broadcast from Norwich: £2 2s. from their fee of £3 3s. is to be given to St. Nicholas', Yarmouth, bell restoration fund.

The accounts were presented and adopted, showing a balance in hand of £42 19s. 2d. at the end of 1943. Votes of thanks were passed to the clergy, the Rural Dean, the preacher and organist, and the Sisters of Ber House.

PEAL FAILURES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your leading article in the current issue of 'The Ringing World' interests me very much in one respect, i.e., your remark that quality should come before quantity, but the question in the forefront of my mind is 'How many peals are recorded as such, which, had they been judged by experts on the quality of execution, would have been best written off as analogous to a bad debt?'

I often wonder how many a peal attempt is continued even although, through constant trips, the striking is hardly bearable and the ringing a hopeless jangle, and sooner than bring disappointment to the band the conductor allows this state of affairs to continue until, as you say in your article, 'he manages by his brilliance to get the band, no matter how they ring, through the peal.' All this, I think, is in agreement with your remarks about ringers gloating over their growing lists of peals, and I am confident that this sort of thing is certainly very exceptional, but, nevertheless, I do think it happens.

I, along with others, am, in the very fortunate position of being connected with a well-known Guild in the Durham and Newcastle Association area with a Ringing Master whose principal thought is for good striking, and I remember ringing in one peal attempt for, as far as my memory serves me, about one hour when the conductor, who happened to be the Ringing Master, called 'Stand,' owing, he said, to terrible striking.

Would that this were so in all such instances of a similar nature.

FRANK AINSLEY.

30, Aysgarth Avenue, Grangetown, Sunderland.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Suffolk Guild was held at Ipswich on April 15th.

At the business meeting the Rev. W. H. Trickett presided. Mr. C. E. Fisher presented the accounts, which showed a credit balance for the year of £21 10s. 4d. and a capital account of £61 10s. 4d.

Mr. C. J. Sedgley, the Ringing Master, reported that since the lifting of the ban there had been a slow and gradual resumption of ringing, and service ringing is being carried out at many churches in spite of difficulties. Meetings had been held at Woodbridge, Ipswich, Holmesley, Helmingham, Framsdon, Sudbury, Ufford and elsewhere, many of them well attended. One peal was rung in 1943 Treble Bob Maximus on handbells at St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich. Several members had been lost by death, including Mr. G. W. Ablitt, of Bury St. Edmunds, who had rung in just one hundred peals for the Guild. Mr. Sedgley went on to speak of 'The Ringing World' and urged his hearers to give it their support.

Eighteen new members were elected, and thanks were given to the treasurer and Ringing Master for their reports.

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NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting at Lincoln, Saturday, April 29th. Bells, Cathedral (12) 2 to 3 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m., St. Giles' (8) and St. Peter at Gowts' (6) by arrangement. Business meeting at 3 p.m. in Chapter House. Evensong 4 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—F. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec., Blankney, Lincoln.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Rural Branch. — Meeting at 'St. Werburgh's, Saturday, April 29th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow.—R. C. GIFFORD, Hon. Sec., Diamond Jubilee, Short Hill Road, Westerleigh.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Cary Deanery.—Meeting at Bruton, Saturday, April 29th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Tickhill, Saturday, April 29th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided only.—W. E. Lloyd, Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The Bell Foundry, Whitschapel, E.1, Saturday, May 6th, 3 p.m. Ringing St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30.—A. B. Peck.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Annual general meeting at Leeds' Parish Church, Saturday, May 6th, 2 p.m. Service 3 p.m. Tea (1s. 3d.) in St. Peter's Hall 4 p.m. Names to G. Robinson, 32, Heathfield, Adel, Leeds 6, by May 3rd. General meeting in St. Peter's Schools immediately afterwards.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District. — Meeting at Sandiacre, Saturday, May 6th, 2.30 to 8.30. Tea 1s. 3d. Names to Mr. P. L. Parrott, School House, Lawrence Street, Sandiacre, by Tuesday, May 2nd. Vital business affecting all towers.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Meeting at Beckenham, Saturday, May 6th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Names for tea not later than Monday, May 1st, to A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Annual general meeting, Brighton, May 6th. St. Nicholas', 2.30 to 4.30; St. Peter's, 6.30 to 8.30. Service, St. Nicholas', 4.30. Tea 5s. 2s. (1s. to members), followed by business meeting. Names by May 1st. Half rail fare, maximum 2s. 6d. to resident members. If outside defence area, send for agenda (1d. stamp).—S. E. Armstrong, Gen. Sec., 21, Kenmure Avenue, Brighton 6.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Meeting at Shoreditch, Saturday, May 6th, 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business. Names by Thursday, May 4th. — G. W. Steere, 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

DEVON GUILD.—Exeter Branch.—Meeting at Alphington, Saturday, May 6th. Service 4 p.m. Arrangements for tea at the meeting. Names by May 1st.—W. H. Howe, 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting, Hitchin, May 6th, 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. Names for tea by May 3rd.—A. C. Symonds, The Cottage, Windmill Hill, Hitchin.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—Meeting at Thorpe Malsor (bells 6), Saturday, May 6th. Usual arrangements. Names for tea to H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District. — Meeting at Rickmansworth, Saturday, May 6th, 3.30. Tea at Oasis Cafe 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Redenhall, Saturday, May 6th, 2 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at Yew Tree Tea Rooms, Redenhall, 5 p.m.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Clowne, Saturday, May 6th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided. — G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec., 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Netley Abbey, near Southampton, Saturday, May 6th, 2 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names by May 2nd.—G. Pullinger, 17, Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch. —Meeting at Burnley St. Peter's, Saturday, May 6th, 2.30 p.m. Meeting, Tower, 6 p.m.—F. Hindle, Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at Leek, Saturday, May 6th, 3 p.m. For tea notify E. Sharratt, 13, Lowther Place, Leek, Staffs, before May 2nd.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION. — Western Branch. — Meeting at Dodderhill, Saturday, May 6th, 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by business meeting. — Ernest J. Cubberley, Branch Hon. Sec. and Treasurer,

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — Northern Division. — Meeting at Dunmow, Saturday, May 13th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Light tea provided. Names to Mr. H. W. Smith, 11, Causeway, Dunmow, by May 11th. — Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields, Saturday, May 13th. Bells 2-8 p.m. Service 4. Business 4.45. No tea arrangements, but several restaurants nearby. Bells at St. Margaret's, Westminster, 6-8 p.m.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division. Meeting at Woodford, Saturday, May 13th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.45. Tea and business meeting to follow. Names for tea by May 10th.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Shield contest at Hoylandswaine, Nr. Penistone, on Saturday, July 8th. Open to all towers with financial members. Entrance fee 6s. All entries must reach me by first post July 7th. — D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

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No. 1,728. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, MAY 5th, 1944.

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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.

'RINGING AND LIFE.'

In the challenging and almost provocative articles now appearing in our pages Mr. F. E. Haynes asks in so many words the question: Are the present popularity of change ringing, the great number of recruits that are coming to the belfries, and the widespread interest taken in our art, good things for the Exercise? It is a question to which, for many of our readers, there will be but one answer. Of course, they will say, they are good things. Did not ringers for years complain that they were neglected, misrepresented, and misunderstood? Was not the difficulty of finding recruits a major problem of every belfry? Were not people only two or three years ago discussing what was the best form of propaganda to interest outsiders in the art? Now that things are so altered ought we not to be thankful and make the most of them?

Mr. Haynes is not so sure. He sees a great danger of standards being lowered and the ultimate result not gain but loss. He would rather see fewer ringers and better ringing than more ringers and bad ringing.

It is the old problem which throughout the ages has always faced persons engaged in any art. Which is the better—to aim at the very highest, though by so doing you appeal only to a very select few, or to widen your appeal and seek to influence the majority, even though you leave the highest out of your reach? Artists and poets, scholars and men of science, have argued these things and will continue to argue them. Not a few have put forward answers, and not a few have professed to have made a deliberate choice; but the truth almost always is that the matter is decided not by the man himself, but by his make-up and the circumstances in which he lives.

So it is with the ringing Exercise. During the centuries its fortunes have varied greatly and the ideals and character of ringers have much changed. And it has always been so, not because of any deliberate intention on the part of men, but because of outside social conditions common to the whole of the people. The present popularity of ringing is not due to any merit of the ringers, nor could they by any effort of their own have created it. Whether it is anything more than a passing fancy remains to be seen. That there is deep down in the English nature a love of the sound of church bells we need not doubt for a moment, but it has not usually shown itself (at least not for some centuries) in a desire to take part in any actual ringing.

(Continued on page 186.)

We must accept the facts and make the best of them. That there are to-day vast opportunities and that great good may result is quite certain. Not all, or even the majority, of the present recruits will make good, but there should be a very substantial gain. Nevertheless, it is as well to heed the warning given by Mr. Haynes. While we should make the utmost of this opportunity of broadening the Exercise, we must not forget that the highest is still for the few who have earned the right to it. What is specially needed is that those who rank as competent ringers should maintain and raise their own standards and should guard against any tendency to accept lower standards because the higher is for the time being out of their reach. No standard is worth anything unless it is just out of reach. Change ringing is a mistress who has much to offer to those who serve her faithfully, but she does not bestow her favours indiscriminately. The man who would get the best out of the art must be content to put the best he has into his work, and he must never be satisfied with the way he rings, for however good he is, he is always capable of being better.

FUNERAL OF FLIGHT-SERGT. A. J. BRIAN WAYMAN.

The church at Surfleet was crowded on April 24th, when F.-Sgt. A. J. Brian Wayman was laid to rest in the churchyard.

The service, which was fully choral, was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. G. H. Clark. The hymns, 'Lead, kindly light' and 'Peace, perfect peace,' and the 23rd Psalm were sung. Six flight-sergeants, under the command of F.-Lieut. Austin, acted as bearers, and after the committal a course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the grave by Mrs. A. J. B. Wayman 1-2, Mrs. R. Richardson 3-4, Rupert Richardson 5-6, Harold J. Poole 7-8.

The chief mourners were Mrs. A. J. B. Wayman (widow), Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Wayman (parents), Mr. and Mrs. R. Richardson (parents-in-law) and L.A.C. R. L. Wayman (brother).

The many floral tributes included wreaths from the officers and airmen of No. 286 Squadron, the boys of 'B' Flight, the Sergeants' Mess.

F.-Sgt. Wayman, who would have been 25 on April 25th, was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Wayman, of Teddington. He was called up with the Militia in 1939, a few months before the war, and was in the Queen's Royal Regiment. As a soldier he fought in the battle of France, and was in the evacuation of Dunkirk in May, 1940. A year later he transferred to the R.A.F. He qualified as a fighter pilot and took part in many operations.

On September 4th, 1943, he married Miss Enid M. Richardson, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson, and, like his wife and her parents, was a very keen ringer.

F.-Sgt. Wayman rang his first peal on June 3rd, 1939, when he rang the tenor to a peal of Stedman Triples, conducted by Mr. T. W. Taffender, at St. Mary's, Woolwich. Altogether he had rung 12 peals, one of which he had conducted.

Of a lively and cheerful disposition, he had warmed his way into the hearts of all who knew him and many a tear was shed when they heard of his tragic end.

After the funeral a peal of Bob Major was rung, as a token of respect, on the bells of St. Lawrence's Church.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT SHIPBOURNE.

A meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association was held at Shipbourne on April 22nd, at which members attended from Leigh, Penshurst, Tunbridge Wells, Lamberhurst, Wadhurst, East Peckham, Paddock Wood, Bromley Common, Sundridge, Stourbridge, Worcestershire, and the local band.

Tea was served in the Vicarage, and the Rev. G. H. Hewitt took the chair at the business meeting. Sundridge was selected for the next meeting on June 3rd. Votes of thanks were accorded to those who provided the tea, to the Vicar and the organist.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT AUGHTON.

A joint meeting of the Wigan and Liverpool Branches of the Lancashire Association was held at Aughton on April 15th, at which there were present over 50 members. The vice-president, Mr. J. Ridyard, presided at the business meeting, and Sefton was chosen for the next meeting of the Liverpool Branch, and Southport for the next meeting of the Wigan Branch. Another joint meeting will be held at Rainford in August.

HANDBELL PEALS.

COVENTRY.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Sun., April 23, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,
AT 31, GEORGE ELIOT ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

FRANK W. PERRENS ... 1-2	JOSEPH H. W. WHITE ... 5-6
FRANK E. PERVIN ... 3-4	*ERNEST STONE ... 7-8

Composed by W. HUDSON. Conducted by FRANK W. PERRENS.

* First peal of Treble Bob in hand. First peal of Treble Bob in hand as conductor.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., April 25, 1944, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,
IN THE CATHEDRAL BELFRY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5010 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

JILL POOLE ... 1-2	ERNEST MORRIS ... 7-8
G. STEDMAN MORRIS ... 3-4	HAROLD J. POOLE ... 9-10
PERCY L. HARRISON ... 5-6	JOSIAH MORRIS ... 11-12

Composed by FREDK. H. DEXTER. Conducted by H. J. POOLE.

Rung to the memory of F.-Sgt. A. J. Brian Wayman.

DEATH OF DR. JOHN SYMONS.

The death is announced of Dr. John Symons, of Penzance, who passed away on March 13th at the age of 89.

Dr. Symons, who was mainly instrumental in founding the Truro Diocesan Guild, was for 33 years its Ringing Master and for 13 years its president, and before that he was associated with the band at St. Mary's, Penzance, the first to practise change ringing in Cornwall. As far back as 1883 he called the first peal rung in the county, one of Grandsire Triples. The sole survivor of the band, Mr. George Sellers, reached his 100th birthday in the week that Dr. Symons died.

Dr. Symons rang several other peals of Grandsire Triples, but his opportunities for peal ringing were very few. When the band at St. Mary's broke up owing to the bells having become unsafe to ring, he joined the company at Gulval, where at the time there were six bells. He took a firm stand against prize ringing and was always a keen advocate of change ringing. Dr. Symons' daughter, Miss Eileen Symons is a member of the Gulval band.

On the Saturday after Dr. Symons' death a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung half-muffled by William Wood (Gulval) 1, W. Saunders (Camborne) 2, E. Saunders (Camborne) 3, Mrs. A. S. Roberts (Carbis Bay) 4, P. J. Hitchens (Gulval) 5, E. V. Williams (Redruth) 6, Rev. A. S. Roberts (conductor) 7, P. R. C. Williams (Redruth) 8.

The funeral was private, and followed cremation at Plymouth. It was attended by members of the family only.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT MEARS ASHBY.

A meeting of the Wellingborough Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Mears Ashby on April 22nd, when 19 churches were represented and about 70 visitors sat down to tea, provided by friends from Mears Ashby and Wilby.

The Guild service was conducted by the Vicar, and references were made to the recent death of the branch president (the Rev. J. H. Marlow, of Bozeat).

The Rev. W. R. Flex (Great Doddington) was elected branch president, and Mr. E. P. Allen (Irthlingborough) an honorary member. Messrs. L. Harlott, J. Harlott, J. Pinney, L. Johnson (Ecton), N. Line and J. Hepburn (Bozeat), R. Minney (Yardley Hastings) and J. Mabbutt (Mears Ashby) were elected ringing members.

It was decided to try to arrange the next meeting at Easton Maudit.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT HAVANT.

A meeting of the Portsmouth District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, held at Havant on April 22nd, was attended by 20 members from Alverstoke, Titchfield, Portsmouth (Cathedral and St. Mary's), Fareham, Petersfield and North Stoneham. The methods rung were Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob and Treble Bob Major.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, and tea was at the Bear Hotel. At the business meeting the Vicar of Havant, the Rev. Duke Baker, and the Vicar of St. Mary's, Portsea, the Rev. W. Smith, were elected honorary members, and Mr. Macey, of St. Mary's, Portsea, a ringing member.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Hambledon, with Alverstoke as an alternative, on July 22nd.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

SAWLEY, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.*On Sun., April 23, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,***A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;**
Tenor 10 cwt.

CHARLES HUTCHINSON ... Treble	WILLIAM E. SIMPSON ... 5
MARGARET MUNTON ... 2	WILLIAM DAWSON ... 6
CHARLES GEARY ... 3	WILLIAM LANCASTER ... 7
THOS. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. 4	*FRED A. SALTER ... Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by T. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN.
* 200th peal.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Mon., April 24, 1944, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,***A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor 12 cwt. 9 lb.

STANLEY E. BENNETT ... Treble	CHARLES C. RAWDING ... 5
JOHN W. CARTER ... 2	W. ALLAN RICHARDSON ... 6
ARTHUR J. FARR ... 3	CYRIL BURRELL ... 7
JOHN CURRY ... 4	JOHN G. AMES ... Tenor

Composed by HENRY HUBBARD. Conducted by JOHN G. AMES.
Rung with the bells open (by request) as a token of love and esteem to F.-Sgt. A. J. Brian Wayman, who was interred in Surfleet churchyard on that date.

BEXLEY, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.*On Sat., April 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,***A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION. Tenor 8 cwt.

*ALAN HALL ... Treble	HERBERT A. HOLDEN ... 5
JOHN WHEADON ... 2	JAMES E. BAILEY ... 6
†DENNIS L. HALL ... 3	FREDERICK J. CULLUM ... 7
*ROBERT WAKE ... 4	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ... Tenor

Conducted by FREDERICK J. CULLUM.

* First peal of Stedman. † First peal.

FAENHAM ROYAL, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Sat., April 29, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,***A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor 12½ cwt.

JOHN M. GAYFORD ... Treble	GEORGE GILBERT ... 5
TONY PRICE ... 2	WILLIAM HENLEY ... 6
WILLIAM WELLING ... 3	NORMAN V. HARDING ... 7
C. ALFRED LEVETT ... 4	FRANK H. HICKS ... Tenor

Composed by J. HOLT.

Non-conducted and silent.

KIDLINGTON, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Sat., April 29, 1944, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,***A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 23½ cwt.

MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... Treble	NEIL ALLNATT ... 5
WILLIAM C. PORTER ... 2	WILLIAM JUDGE ... 6
HERBERT H. ALEXANDER ... 3	WALTER F. JUDGE ... 7
JOHN E. JUDGE ... 4	WILLIAM H. THORNE ... Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM JUDGE.

ASHOVER, DERBYSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.*On Sat., April 29, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,***A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor 18 cwt.

WALTER ALLWOOD ... Treble	*VERNON BOTTOMLEY ... 5
GEORGE H. PAULSON ... 2	G. GORDON GRAHAM ... 6
HERBERT E. TAYLOR ... 3	JOSEPH SAXTON ... 7
A. BENJAMIN COOPER ... 4	JOHN E. TURLEY ... Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by JOHN E. TURLEY.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells.

SIX BELL PEALS.

KIMBOLTON, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Mon., April 24, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,***A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being five six-scores of Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, 35 six-scores of Grandshire and one 240 of Lindoff's arrangement. Tenor 10 cwt.

*FREDERICK R. HARRIS ... Treble	*L. T. MAINWARING ... 4
†JOHN D. ROCK ... 2	LESLIE EVANS ... 5
*RONALD H. MEWIES ... 3	FREDERICK A. JAINE ... Tenor

Conducted by LESLIE EVANS.

* First peal in two methods. † First peal and first attempt, aged 14 years.

PENWORTHAM, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(Preston Branch.)

*On Sat., April 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,***A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being two extents each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and three of Plain Bob.

E. R. MARTIN ... Treble	WILLIAM SHARPLES ... 4
JOHN JACKSON ... 2	WILLIAM ILLSLEY ... 5
F. G. BRADLEY ... 3	J. H. GARTSIDE ... Tenor

Conducted by E. R. MARTIN.

Rung half-muffled to the memory of John Richard Taylor.

SPONDON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.*On Sat., April 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. WERBURGH,***A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being two 720's Oxford Treble Bob, two Kent Treble Bob and three Plain Bob. Tenor 10 cwt.

WM. THORNEY, SEN ... Treble	WILLIAM LANCASTER ... 4
JACK W. GLEW ... 2	JACK BAILEY ... 5
*VICTOR E. TAYLOR ... 3	ALFRED MOULD ... Tenor

Conducted by JACK BAILEY.

* First peal of Minor.

STAVERTON, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Sat., April 29, 1944, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,***A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Seven 720's. Tenor 11 cwt. in G.

MRS. POWELL ... Treble	GEORGE HANCOCK ... 4
*MISS MAUD CLARKE ... 2	REV. E. S. POWELL ... 5
*DOUGLAS C. BIRKENSHAW 3	FREDERICK HANCOCK ... Tenor

Conducted by REV. E. S. POWELL.

* First peal and first attempt.

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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

Will all Secretaries of Associations who have not already sent the names and addresses of their representatives, please do so without further delay, and also remit any affiliation fees outstanding.

G. W. FLETCHER,
Hon. Sec.

The Rev. F. L. Edwards has been promoted to the rank of Masonic Past Assistant Grand Chaplain.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION. ANNUAL MEETING.

Twenty-five ringers were present at the annual meeting of the Scottish Association at St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, on April 22nd. Touches of Plain Bob and Kent Major and Stedman, Grandsire and Erin Triples were rung, and after the service in St. Cuthbert's Memorial Chapel the ringers were entertained to tea by the St. Cuthbert's Society.

Three new members were elected and the election of eight others confirmed. It was stated that 22 members were serving with H.M. Forces, two of whom are prisoners of war. Letters of appreciation were read from serving members for gifts sent at Christmas, and one young member, now a prisoner of war, had asked his parents to send books on change ringing so he will be ready to take a rope on his return. The present office bearers were re-elected, viz.: Prof. R. O. Street, Glasgow, president; Mr. W. H. Pickett, Glasgow, Ringing Master; Mr. C. R. Raine, R.A.F., Edinburgh, hon. secretary and treasurer; and Mr. E. A. Stafford, Glasgow, deputy hon. secretary. A collection for the Red Cross amounted to £1 5s.

St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, and St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, are the only towers in Scotland where regular Sunday service ringing and weekly practices are being held.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD. ANNUAL MEETING.

The seventeenth annual meeting of the East Grinstead and District Guild was held at East Grinstead on April 15th, and 40 ringers were present, representing 15 towers and soldier friends from Tewkesbury Abbey and Exeter.

At the business meeting, held in the belfry, the president, the Rev. Dr. G. Golding-Bird was re-elected. The vice-presidents were re-elected, with the addition of the Rev. A. Miles, Withyham, and the Rev. D. L. Secretan, Balcombe. Mr. T. Sone was elected vice-chairman, and Mr. B. Collison added to the committee.

The committee's report and balance sheet were adopted.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. MEETING AT BUGBROOKE.

A meeting of the Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Bugbrooke on April 29th, with a good attendance of members. The Guild service was conducted by the incumbent, the Rev. R. B. Disney, who welcomed the Guild. At the business meeting, which followed tea arranged by Mr. F. Browning, three new members were elected. A vote of thanks was moved by Mr. W. H. Ashby.

The bells and those of the adjoining parish of Kissingbury were available from 3 p.m. and in the evening.

MR. THOMAS B. WORSLEY.

FUNERAL AT BOLTON.

The funeral of Mr. Thomas B. Worsley, whose death we announced last week, took place on Thursday, April 27th, at St. Mary's, Deane, Bolton. The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. R. W. Worsley, assisted by the Rev. F. F. Rigby, president of the Lancashire Association. There was a large congregation, which included nearly forty ringers, among them being Mr. W. H. Shuker, the general secretary of the Lancashire Association, Mr. George R. Newton, of Liverpool, Mr. William Dickenson, of Southport, Mr. A. Tomlinson, of Blackpool, and others from Manchester, Prestwick, Westhoughton and Walkden. Nearly every tower in the Bolton district was represented.

Before the service a touch of Grandsire Triples and the whole pull and stand were rung muffled, Grandsire Triples was rung over the open grave on handbells by Miss Annie Potter, Mr. John Potter, Mr. Peter Crook, sen., and Mr. G. R. Newton, and further muffled ringing on the tower bells followed.



Mr. Worsley was born in the parish of Deane on September 30th, 1886, and was, therefore, in his 58th year. He learnt his ringing at St. Bartholomew's, Bolton, a six-bell tower, and shortly afterwards joined the band in the belfry of his native parish. It was at Deane he rang his first peal, one of Grandsire Triples, on February 20th 1911; and there, too he rang his first as conductor. This was on April 13th, 1913, and also was Grandsire Triples.

He joined the Lancashire Association in 1909 and at various times held several offices—member of the general committee from 1916 to 1930, secretary of the Bolton Branch 1915 to 1919, vice-president of the association 1933 to 1935, and representative on the Central Council from 1935 to the time of his death. He was a member of the Peals Collection

Committee. He was also a member of a committee appointed by the Lancashire Association to revise the society's handbook.

Mr. Worsley had a distinguished career as a peal ringer. He took part in 287 peals for the Lancashire Association and many for other societies. Among the more outstanding of his performances were the 17,824 Oxford Treble Bob Major at Heptonstall on April 18th, 1927, to which he rang the second. This remains the record for Treble Bob Major, the 18,240 of Kent at Mottram (in which Mr. Worsley also took part) afterwards turning out to be false in the composition.

On January 29th, Mr. Worsley rang the second to another record length, 11,232 changes of Superlative Surprise Major at St. Peter's, Bolton. Both peals were called by Mr. Edward Jenkins.

Yet another fine performance was the 15,312 Cambridge Surprise Maximus at Ashton-under-Lyne on August 5th, 1929. Mr. Worsley again rang the second. He was one of the band which failed at Heptonstall after ten hours ringing in an attempt to beat the record for Double Norwich Court Bob Major, and he was the first Lancashire man to ring a peal of Spliced Surprise Major in the four standard methods. He had previously taken part in a peal of Spliced Cambridge and Superlative Surprise by the Lancashire Association.

Mr. Worsley won his greatest triumphs as a composer, and his work in that branch of the art will always keep his name in the story of the Exercise. His two best productions are probably the 17,824 of Treble Bob and the 11,232 of Superlative already mentioned. The former surpassed Mr. J. W. Parker's 17,280, and has itself we believe, been surpassed by a length as yet unrung, composed by Mr. A. J. Pitman. The other still remains the longest composition in the method. A peal of Cambridge Major has been rung a considerable number of times. It necessarily is to a large extent a variation of Middleton's composition, but in that very precarious method it is a greater problem to produce a variation with original features than it is to produce an entirely new peal in most methods. Mr. Worsley also composed peals of Treble Bob with original qualities, no easy thing to do in that much explored method.

Mr. Worsley was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, the Middlesex County Association and several other guilds.

NORTON, STAFFS.—On Sunday, April 30th, 720 Durham Surprise: G. E. Lawrence 1, S. B. Bailey 2, W. C. Corfield 3, W. C. Lawrence 4, C. S. Ryles (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6.—Also 720 Ipswich Surprise: O. Williams 1, S. B. Bailey 2, J. E. Wheeldon 3, W. C. Corfield 4, C. S. Ryles (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6.

RINGING AND LIFE.

(Continued from page 180.)

Yet another tendency of modern life that is being more and more widely reflected in ringing is the gradual invasion of what were once purely masculine strongholds by the members of what used to be known as the weaker sex. Here again, although in this paragraph the ice on which I skate may be very thin indeed, I question whether the gradual increase in the proportion of women ringers to men is really in the best interests of the Exercise. Obviously, if one is ringing the seventh at Blankchester to Stedman Cinques and directly facing one on the treble there is a perfectly entrancing vision in a very neat two-piece tailor-made with figure to match, then the belfry is a much pleasanter and brighter place than when old Bill So-and-so, with his perpetual scowl and rather soiled waistcoat, faces one. But is the attention of Number Seven as firmly fixed on his task as it should be? And is Miss Delightful, should she by any chance miss a dodge or make a misblow, greeted with the same salutary look or word of reprimand that would fall upon old Bill should he be similarly guilty?

In other words, I feel that the tendency to emphasise the social possibilities of bell-ringing, which is another result of the fear of extinction already mentioned that is felt by some, is a step in the wrong direction. Ringing demands serious concentration, and the atmosphere in the ringing-chamber should not be that of a garden party. There are, of course, women ringers who are the equal of men in every way, except perhaps in physical strength and endurance; there are several who may justly claim to be very valuable members of the Exercise; I myself was taught to ring—whisper it very gently—by a woman! There will, of course, always be some women ringers; but, although I hesitate to claim the name of misogynist, my observations lead me to the conclusion that they should be the exception rather than the rule.

Another characteristic of modern life is a desire for speed; 'No matter how we live, so that we live at a fast pace' would seem to be the motto of many. So, too, in ringing many seem to say, 'No matter how we ring, so that we ring quickly.' This question of speed in ringing is one that has often been discussed in these columns, and is one, I suppose, on which general agreement is impossible. Of one thing I am sure, however, that we must not force the pace merely to conceal weaknesses, as is frequently done to-day. A mistake or bad blow is not nearly so noticeable when the bells are 'rattling along' as it is when they boom forth with slow and measured tread.

The slower the ringing, then the longer is the interval between any two bells and the more difficult it is to attain perfect striking. Suppose you are ringing the fourth, and regard the space between the third and the fifth as your 'target'; then for perfect striking you have to hit the 'bulls-eye,' and cause your own bell to sound exactly between the two; but the larger your target, i.e., the slower you ring, then, paradoxically, the more difficult it is to hit the bulls-eye. From which, I wonder, do we get the greater satisfaction, from slow well-struck ringing, or from quick well-struck ringing? Here I must confess to doubts.

I have taken part in a peal of Cambridge Royal, on bells with a tenor of 17½ cwt., that occupied 3 hours and

5 minutes; on the same bells I have rung the ninth to a peal of Grandsire Caters in 3 hours and 24 minutes. And yet, while admitting that any difference in the standard of striking might be in favour of the former, I should not care to say that the satisfaction derived was any greater. I have also rung a tenor of about 10½ cwt. to a peal of London Surprise in 2 hours 38 minutes, and a peal of Stedman Doubles, with a tenor of something over 7 cwt. in only 2 hours and 15 minutes. But was our pleasure and satisfaction any greater than it would have been, had we spent half an hour longer? I think it was, but for a reason which does not really reflect any great credit upon us—we felt that we had been rather clever, rather smarter than usual, in ringing so quickly without a trip of any kind, as far as my memory serves me. Perhaps we were rather clever, and perhaps we had shown ourselves to be rather smart; certainly, too, those who to-day can 'tap off' peals of Spliced Surprise at a rapid pace both on tower bells and in hand show themselves to be very smart and clever. But are such performances of any lasting value to the Exercise? Are they as well worth listening to as a peal of Double Norwich, occupying a generous three hours? Some will say that depends much upon the actual bells, and here I would add that I consider modern founders to be partly to blame.

In practically all new or recast installations of bells this same tendency on the one hand to ease, and on the other to speed is to be observed. Our founders do not seem to worry about the sound of the bells very much: they work to a formula by which they know a ring of bells will be turned out which will not be unpleasant to the ear. But will anyone deny that there is only one quality that really makes bells worth listening to, and that is the grandeur and majesty that can only be obtained by sheer weight of metal.

During the ten years preceding the war ring after ring was coming from the foundries, each one exactly the same as its predecessor, each one an admirable instrument for that display of smartness or cleverness already mentioned, each quite pleasant to listen to, but only one or two capable of stirring the heart as a really fine ring of bells should do. There are, of course, exceptions; our founders naturally merely supply the demand made by us; there is also the question of expense, but I am convinced that, within a reasonable limit, generally heavier bells would ultimately make our ringing much more worth while. If the pre-war development in bell-founding is resumed after the war, there will shortly be no grounds for such a discussion as that recently published as to the best ring of bells; all bells will sound exactly the same.

Ringling is, in its essence, just as much a sport as cricket and football. Of recent years the same characteristics of modern life that are my main theme have exerted their influence on these two national games also. In football the laws have been deliberately altered, first, to make the scoring of goals more easy, secondly, to enable the game to be played at a faster pace. As a result the game has become at once a more 'popular' spectacle and also a more suitable medium for gambling; but many good judges agree that a football match to-day does not provide the exhibition of skill and strength which it did before the 'modern improvements' were in-

(Continued on next page.)

RINGING AND LIFE.

(Continued from previous page.)

roduced. In cricket, too, the people clamour for a quick rate of scoring, for Saturday afternoon excitement, for boundary after boundary with the fieldsmen standing helpless while the ball soars madly overhead to disappear into the neighbouring allotments. But a committee appointed to inquire into the prospects of post-war cricket have recommended that three-day matches remain, and that the eight-ball over (introduced to 'speed up' the game) be abolished. In other words, there is a desire that an effort be made to restore dignity, style and grandeur, qualities for whose retention in ringing, too, this essay makes a plea.

The views I have expressed may seem reactionary: to many they will appear perhaps absurd. But those who care to read between the lines will detect a genuine anxiety as to the future of our art, an honest doubt as to whether we are progressing on the right lines. This doubt and anxiety has arisen after a ringing life of twenty years only it is true, but one that has been exceptionally varied in its experience. Perhaps another pen more able than my own, wielded by someone of far greater experience, will bring an end to my perplexity. I should be glad to think so. Perhaps another twenty years will prove me to be entirely wrong when I say that bell-ringing, if it is to be really worth while, should remain a somewhat exclusive rather than a popular pastime, should be essentially confined to a comparatively few people who will restore to it the dignity and grandeur that it is in danger of losing.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT ST. ALBANS.

The annual meeting of the Hertford County Association was held at St. Albans on April 15th. As in former years, the service was combined with choral evensong at the Cathedral, at which an address was given by the Rev. M. W. Shewell, Vicar of St. Michael's. A collection for the benevolent fund realised £3.

Tea was at the Water End Barn, and at the business meeting which followed, the president, Mr. Harold G. Cashmore, occupied the chair. The balance sheet, which was read by Mr. W. Ayre in the absence of Mr. H. J. Loe, deputy treasurer, showed a credit balance of £15 2s. 4d. and a reserve fund of £47 7s. 11d.

Mr. G. W. Cartmel, the hon. secretary, in his report, stated that four tower-bell peals had been rung, three at Bushey and one at Oxhey. Two of them were Superlative Surprise Major, one Bristol Surprise and one Spliced Surprise. All four were conducted by Mr. Cashmore. Five handbell peals had been rung, all at Bushey. They were Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, and London and Bristol Surprise Major. Mr. Cashmore called two and Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner three.

Detailed reports from each of the district secretaries were given.

The association's diamond jubilee falls on October 29th in this year and it was decided to celebrate it by a special meeting on October 28th. It will consist of a service, high tea and social gathering, with ringing. A committee, consisting of the president, secretary, assistant secretary and Messrs. R. Darvill, E. Jennings, A. Lawrence and H. J. Hazell, was appointed to make the arrangements.

The officers were all re-elected, with the addition of the deputy treasurer, Mr. H. J. Loe.

Ringing took place during the afternoon and evening at the ten-bell tower of St. Peter's and the six-bell towers of St. Michael's and St. Stephen's.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Bedfordshire Association, held at Hushorne Crawley on April 22nd, was attended by ringers from Bedford, Dunstable, Woburn, Leighton Buzzard, Linslade, Maulden, Tempsford, Bromham, Newport Pagnell, Chicheley, Gayhurst and the local tower.

Eversholt was selected as the place of next meeting, and a short discussion was held on the affairs of the association. The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Plain Bob. Double Norwich and Cambridge Surprise Major.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, E.1, Saturday, May 6th, 3 p.m. Ringing St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30.—A. B. Peck.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Annual general meeting at Leeds Parish Church, Saturday, May 6th, 2 p.m. Service 3 p.m. Tea (1s. 3d.) in St. Peter's Hall 4 p.m. General meeting in St. Peter's Schools immediately afterwards.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District. — Meeting at Sandiacre, Saturday, May 6th, 2.30 to 8.30. Tea 1s. 3d. Vital business affecting all towers.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Meeting at Beckenham, Saturday, May 6th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Annual general meeting, Brighton, May 6th. St. Nicholas', 2.30 to 4.30; St. Peter's, 6.30 to 8.30. Service, St. Nicholas', 4.30. Tea 5s. 2s. (1s. to members), followed by business meeting.—S. E. Armstrong, Gen. Sec., 21, Kenmure Avenue, Brighton 6.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

—Meeting at Shoreditch, Saturday, May 6th, 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business.—G. W. Steere, 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting, Hitchin, May 6th, 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. — A. C. Symonds, The Cottage, Windmill Hill, Hitchin.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District. — Meeting at Rickmansworth, Saturday, May 6th, 3.30. Tea at Oasis Cafe 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Redenhall, Saturday, May 6th, 2 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at Yew Tree Tea Rooms, Redenhall, 5 p.m.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Bridgwater, Saturday, May 6th, 3 p.m. Service 4. Tea 5. — C. Evans, Hon. Sec., 17, Wellington Road, Bridgwater.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — Northern Division. — Meeting at Dunmow, Saturday, May 13th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Light tea provided. Names to Mr. H. W. Smith, 11, Causeway, Dunmow, by May 11th. — Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields, Saturday, May 13th. Bells 2-8 p.m. Service 4. Business 4.45. No tea arrangements, but several restaurants nearby. Bells at St. Margaret's, Westminster, 6-8 p.m.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division. Meeting at Woodford, Saturday, May 13th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.45. Tea and business meeting to follow. Names for tea by May 10th.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Ashover on Saturday, May 13th, at 3 p.m. Names for tea by May 10th.—J. W. England, 49, The Common, South Normanton.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Meeting at Coleshill Parish Church, Warwickshire, on Saturday, May 13th, 3 p.m. Tea will be arranged. — T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION and ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Joint meeting at King's Lynn on Saturday, May 13th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Note. —Lynn is in the restricted area. — W. J. Eldred, 4, Wellington Street, King's Lynn.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch. — Meeting at Blunsdon on Saturday, May 13th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. —W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch. —Meeting at Sefton, Saturday, May 13th, 2.30. Service at 5. Cups of tea provided.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual general meeting at Guildford on Saturday, May 13th. Cathedral 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. St. Nicolas' 3 p.m. Service St. Nicolas' 4.30 p.m. Tea and business, Ayres' Cafe (next St. Nicolas') 5 p.m. Ringing at St. Nicolas' after meeting until 8 p.m. Numbers for tea by May 9th.—G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clandon, Surrey.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Tarleton, Saturday, May 13th, 2.30. Names for tea by May 10th to Rev. L. N. Forse, The Rectory, Tarleton.—F. Rigby.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting at Lindfield, Saturday, May 13th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. P.C.'s to G. W. O. Huddart, The Froyles, Lindfield, Haywards Heath.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—Meeting at Lilbourne, Saturday, May 13th. Bells (5) 3 p.m. Tea provided.—C. Green, Sec., Murcott, Long Buckby, near Rugby.

GAMSTON, NOTTS.—Practice meeting, Saturday, May 13th. Bells (6) ready early. Own tea arrangements.—H. Denman, 9, Rockley, Retford.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—Annual meeting at Tilehurst on Saturday, May 13th, 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea at the Old National Schools at 6 p.m. (1s. per head), followed by business. Names by May 10th.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec., 401, London Road, Reading.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch. — Practice meeting at Holy Trinity Church, Morecambe, on Saturday, May 13th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—Meeting at Henlow, May 13th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names to Mr. L. H. Bywaters, 12, Newtown, Henlow, Beds, by May 10th.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Practice meeting, Ufford, Saturday, May 13th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—Chas. E. Fisher.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division. — Meeting at Storrington, Saturday, May 13th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 4. Tea and meeting 4.30. Ringing till 8 p.m.—L. Stilwell, Pikeholme, Pulborough.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Great Glen, May 13th, 3 p.m. Tea and meeting at 5 p.m. Tea provided. Notify Mr. L. Allen, High Street, Great Glen, by May 10th.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District. — Meeting at Redbourn, Saturday, May 13th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Usual arrangements. Numbers for tea by 10th.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Meeting at Bicker, Saturday, May 20th, 2 p.m. Service 3.45, followed by tea and business. Names to Mr. G. Dawson, Bicker, by May 15th.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Kenilworth, Saturday, May 20th, 3-8 p.m. Tea in Parochial Hall 5 p.m., at moderate charge. Bring sugar.—D. E. Beamish, 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at Parish Church, Croydon, Saturday, May 20th. Bells (12) 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea and meeting, Sylverdale Hall. Names for tea to D. Cooper, 51, Waddon Road, Croydon, by 16th inst. — C. de Ste C. Parks, Assist. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—Meeting at Chilham, Saturday, May 20th. Bells (8) from 2.30. No tea.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—Meeting at Somerton on Saturday, May 20th. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea and business to follow. Notify early for tea.—F. Farrant, Martock, Somerset.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—N.W. Division.—Meeting at Harlow Common, Saturday, May 20th, 3 p.m. Names for tea by May 17th.—W. Wheeler, Mill Street, Harlow Common.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Meeting at Burbage, Saturday, May 20th, 3 p.m. Meat tea (2s.), followed by very important business. Names for tea to Mr. F. K. Measures, 58, Lychgate Lane, Burbage, near Hinckley, by May 17th.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

MARRIAGE.

ELLENGER—WILDING.—On Saturday, April 22nd, 1944, at St. Margaret's Church, Ipswich, Edward G. Ellenger (formerly a ringer at Maldon, Essex, and at Chelmsford Cathedral) to Joyce M. Wilding, of Ipswich. The bells were rung by St. Margaret's Company.

HANDBELLS WANTED.

SET of 10 or more handbells in good condition. — R. H. Bullen, 39a, High Street, Ely, Cambs.

LONDON.—At Westminster Abbey on Sunday, April 23rd, for the dedication of the Chapel of St. George, 1,260 Stedman Triples: H. R. Newton 1. W. H. Pasmore 2. T. Langdon 3. G. N. Price 4. H. Miles 5. H. N. Pitstow (conductor) 6. H. Langdon 7. J. Rumley 8.

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'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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- 'TREBLE BOB,' 1s. 10d.; second edition; with appendix; 100 pages.
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THE RINGING WORLD

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

No. 1,729. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, MAY 12th, 1944.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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RINGING PUBLICATIONS.

No man who knows anything of the story of the Exercise, whether throughout the past centuries or during more modern times, can fail to realise in some measure how much change ringing owes to printed books. While it is strictly true that the art must be, and is, carried on from generation to generation by personal contact and oral instruction, it is only through books that progress and improvements can be definitely secured and made available to ringers in general. Anything which would make the already extensive and steadily growing literature more widely known cannot fail to be of great value. There is therefore more than usual interest in the suggestion made in another column by Mr. B. H. Swinson.

Mr. Swinson suggests that it might be possible to form a society, on the lines of some that already exist, the object of which would be to publish at regular intervals either new books or reprints of old ones. It would depend on the subscriptions of its members, it could definitely calculate its financial position before undertaking any particular publication, and therefore it need incur no loss by lack of sales.

It is an attractive suggestion and the object is an admirable one. But the question arises—is this the best way in existing circumstances to achieve it? Do we really need a new society, even if it would be possible to form one? We have already the Central Council and one of the chief objects of the Council is to undertake just such a role as that proposed. Indeed, during its fifty years' life the Council has issued many publications.

Perhaps it will be objected, and not without reason, that the Council's record in the matter is not an inspiring one. We can admit it to the full, but it would be well to seek for the reason of the shortcomings, and to see whether they are remediable or not. The first thing which has hampered the Council has been lack of capital and the tendency to print too few copies of any publication to enable it to be sold without a financial loss. The second and far more serious defect has been the lack of any idea of what is needed to make a good book. The third has been the custom of entrusting the work to committees and the habit of outside members seeking to influence and alter the book while it is being prepared. The only successful method would be to entrust the work to one man (who might, if he thought fit, ask others to help him) who would alone be responsible. When he had completed his task he would submit his

(Continued on page 194.)

work, and the Council would exercise its rights as publisher and decide whether to print or not. Until some such plan as this is adopted, it is safe to say that the Council's publications will never be successful.

There is a widespread impression among people that provided a man knows a subject thoroughly he can write a good book about it. That is an entirely mistaken idea. It usually happens that the man who understands how to write can impart far more knowledge of a subject than the man who knows far more about it, but does not understand how to write.

The Central Council has now come into possession of 'The Ringing World' and that opens out great possibilities for the advancement of change ringing by means of the printed word. If the paper is a financial success (and there is every reason to believe that it will be) it will be possible to finance and publish books of great use to the Exercise. Whether the task will be undertaken or not we cannot say, and it is not our immediate concern; but we can say that it can only be done if it is carried out on strictly business lines. The possibilities and limitations of any action should be clearly understood and only that undertaken which has a reasonable chance of success. Men should be encouraged to write on subjects on which they are authorities and to submit the results, but no obligation of publication should be undertaken until the book is finished and after having been submitted to capable men has been judged to be useful to the Exercise. In short, the Council should recognise that no good book can be produced without a responsible and independent author, and should exercise the rights and duties of publisher on sound businesslike lines.

FLIGHT-SERGT. BRIAN WAYMAN.

Two of the late Flight-Sergt. Brian Wayman's fellow airmen write as follows:—

'We, who lived and worked with Flight-Sergt. Brian Wayman, knew him as thoroughly, perhaps, as anyone, and our regard for him was very real affection.

'He was at all times the most cheerful and alive of comrades, the most conscientious of colleagues and the most generous of people to be with. What is unusual, his generosity was of the mind as much as of the hand. He could always find extenuation of another's lapses.

'It is rather more than twelve months since he joined our Squadron, during which time he became such an integral part of 'B' Flight that his loss is felt severely by all ranks. It will be a long time before we get accustomed to his absence—his place will never be properly filled.'

On April 25th, a half-muffled quarter-peal of Stedman Cinques, 1,323 changes, was rung to the memory of Flight-Sergt. Wayman at St. Martin's, Birmingham, by A. Walker (conductor) 1, W. C. Dowding 2, T. H. Reeves 3, E. T. Allaway 4, H. C. Spencer 5, L. Tuffery 6, J. Penfold 7, H. H. Fearn 8, E. Mansell 9, F. E. Haynes 10, G. E. Fearn 11, W. T. Froggatt 12. It consisted of 663 changes in the Inverted Titlums position and 600 in the Handstroke Home position.

A LETTER FROM MRS. SHURCLIFF.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was interested in Mr. Nolan Golden's letter in the February 11th 'Ringing World,' asking about Paul Revere.

My father, Dr. Arthur H. Nichols, made a study of the bells of Paul Revere, over eight hundred in all, and wrote a pamphlet on the 'Revere Bells.' Esther Forbes quotes from this pamphlet in her book. I have just visited Christ Church and climbed up among the old bells, which I myself have rung many times, but not lately.

Are there any ringers left who remember my visit to London with my father in 1902? Have any of your lady ringers beaten my two handbell peals in one day?

I have a fine set of 30 bells and would enjoy a light touch of change ringing if any English ringers were available to help out.

I see lots of English sailors in the streets of Boston, but I don't know how to pick out the ringers. Perhaps you can reach them through your magazine and will ask any ringer who finds himself in Boston to look me up.

MARGARET H. SHURCLIFF.

66, Mt. Vernon Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., May 6, 1944, in Three Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt.

WALTER F. JUDGE Treble	FRANK E. PERVIN 7
ALBERT WALKER 2	SHIRLEY BURTON 8
CHARLES T. COLES 3	HARRY BROUGHTON 9
WILLIAM C. DOWDING 4	REDVERS F. ELKINGTON 10
GEO. STEDMAN MORRIS 5	FRANK E. HAYNES 11
JAMES BENNETT 6	ERNEST MORRIS... .. Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER.

Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

TEN BELL PEAL.

LONDON.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Sat., May 6, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. DUNSTON, STEPNEY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5089 CHANGES;

Tenor 31 cwt.

GEORGE M. KILBY Treble	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 6
THOMAS G. BANNISTER 2	GEORGE W. CECIL 7
THOMAS G. FOX 3	CHARLES H. KIPPIN 8
FRANCIS KIRK 4	RICHARD F. DEAL 9
GEORGE E. FEARN 5	FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... Tenor

Composed by J. CARTER.

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

AUGHTON, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., May 6, 1944, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANOSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

DAY'S SIX-PART.

SYDNEY FLINT Treble	JOSEPH RIBYARD 5
THOMAS HORRIDGE 2	ARTHUR MAWDESLEY ... 6
JAMES TAYLOR 3	*PETER CROOK 7
JACK LUNHAM 4	†HARRY MOORCROFT ... Tenor

Conducted by PETER CROOK.

* 200th peal for the association. † First peal.

HYDE, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., May 6, 1944, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt. 11 lb.

*ALAN A. POTTS Treble	TOM WILDE 5
ALFRED BARNES 2	JOHN WORTH 6
W. A. WOLSTENCROFT... 3	CECIL AUSTIN 7
WILLIAM FERNLEY 4	JAMES A. MILNER Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

* First peal.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Sat., May 6, 1944, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes.

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. CHAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt. 3 qr. 6 lb. in F.

*WILFRED E. BOX Treble	HERBERT C. SPENCER ... 4
DANIEL T. MATKIN 2	LEONARD TUFFREY 6
JOHN PINFOLD 3	*JOHN W. LINDON 7
†RICHARD J. B. HADDEN 4	ARTHUR PRITCHARD ... Tenor

Composed by GEO. HUGHES.

Conducted by DANIEL T. MATKIN.

* First peal of Major. † First peal of Bob Major. First peal in the method on the bells.

BROMHAM, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., May 6, 1944, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. OWEN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 23 cwt.

HERBERT L. HARLOW ... Treble	C. HENRY HARDING ... 5
HENRY GAYTON ... 2	JOHN CHURCH ... 6
*MISS P. L. GILBERT ... 3	LEWIS H. BYWATERS ... 7
*LEONARD H. BOWLER ... 4	REGINALD HOUGHTON ... Tenor

Conducted by L. H. BYWATERS.

* First peal.

SIX BELL PEALS.

SANDIACRE

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., April 29, 1944, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's of Oxford Treble Bob, three of Kent Treble Bob and two of Plain Bob. Tenor 18 cwt.

SERG. A. SHEPPARD ... Treble	G. RIGBY ... 4
A. HARTLAND ... 2	*W. R. DRAGE ... 5
P. L. PARROTT ... 3	H. TURNER ... Tenor

Conducted by W. R. DRAGE.

* 150th peal.

ABBOTSBURY, DORSET.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., May 6, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings.

Tenor 12 cwt.

HENRY J. FORD ... Treble	JOSEPH H. HAYNE ... 4
REGINALD C. TREVEY ... 2	SERG. P. TOCOCK ... 5
JOHN H. W. WOOD ... 3	W. HAROLD TOMS ... Tenor

Conducted by SERG. P. TOCOCK.

First peal on the bells. First peal and first attempt by all except the conductor. First peal as conductor.

HITCHAM, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., May 6, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Double Oxford, Cambridge Surprise, St. Clement's, Oxford Treble Bob, Single Oxford, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 6 cwt. 11 lb. in B flat.

E. DENNIS POOLE ... Treble	WILLIAM HENLEY ... 4
*C. ALFRED LEVETT ... 2	FRANK H. HICKS ... 5
WILLIAM WELLING ... 3	GEORGE GILBERT ... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE GILBERT.

* First peal of Minor in more than one method.

HANDBELL PEALS.

COVENTRY, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Sat., April 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,
AT 117, WIDDRINGTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5065 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

FRANK E. HAYNES ... 1-2	FRANK E. PERVIN ... 5-6
FRANK W. PERRENS ... 3-4	J. FRANK SMALLWOOD ... 7-8

FRANK K. MEASURES ... 9-10

Composed by FRANK W. PERRENS. Silent and non-conducted.
Umpire, Albert Walker. Witness, Ernest Stone.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., April 30, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Six and a Half Minutes,

AT WAYSIDE, 150, NARBOROUGH ROAD SOUTH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

MISS JILL POOLE ... 1-2	HAROLD J. POOLE ... 5-6
GEO. STEDMAN MORRIS ... 3-4	ERNEST MORRIS ... 7-8
*NOLAN GOLDEN ... 9-10	

Composed by F. W. PERRENS. Conducted by H. J. POOLE.

* First peal of Stedman and on ten bells 'in hand.'

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., May 2, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes,
IN THE BELFEY OF THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C

*MISS JILL POOLE ... 1-2	GEO. STEDMAN MORRIS ... 5-6
HAROLD J. POOLE ... 3-4	ERNEST MORRIS ... 7-8
†JOSEPH MORRIS ... 9-10	

Composed by WM. H. INGLESANT. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* First peal of Royal. † First peal of Royal 'in hand.'

LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., May 3, 1944, in Two Hours and Eleven Minutes,
AT 57, THE HEADROW,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

MISS L. K. BOWLING ... 1-2	WILLIAM BARTON ... 5-6
PERCY J. JOHNSON ... 3-4	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 7-8

Composed and Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES

BEACONSFIELD, BUCKS.—On Sunday, March 26th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: R. Buckland 1, G. Gutteridge 2, Miss D. R. Fletcher 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, W. Edwards 5, J. Harrison 6, H. Wingrove (conductor) 7, A. Routh 8.—On Sunday, April 23rd, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: Miss D. Fletcher 1, Miss K. Fletcher 2, W. Redrup 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, R. Buckland 5, W. Edwards 6, J. Harrison 7, H. Wingrove (conductor) 8.

AMERSHAM, BUCKS.—On Sunday, April 23rd, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: C. Chalwin 1, E. C. Ayres 2, H. J. Freeborn 3, L. Haddon 4, W. Edwards 5, W. Redrup (conductor) 6.

HARLOW COMMON.—On April 16th, 1,260 Kent Treble Bob: Lewis Whitby 1, Ben Copping 2, Fred Whitby 3, Vincent Tipton 4, Lewis Cordell 5, Robert Springham 6, Stanley Clark 7, William Wheeler (conductor) 8.—On April 23rd, 1,248 Bob Major: Ben Copping 1, Lewis Whitby (first quarter in the method inside) 2, Fred Whitby 3, Robert Springham 4, Stanley Clark 5, Lewis Cordell 6, Vincent Tipton 7, William Wheeler (conductor) 8.

WILLESBOROUGH.—On April 23rd, 720 Bob Minor: *R. Booth 1, *J. Ireland 2, *R. Newton 3, M. Lancefield 4, W. J. Lancefield 5, E. S. Ruck (conductor) 6. * First 720 of Minor.

BOLTON, LANCASHIRE.—On Monday, April 24th, at Holy Trinity, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Edward B. Webster 1, James W. Kay 2, Mrs. G. Annie Paine (conductor) 3, Everest Ford 4, Albert Greenhalgh 5, Sergt. E. W. Bugden 6, Peter Crook, sen. 7, William Smalley 8.

NORTH STONEHAM.—On Friday, April 28th, 504 Stedman Triples: J. W. Faithfull 1, G. Pullinger 2, N. Hayes (first 504) 3, R. Linter 4, C. J. Fray 5, G. Williams (conductor) 6, W. T. Tucker 7, C. Taylor 8.

NORTH MYMS.—On Sunday, April 30th, 720 Treble Bob Minor: F. Howkins 1, A. R. Lawrence 2, W. Nash 3, A. W. Coles (conductor) 4, C. Nash (first in method) 5, T. J. Lock 6, F. Nash tenor covering. WHICKHAM ST. MARY, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—On Sunday, April 30th, 1,320 Bob Minor: *E. Cairns 1, *S. Thompson, jun. 2, G. Wall 3, *S. Proud 4, *J. Jackson 5, S. Thompson (conductor) 6. * First quarter-peal of Minor.

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BELLS AND THE REFORMATION.

(Continued from page 177.)

I mentioned that the parish churches were stripped of their goods and ornaments. This was done with a ruthless efficiency which contrasts strikingly with the mismanagement by the government of the general policy of the country. In every county commissions were issued to a number of leading men and a series of questions were submitted to churchwardens who were required to furnish a minute inventory of all the goods, plate, jewels, vestments, bells and ornaments in their charge. In London the churchwardens were summoned to the Guildhall and there received instructions. They were to furnish, not only a list of the goods, but also an account of all moneys they had received and spent during their year of office. As a result the government had a complete list of all the property in all the parish churches throughout the land. The goods were divided into parts. Just enough to serve for the bare needs of the simplified ritual of the new prayer book was handed back; the rest was confiscated to the Crown, but for the time being was left in the custody of the churchwardens.

In the year 1553 a second commission was issued. The terms for all the counties were similar, and the following, which relates to the county of Cheshire, will serve as an example.

To William Earl of Pembroke, Lord President of the Council of Wales, and others. 'May 29, 1553. Whereas all manner of goods plate jewels vestmentes belles and other ornaments of every church chapel brotherhood guild fraternity and company within every parish of England and Wales was made and by indenture thereof the one part remains with the Custos rotulorum of the county or his deputy or clerk of the peace and the churchwardens charged to keep the goods and the other part returned to the Privy Council forasmuch as the King is informed that some of the said goods have been embezzled and removed and desires to know the truth and take further order in the matter,' the commissioners were to survey all goods within the County of Cheshire and make an inventory, compare it with the former inventory, enquire into defaults by the oaths of honest men as to the defaulters and into whose possessions the embezzled goods had come. They were authorised to leave for the administration of Holy Communion in every cathedral or collegiate church and in every great parish, one or two chalices, and in every small parish one chalice. After providing for honest and comely coverings for the communion table and surplices for the minister, the residue of the ornaments and implements of linen were to be distributed among the poor of the parish. That done all ready money, plate and jewels were to be delivered to Sir Edmund Peckham and the plate and jewels to the master of the King's jewel house. The commissioners might then sell to the King's use all the remaining copes, vestments, altar cloths, and ornaments, and also sell to the King's use by weight all metal 'except the great bell and saunce bell in every of the said churches and chapels,' and deliver to Peckham the money arising from such sales.

The bells, which in every county were handed back to the custody of the churchwardens are marked in the inventories as 'remaining to the king's use,' and the churchwardens were charged to keep them 'unspoiled unembesiled and unsold until the King's pleasure was

further know.' It is a moot point whether this was done (as some writers have supposed) to forbid their sale by the parish or any private person, or whether the Council were still undecided what to do with them. Probably they had not entirely given up the idea of using them as revenue.

Upon such a slender thread did the fate of the bells of England hang. We cannot doubt that if the spoilers had worked their wicked will the loss would have been, not for a time, but for ever. It is not merely that the cost of replacing the bells would have been enormous, or that men would have been little disposed to make sacrifices for what might at any moment be swept into the coffers of the government; but history abundantly shows that when the life of any institution or custom based on sentiment and tradition is abruptly ended, it cannot be revived after an interval of years. After four centuries the Church of England has but partially replaced the copes and vestments which were sold in 1553, and that has been possible, not only because an unbroken doctrinal significance is attached to them, but also because their use has never ceased in the Churches abroad. It would not have been so with the bells. What would have happened we may perhaps see from what actually did happen in Scotland.

Scotland lost all her bells save one in each church, but she lost much more than that. She lost the sentiment attached to bells. There is something more than fancy in the comparison drawn by Robert Louis Stevenson between the bells of Oxford and 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. . . . Indeed, there are not many uproars in this world more dismal than that of the Sabbath bells in Edinburgh.' Does it signify that in both cases the result is produced by a number of unrelated bells in separate towers? The result should be the same; is the same to many people. But the underlying spirit is totally different. Had England lost her sentiment of bells there was nowhere whence she could have recovered it. Not from the Continent. Many foreign countries, if not all, use bells, and some of them (Belgium and Holland for instance) love them; but their sentiment is not the English one. That was a purely national thing, a curious mixture, like the English character, springing from religious feeling, the love of home and the love of sport. Once lost, it would have been lost for ever.

But, after all, was the thread upon which the fate of the bells hung, so very slender a one? We have seen how ruthless was the determination to wring every bit of available property out of the Church and how thoroughly it was done. Public opinion must have been of unusual strength since it availed to keep the hands of the robbers from the spoliation of the church bells.

A very large number of the inventories drawn up by the Commissioners or to their order are still in existence. The majority are at the Public Record Office, others are in private hands. They give a more comprehensive account of the number of rings of bells that were in England in 1552 and 1553, than exists for any other time in the history of the country. They prove conclusively that the threatened spoliation did not take place, did not even begin. The bells of Oxfordshire, which Froude

says were taken down in 1549, were still in the steeples in 1553, and so were the bells of Devonshire, which more narrowly escaped destruction.

The returns for the City of London are fairly full. Of the 106 parish churches there are inventories for 94, but nine of them are defective and at present do not tell us anything about the bells. One parish, St. Faith's under St. Paul's, had no tower and no bells. In the remaining 82 churches there were two rings of six, 33 of five, 26 of four, and 20 of three. Two churches had but two bells, and one a single one.

In addition, there were rings of five at St. Paul's Cathedral, St. Martin-le-Grand and St. Bartholomew the Great, and a ring of three at St. Bartholomew the Less. The two latter are among the parish churches for which no inventories survive. There are no inventories for All Hallows', Barking, St. Michael's, Paternoster Royal, and St. James', Garlickhithe, all of which most probably had five (or, at any rate, four) bells. Of the churches whose inventories are defective, St. Botolph's, Aldgate, St. Bartholomew Exchange, St. Peter Poor, and St. Vedast, Foster Lane, all had rings of five not very long after 1553. The number of bells at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, is doubtful, but I am inclined to read the mutilated word as six.

Only two other churches possessed that number; St. Sepulchre's, which had lately acquired the bells of St. Bartholomew's Priory, and St. Michael's, Cornhill, where the bells were the special pride of the parish. In both cases the tenor was rather more than 30 cwt. in weight.

The fives at St. Martin-le-Grand, St. Mary-le-Bow, and St. Giles', Cripplegate, were also heavy. The other

rings varied in weight down to such fives as the one which still hangs in St. Bartholomew's tower, and the little threes in such churches as St. Ethelreda's or St. Helen's, where the steeples were not more than turrets.

In almost every church, in addition to the bells in the ringing peal, there was a saunce bell, and in a few an extra bell for the clock to strike on. In the year 1552 there were about 440 bells in the churches of the City of London; in the year 1939 there were about 235. In 1552 there were about 70 ringing peals (of four and upwards). In 1939 there were 21, of which only 12 were ever rung. To-day the number has been reduced much more.

Whatever looting of bells took place in country villages, there was none in the City of London.

(To be continued.)

SERVICE TOUCHES.

STEDMAN CATERS.

221

231456789

361452978

1, 6.

134265879

2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 15.

Call a bob at the go off. Then call the Sixth in 8-9 up after quick when it is dodging with the Second. These will produce the first (going-off) course after 12 more sixes.

Call the Sixth last Half Turn (8-9 will dodge behind). Call a bob when the Sixth is dodging in 4-5 up after slow, and three consecutive bobs when the Sixth in dodging in 8-9 up with the Third. Then first Half Turn. The bells will run round at the third change of the Six following the course end.

As a variation, call an extra bob in the going-off course with the Sixth in 6-7 down before slow, and omit the last bob in the second (homing) course. The bells will run round at the first change after the course end, and the number will be 219.

Another variation. Add the bob with the Sixth in 6-7 down before slow to the going-off course, and then call two more similar bobs each in a separate course. Then call the homing course as in the 221. The number of changes will be 457.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

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MUFFLES,
Etc.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official Journal of the Central Council of
Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Will representatives of associations who intend to be
present at the Central Council meeting on Whit Monday
please ascertain whether their affiliation fee has been
paid, as the subscriptions of 25 societies still remain
unpaid.

G. W. FLETCHER.

Alan A. Potts, who rang the treble to the peal of Bob Major at
Hyde on May 6th, is twelve years old. He had not previously struck
a blow in Major. On the other hand, Mr. H. L. Harlow, who rang
the treble to the peal of Grandsire Triples at Bromham, is in his
79th year.

Leicester Cathedral bells will be heard on the wireless on Monday,
May 15th, Forces programme, 8 p.m. to 8.30; and Wednesday, May
17th, 2.30 to 3 p.m., in 'Home Flash.'

FIFTY YEARS AGO.

Loughborough, Leicestershire. The Midland Counties Association.
On Tuesday, May 15th, 1894, in Six Hours and Sixteen Minutes at the
Church of All Saints. A Peal of Superlative Surprise Major, 8,800
changes. Tenor 28 cwt. in D. N. J. Pitstow 1, Rev. G. F. Coleridge
2, Arthur James 3, Ernest Pitstow 4, J. Hardy 5, S. Smith 6, R. T.
Lane 7, J. W. Taylor, jun., Tenor. Composed and Conducted by
N. J. Pitstow. This is the longest length composed and rung in the
method.—'The Bell News.'

'RINGING AND LIFE.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The author of 'Ringing and Life' certainly treads on
dangerous ground when he considers making access to our belfries
more difficult.

It is true that visitors are sometimes embarrassing and the
majority not prospective ringers. Nevertheless, I think we ought to
encourage the Vicar to treat his friends to a ringing exhibition, and
welcome the stranger who stumbles into the ringing room at the
wrong moment.

Without the financial assistance of parishioners, many fine rings
would not exist to-day. I believe a person who has seen and heard
us will be more sympathetic to any appeal for help than one who has
only heard our efforts from afar. Let us show our bellringing when-
ever we can.

We must remember that a ring of bells is an expensive luxury and
not a necessity for modern church activities.

16, Maxstoke Lane, Coleshill, near Birmingham.

W. C. RHODES.

Sir,—I admire Mr. Haines' pluck and the admirable manner in
which he has expressed his warning. His fears are well grounded,
based as they are on the craze for speed and excitement so apparent
in this modern age. This plea for a regard of those values which
have made us the most reliable nation on earth cannot be condemned
as reactionary.

Let the realists reflect that the most important things in life are
the intangible.

J. H. R. FREEBORN.

Aith, Little Chalfont, Amersham.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.

MINUTES of the first session of the Seventeenth Council (47th Annual Meeting), held in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall, Westminster, by kind permission of the Middlesex County Council, on Whitsun Tuesday, May 30th, 1939.

The Council was welcomed to Westminster by the Rev. Canon Jocelyn Perkins, of Westminster Abbey. The President responded and took the chair. The meeting opened with prayer.

PRESENT:—

Ancient Society of College Youths.—Mr. E. G. Fenn, Mr. A. B. Peck.
Bath and Wells Diocesan Association.—Mr. J. I. Dyke, Mr. J. Hunt, Miss N. Williams.
Bedfordshire Association.—Mr. A. King, Mr. A. E. Sharman.
Cambridge University Guild.—Mr. E. M. Atkins, Rev. B. F. Sheppard.
Chester Diocesan Guild.—Mr. J. Cooke, Mr. J. Swindley.
Devon Guild.—Mr. T. Laver, Mr. F. C. Smale.
Dudley and District Guild.—Mr. F. Colclough.
Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association.—Mr. W. H. Barber, Mr. W. J. Davidson.
East Derbyshire and Notts Association.—Mr. T. Clarke.
East Grinstead and District Guild.—Mr. A. Reife.
Ely Diocesan Association.—Mr. C. W. Cook, Mr. F. Warrington.
Essex Association.—Mr. E. J. Butler, Mr. G. R. Pye, Mr. H. Edwards.
Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.—Mr. J. Austin, Mr. E. Guise, Mr. W. B. Kynaston.
Guildford Diocesan Guild.—Mr. G. L. Grover, Mr. A. C. Hazelden, Mr. A. Harman, Mr. A. H. Pulling.
Hertford County Association.—Mr. W. Ayre, Mr. H. G. Cashmore, Mr. H. E. C. Goodenough.
Irish Association.—Mr. G. Lindoff.
Kent County Association.—Mr. F. J. Cullum, Mr. F. M. Mitchell, Mr. T. E. Sone, Mr. G. H. Spice.
Ladies' Guild.—Mrs. G. W. Fletcher, Mrs. R. Richardson, Miss E. Steel.
Lancashire Association.—Mr. P. Crook, Mr. G. R. Newton, Mr. W. H. Shuker, Mr. T. B. Worsley.
Lincoln Diocesan Guild.—Mr. J. Bray, Mr. R. Richardson.
Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association.—Mr. J. W. Jones, Mr. E. Stith.
London County Association.—Mr. T. H. Taffender, Mr. T. W. Taffender.
Middlesex County Association.—Mr. J. E. L. Cockey, Mr. C. T. Coles, Mr. G. W. Fletcher, Mr. W. G. Wilson.
Midland Counties Association.—Mr. A. J. Harris, Mr. J. H. Swinfield, Mr. P. L. Taylor, Mr. W. E. White.
Norwich Diocesan Association.—Mr. A. L. Coleman, Mr. F. Nolan Golden, Mr. L. W. Houghton.
North Staffordshire Association.—Mr. A. Thompson.
Oxford Diocesan Guild.—Mr. A. D. Barker, Rev. Canon G. F. Coleridge, Mr. A. E. Lock, Mr. R. A. Post.
Oxford Society.—Mr. W. Collett.
Oxford University Society.—Rev. C. E. Wigg.
Peterborough Diocesan Guild.—Mr. H. Chambers, Rev. E. S. Powell.
Romney Marsh and District Guild.—Mr. P. Page.
St. Martin's Guild.—Mr. A. Paddon Smith.
Salisbury Diocesan Guild.—Rev. F. Ll. Edwards, Mr. S. H. Hillier, Mr. C. Jennings, Mr. F. W. Romaine.
Society of Royal Cumberland Youths.—Mr. G. H. Cross, Mr. G. Gilbert, Mr. G. W. Steere.
Stafford Archdeaconry Society.—Mr. B. Horton, Mr. H. Knight.
Suffolk Guild.—Rev. H. Drake, Mr. C. Mee, Mr. C. J. Sedgely.
Surrey Association.—Mr. W. Clayton, Mr. D. D. Cooper, Mr. C. H. Kippin.
Sussex County Association.—Mr. F. H. Dallaway, Mr. A. W. Groves, Mr. F. I. Hairs, Mr. O. Sippette.
Swansea and Brecon Diocesan Guild.—Mr. D. H. Bennett.
Warwickshire Guild.—Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Mr. F. W. Perrens.
Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild.—Mr. G. Pullinger, Mr. F. W. Rogers, Mr. G. Williams.
Worcester and Districts Association.—Mr. S. T. Holt, Mr. J. D. Johnson, Mr. C. H. Woodberry.
Yorkshire Association.—Mr. P. J. Johnson, Mr. L. W. G. Morris, Mr. S. F. Palmer.
Honorary members.—Mr. W. A. Cave, Mr. C. Dean, Mr. G. E. Debenham, Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, Major J. H. B. Hesse, Mr. A. A. Hughes, Mr. E. H. Lewis, Mr. J. A. Trollope, Mr. E. C. S. Turner, Mr. A. Walker, Mr. S. H. Wood, Mr. T. Groombridge, Mr. W. H. J. Hooton.

REPORT AS TO MEMBERSHIP

The hon. secretary reported the constitution of the Council as:—
Associations affiliated ... 49
Total members to which entitled ... 139
Total members elected ... 132
Honorary members ... 16

The North Notts Association and North Wales Association were no longer affiliated.

The secretary also reported that three associations had failed to supply information as to membership and representatives, two associations were entitled to an extra representative, and one association had elected more representatives than it was entitled to under the rules.

Members of past Councils who did not appear on the new roll were noted as: Miss K. Willers and Messrs. R. G. Black, C. E. Borrett, H. W. Brown, J. H. Cheesman, F. E. Dawe, E. Denison Taylor, T. Groombridge and C. F. Winny.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies reported were: Mr. J. W. Millner, Chester; Mr. J. C. Pollard, Cleveland and N. Yorks; Messrs. E. W. Marsh and G. C. Woodley, Devon; Mr. J. W. Parker, Durham and Newcastle; Mr. L. W. Wiffen, Essex; Mr. J. P. Hyett, Hereford; Mr. C. W. Woolley, Hertford; Ven. Archdeacon Parry and Mr. G. Chester, Lincoln; Mr. P. A. Corby, London County; Mr. K. Thacker, North Staffs; Mr. T. Tebbutt, Peterborough; Mr. W. Saunders, Shropshire; Mr. J. Parker, Society of Royal Cumberland Youths; Mr. S. H. Symonds, Suffolk; Mr. H. Barton, Winchester; the Rev. C. C. Marshall, Yorkshire; and Messrs. C. W. Roberts, C. F. Johnston and E. Alex. Young, honorary members.

It was decided to convey to Mr. James Parker the Council's best wishes for a speedy recovery from his illness.

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE PRESIDENT.

As provided by Rule 11 all new members were introduced to the President.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

President.—It was proposed by Mr. A. Paddon Smith, seconded by the Rev. Canon G. F. Coleridge and carried unanimously, that Mr. E. H. Lewis be re-elected President.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.—On the President's motion, Mr. G. W. Fletcher was re-elected.

Hon. Librarian.—Mr. W. H. J. Hooton, who had ceased to be a member of the Council, was, on the proposal of Mr. A. Walker, seconded by Mr. S. H. Wood, elected an honorary member, and on the motion of Mr. A. Walker, seconded by the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards, re-elected hon. librarian.

ELECTION OF AUDITORS.

It was proposed by Mr. W. A. Cave, seconded by Mr. G. R. Newton and carried, that Mr. C. T. Coles and Mr. A. A. Hughes be re-appointed.

ELECTION OF HONORARY MEMBERS.

The following were re-elected on the proposal of Mr. A. Walker, seconded by Mr. J. T. Dyke: The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, Alderman J. S. Pritchett, Major J. H. B. Hesse, Messrs. C. Dean, J. S. Goldsmith, C. F. Johnston, J. A. Trollope and E. Alex. Young.

Four vacancies were filled by the election of Mr. T. Groombridge, proposed by Mr. A. A. Hughes, seconded by Major J. H. B. Hesse; Mr. J. F. Smallwood, proposed by Mr. T. B. Worsley, seconded by Mr. C. J. Sedgely; Mr. F. Sharp, proposed by the Rev. C. E. Wigg, seconded by Mr. A. D. Barker; and Mr. W. H. J. Hooton, hon. librarian.

LOSS OF MEMBERS THROUGH DEATH.

The President reported the deaths of Mr. W. T. Pates (1891-1894), the Rev. F. J. O. Helmore (1894-1929) and Mr. A. B. Bennett (1903-1905).

A silent tribute was paid by all members standing.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

Proposed by Mr. J. Hunt, seconded by Mr. W. Ayre and carried, that minutes circulated to all members, and published in 'The Ringing World' May 19th, 1939, pages 322-323, be taken as read and be approved.

REPORTS.

The following reports, etc., were circulated to all members and associations and have been published in full or in abbreviated form in 'The Ringing World.' They are preserved in the Council's records and are available for inspection.

REPORT OF THE HON. LIBRARIAN.

('The Ringing World,' June 9th, 1939, page 371.)

The hon. Librarian presented his report showing sales of 505 publications—200 of which were the Minor and Doubles book. The surplus was £14 12s. 4d. The report was adopted on the motion of Mr. W. H. J. Hooton, seconded by Mr. A. A. Hughes.

Maintenance of books.—On the President's motion, the hon. Librarian was given full powers to repair and maintain the books in the library.

New publications.—On the proposal of the Rev. H. Drake, seconded by Mr. P. J. Johnson, the Standing Committee were asked to consider the preparation and publication of a new 'Glossary.'

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO REVISE 'MODEL RULES FOR A LOCAL COMPANY.'

The committee presented two complete sets of rules, which were considered in detail and amended as found desirable ('The Ringing World,' June 16th, pages 385-386). The committee's report was adopted on the proposal of the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards, seconded by Mr. S. H. Wood, and on the motion of the Rev. H. Drake, seconded by Mr. C. H. Jennings, it was resolved to approve the amended rules and to authorise printing.

(Continued on next page.)

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from previous page.)

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

('The Ringing World,' June 2nd, 1939, page 354.)

The hon. treasurer presented accounts showing a balance of £115 11s. 8d. and investments of a market value of £133 2s. 6d., and moved the adoption. The motion was seconded by Mr. A. A. Hughes and carried.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE CARTER RINGING MACHINE.

('The Ringing World,' June 16th, page 386.)

The report, presented by Mr. A. A. Hughes, referred to the repair work now being undertaken by Mr. Sharman, which it was expected would be completed in a few weeks. The report was seconded by Mr. A. Paddon Smith and adopted, and authority was given for the payment of demonstrators' fees.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

The committee reported that they had considered the agenda, and had given careful thought to the question of affiliation. They recommended that all societies be urged to pay more attention to the number of their members, and that the London County Association be asked to furnish further particulars as to their resident life members. They reported that they had considered the question of mechanical ringing and their findings would be placed before the Council. A final draft report was now being made on muffling. The report was adopted on the proposal of Mr. G. W. Fletcher, seconded by the Rev. Canon G. F. Coleridge.

Members re-elected were the Ven. Archdeacon H. T. Parry, Alderman J. S. Pritchett, Major J. H. B. Hesse, Messrs. W. A. Cave, J. T. Dyke, C. F. Johnston, R. Richardson, A. Paddon Smith, A. Walker and S. H. Wood on the proposal of Mr. T. Groombridge, seconded by Mr. J. Hunt, and additional members—Mr. E. C. S. Turner, proposed by Mr. A. Walker, seconded by Mr. C. J. Sedgely; Mr. G. E. Debenham, proposed by Mr. G. W. Fletcher, seconded by Mr. W. Ayre.

Ex-officio members.—President, Mr. E. H. Lewis; hon. secretary, Mr. G. W. Fletcher; hon. auditors, Messrs. C. T. Coles and A. A. Hughes; past officers, the Rev. Canon G. F. Coleridge and Mr. E. Alex. Young; conveners of committees—Peal Collection, Mr. G. Lindoff; Methods, Mr. J. A. Trollope; Peal Analysis, Mrs. E. K. Fletcher; Towers and Belfries, Mr. E. H. Lewis; Literature, Press and Broadcasting, the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards; Peal Boards, Mr. W. G. Wilson; Biographies, Mr. J. S. Goldsmith.

REPORT OF THE PEAL COLLECTION COMMITTEE.

The committee presented a collection of best compositions, and the Standing Committee recommended that these be printed if the cost was reasonable. The recommendation was adopted on the proposal of Mr. C. T. Coles, seconded by Mr. R. Richardson.

The committee was reconstituted as follows: Mr. G. Lindoff, the Rev. E. S. Powell, Messrs. G. R. Newton, G. R. Pye and T. B. Worsley, proposed by Mr. A. A. Hughes, seconded by Mr. E. C. S. Turner; Mr. H. G. Cashmore, proposed by Mr. W. Ayre, seconded by Mr. A. King, with Mr. Lindoff as convener, proposed by Mr. G. H. Cross, seconded by the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards.

REPORT OF THE METHODS COMMITTEE.

('The Ringing World,' June 23rd, 1939, pages 401-2.)

The committee presented its report signed by two members only, and a minority report was submitted by Mr. S. H. Wood.

Arising from a discussion on the new Surprise Book, it was agreed, on the proposal of Mr. W. Ayre, that all methods printed in the book should be named.

The report was adopted on the motion of Mr. J. A. Trollope, seconded by Mr. S. H. Wood. The thanks of the Council were accorded to the committee, and on the proposal of Mr. W. A. Cave, seconded by Mr. J. Hunt, the committee was re-elected with Mr. Trollope as convener, proposed by the Rev. E. S. Powell, seconded by Mr. J. Clarke.

Committee: Messrs. J. A. Trollope, E. C. S. Turner and S. H. Wood. Surprise Book.—The hon. secretary reported on the response regarding support to be given by the associations in the printing of this book. Of a proposed issue of 750 copies associations had undertaken to purchase 462.

REPORT OF THE PEAL ANALYSIS AND RECORDS COMMITTEE.

('The Ringing World,' April 7th, 1939, pages 217-219.)

The report was presented by Mrs. E. K. Fletcher, who moved the adoption. The motion was seconded by Mr. G. R. Pye and carried.

Attention was drawn to the need of accuracy when sending peals for publication. The committee—Mrs. E. K. Fletcher, Messrs. C. Dean, G. L. Grover, G. R. Pye and W. Ayre—was reappointed with thanks for past services on the proposal of Mr. T. Groombridge, seconded by Mr. F. Perrens, with Mrs. Fletcher as convener, proposed by Mr. A. A. Hughes, seconded by Mr. E. J. Butler.

REPORT OF THE TOWERS AND BELFRIES COMMITTEE.

('The Ringing World,' June 23rd, 1939, page 402.)

Mr. E. H. Lewis reported for the committee and amplified the report regarding individual matters dealt with during the year. The report was adopted. The committee was reappointed on the proposal

of Mr. P. Crook, seconded by Mr. A. J. Harris, with Mr. Lewis as convener, proposed by Mr. J. Hunt, seconded by Mr. W. A. Cave. Committee: Mr. E. H. Lewis, Major J. H. B. Hesse, Mr. E. Alex. Young and Mr. J. Hunt.

REPORT OF THE LITERATURE, PRESS AND BROADCASTING COMMITTEE.

('The Ringing World,' June 30th, 1939, page 417.)

The Rev. F. Ll. Edwards presented the report and moved its adoption. The proposal was seconded by Mr. A. Paddon Smith and carried.

The committee was reappointed on the proposal of Mr. L. W. Houghton, seconded by Mr. F. W. Perrens, with the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards as convener, proposed by Mr. G. H. Cross, seconded by Mr. J. S. Goldsmith. Committee: The Rev. F. Ll. Edwards, Messrs. J. S. Goldsmith, A. Paddon Smith and A. Walker.

REPORT OF THE PEAL BOARDS COMMITTEE.

('The Ringing World,' June 30th, 1939, page 417.)

On the motion of Mr. W. G. Wilson, seconded by Mr. W. Ayre, the report was adopted. The committee requested that they be authorised to appoint district representatives in order to obtain details of old peal boards in particular localities. The request was granted on the proposal of Mr. W. G. Wilson, seconded by the Rev. C. E. Wigg. The committee was reappointed on the motion of Mr. A. J. Harris, seconded by the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards, with Mr. Wilson as convener, proposed by Mr. S. H. Wood, seconded by Mr. E. C. S. Turner. Committee: Mr. W. G. Wilson, the Rev. C. E. Wigg and Mr. W. Ayre.

REPORT OF THE BIOGRAPHIES COMMITTEE.

('The Ringing World,' June 30th, 1939, page 418.)

Mr. J. S. Goldsmith moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by Mr. W. A. Cave and carried. The committee—Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, Mr. W. A. Cave and Mrs. E. K. Fletcher, with the addition of Mr. A. C. Hazelden—was reappointed on the proposal of Mr. A. A. Hughes, seconded by Mr. F. I. Hairs, with Mr. Goldsmith as convener, proposed by Mr. W. A. Cave, seconded by Mr. R. Richardson.

CIRCULATION OF 'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The hon. secretary reported on this matter, and the Standing Committee recommended that further consideration be left to the committee. The recommendation was adopted on the proposal of Mr. G. W. Fletcher, seconded by Mr. A. Walker.

MUFFLING OF BELLS.

The President reported that the drafting of a final report was proceeding.

PLACE OF NEXT MEETING.

The Standing Committee recommended that the next meeting be held at Cardiff. The recommendation was adopted on the motion of Mr. J. A. Trollope, seconded by Mr. W. A. Cave.

MECHANICAL RINGING.

The Rev. F. Ll. Edwards reported that this question, raised by the Rev. H. Drake last year, had been considered by the Standing Committee. He presented a report ('The Ringing World,' June 7th, 1939, page 435), which was adopted on the President's motion, and it was agreed that it should be sent to all Diocesan Advisory Committees.

CHESTERFIELD BELLS.

The President referred to this matter and stated that in a recent article in 'The Sheffield Telegraph' the Archdeacon was considering installing some form of 'canned' bells or gramophone records if he was unable to obtain the services of ringers. On this matter the Towers and Belfries Committee were anxious for information. Mr. S. F. Palmer stated that he understood that the services of ringers had been offered, and that a meeting was being arranged between the Archdeacon and a Chesterfield ringer. On the proposal of the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards, seconded by Mr. W. G. Wilson, the secretary was instructed to write to the Archdeacon to say that the Council was very glad to hear of the proposed meeting and hoped that successful results would be the outcome.

HANDBELL RINGING.

On the proposal of Mr. G. W. Fletcher, seconded by Mr. W. H. J. Hooton, it was agreed that the draft book prepared by Mr. C. W. Woolley be passed to prominent handbell ringers for their comments, and afterwards to the Standing Committee for printing as soon as possible.

SILENCERS.

A question by Mr. A. D. Barker as to the recognition of a peal where silencers were used, and the general use of different types of silencers, was, on the President's suggestion, deferred for consideration at a future meeting.

RECORD ATTENDANCE.

The hon. secretary reported the attendance at the meeting as 104 representative and 13 honorary members. Twenty-four associations were fully represented, 19 partly and six not.

VOTES OF THANKS.

On the President's motion, thanks were accorded to Dr. Jocelyn Perkins for his welcome, the Middlesex County Council for the use of the Council Chamber, H.M. Office of Works for the use of Imperial Institute bells, and all Church authorities and towerkeepers, and to the London societies and their representatives for arrangements.

The meeting terminated at 4.45 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the President, proposed by the Rev. Canon G. F. Coleridge, and to the hon. secretary and Mrs. E. K. Fletcher, proposed by the President.

RINGING PUBLICATIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I feel that I am not alone in my enjoyment of the excerpts from Mr. Trollope's unpublished 'History of London Ringing', which have appeared in your columns, or in my regret that a work of such great interest to ringers should, for obvious reasons, remain unpublished.

It is possible that other works of equal value to the Exercise exist in manuscript form only, and as the years pass by the chance increases of years of loving labour becoming lost to the world in general and the Exercise in particular.

A bibliography of ringing literature, such as is contained in Mr. Morris' history, is impressive, but, apart from the current publications in the Central Council and Snowdon series, it is practically impossible to obtain a copy of even the more important works, such as the 'Clavis' and Shipway's 'Campanologia.'

This unfortunate state of affairs was realised some 50 years ago and a series of reprints of the older works was issued by 'The Bell News.' Unfortunately for posterity, however, these issues were made in weekly parts, and in most cases seem to have been destroyed along with the copy of 'The Bell News' in which they were contained. Furthermore, the reprints were just what they purported to be, reprints without the benefit of a competent editor's care. I cannot guarantee the correctness of these statements regarding 'The Bell News' reprints, but I have distinct recollections of an old ringer proudly telling me how he himself had bound his copy of Shipway's 'Campanologia.'

In considering the question of publishing books, mainly of interest to ringers, it must be admitted that the comparative small circle of potential readers precludes issue by a publishing firm in the ordinary course of business. It remains, therefore, to discover if any form of non-commercial publishing is possible and it may be illustrative to examine the methods by which other bodies with special interests manage to bring out volumes mainly of interest to their own members. An examination of any literary journal such as 'The Times Literary Supplement' will show that there are numerous societies whose members pay an annual subscription of £1 and receive an annual volume which has been thoroughly edited by one of their own members as a labour of love. A small number of volumes are reserved for the general public at a price of 25s. to 30s. I would mention the case of the Navy Records Society, of which I am a member. This society has a membership of some 450, many of the 'members' being libraries, clubs and other institutions of a similar public nature. For an annual subscription of £1 1s. each member receives a handsomely produced volume of some rare or out of print work or work not previously printed, or a collection of naval papers previously difficult of access. The success of this society and the real worth of the volumes issued over the fifty years of its existence leads me to wonder if there is not scope within the Exercise for a society on similar lines to publish works of permanent value to the Exercise. I realise that an annual subscription of £1 1s. would be beyond the means of many ringers, but it should not be beyond the means of any society affiliated with the Central Council or tower society of more than ten or twelve members. I feel sure that several libraries at home and certainly a number in the United States would become members if approached in a diplomatic manner and comprehensive information of the society's objects furnished to them. Also there must be at least 200 ringers who would be only too glad to make some sacrifice to become individual members.

Whilst it is certain that no action can be taken until the war is over, there is no reason at all why the Exercise should not follow the lead of the Government and prepare for peace and, amongst other things, consider the possible value of a society for the printing of works of value to the Exercise itself.

It would, of course, be necessary for the proposed society to have a name and I would suggest the 'John Goldsmith Society' as a fitting memorial to the man who conferred an inestimable benefit on the Exercise through the printed word, issued over a long period of years, often at personal financial sacrifice.

B. H. SWINSON.
Maracaibo, Venezuela.

OVER 62 YEARS A RINGER.

An engraved plate has been erected in the belfry of St. James' Church, Barrow, to commemorate more than 62 years' service as a ringer by Mr. C. J. A. Cushing. It was dedicated on April 23rd by the Vicar in the presence of the churchwardens and many other persons. Mr. Cushing is a life member of the Lancashire Association, which he joined in 1888.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

MEETING AT TOPSHAM.

Seventy members of the Aylesbeare Deanery Branch of the Devonshire Guild were present at a meeting at Topsham on April 15th. They came from Honiton Clyst, Sowton, Whimple, Colaton Raleigh, East Budleigh, Otterton, Withycombe Raleigh, Limpstone and Topsham. Visitors were from Tedburn St. Mary, Buckfastleigh, Dawlish, Exeter (St. Thomas') and Sidmouth.

At the business meeting, Mr. Brian Pidgeon, of East Budleigh, was appointed secretary in place of Mr. R. Brook, who had resigned on account of failing eyesight after 10 years' service.

Seventeen performing members and one honorary member were elected, and it was decided to hold the next meeting at Whimple on September 9th.

The methods rung were Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and Plain and Kent Treble Bob Minor.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD

MEETING AT WILLENHALL.

A meeting of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford was held at Willenhall on April 22nd. The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. J. Ashley, and the address given by Canon Brierley, Rector of Wolverhampton. Six new members were elected, and the annual meeting was provisionally fixed to be held at Walsall. The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Caters, Bob Major and Royal, and Kent Treble Bob and Double Norwich Major.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT LYONSHALL.

A meeting of the Kington District of the Hereford Diocesan Guild was held at Lyonshall on April 22nd, at which 22 members attended. The methods rung were four of Doubles, Bob Minor and Kent Treble Bob Minor.

The Vicar presided at the meeting and mention was made of the deaths of Mr. S. Jones, of Kington, a member of the Guild for over 40 years, and Sergt. W. J. Reece, of Staunton-on-Arrow.

The secretary reported that combined practices had been held with fair attendances. He congratulated the young band at Erdishland on the progress they had made. The bands at several towers were depleted and regular service ringing could not be carried on. Five new members were elected.

It was decided to hold a practice at Weobley in May and a meeting at New Radnor in July if possible.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Eastern District of the Durham and Newcastle Association was held at St. Oswald's, West Hartlepool, on Saturday, April 29th, when ringers were present from Sunderland (St. Ignatius' and St. Michael's), Houghton-le-Spring, Stockton Parish Church, Chester-le-Street, South Shields and the home tower.

The methods rung included Bob Royal, Stedman and Grandsire Caters, Cambridge Surprise Major, Kent Treble Bob Major and Stedman Triples.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT WALLASEY.

A meeting of the Chester Diocesan Guild was held at Wallasey on April 29th, at which the service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. W. Simpson, who gave an address and welcomed the ringers. Six new members were elected and Bebington was selected for the next meeting.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT ABBOTSBURY.

Twenty-seven members from Abbotsbury, Bradford Peverell, Dorchester, Maiden Newton, Stratton, Upwey, Wool and Wyke Regus were present on April 29th at the meeting of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held at Abbotsbury.

Tea in the vicarage garden was followed by the business meeting, at which the chairman, Canon A. W. Markby, referred to the death of Mr. C. H. Jennings and his work for the Guild. The vacant post of secretary was left open until the end of the war, Mr. J. T. Godwin and the chairman being asked to carry on in the meantime. Invitations to visit Wool in June and Stratton in August were accepted. At the service in church the address was given by the Rev. W. G. E. Squire.

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BIG BEN

Last Friday, 'The Times' printed the following letter from Mr. Dingle Foot: 'Big Ben is the most famous clock in the world, but the reason for the existence of the clock tower is seldom realised. The legend is that Sir Ralph Higham, a mediæval Lord Chief Justice, altered a Court record in order to reduce the amount which a poor litigant had to pay. This action came to the ears of the King, who fined the Lord Chief Justice 800 marks. The money was used for the erection of a clock tower so that the bell striking the hour would be a constant reminder to the judges in Westminster Hall and other Courts nearby to indifferently administer justice.'

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual general meeting of the Leeds and District Society was held at Leeds Parish Church on April 29th.

The business meeting was in the tower. Mr. W. H. Senior presided and members were present from Armley, Batley, Bradford, Headingley (St. Chad's), Idle, Leeds Parish Church, Rotherham, Rothwell, Selby and Wakefield.

The secretary reported that eleven meetings had been held. The total membership was 152. Five members had lapsed, two had died and only three new members had been elected.

The balance sheet showed a further improvement and a credit of £19 10s. 7d.

The following officers were elected: President, Mr. W. H. Senior; vice-presidents, Messrs. T. W. Strangeway and S. Barron; secretary and treasurer, Mr. H. Lofthouse; Ringing Master, Mr. A. Smith.

The next meeting will be at Guiseley on Saturday, May 27th.

HUDDERSFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**MEETING AT ELLAND.**

A meeting of the Huddersfield and District Society, held at Elland on April 29th, was attended by about 30 ringers from Halifax, Sowerby, Ripponden, Lightcliffe, Liversedge, Brighouse, Lindley, Huddersfield, Kirkburton, Longwood, Meltham, Almondbury and Elland. The methods rung were Stedman Triples and Plain Bob, Double Norwich Court Bob and Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Major.

In future meetings will be held on the last Saturday in each month, and the next will be at Marsden on May 27th.

VISITORS.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—I should like to second Mr. Butler's suggestion in his letter headed 'Visitors.'

Personally I have spent many hours in a new district visiting churches, trying to find out if they have bells and if they ring and when, and have returned to camp with no particulars.

When you know your next chance to get a pull might be in two months' time, it is very disappointing to think you have missed a chance through not knowing if any when a tower rings.

Unfortunately, we cannot pick our days off, and more often than not they come in the week, not on a Saturday or Sunday as we would like them to. You can be sure if the chance was there a ringer would be having a pull somewhere if at all possible.

As Mr. Butler suggests, the information put on notice board in porch would help not only the visitor, but the band also in many cases.

L. W. JARVIS.

RAISING A BELL.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—If Mr. Dibley's suggestion in your issue of April 28th is that stored energy is carried forward from one swing to another as may happen in the case of a flywheel having rotation in one direction, then I am afraid the answer is no.

The energy account must be made up and balanced for each swing because of the change in direction of rotation. The energy received from the pull is present as an increase in velocity during the swing, over and above that due to gravity, and what remains of it after balancing friction appears as the increase in height gained by the whole mass for that swing.

The energy resulting from mass and gravity is wholly expended in reascending the hill just descended.

A. W. DAVIS.

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NOTICES.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Meeting at Dunmow, Saturday, May 13th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Light tea provided.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields, Saturday, May 13th. Bells 2-8 p.m. Service 4. Business 4.45. No tea arrangements, but several restaurants nearby. Bells at St. Margaret's, Westminster, 6-8 p.m.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division. Meeting at Woodford, Saturday, May 13th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.45. Tea and business meeting to follow.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wansted, E.11.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Meeting at Coleshill Parish Church, Warwickshire, on Saturday, May 13th, 3 p.m. Tea will be arranged.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION and ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Joint meeting at King's Lynn on Saturday, May 13th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Note.—Lynn is in the restricted area.—W. J. Eldred, 4, Wellington Street, King's Lynn.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual general meeting at Guildford on Saturday, May 13th. Cathedral 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. St. Nicolas' 3 p.m. Service St. Nicolas' 4.30 p.m. Tea and business, Ayres' Cafe (next St. Nicolas') 5 p.m. Ringing at St. Nicolas' after meeting until 8 p.m.—G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clandon, Surrey.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—Annual meeting at Tilehurst on Saturday, May 13th, 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea at the Old National Schools at 6 p.m. (1s. per head), followed by business.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec., 401, London Road, Reading.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Practice meeting, Ufford, Saturday, May 13th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—Chas. E. Fisher.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Storrington, Saturday, May 13th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 4. Tea and meeting 4.30. Ringing till 8 p.m.—L. Stilwell, Pikeholme, Pulborough.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Great Glen, May 13th, 3 p.m. Tea and meeting at 5 p.m. Tea provided.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Redbourn, Saturday, May 13th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Usual arrangements.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Horbury, near Wakefield, May 13th, 2.30 p.m.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Meeting at Bicker, Saturday, May 20th, 2 p.m. Service 3.45, followed by tea and business. Names to Mr. G. Dawson, Bicker, by May 15th.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Kenilworth, Saturday, May 20th, 3-8 p.m. Tea in Parochial Hall 5 p.m., at moderate charge. Bring sugar.—D. E. Beamish, 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at Parish Church, Croydon, Saturday, May 20th. Bells (12) 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea and meeting, Sylverdale Hall. Names for tea to D. Cooper, 51, Waddon Road, Croydon, by 16th inst. — C. de Ste C. Parks, Assist. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—Meeting at Chilham, Saturday, May 20th. Bells (8) from 2.30. No tea.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—Meeting at Somerton on Saturday, May 20th. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea and business to follow. Notify early for tea.—F. Farrant, Martock, Somerset.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—N.W. Division.—Meeting at Harlow Common, Saturday, May 20th, 3 p.m. Names for tea by May 17th.—W. Wheeler, Mill Street, Harlow Common.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Meeting at Burbage, Saturday, May 20th, 3 p.m. Meat tea (2s.), followed by very important business. Names for tea to Mr. F. K. Measures, 58, Lychgate Lane, Burbage, near Hinckley, by May 17th.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting at Emmanuel Church, Southport, Saturday, May 20th, 3 p.m. No tea. — S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—Meeting at Kirkham, Saturday, May 20th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food.—J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—Meeting at Preston Capes (5), Saturday, May 20th. Usual arrangements. Notify for tea. — W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Next meeting, Saturday, May 20th, Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, 3 p.m. Ringing, All Saints', Poplar, 4.30. Sunday ringing, St. Dunstan's, Stepney, May 21st, 9.30 a.m.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at Wirksworth, Saturday, May 20th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food. Buses leave Derby hourly, 2.5, etc.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—Meeting at Clevedon, Saturday, May 20th, 4 p.m.—Percy G. Yeo, Long Ashton.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting at N. Mymms, Saturday, May 20th, 3 p.m. Tea at the Corner Cafe. Names by May 17th.—R. Darvill, Hon. Sec., 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting, Saturday, May 20th. Business in Church House 2.30 p.m. Service in St. Martin's 4.30. Tea (1s.) in St. Martin's Parish Hall 5.10. Bells (8) St. Thomas', St. Martin's, St. Edmund's; (6) St. Paul's, Britford, Coombe Bissett, Wilton (1-2.15, 6-9 p.m.). Names by May 15th.—F. L. Edwards, Kington Magna Rectory, Gillingham, Dorset.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wirral Branch.—Meeting at Bebington, May 20th, 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Cups of tea provided.—Harry Brocklebank, Hon. Sec., 30, South Hill Road, Birkenhead.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Western District. — Meeting at Winlaton, Saturday, May 20th, 2.30 p.m. (note amended date). Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—J. A. Brown, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Finchdale Terrace, Chester-le-Street.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Belbroughton, Saturday, May 20th, 3 p.m. Tea at Shoes 5.15 p.m., and usual arrangements.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.—Annual meeting at Faringdon, Saturday, May 20th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Names for tea for Wednesday, May 17th.—R. F. J. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—Annual meeting, Lincoln, Saturday, May 20th, Cathedral bells 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. Meeting, Ringers' Chapel, 4 p.m. No tea.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec., Trentwood, Burton-on-Stather, Scunthorpe.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch. — Meeting at Collingtree, Saturday, May 20th. Service 4.15 p.m. Bring food. — R. S. Cowley, 83, Beech Avenue, Northampton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—Meeting at Mossley, May 20th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Light refreshment 5 p.m. — Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Chelmsford, Saturday, May 27th, 2 p.m. Service in Cathedral 3.30 p.m. Meeting 4 p.m. Tea, Cannon's Restaurant after meeting. Notify for tea. Great Bad-dow (8), Springfield (6) in evening.—L. J. Clark, Hon. Sec., Southdene, Petersfield Lane, Gosfield, near Halstead.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Annual meeting at Howden, Saturday, May 27th, 2 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 2s. 6d. Names to Mr. J. W. Thompson, 16, Northolmby Street, Howden, by May 24th. Business meeting after tea.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting at Irthlingborough on Whit Monday. Committee meeting 2.45. Service 3.30. Tea and business in Wesley Hall 4.30. Names by May 20th. Business after tea. Bells: Irthlingborough 11 a.m.; Finedon 11 to 12.30 and 6.30 to 8; Wellingborough 11 to 12.30 and 7 to 8; Higham Ferrers after tea.—R. G. Black, Gen. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

TRURO.—Whit Monday, practice, Kenwyn (8) 2 p.m., Cathedral 6 p.m. Tea will be arranged.—W. H. Southard.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual Festival, Stockport, St. George, Saturday, June 3rd, 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea and meeting. Tickets for tea 1s. 6d., until May 27th, from branch secretaries or H. Parker, 64, Church Road, Northwich.

UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.—As a result of the postal ballot, Miss M. R. Cross has been elected as the association's Central Council representative.—J. E. Spice, Hon. Sec.

OSWESTRY.—On Sunday, April 30th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss H. Kynaston 1, W. B. Kynaston 2, Cpl. W. H. M. Smith 3, D. Davies (conductor) 4, H. T. Hughes 5, E. H. Kynaston 6, R. Edwards 7, G. Beaton 8. Messrs. Davies and Edwards took part in a peal of Grandsire Triples rung on the bells on April 28th, 1894.

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MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

Eight months ago we strongly recommended the occasional ringing of quarter peals for Sunday services, and we are glad to notice that it is being increasingly done. It is all to the good, for a quarter peal serves to a large extent the same purpose a peal does in setting a high standard and affording ringers an opportunity of doing their best. If care is taken in the selection and placing of the band, and the ringers are keen, there is no reason why the ringing and striking should not be as good as when the band has properly settled down in a peal attempt. There would also be an excellent opportunity for the ringers, if they are wise, of discovering how far their ringing and striking fall short of what they know they ought to be.

We are therefore always glad to receive reports of quarter peals from different parts of the country, and we do not draw the line at quarter peals. Shorter lengths, such as 720's of Minor, are not without interest, and we are always willing to publish them so far as it is possible. Up to the present, indeed, no report of a touch has been sent to us which has not appeared in our columns unless (which frequently happens) it is defective. We hope to continue to do so, but there are one or two things which must be made clear.

The only reason why things are printed in 'The Ringing World' is that they are of greater or less interest to the general readers of the journal. We do not publish items to please the people who send them to us. Now the general readers are interested in accounts of the ringing done in different parts of the country, but they are not in the least interested in the footnotes which are so often added to reports of touches (and of peals too). They do not care a scrap about people's birthdays. In fact, there is a great tendency altogether to overdo the birthday footnote. A man's birthday is to himself, if he happens to remember it, a mildly interesting anniversary; to his friends it may be perhaps an opportunity of paying a passing compliment; but to outsiders it is nothing. Ringers do not think so much of birthdays that they are willing to spend their time and skill in celebrating them. If they ring peals or touches they ring them for other reasons. A birthday may occasionally be an excuse for a peal attempt, but generally it is no more than an afterthought by the person who writes out the report. When bells are rung for matins or evensong they are rung as part of the service, and it

(Continued on page 206.)

would be just as improper for the ringers to pretend they are rung for someone's birthday as it would be for the choir to pretend they sung the anthem for the same purpose.

It is partly for these reasons we have lately omitted the footnotes to miscellaneous performances, and there is another important reason. Reports of touches and quarter peals are of general interest, but they are not of the highest interest. We can only afford a limited amount of space for these reports and if all are to appear they must be confined to the particulars of the actual ringing. It may be that we shall have to limit the number, but we do not intend to do so if it can be avoided. We therefore ask our readers to continue to send in their touches when they think they are deserving of publication, and if any do not appear they can be assured it is because we have no space and that we do not make any discrimination between one band and another.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WEDNESBURY, STAFFS.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Sat., May 6, 1944, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th the observation).

THOMAS A. HINGLEY ... Treble	DENNIS HOLDEN ... 5
* HAROLD MORTON ... 2	FRANCIS BROTHERTON ... 6
NORMAN G. LEECH ... 3	ARTHUR H. HINGLEY ... 7
DAVID L. HINGLEY ... 4	KENNETH W. KNOWLES ... Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR H. HINGLEY.

* First peal.

BRIDGEND, GLAMORGANSHIRE.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., May 13, 1944, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ILLTYD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

WILLIAM T. PETTY ... Treble	GLYN I. LEWIS ... 5
CHARLES H. PERRY ... 2	ALFRED W. WRIGHT ... 6
ERNEST STITCH ... 3	ALBERT J. PITMAN ... 7
FRANK ROWSELL ... 4	DAVID HUGHES ... Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by CHAS. H. PERRY.

HANDSWORTH, SHEFFIELD.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., May 13, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt.

JOHN H. BROTHWELL ... Treble	A. BENJAMIN COOPER ... 5
* RONALD BIRCH ... 2	HERBERT O. CHADDOCK ... 6
JACK G. BROTHWELL ... 3	JOSEPH SAXTON ... 7
HARRY WILSON ... 4	JOHN E. TURLEY ... Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by JOHN E. TURLEY.

* First peal in the method. Rung as a farewell to the Rev. Langtry, who is leaving the parish.

SIX BELL PEAL.

WHETSTONE, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., May 6, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents.

Tenor 8½ cwt.

FREDERICK WATSON ... Treble	CORIL ISON ... 4
WILLIAM A. WOOD ... 2	BERT RIDGEWAY ... 5
JAMES DRAYCOTT ... 3	* FRANK BOSTMAN ... Tenor

Conducted by FRANK TROTMAN.

* First peal of Minor.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., May 11, 1944, in Two Hours and Fourteen Minutes,
AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 16.

MRS. J. THOMAS ... 1-2	JOHN THOMAS ... 5-6
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 3-4	DENNIS H. LANGDON ... 7-8

Conducted by J. THOMAS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Fri., May 12, 1944, in Two Hours and Eleven Minutes,
AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF SPALDING COLLEGE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

ALAN WHITE ... 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6
BETTY SPICE ... 3-4	SHEILA M. MCKAY ... 7-8

Composed by REV. E. B. JAMES. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

The first peal in the method.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., May 14, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,
AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16.

MRS. J. THOMAS ... 1-2	ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 5-6
JOHN THOMAS ... 3-4	DENNIS H. LANGDON ... 7-8

Arranged by T. J. ATTWATER. Conducted by J. THOMAS.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BECKENHAM.

A meeting of the Lewisham District of the Kent County Association, held at St. George's, Beckenham, on Saturday, May 6th, was attended by ringers from Bexley, Bromley, Chislehurst, Crayford, Dartford, Erith, Greenwich, Lee and Sanderstead, Surrey.

Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. Francis Boyd, who welcomed the association.

The Ringing Master, Mr. T. Groombridge, presided at the business meeting, held in the belfry.

A report of the proceedings of the committee meeting at Maidstone on Easter Monday was read by Mr. E. Barnett on behalf of Mr. J. E. Bailey and adopted with a vote of thanks to Mr. Bailey for preparing it.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at Dartford on Saturday, July 29th.

Messrs. J. Waterman (Eltham) and T. A. Blow (Sanderstead) were elected members, and the election of Mr. F. G. Baldwin (Hillingdon, Middlesex) was ratified.

Mr. E. Barnett read some letters regarding Mr. Pat Murphy. He had been recaptured after escaping from a camp in Italy and was now a prisoner of war in Germany. There was still no news of Mr. Derek Sharp.

Thanks were given to the Rector, to the churchwardens who had provided the tea, and to Mr. Arnold, the parish clerk.

TEACHING A BAND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In answer to Mr. Bassett's letter about 'Teaching a Band,' I would like to bring to light our own case to show that a band of ringers can be taught changes without going through the stages of 'stoney' Mr. Bassett suggested.

When the ban was raised last May we found ourselves with a band of young, round ringers. We decided to practice change ringing. None of us had any idea of change ringing except my father, who was and is a keen change ringer. Our first efforts were in plain hunting, starting with three bells, then advancing to four, then five. When we mastered plain hunting on five bells we started on Plain Bob Doubles. It was a long time before a plain course was mastered. We then practised ringing 120 changes of Plain Bob Doubles always called on the fourth bell, all at once we all seemed to acquire 'rope sight,' after that Doubles was child's play. We learned Grandsire Doubles, then started on Plain Bob Minor.

We now practise Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob Minor, Plain Oxford Bob and Kent Treble Bob, thus proving it is quite possible for one good change ringer to teach the art to a keen band of round ringers.

STEPHEN THOMPSON, Jun.

Whickham.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

The 47th annual meeting of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild, held at St. Giles-in-the-Fields on May 13th, was probably the best attended annual meeting since the days of peace, and nearly 100 members and friends took part in the ringing during the day.

**ST. GILES-IN-THE-FIELDS.**

The service was conducted by the Vicar of Brentford, the Rev. W. Paton, an honorary member of the association, who gave an address.

The business meeting was held in the vestry, with Mr. J. A. Trollope presiding. He was supported by most of the officers of the Guild and some 70 members and friends. Mr. C. T. Coles, the secretary, read the names of 15 members who had died since the last annual meeting, including three killed on war service.

The hon. secretary said that the president had sent a letter apologising for his absence, caused by an important engagement in his parish.

The report was read by Mr. E. C. S. Turner, assistant hon. secretary. Among other things, it stated that meetings had been held during the year at Kilburn, Clerkenwell (jointly with the Royal Cumberland Youths), Pinner, Stanmore, Edmonton (jointly with the Ladies' Guild) and Barnet. Also at Hillingdon St. John's (jointly with the Oxford Guild), Hillingdon St. Andrew's, Cranford, Twickenham, Ruislip, Acton and Heston.

The peals numbered 24, of which 20 were on handbells. The nine conductors were Messrs. J. Thomas (10), C. W. Roberts (5), E. C. S. Turner (3) and I. J. Attwater, T. G. Bannister, H. G. Cashmore, C. T. Coles, W. H. Coles and C. H. Kippin, one each. Forty members took part in the peals, with Mrs. C. D. Andrews and Messrs. E. A. Dench, D. H. L. Langdon, A. J. Wallman and V. R. Woodards ringing their first peals, all on handbells. The latter four are pupils of Mr. J. Thomas at Edmonton, and together with other young men have made remarkable progress. Mr. Thomas is to be congratulated on his pupils, some of them have rung several handbell peals.

The first peal of Spiced Surprise Major, in four methods, by the association on handbells, was rung at Bushey on July 5th, conducted by Mr. H. G. Cashmore.

A peal of Stedman Triples rung at Crayford on July 24th was the 1,000th by Messrs. J. Bennett and C. T. Coles, the latter conducting. It was arranged and rung in memory of Capt. Frederick G. Coles,

M.C. son of the conductor, who was killed in action in Tunisia on April 28th, 1943.

During the year two honorary and 24 ringing members had been elected, but there had been the loss, by death, of many members, several of long standing.

The report was adopted.

Mr. W. H. Oram submitted the balance sheet, which showed an increase in members' subscriptions, and an excess of income over expenditure for the year of £16 5s. 10d. The total assets of the association were £184 12s. 4d. The balance sheet was adopted.

All the retiring officers were re-elected, the chief officers being Preb. W. P. Cole Sheane (president); vice-presidents, Messrs. C. T. Coles and J. A. Trollope; Master, Mr. H. Kilby; hon. treasurer, Mr. W. H. Oram; and hon. secretary, Mr. C. T. Coles.

Seventeen new members were elected, including twelve of the Pinner band.

A resolution of good wishes to all members serving in H.M. Forces, both at home and abroad, was proposed by the chairman and carried.

It was announced that district meetings would be held at St. Margaret's, Uxbridge, on June 10th, and at Harrow Weald on June 24th.

Mr. C. T. Coles proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector (the Rev. E. R. Moore), to the Rev. W. Paton, to Canon A. C. Don for the use of the bells at St. Margaret's, Westminster, and to Mr. W. H. Hewett for arrangements at the latter church.

During the afternoon and evening the bells of St. Giles were much in use, and at St. Margaret's, Westminster, where the tower was packed almost to capacity, a large number of ringers made their first acquaintance with this very fine peal of ten since the restoration of a few years ago.

GUILDFORD GUILD HONOUR MR. A. H. PULLING.**ELECTED A VICE-PRESIDENT.**

Guildford Diocesan Guild at their annual meeting at Ayers' Hall, Guildford, on Saturday, decided to recognise the services of Mr. A. H. Pulling to the Exercise by electing him a vice-president. He is the second layman ringer to be so honoured, the first being the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith.

The Master (Mr. A. Harman) presided over an attendance of about 100. Presenting the annual report, the hon. secretary (Mr. G. L. Grover) stated that although it had not been possible to arrange anything approaching the pre-war programme of routine meetings, much useful spade-work had been done by officers and Guild members. As complete returns of members serving with the Forces had not been made by tower secretaries, it was impossible to give the actual membership, but the balance sheets showed a considerable increase of paying members.

A grant was made from the Benevolent Fund to a member, but neither this fund nor the Cathedral Bells Fund received from members generally the support that both funds should command. Eight peals were rung during 1943, all conducted by Mr. A. H. Pulling. Two were on handbells and the remaining six on tower bells.

The sympathy of the Guild was extended to the president (the Bishop of Guildford) in his great loss by the death of Mrs. Macmillan. Other deaths regretted were Messrs. S. and T. W. Radford, H. Mason (S. Nicolas', Guildford), W. Beeson (Cranleigh), G. Dimes (Crandall), E. Clapham (Farnham), Mrs. Treffry Cockill (Bramley) and Col. Barker (Bentley). The departure of the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge (a vice-president) from the diocese was also regretted.

Mr. J. Corbett (hon. treasurer) reported a balance in hand on the general fund of the Guild of £31 18s. 2d. The sum of £22 12s. had been raised towards the cost of the sanctus bell at the new Cathedral, which is to be a memorial to the late Mr. J. S. Goldsmith. Further subscriptions were anticipated. It was decided to hold a memorial service to Mr. Goldsmith at Pyrford Church on Saturday, June 3rd, subject to the permission of the Vicar. The service would be between 5 and 6 p.m.

A special committee, consisting of the Master, the hon. treasurer, hon. secretary and Mr. W. Viggers (Aldershot) was appointed to consider the best method of replacing and re-writing the Guild peal book which was lost.

Officers elected were: Master, Mr. A. Harman; hon. treasurer, Mr. J. Corbett; hon. secretary, Mr. G. L. Grover; hon. auditor, Mr. R. Hasted. The vice-presidents were re-elected, with the addition of Mr. Pulling.

Ringings took place at the Cathedral and S. Nicolas' Churches. At S. Nicolas' the peal of ten was reduced to eight by omitting the 2nd and fourth, owing to the latter having been cracked. The Rev. P. R. Lobb (Rector) conducted the Guild service at S. Nicolas' Church which preceded tea.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT STORRINGTON.**

A meeting of the Western Division of the Sussex County Association was held at Storrington on May 15th, at which 42 ringers were present from 12 towers. They included Messrs. A. Ballard, of Leicester, W. J. Whitmore, Raunds, Northants, and A. J. Hopper, Crayford. An address was given by the Rector, the Rev. W. G. Frostick, who presided over the business meeting. Tea was provided by the local ladies. Ringing ranged from rounds to Cambridge Minor,

BELLS AND THE REFORMATION.

(Continued from page 197.)

Edward the Sixth's short and troubled reign came to an end in 1553, and was followed by the reaction under Mary. There was no more talk of pulling down churches or confiscating bells. In the words of J. A. Froude, '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 that had been spared caught up the sound and through the summer evening and all next day the metal tongues from tower and steeple gave voice to England's gladness.' This picture is as true as it is eloquent except that there is no reason to suppose that the bells had been silent during Edward's reign. The queen would have liked to have made restitution and re-establish the monasteries, but that was impossible. A few were revived. The great church of St. Peter at Westminster, which had already ceased to be a cathedral, again became an abbey, and the Black Friars went back for a time to St. Bartholomew's. But the church plate had gone to the melting pot and the grip of the gentry on the abbey lands was far too strong to be relaxed. There must, however, have been many who feared being called to account for what they had done in the late reign; not the great men like the Russells and the Cavendishes who were too powerful to be touched, but lesser men, and there is a good deal of significance in a bond which is among the state papers, the condition of which under a bond of £40 is that Alice Gruff shall be free from responsibility touching two bells from the monastery of Basingworth in North Wales which were handed over to John ap Gruff and others.

Mary died in 1559 and the pendulum swung once more towards Protestantism, but the new government made it clear that there was to be no return to the defacing of monuments or the looting of church bells. A proclamation was issued 'agaynst breakyng or defacing of Monuments of antiquitie being set up in Churches and other public places for memory and not for superstition,' which further declared, 'and where the couteousnes of certayne persons is such that as Patrones of churches or owners of the personages impropriated or by some other colour or pretense they do perswade with the person and parishioners to take or throwe downe the Belles of Churches and Chappels and the leade of the same conuerting the same to theyr private gayne and to the spoyles of the sayde places and make such like Alterations as thereby they seke a sclanderous desolation of the places of Prayer Her Majestie (to whom in the right of the Crown by thordinaunce of Almighty God and by the lawes of this Realme the defence and protection of the church of this Realme belongeth) doth expressly forbid any maner of person to take away any Belles or Lead of any Church or Chappel now used or that ought to be used with public and divine service or otherwise deface anye such Church or Chappel under payne of imprisonment duringe her Majesties pleasure and suche further time for contempt as shalbe thought wise.

'And her Majestie chargeth all Bishops and Ordinaries to enquire of all suche contemptes done from the begynnyng of her Majesties raygne and to enjoyne the per-

sons offending to repayre the same within a convenient time. And of theyr doynge in thys behalfe to certifie her Majesties Priue Counsayle or the Counsayle in the Starre chaumber at Westminster that order may be taken therein.'

The draft of this proclamation in the handwriting of Sir William Cecil and one of the original printed copies are among the state papers. It was ordered to be read throughout the country, and at Exeter and no doubt many other towns and cities the bellman or town crier was sent through the streets to read it aloud to the people. Elizabeth, who shared the Englishman's love of bells and encouraged the sport of bell ringing among her people, wrote letters with her own hand to leading men to enforce the proclamation. Her Secretary of State, Sir William Cecil, afterwards the famous Lord Burleigh, whose experience as a civil servant went back to the days of the Dukes of Somerset and Northumberland, in a paper of instructions at the time of the revolt of the northern earls in 1569, wrote that whenever any bells were rung to raise rebellion only one bell was to be left in the steeple in memory thereof; but we need not suppose that such action was approved by his royal mistress. Later in her reign, when she heard that Sir John Shelton had brought home a church bell as loot from the capture of Cadiz, she was furiously angry and swore by God's death she would make him carry it back.

The end of the fifteenth and the beginning of the sixteenth centuries were a period of great activity both in church building and in bell founding, which was followed by as marked a slump. This was inevitable. Periods of intellectual and spiritual upheaval are not times when men are much concerned about church building. During the Reformation many men were chiefly concerned to enrich themselves out of the spoils of the suppressed abbeys; others were sincerely anxious for purity of religion and the simplification of public worship; while those who still clung to the older beliefs and ritual were fighting a losing battle. But even if there had been no Reformation there would have been little church building during most of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. England had already got as many churches as she needed. The population, both in numbers and location, was stationary, and those large and magnificent Perpendicular churches, which are still the glory of our land, had but recently been erected, not only in London and the larger towns, but also in the villages of the more prosperous parts of the country. We may regret the loss of the abbey churches, but actually they were not required for the religious needs of the general people, nor were they ever so used.

It was much the same thing with the bells. By the end of the first quarter of the sixteenth century the Church of England had as many bells in her towers as were needed for the most elaborate ritual. For the Mass there were the saunce and sacring bells. For knells and funerals there was the great bell for important people and lesser bells for lesser people. For processions and vigils and saints' days there were in almost every steeple bells to be rung in peal; threes and fours in ordinary churches and fives in all the wealthier and more important. Beyond five the ambition of parishes did not extend. Both for musical and liturgical purposes the number was amply sufficient, and but for one thing it is

probable that it would never have been increased. The time had come when bell ringing had become a popular pastime. How early this happened there is no definite means of knowing, but we may conclude that it was one of the chief causes which saved the bells in Edward's reign, and we know it was the main reason for the increase in the number of bells in a ring during the following two hundred years.

(To be continued.)

MRS. SHURCLIFF'S VISIT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mrs. Shurcliff asks, 'Are there any ringers left who remember her visit to London with her father in 1902?' In reply I can say that the visit of Dr. Nichols and his daughter (then Miss Nichols) to London in August, 1902, will always retain for me many happy memories.

After ringing two peals with the College Youths it was arranged for a photograph to be taken. and Mr. H. P. Harman, a professional photographer, brought his camera to London for that purpose. Being one of the party to be photographed, he asked me to help him, and after a host of instructions on how to make the correct exposure, he left the camera with me, saying, 'Don't fail because this is a very important event.' Imagine my joy when I saw the splendid reproduction of the group in 'Bell News.'

Miss Nichols also did some ringing with the Middlesex Association and I well remember a peal of Stedman Triples in hand at Finsbury Pavement House, City, on August 17th, 1902. Messrs. H. P. Harman, W. Pye and E. Pye, who rang the three front pairs, have all passed on, also I. G. Shade and A. T. King, who umpired the peal with me, have also passed away. I was not quite 19 at the time, but I remember the peal well because I could not ring Stedman in hand very well, and between the course ends I watched carefully with the result that I picked up several useful tips.

W. SHEPHERD.

22, Chapel Grove, Addlestone, Surrey.

DEATH OF MR. H. B. WALTERS.

The death is announced of Mr. Henry Beauchamp Walters, which occurred on April 24th. Mr. Walters, who was keeper of Greek and Roman Antiquities at the British Museum from 1925 to 1932, was the author of many books on archæology, including several on the history of bells.

THE MONTH'S PEALS.

During the month of April 48 peals were rung, 42 of them on tower bells and six on handbells.

The tower bells consisted of Grandsire Doubles 5, Triples 5, Caters 1; Plain Bob Minor 2, Major 3; Kent Treble Bob Major 3, Royal 1; Little Bob Major 1; Stedman Triples 4, Caters 2, Cinques 2; Double Norwich Court Bob Major 2; Cambridge Surprise Major 4; London Surprise Major 1; Four Spliced Surprise Major methods 1; Two methods of Doubles 1, Three Minor methods 3, Seven Minor methods 1.

The handbell peals were: Kent Treble Bob Major 2; Bob Royal 1; Stedman Caters 1, Cinques 1; Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1.

The number of peals in January was 50, in February 34, and in March 37; making a total for the year, so far, of 169.

PROPOSED GOLDSMITH MEMORIAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Correspondence has appeared from time to time in 'The Ringing World' in connection with the above, and it has been suggested that nothing less than a complete ring of bells would be sufficient to commemorate the memory of one who has done so much for the Exercise. I think it is possible to do something which is more nation-wide and which could be of immense value to the Exercise.

I have often thought it a pity that, speaking generally, the clergy take so little interest in ringing. In most cases if the parson of the parish takes an interest it is because he feels it is an obligation to do so, which is very different from the way he would regard it if it were his own hobby. Not far from Johannesburg there is a clergyman who was formerly, I think, at Lewisham, and who, in response to my enquiry, confessed that he did not know how many bells his former church possessed!

I suggest the formation of a fund the principal aim and object of which will be the propagation of ringing among the clergy. The problem should be tackled right at the source, i.e., while the men who are to become clergy are undergoing their training. Facilities are no doubt available, or could be made available, for them to learn something about change ringing. Examinations, both theoretical and practical, could be arranged, and the candidates who reach a certain standard should be given grants towards the cost of their clerical training. This should give a big fillip to ringing.

Even in these difficult days a fund with an annual income of from £200 to £500 should be within the capacity of the Exercise.

C. CHAMBERS.

Johannesburg. By Air Mail.

John Taylor & Co.

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Etc.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official journal of the Central Council of
Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All communications for this journal should be addressed
to:—

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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

Owing to the present transport difficulties there is a
strong possibility that the Council Meeting, arranged for
Whit-Monday, may have to be postponed. A definite
announcement will be made in next week's issue.

(Signed) G. W. FLETCHER, Hon. Sec.

TO POSTAL SUBSCRIBERS.

We shall be much obliged if postal subscribers in their
communications will write their names and addresses in
block capital letters.

THE JERUSALEM CHAMBER.

As you approach the west front of Westminster Abbey from
Victoria Street you may notice a low, plain, stone building which
projects out in front of the south-west tower. It looks rather in-
significant and almost out of place, but it is the Jerusalem Chamber,
one of the most famous buildings in England. Here the Central
Council will hold its meeting on Whit Monday.

The building dates from the close of the fourteenth century and
probably was rebuilt on older foundations. It got its name from some
ancient wall decorations, long since destroyed, which depicted scenes
from the Crusades. It was originally a private room belonging to
the abbot and still is part of the deanery, but during more than five
centuries it has been the scene of many historical assemblies and
events. It was here that King Henry the Fourth died. He had been
taken ill when making his devotions in the Abbey Church and was
carried to the abbot's lodging. 'When he was come to himself he
asked of such as were about him what place that was. The which
showed to him that it belonged to the Abbot of Westminster; and,
for he felt himself so sick, he commanded to ask if that Chamber
had any special name. Whereunto it was answered that it was named
Hierusalem. Then said the King, Laud be to the Father of Heaven!
for now I know that I shall die in this Chamber, according to the
prophecy made of me before said, that I should die in Hierusalem.'
Shakespeare transferred this passage with little alteration of the
words to his play.

From early times the House of Commons met in the abbey Chapter
House and, when the abbey was dissolved in the reign of Henry the
Eighth, the Chapter House did not become the property of the new
dean and chapter, but was (as it still is) a national possession. So
the Dean and Canons used the Jerusalem Chamber as their chapter
house.

The Jerusalem Chamber has been the scene of many conferences
on religious matters, of which the Westminster Assembly at the time
of the Commonwealth is the most celebrated. It sat for over five and
a half years and drew up a Directory of Religion, Catechisms and a
Confession of Faith, which were designed to remodel the Church of
England on Presbyterian lines. In more recent years the committee
of scholars who made the revised version of the Bible held their meet-
ings in the Jerusalem Chamber.

In normal times the walls of the chamber are covered with some
celebrated ancient tapestry.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

The first meeting of the eighteenth Council (48th annual meeting) will be held in the Jerusalem Chamber, Westminster Abbey (by kind permission of the Dean) on Whitsun Monday, May 29th, 1944, at 11.30 a.m. precisely.

The morning session will be adjourned at 1.30 p.m., and the afternoon session will commence at 2.30 p.m., or as may be decided.

AGENDA.

- Report of the hon. secretary as to representation of societies and as to unpaid subscriptions.
- Apologies for absence.
- Presentation of new members to the president (Rule 11).
1. Election of president for 1942-1945.
Mr. E. H. Lewis retires and is eligible for re-election.
2. Election of hon. secretary and treasurer for 1942-45.
Mr. G. W. Fletcher retires and is nominated for re-election by Messrs. E. G. Fenn, A. B. Peck, A. Walker and J. F. Smallwood.
3. Election of hon. librarian for 1942-45.
Capt. W. H. J. Hooton retires and is eligible for re-election.
4. Election of hon. auditors (two) for 1942-45.
Mr. C. T. Coles and Mr. A. A. Hughes retire and are eligible for re-election.
5. Election of honorary members.
The following retire and are eligible for re-election: Messrs. A. A. Hughes, E. H. Lewis and E. C. S. Turner. There are five vacancies.
6. Loss of members through death.
7. Minutes of the last meeting.
8. Report of the hon. librarian.
9. Statement of accounts.
10. Report of the Trustees of the Carter Ringing Machine.
Trustees: Messrs. E. Alex. Young and A. A. Hughes.
11. To receive, discuss and, if thought fit, to adopt the reports of the following committees.
To pass such resolutions as may be necessary on matters arising out of the reports.
To reappoint or alter the constitution of the committees as may be considered desirable, and to appoint conveners of such committees.
- (a) Standing Committee.
The following retire and are eligible for reappointment: Major J. H. B. Hesse, Messrs. J. T. Dyke, C. F. Johnston, R. Richardson, A. Paddon Smith, A. Walker, E. C. S. Turner, G. E. Debenham.
Note.—Four vacancies occur through the deaths of Ven. Archdeacon H. T. Parry, Alderman J. S. Pritchett, Messrs. W. A. Cave and S. H. Wood.
The ex-officio members are: The President, Hon. Librarian, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Auditors, Conveners of Committees, and past officers (if still members of the Council).
- (b) Peal Collection.
The following retire and are eligible for reappointment: Rev. E. S. Powell, Messrs. G. R. Newton, G. R. Pye and H. G. Cashmore.
- (c) Methods.
The following retire and are eligible for reappointment: Messrs. J. A. Trollope and E. C. S. Turner.
- (d) Peal Analysis and Records.
The following retire and are eligible for reappointment: Mrs. E. K. Fletcher, Messrs. C. Dean, G. L. Grover, G. R. Pye and W. Ayre.
- (e) Towers and Belfries.
The following retire and are eligible for reappointment: Mr. E. H. Lewis, Major J. H. B. Hesse, Mr. E. Alex. Young.
- (f) Literature, Press and Broadcasting.
The following retire and are eligible for reappointment: Rev. F. Ll. Edwards, Messrs. A. Paddon Smith and A. Walker.
- (g) Peal Boards.
The following retire and are eligible for reappointment: Rev. C. E. Wigg, Messrs. W. Ayre and W. G. Wilson.
- (h) Biographies.
Members eligible for reappointment:—
Mrs. E. K. Fletcher and Mr. A. C. Hazelden.
12. MOTION.
That to assist in providing ringing peals in bombed churches which are rebuilt, a Restoration Fund be formed and the ringers of the country be asked to subscribe.
Proposer: Mr. D. H. Bennett (Swansea and Brecon Guild).
Seconder: Mr. J. P. Hyett (Hereford Diocesan Guild).
13. To fix the place of the next meeting.
14. Other business (if any). G. W. FLETCHER, Hon. Sec.

RAISING A BELL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Some interesting points are raised in your issue of April 28th by your correspondent, Mr. Dibley. His account of the mechanics of a bell in motion, however, while in the main correct, seem to be a little ambiguous. So far as the correspondence from Mr. Davis is concerned, I can make little comment, as I missed that particular issue. Suffice it to say that, together with Mr. Dibley, I can see little relation between raising a load with block and tackle and raising a bell. In the former case the centre of gravity remains a constant factor, while in the latter it is continually changing.

In order to understand why a bell requires a lot of pulling when approximately half-way up it is necessary to appreciate a few elementary principles of a bell in motion. There are two positions when the centre of gravity is on the axis of the bell: (a) when the bell is suspended vertically mouth downward, and (b) when, making due allowance for the weight and position of the clapper, the bell is suspended vertically mouth upward. At both these positions the entire weight of the bell is supported by the gudgeons and bearings on the bell cage. At a point midway between these two positions (half-way up), the weight at the axis is at a minimum.

Now consider what happens when the bell is up and makes a complete cycle when rung. The bell is pulled over the balance and the centre of gravity is shifted from the axis. There will now be some weight not supported at the gudgeons, and this weight will tend to take the bell downward. The bell is now said to possess 'potential' energy, and this condition will obtain until she reaches the bottom of her flight when the centre of gravity is again on the axis and the velocity has attained a maximum. In the absence of any other form of energy the bell would remain in this position. The fact that it does not is due to the velocity of the downward flight having imparted 'kinetic' energy to the bell, and this energy will be sufficient to take her almost, but not quite, depending on the losses due to friction and air resistance, to the vertical position once more. In order to overcome these losses which increase with the size and weight of the bell, it is necessary for the ringer to augment her potential energy by applying some of his own weight to her via the rope.

To return to the bell half-way up, we have seen that kinetic energy is absorbed in driving the weight of the bell upward, i.e., against her own potential energy. Also that the weight supported at the axis in this position is at a minimum. Hence the absorption of kinetic energy in supporting the weight of the bell will be at a maximum, and, therefore, the need for increased potential energy in the form of weight to the rope if she is to go any higher. Also in this position, by reason of the rapid reversals of the bell, it is more difficult to impart and can be imparted at each complete cycle only and not at each half cycle. The additional weight imparted by the ringer will, therefore, be proportionally double that necessary when the bell can be rung at both hand and back strokes.

In conclusion, can any of your readers tell me why the art of raising and falling in peal seems to be largely neglected in the London area. A bell during this operation has a purity of note which is not heard when it is up, and, personally, I am very fond of it.

A. G. OLIVER.

76, Carshalton Grove, Sutton, Surrey.

Dear Sir,—I am in full agreement with Mr. Davis in balancing the energy account of a bell each swing. All I wanted to point out was the existence of a large amount of Kinetic Energy and that, therefore, you could not compare a bell's motion with that of a dead load being hoisted with block and tackle.

G. A. S. DIBLEY.

Aston Rowant, Lewknor.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Sussex County Association was held at Brighton on May 6th and was attended by more than sixty members.

Service was conducted by the Rev. L. N. Phillips, Vicar of St. Nicholas.

At the business meeting the officers were elected as follows: Master, Mr. F. I. Hairs; hon. treasurer, Mr. O. Sippetts; hon. general secretary, Mr. S. E. Armstrong; hon. peal secretary, Mrs. F. I. Hairs; hon. auditors, Messrs. W. C. Hart and J. T. Toms; representatives on the Central Council, Messrs. F. Dallaway, A. W. Groves, F. I. Hairs and O. Sippetts. The recommendation from the committee regarding relations with the Central Council were, after a long discussion, accepted in a modified form.

The peal secretary reported the ringing of two peals on tower bells during the year, and it was decided to discontinue elections of committees of advice in the future.

There was ringing at St. Nicholas' in the afternoon and at St. Peter's during the evening.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

At the meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association, held at Sefton on May 13th, tributes were paid to the memories of the late Thomas B. Worsley and J. R. Taylor, both past vice-presidents of the association. Much sympathy was expressed with their families.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 169.)

The church of St. Mary the Virgin, Meppershall, Beds, is partly Norman with Early English and Perpendicular additions, having a central tower with five bells which are rung from the ground floor in full view of the congregation. The plan of this tower is curiously irregular, the internal width at the west end being 15 feet 8 inches, as against 13 feet 8 inches at the east. The tower and transepts are the oldest part of the church and belong to the early 12th century. The tower stands on plain semi-circular arches of a single order, only the west face of the west arch having any moulded detail. Above the roofs the tower rises in two stages with an embattled parapet, the belfry lights being of two lights of 15th century detail, while the second stage is lighted by a single narrow 12th century loop.

Prior to 1882 the present 3rd bell was the 2nd and the then 3rd was an ancient one inscribed: '† Christe: Avdi: Nos.' This old bell, being full of flaws and of bad tone, was recast in that year for the 2nd bell, and the old 2nd, being much too flat for its position in the ring, was adopted as the 3rd bell. As they now stand the treble is by John Dier, 1591; second recast by Taylor, 1882; third by J. Briant, 1816; fourth Joseph Eayre, 1766, and tenor W. Emmerton, of Wootton, 1774.

St. Mary the Virgin, Wollaston, Northants, has a central tower with broach spire. The tower is 13 feet square. Of the 14th century building only the tower and spire remain. In 1735 the body of the church suddenly and unexpectedly fell down. It was rebuilt in 1737. The beautiful central tower is open to the church in the lower stage through four sharply pointed arches, all being alike, and the ringers (six) stand in full view of the congregation. There is a long draught of rope, and although guides are provided they are very high up, so placed as not to impair the view of the church. The tower windows are double on each side, and of two trefoiled lights with simple head tracery. The angles of the tower are strengthened by small triple shafts stopping beneath a richly sculptured and corbel table of heads and flowers connected by tendrils, from which the spire rises. Above the bell chamber windows on each side is a slightly ogee niche with moulded jambs and label. The spire has ribbed angles, and tall pinnacles standing on the broaches, with three tiers of gabled lights, faced alternately. Of the bells the treble is a recast by Taylor, 1910; second blank; third Taylor, 1868; and the back three by R. Taylor, of St. Neots, 1806. Tenor 18 cwt. in E.

The present church of Uffington, Berks, dedicated to St. Mary, is known as the Cathedral of the Vale. It is cruciform in plan, in the Early English style and dates from 1216/50, with beautiful interior details. It has a central embattled tower with pinnacles, containing a ring of five bells and a clock. Originally it had a spire, but this was destroyed by lightning December 2nd, 1740. The tower is 16 feet square, and is octagonal above the roof. It is of three stages above the eaves of the roofs, the lower stage weathering back at the angles with two octagonal stages above, terminating in an embattled parapet with crocketed angle pinnacles. In the lower octagonal stage there are four plain louvred lancets, one

on each of the cardinal sides, and in the later stage above, four plain openings similarly placed. There is a projecting polygonal newel staircase in the north-west angle, carried across the angle of the nave and north transept. Of the five bells the treble was by James Wells, 1803; second and third, Mears and Stainbank, 1886 and 1867; fourth R. Wells, 1770; tenor T. Rudhall, 1762. The treble, 4th and tenor were recast in 1914.

A similar octagonal central tower is at All Saints', Bakewell, Derbyshire. The church here stands on an eminence above the principal part of the town, and is a large cruciform embattled structure with central tower rising from a square lower stage with a battlemented octagon, with an elegant and lofty spire. There is some Norman work and other portions belonging to a very early church, the first alterations being made in 1250 when the Early English style was well advanced. At this time the tower piers were in part cut away and rebuilt with pointed arches and the upper part of the tower taken down. The octagonal tower and spire were erected on the Early English base at the end of the 14th or beginning of the 15th centuries. In 1825/6 the spire was removed, and in 1830 the tower also, owing to the unsafe condition of the piers. In 1841 extensive repairs of the whole fabric were begun and completed in 1852. In the course of this work the tower piers were rebuilt with the tower and spire.

Of the original ring of six bells the first two were dated 1719, the next two 1616, the fifth was a pre-Reformation casting, and the tenor dated 1671. In 1796 a new ring of eight was provided, cast by Thos. Mears. These had the usual well known couplets, such as the following:—

Treble:—

'When I begin our merry din
This band I lead from discord free;
And for the fame of human name
Every leader copy me.'

Fifth:—

'Thro' Grandsires and Triples
With pleasure men range,
Till Death calls the Bob
And brings on the last change.'

Tenor:—

'Possess'd of deep sonorous tone,
This belfry king sits on his throne;
And when the merry bells go round
Adds to and fellows ev'ry sound:
So in a just and well pois'd state
Where all degrees possess due weight,
One greater power, one greater tone
Is ceded to improve their own.'

This ring was succeeded by a new octave by Mears and Stainbank in 1895 with tenor 17 cwt. 1 qr. 16 lbs., and these were rehung by J. Taylor and Co. in 1938.

A similar central octagonal tower with spire to that of Bakewell, is at Doultong, Somerset. Here the church of St. Aldhelm is a large cruciform edifice in Early English, Decorated and Perpendicular styles. In 1869 the church was restored and the tower and spire rebuilt—the spire being replaced stone for stone. In the

grounds of the Vicarage is a constant spring called St. Aldhelm's Well, which forms the source of the river Dulcote. The tower has a ring of six bells, dated as follows:—Treble, 1704; second, a pre-Reformation bell with invocation to 'Sancta Maria'; third, 1760; fourth, 1611; fifth, 1618; tenor by Taylor and Co., Oxford, 1828.

Another central octagonal tower and spire is at St. Nicholas', Grosmont, Mon. The church bespeaks the former consequence of the place, for it is a large handsome structure, and its octagonal tower is a singular thing for this part of the country. The body of the church is built after the cathedral fashion, in the form of a Roman cross, consisting of nave with two aisles, transepts and chancel. It was partly built during the 13th century by Eleanor of Provence, Queen of Henry III., under the direction of a French architect, and partook largely of the style of that country and period. In the church is the mutilated effigy of Henry (Plantaganet), Earl of Lancaster and Leicester, ob. March 24th, 1361, who was born at Grosmont Castle. The figure is of heroic size, clad in armour and bearing a kite-shaped shield. The tower has a ring of six bells.

Leighton Buzzard, Beds, All Saints' Church, has a central tower and spire. The church was built in the second half of the 13th century. The tower, 19 feet square, rises one stage above the roofs, each face having an arcade of three bays, the middle one being pierced, and from this stage rises the tall octagonal spire with angle pinnacles and three tiers of spire lights. On the tower piers are a number of roughly scratched designs and two figures with traces of colouring on them. There are 10 bells, tenor 26 cwt. 1 qr. 13 lb. Two trebles by Mears and Stainbank, 1906, and back eight by W. and T. Mears, 1787. The old treble (present 3rd) says:

'John Swinstead did thro' perseverance raise
This peal compleat—real merit is his praise.'

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

A meeting of the Exeter Branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers at Alplington on May 6th was attended by about thirty members and friends. Service was conducted by the Rev. Preb. B. C. Bennett, the Rector. Mr. W. H. Howe, the secretary, reported that he had sent letters of sympathy to Mr. A. W. Searle on the death of Mrs. Searle and to the relatives of Flight-Serjt. Brian Wayman. Mrs. Searle was an honorary member of the Guild and Brian Wayman by his enthusiasm had practically revived ringing at Honiton Clyst. After the meeting the bells of St. David's were rung muffled to the memory of Mrs. Searle.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT REDENHALL.

At a meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association, held at Redenhall on May 6th, twenty-seven ringers attended from Long Stratton, Norwich, Redenhall, Loddon, Diss, Fressingfield, Acle, Bungay, Ranworth, Haddiscoe, Winfarthing and Palgrave. The methods ranged from Grandsire Triples to Double Norwich Court Bob Major. The Rector, Canon Pickering, conducted the service and tea was at the Yew Tree Tea Rooms. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Bunwell on June 3rd if possible. The Rev. W. G. Bridge and Mr. Michael Foster were elected members.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

DEVIZES BRANCH.

A meeting of the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Bromham on May 6th. The methods rung during the afternoon and evening were Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob, Kent and call changes. The service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. P. G. Phillips, after which 23 members sat down to tea at the Greyhound. In the absence of the chairman, the meeting was presided over by Mr. A. T. Weeks, vice-chairman. The towers represented were Bromham, Rowde, Bishops Cannings, Melksham, North Bradley, Trowbridge, Devizes St. John, St. Mary's and St. James', Southbroom. The six bells at Rowde were available in the evening.

MUSIC AND METHODS'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I like to feel that the 'music' of methods is even more important than the intricacy. There are those who hold that the difficulty of a method is a measure of its value, irrespective of the music produced, and the Rev. C. D. P. Davies, in his 'Surprise Methods,' ranks 'music' very much lower than the 'work.' I cannot help feeling that this view tends to make a person more concerned with mastering a method than striking it.

Never despise a method if it is simple provided its musical qualities are good. I prefer to ring Grandsire Caters (the finest music of them all) to Kent Royal, despite the fact that I was reared on even-bell methods. It is why I took to Double Norwich like a fish to water, why I learned Cambridge much quicker than London.

If you want to teach anybody, try a simple method which sounds nice, with a good rhythm, say Minor, rather than the monotonous Doubles; turn all six in and so instil a need and desire for open leads; prevent the difficulty most beginners are up against when, taught odd-bell methods first, on turning to even-bell work they are hopelessly lost without the tenor to lead from. Anyone taught, say, Plain Bob, will have no difficulty in tackling Grandsire.

C. BRETT-SMITH.

Cosford, Salop.

PAUL REVERE.

We have received from Mrs. Shurcliff the programme of a service held on January 1st, 1935, at Christ Church, Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A., 'the Old North Church of Paul Revere fame,' on the two hundredth anniversary of Revere's birth.

'Christ Church,' we are told, 'designed after the manner of Sir Christopher Wren, the oldest church edifice in Boston, is a substantial hand-made brick structure about 70ft. long, 51ft. wide and 42ft. high. The walls of the 24ft. square, 85ft. high, tower are 3½ft. thick. The steeple is 175ft. high in all; 483,654 bricks were used in building the church. The peal of eight bells was cast in Gloucester, England, in 1744, the first ring of bells cast for the British Empire in North America. The largest bell weighs 1,545 pounds, the smallest 620 and the combined weight is 7,722 pounds.'

'Immediately after their installation a group of young men, headed by Paul Revere, sought and received the privilege of ringing the bells; this association with the tower undoubtedly inspired Revere to use it as a signal station on the fateful evening of April 15th, 1775.'

The programme gives a facsimile of the original agreement by members of the ringing society. It is preserved among the treasures of the church. It reads, 'We the Subscribers do agree to the following articles, viz.:—

'That if we can have Liberty from the wardens of Dodors Cutlers Church we will attend there once a week on evenings to ring the bells for two hours each time, from the date here of for one year.

'That we will choose a Moderator every three months whose business shall be to give out the changes and other business as shall be agreed by a majority of voices then present.

'That none shall be admitted a member of this society without a unanimous vote of the members then present and that no member shall begg money of any person for the tower on penalty of being excluded the Society. And that we will attend to ring at any time when the wards, of the Church aforesaid shall desire it on penalty of paying three shillings for the good of the society (provided we can have the whole care of the bells).

'That the members of the society shall not exceed eight persons.'

Seven names follow, of which Paul Revere's is the second.

What was the story of the society and how long it lasted do not appear. When the agreement was signed it had not yet started. The ringing could not have been change ringing, but, at the best, some simple form of stoney. Since this was the first ringing peal in America the ringers had had no previous experience unless (which is probable) some of them had come from England.

The programme of the anniversary service mentions the Boston Guild of Change Ringers, of which Mrs. Arthur A. Shurcliff is president and Mr. Richard Newton secretary and treasurer. Mr. Newton, of course, was at one time a ringer in England and has many friends in Lancashire.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT WOKINGHAM.

The annual meeting of the Sonning Deanery Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Wokingham on April 29th. Service at St. Paul's was conducted by the curate, the Rev. Mr. Carlin, the address being given by the Rev. W. N. Westmore, Vicar of Hurst. Canon G. F. Coleridge, the branch chairman, presided at the business meeting, at which the officers were all re-elected. It was left to the hon. secretary to arrange monthly meetings for practice.

BIRTH.

DARVILL.—On Saturday, May 13th, at Hazeldene Nursing Home, St. Albans, to Kathleen, wife of R. W. Darvill, the gift of a son, Kenneth John.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

BOURNEMOUTH.—On Sunday, April 16th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *John Dryden 1, *Percy Brayshaw 2, Mary Davis 3, *Miss Jessie Chick 4, Andrew Pearnain 5, Mrs. F. John Marshall 6, Arthur V. Davis 7, John Cole 8. *First quarter-peal.

BISHOP AUCLAND.—On Sunday, April 16th, 1,008 Grandsire Triples: J. Smith 1, S. Bryant 2, G. W. Peverell 3, G. Hutchinson 4, J. West 5, J. Pentland 6, R. B. Robinson (conductor) 7, H. Saunderson 8.

DEEPING ST NICHOLAS.—On Wednesday, April 19th, 1,260 Bob Minor: K. Duffy 1, W. Duffy 2, H. Taylor 3, C. Perkins 4, F. Brightman 5, F. Taylor (conductor) 6. Rung half-muffled for Mr. E. Brown, a former ringer, who was buried at the above church on that day.

STALYBRIDGE, CHESHIRE.—On April 21st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. Jackson 1, W. Schofield 2, Rev. F. F. Rigby 3, Cpl. F. Hodge (conductor) 4, A. Roberts 5, H. Davenport 6, V. Turner (first quarter inside) 7, W. Hawke 8.

GRAVESEND.—On Sunday, April 23rd, 1,260 Stedman Triples: F. M. Mitchell 1, E. J. Beer (conductor) 2, R. E. Constant 3, J. Constant 4, G. Morrad 5, R. A. Munn 6, R. A. Constant 7, J. Burles 8.

WEST GRINSTEAD.—On April 23rd, 720 Bob Minor: V. Turrell 1, F. Turrell 2, C. Longhurst 3, R. Langridge 4, F. Ford 5, E. King (conductor) 6.

TWINEHAM.—On April 23rd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: *Stella M. Wickens (age 12) 1, George A. Packham 2, *Basil White 3, Charles H. Wickens (conductor) 4, Frederick F. Godsmark 5. *First quarter-peal.

HENLOW, BEDS.—On Sunday, April 23rd, 1,944 Bob Minor: Wing-Comdr. V. Lister 1, A. W. Dilley 2, A. C. Sinfield 3, R. J. Sharp 4, J. Church 5, L. H. Bywaters (conductor) 6.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON.—On Sunday, April 23rd, 1,260 Oxford Bob Triples: W. Cockings 1, W. Rawlings 2, H. Price 3, F. C. Lyne 4, C. R. Steed 5, H. Brookes 6, V. B. Hunt (conductor) 7, R. Chapman 8.

EGHAM, SURREY.—On Sunday, April 23rd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. C. Parker 1, E. Armstrong 2, F. E. Hawthorne (conductor) 3, W. A. Goldstone 4, R. Andrews 5, W. A. Peck 6, W. Shephard 7, J. Greenough 8.

SHOREDITCH, LONDON.—On Sunday, April 23rd, 1,260 Stedman Triples: J. Wheadon 1, D. L. Hall 2, R. Wake 3, N. Chaddock 4, A. G. Hall 5, N. Summerhayes 6, H. Hoverd (conductor) 7, J. E. Bailey 8.

BEXLEY, KENT.—On Sunday, April 23rd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss B. Frost 1, Miss A. E. Holden 2, Mrs. J. E. Bailey 3, D. L. Hall 4, H. Hoverd 5, A. G. Hall 6, N. Chaddock (conductor) 7, H. A. Holden 8.

STEPNEY.—On Sunday, April 23rd, 1,277 Grandsire Caters: T. Langdon 1, A. C. Chaplin 2, H. Hoskins 3, Sapper T. Fox, R.E. 4, H. Langdon 5, R. Stannard 6, R. W. Green 7, A. A. Hughes 8, R. F. Deal (conductor) 9, H. Belcher 10.

SOUTHGATE.—On Sunday, April 23rd, 1,263 Stedman Caters: J. Armstrong (conductor) 1, D. Wright 2, Mrs. N. A. Tomlinson 3, W. J. Bowden 4, J. E. Miller 5, N. A. Tomlinson 6, S. Wade 7, H. Miller 8, J. G. Nash 9, S. G. Piper 10.

PULBROUGH.—On St. George's Day, for morning service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: C. S. Greenfield 1, L. Stilwell 2, T. A. Doick 3, A. Holden 4, A. V. Corden 5, Cpl. T. Farr, R.A.F. (conductor) 6, A. C. Greenfield 7, F. J. Killick 8.

GRAYSHOTT.—On April 24th, 1,648 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: E. R. Coles 1, G. Williams 2, C. Hazelden 3, E. J. Munday 4, E. J. Ayliffe 5, W. T. Beeson 6, F. W. Rogers (conductor) 7, C. E. Smith 8. An attempt was made for a peal, but the bells had to be called round.

CROSTHWAITHE KESWICK.—On April 26th, 720 Plain Bob Minor: S. Grisdale (first 720) 1, Mrs. T. Wilson 2, T. Wilson 3, F. Grisdale 4, T. Hogarth (conductor) 5, J. Brownrigg 6.—On Sunday, April 30th, 720 Plain Bob Minor: R. Grisdale (first 720) 1, F. Hogarth 2, T. Wilson 3, F. Grisdale 4, J. Brownrigg 5, T. Hogarth (conductor) 6.

WALLASEY, CHESHIRE.—On Sunday, April 30th, 720 Plain Bob Minor: Miss J. Webster 1, Miss M. E. Webster 2, A. J. Webster 3, E. D. Webster 4, J. A. Webster 5, E. A. Webster (conductor) 6.

SEDBERGH.—On Sunday, April 30th, 720 Bob Minor: Miss Jean Wood (first 720) 1, V. Sangar Davies 2, T. Sisson 3, J. W. Pennington 4, E. Pennington 5, G. F. Woodhouse (conductor) 6.

HIGH WYCOMBE.—On Sunday, April 30th, 1,299 Stedman Caters: Fred Hayes (conductor) 1, *L. M. Squires 2, A. T. Goodship 3, Frank West 4, Ralph Coles 5, W. H. Plumridge 6, C. A. Smith 7, *A. Newton 8, S. T. Goodchild 9, A. C. Strathdee 10. *First quarter-peal on ten.

SCULTHORPE, NORFOLK.—On April 30th, 720 Bob Minor: R. Lingwood 1, Miss J. R. Cooke 2, E. C. Cooke 3, Lieut. John Ledsham 4, G. Dye 5, George A. Cooke (conductor) 6.

HINCKLEY.—On Sunday, April 30th, 720 Bob Minor: Margaret Grewcock 1, George Thompson 2, Cyril Ison 3, Bert Ridgway 4, William Aldridge 5, Frank Trotman (conductor) 6.

CHESTER.—At St. Mary's Without, 1,344 Bob Major: J. W. Griffiths 1, Cpl. C. Cinch 2, Miss Joan Close 3, A. Close 4, H. Pye 5, G. Gerrard 6, T. Griffiths 7, P. Swindley (conductor) 8.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Meeting at Bicker, Saturday, May 20th, 2 p.m. Service 3.45, followed by tea and business. — W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at Parish Church, Croydon, Saturday, May 20th. Bells (12) 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea and meeting, Sylverdale Hall.—C. de Ste C. Parks, Assist. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—Meeting at Chilham, Saturday, May 20th. Bells (8) from 2.30. No tea.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—N.W. Division.—Meeting at Harlow Common, Saturday, May 20th, 3 p.m.—W. Wheeler, Mill Street, Harlow Common.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Next meeting, Saturday, May 20th, Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, 3 p.m. Ringing, All Saints', Poplar, 4.30. Sunday ringing, St. Dunstan's, Stepney, May 21st, 9.30 a.m.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at Wirksworth, Saturday, May 20th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food. Buses leave Derby hourly, 2.5, etc.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting at N. Mymms, Saturday, May 20th, 3 p.m. Tea at the Corner Cafe.—R. Darvill, Hon. Sec., 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting, Saturday, May 20th. Business in Church House 2.30 p.m. Service in St. Martin's 4.30. Tea (1s.) in St. Martin's Parish Hall 5.10. Bells (8) St. Thomas', St. Martin's, St. Edmund's; (6) St. Paul's, Britford, Coombe Bissett, Wilton (1-2.15, 6-9 p.m.). — F. L. Edwards, Kingston Magna Rectory, Gillingham, Dorset.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Belbroughton, Saturday, May 20th, 3 p.m. Tea at Shoes 5.15 p.m., and usual arrangements.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowlring Green Road, Stourbridge.

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LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—Annual meeting, Lincoln, Saturday, May 20th, Cathedral bells 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. Meeting, Ringers' Chapel, 4 p.m. No tea.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec., Trentwood, Burton-on-Stather, Scunthorpe.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—Meeting at Newchurch, near Warrington, Saturday, May 20th, 2.30. Business 6 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 203, Devonshire Road, Bolton, Lancs.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.—Annual meeting at Faringdon, Saturday, May 20th, 2.30. Service 4.30.—R. F. J. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Chelmsford, Saturday, May 27th, 2 p.m. Service in Cathedral 3.30 p.m. Meeting 4 p.m. Tea, Cannon's Restaurant after meeting. Notify for tea. Great Bad-dow (8), Springfield (6) in evening.—L. J. Clark, Hon. Sec., Southdene, Petersfield Lane, Gosfield, near Halstead.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Annual meeting at Howden, Saturday, May 27th, 2 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 2s. 6d. Names to Mr. J. W. Thompson, 16, Northolmby Street, Howden, by May 24th. Business meeting after tea.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Cross-Stone, Todmorden, Saturday, May 27th. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—I. Kay, Branch Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Meeting at Bennington, Saturday, May 27th, 3 p.m. Business meeting. Bring food. Bus from Ware Station 2 p.m. — G. Radley, 18, Macer's Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesden.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch.—Meeting at Haslingden, May 27th, 3 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m., in School. Business 6 p.m. Names to Mr. J. Taylor, 18, Ryefield Avenue, West, Haslingden, Rossendale, Lancashire, by May 24th.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport and Bowdon Branch.—Meeting at Mottram, Saturday, May 27th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Bring food. — T. Wilde, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Bicester Branch.—Annual meeting, Kirtlington, Saturday, May 27th. Short meeting in belfry 6 p.m., followed by ringing. — F. Sharpe, Hon. Sec., Launton, Bicester, Oxon.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery.—Meeting at Blagdon, Saturday, May 27th. Bells (8) 6.30 p.m. to 9 p.m.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Guiseley, Saturday, May 27th, 3 p.m. Business in tower 7 p.m. Tea can be obtained near church. — H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Oswaldtwistle, Saturday, May 27th, 2.30 p.m. Meeting at 6 p.m. Bring food.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Rural Branch.—Meeting at Alveston, Saturday, May 27th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Advise for tea.—R. C. Gifford.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—Meeting at Wilden, Saturday, May 27th. Bells (5) 3 p.m. Bring food.—Frank C. Tysoe, Dis. Sec., Bromham, Bedford.

HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS.—Bells (12). Practice, May 27th, 6.30-8.30 p.m. Sunday ringing, 10.15-11 and 5.55-6.30 p.m.—Ralph Coles, 27, Priory Road, High Wycombe.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting at Irthlingborough on Whit Monday. Committee meeting 2.45. Service 3.30. Tea and business in Wesley Hall 4.30. Names by May 20th. Business after tea. Bells: Irthlingborough 11 a.m.; Finedon 11 to 12.30 and 6.30 to 8; Wellingborough 11 to 12.30 and 7 to 8; Higham Ferrers after tea.—R. G. Black, Gen. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

TICKHILL, YORKS.—Bells (8). Ringing, Whit Monday, 3.15. No tea arrangements.—Arnold Hill, 24, Elms Road, Worksop, Notts.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton-on-Trent and Derby Districts.—Meeting at Tickhill on Whit Monday, May 29th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided. Important business.—W. Lancaster and J. Cotton, Hon. Secs.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual Festival, Stockport, St. George, Saturday, June 3rd, 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea and meeting. Tickets for tea 1s. 6d., until May 27th, from branch secretaries or H. Parker, 64, Church Road, Northwich.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—Annual meeting at Newport Pagnell, Saturday, June 3rd, 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting in Church House. Names by May 29th.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby and Nottingham District.—Joint meeting at Sawley, Saturday, June 3rd, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m., 1s. 3d. each. Names to Mr. C. Hutchinson, 3, Wilmot Street, New Sawley, Long Eaton, Notts, by Monday, May 29th.—W. Lancaster and T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Secs.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Sundridge, Saturday, June 3rd, 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea, 5 p.m., at Beechcroft. Names to Miss B. Richardson, Beechcroft, Sundridge, Sevenoaks, by May 30th.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

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THE RINGING WORLD

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

No. 1,731. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, MAY 26th, 1944.

[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 CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING.

The announcement that the meeting of the Central Council has been postponed will be a source of disappointment not only to those members who had decided to attend at Westminster, but also to the larger numbers of ringers who were looking forward to seeing what the sub-committee of the Standing Committee of the Council would have to say about their action during the past two years; but it will hardly cause any surprise. From the very beginning there has always been the chance that travel restrictions and other things connected with the war might present unsurmountable obstacles, and though these things looked more remote and less formidable in February when the meeting was decided on, our readers were warned that the invasion of Europe, long prepared for and long expected, could not be delayed beyond the spring, and when it did come everything would have to stand aside for the military needs. As we write the moment still has not arrived, but it very well may have done so before these lines are read in print.

We are not the only persons who have to suffer inconvenience. Many other bodies have also decided to cancel or postpone their meetings, and the fact that we are in good company is not only a justification of the Council's officials' action in postponing the meeting, but also of the original intention of holding it. At any rate, those critics who complained some time back that during the war the Council has done nothing and tried to do nothing have had a complete answer.

The meeting has only been postponed, not cancelled; and it will be held at some convenient time later. When that will be no one can say. We wait on events which most certainly will decide the destinies of mankind and the fate of England for many long years to come. And with the fate of England is bound up the fate of bells of England and the ringers of England. If all goes well we may look forward in no long time to the end of the war, at least on this side of the world. If the invasion fails the ultimate issue will still be the same, but the agony will be long drawn out and the evil effects due to exhaustion and disillusionment proportionately great. We do not believe the invasion will fail, for we may be sure that every precaution and every preparation that human skill and forethought can suggest have been made; but we must not lightly think of success as a foregone conclusion. There will be anxious, critical, and bloody days. It behoves every Englishman to do his part,

(Continued on page 218.)

whether it be great or small, and if our part as ringers consists in no more than giving up our meetings, whether of the Central Council or of associations, we ought not to complain, but rather to recognise that the sacrifice is so very small.

For the good of the Exercise and the future of the art of change ringing we should have been glad if a meeting of the Council could have been held, and we trust one will not be long delayed, but the Exercise may rest assured that its interests are in safe hands. Ringers will welcome the details of what the sub-committee has done on their behalf, but meanwhile they may rest satisfied with the knowledge that the future of 'The Ringing World' is assured, that it is financially in a sound condition, and that the circulation has increased so rapidly that it is a major problem in war conditions to cope with it.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., May 18, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,
AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16.

WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4	ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 7-8
DENNIS H. LANGDON ... 9-10	

Composed by W. KENT. Conducted by J. THOMAS.

STOKE-ON-TRENT, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., May 20, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,
AT 22, STUART AVENUE, TRENTHAM,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

A. W. LLOYD 1-2	JOHN WORTH 5-6
ANDREW THOMPSON ... 3-4	ROBT. S. ANDERSON ... 7-8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by R. S. ANDERSON.

First peal as conductor on handbells.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Sat., May 20, 1944, in Two Hours and Six Minutes,
AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANCES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*SHEILA M. MCKAY 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE 5-6
JOAN HOULDSWORTH ... 3-4	WILFRID F. MORETON ... 7-8

Composed and Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal in the method.

LADY HANDBELL RINGERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to Mrs. Shurcliff's inquiry as to whether a lady had beaten her record of two handbell peals in one day, it may be of interest to recall that on December 6th, 1913, Mrs. F. I. Hairs (then Miss Elsie L. Bennett) rang 1-2 to a peal each of Stedman Triples, Grandsire Triples and Bob Major, all conducted by Mr. Alfred H. Pulling. A footnote stated that it was the first time three handbell peals had been rung in one day and the first time a lady had rung three peals in a day. The day was somewhat contracted, as Miss Bennett left work in London at mid-day and cycled to Guildford for the peals, the third coming round five minutes before midnight. She also took part in another handbell peal of Stedman Triples on the following day.
E. A. BARNETT.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BLUNSDON.

Eleven belfries were represented at a meeting of the Swindon Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, held at Blunsdon on May 13th. Mr. W. B. Kynaston, the branch secretary, gave an account of the meeting of the association committee held at Gloucester during the previous week. The methods rung ranged from Grandsire Doubles to Cambridge and London Surprise Minor.

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., May 14, 1944, in Three Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF STEOMAN CINQUES, 5005 CHANGES;

Tenor 32 cwt. 3 qr. 14 lb. in C.

ERNEST MORRIS Treble	JOSEPH MORRIS 7
JOHN R. SMITH 2	REDVERS F. ELKINGTON 8
HAROLD J. POOLE 3	SIDNEY O. CHENEY ... 9
MRS. H. J. POOLE 4	EDWIN CATTELL 10
SHIRLEY BURTON 5	GEO. STEDMAN MORRIS... 11
HARRY WAYNE 6	FREDERICK E. WILSON ... Tenor

Composed by F. H. DEXTER.

Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.

EIGHT BELL PEAL.

ADDERBURY, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., May 20, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION.

Tenor 24 cwt. 14 lb.

MISS BETTY SPICE ... Treble	WILLIAM C. PORTER ... 5
MISS VALHALLA V. HILL 2	WILLIAM JUDGE 6
HERBERT H. ALEXANDER 3	WALTER F. JUDGE 7
*JOHN E. JUDGE 4	WILLIAM H. THORNE ... Tenor

Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

* 50th tower bell peal.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

BLACK NOTLEY, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., May 13, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF BOB DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

*DERICK TALBOT Treble	HENRY PRATT 3
*STANLEY BONES 2	*ETHEL HUXTER 4
†RONALD SUCKLING Tenor*	

Conducted by RONALD SUCKLING.

* First peal. † First peal of Doubles.

GREAT LEIGHS, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., May 20, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two extents.

Tenor 12 cwt. in G.

*REV. J. R. SOUTHERN... Treble	HENRY PRATT 3
†ROBERT A. LE BEAU ... 2	STANLEY BONES 4
RONALD SUCKLING Tenor	

Conducted by R. SUCKLING.

* First peal in the method. † First peal.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Sun., May 21, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CROSS, HOLYWELL,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and three of Plain Bob.
Tenor 9 cwt. (approx.).

*†MARGARET D. TELFORD Treble	*†ALAN WHITE 4
BETTY SPICE 2	*WILFRID F. MORETON 5
*JOAN HOULDSWORTH ... 3	JOHN E. SPICE Tenor

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal in three methods. † First peal of Minor. The first tower bell peal in three methods for the society.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT TILEHURST.

The annual meeting of the Reading Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Tilehurst on May 13th. Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. F. G. Sherwood, and 41 members and friends had tea at the Rectory, after which the business meeting was held. The officers were re-elected and four new members were elected. Summer and autumn meetings were arranged for Mortimer and Caversham, and monthly combined practices were also decided on.

MR. H. B. WALTERS.

A GREAT ANTIQUARIAN.

Mr. H. B. Walters, whose death we briefly announced last week, was unknown personally to more than a handful of ringers. He was not a ringer himself and indeed took little or no interest in the art of change ringing, but he earned the gratitude of the Exercise and of all who love bells by the work he did and the books he wrote on the history and archaeology of bells. During a long life he gained a leading position among the select group of learned men who study ancient art and craftsmanship.

Henry Beauchamp Walters was born on April 6th, 1867, the son of Archdeacon William Walters, of Worcester, and was, therefore, in his 78th year when he died. He was educated at Eton and King's College, Cambridge, where he had a distinguished university record, taking a first class degree in the Classical Tripos and winning the Chancellor's medal and other honours.

In 1890 he entered the British Museum and held various appointments there, becoming Keeper of the Greek and Roman Antiquities in 1925, a post he retained until his retirement in 1932.

HIS WORK AS A WRITER.

Mr. Walters was a voluminous writer on many subjects connected with ancient art. The names of 49 of his books appear in the catalogue of the British Museum library, and he was a frequent contributor to the pages of technical journals. A few years back an article of his on some early English bells appeared in 'The Ringing World.'

In 1893 he published an account of Greek and Etruscan vases and in 1899 an account of Greek and Etruscan bronzes. His 'Art of the Greeks,' 1906, went through two or three editions. His 'History of Ancient Pottery,' 1905, is probably the book by which he will best be generally remembered, and other books of his dealt with engraved gems, London churches at the Reformation, Greek bronzes, the Norfolk inventories, and other subjects.

It was as a writer on the archaeology of church bells that he was known to ringers. In 1901 he published a book on the bells of Worcestershire, and 24 years later he completed the full account of the bells of that county. In 1909 appeared 'The Church Bells of Essex.' The work had been begun many years before by J. C. L. Stahlschmidt, who had already written the standard books on Surrey and Kent bells and mediæval London bell founders. E. J. Wells and others helped, and the Rev. Cecil Deedes practically completed the survey of the county belfries. Out of their work Mr. Walters produced the excellent book on Essex bells.

Mr. Walters' book on London bells appeared in 1907, and three years later the account of Warwickshire bells written by Walters largely on notes made by the Rev. H. T. Tilley. 'The Church Bells of Wiltshire,' published in parts during the years 1927-29, is one of the best of his works.

'CHURCH BELLS.'

In 1908 a small book was published entitled 'Church Bells.' It was one of a series issued by Messrs. Mowbray and Co. on the 'Arts of the Church' designed to appeal, not so much to specialists, as to the general body of church people. Percy Dearmer was the general editor and the whole series was an excellent one. Each subject was entrusted to a first class authority and Walters was the obvious person to deal with bells. It is, however, more than doubtful if he really was the best person to be chosen. On his own subject, archaeology, he was unrivalled, but the book did not require such a profound knowledge as he possessed, and it necessarily had to deal with matters about which he was hardly better instructed than his readers were. For this part of his work he had to borrow from the books of his fellow archaeologists, and they were mostly out of date and not seldom inaccurate. Walters was decidedly unfortunate in the way he dealt with ringing and ringers; he professed to explain the general system of change ringing, but he had no better illustration than the Plain Changes on four bells, which he took from Ella-combe and which had been obsolete for more than 250 years.

AN UNFORTUNATE QUOTATION.

Of anything connected with modern ringers he seems to have been quite ignorant. He quotes W. C. Lukis' opinion of the Wiltshire ringers of 1857—'there are sets of men who ring for what they get which they consume in drink; but there is very little love for the science and its music; and alas! much irreverence and profanation of the House of God. Church-ringers with us have degenerated into mercenary performers.' And he goes on to say that though in 'other respects there is undoubted improvement, it may be feared that these remarks still hold good to some extent.'

Lukis' words are good evidence of the state of the Exercise at its lowest ebb and in the most unfavourable localities, but to quote them in a book intended for ordinary churchpeople of the twentieth century and without saying anything of the work done by the county and diocesan associations and the voluntary services rendered to the Church by ringers was decidedly unfair and out of place. But Walters knew little or nothing personally of ringers and ringing. He informs his readers that half the circumference of the wheel has a groove for the rope and that the clapper strikes the bell twice in each revolution. It is a great pity, for the book in other respects is excellent, as good as it could have been.

The fact is that Walters' interest in bells was almost entirely that of an antiquarian.

It was the ancient bells, in out of the way villages, by obscure founders, which most attracted him, not the famous rings like St. Paul's, or Mancroft or Painswick. He says himself of the bells later than about the middle of the seventeenth century that 'except by bellringers they are not worth visiting, and it may be remarked in passing that the transformed and up to date appearance of the modern belfry, with its mechanical improvements, does not tempt the antiquary whatever the ringers' view of it may be.'

THE STANDARD BOOK ON BELLS.

Mr. Walters' 'Church Bells of England' published in 1912 is the best book that has yet appeared on the general archaeology of bells and probably will long remain the standard work on the subject. It would have been better without the chapter on ringing and ringers, but that is not of so much importance as in the earlier book, which had a wider and more popular appeal. In this book he is writing for bell lovers on a subject on which he was an authority, yet it is well to point out that he is far more successful when he is dealing with the bells and their founders than with the uses the bells were put to, not only in modern times, but in ancient times as well. Like most of the other bell archaeologists, he is an antiquarian who is interested in and understands things, but not an historian who is interested in and understands men.

The books we have mentioned do not make up all that he wrote on the subject of bells and bell founders. His direct influence on ringers and ringing was negligible, but by his writings he and his fellow antiquarians interested people and especially the clergy and church authorities in the valuable bells which hang in the steeples of towns and villages, and so indirectly did a lot of good for the Exercise.

After his retirement, Mr. Walters, who was given the O.B.E. in 1920, lived at Marlborough, and on May 11th the bells of St. Martin's, Salisbury, were rung muffled to his memory.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE SMART.

The death is announced of Mr. George Smart, who was one of the band which, under the conductorship of Mr. George Williams, made ringing history some forty or fifty years ago at St. Peter's, Brighton.

Mr. Smart, who was 78 years of age, learned to ring at Steyning and was afterwards in the employ of Mr. G. F. Attree at Brighton. He took part in the first peal of London Surprise Major rung in the City of London, and in the first peal of Brighton Surprise Major.

The funeral was at Steyning on April 22nd.

BELLS IN INDIA.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—During the last war I was in Bombay and I had the pleasure of chiming changes and playing hymns on the bells of the Afghan Mission Church, Colaba, Bombay, on three occasions. They were hung in a steel frame by Mears and Stainbank, the wheels and stays were stacked by the side of the bell frame and were not fitted, but there was a chiming apparatus. It was a very nice ring of eight.

No. 1, Worldend, Beedon, Berks.

TOM CURTIS.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT DUNMOW.

Twenty-four ringers from eleven belfries attended a meeting of the Northern Branch of the Essex Association, held at Dunmow on May 10th. Service was conducted by the Rev. E. N. Mellish, and Miss Hilda G. Snowden was at the organ. Four new ringing members were elected and two re-elected. The visitors included Messrs. J. Ward and J. Gibson, of Melbourn, Mr. E. Runter, Mr. Chalk, of Maldon, and the general secretary (Mr. L. J. Clark).

Notley was chosen as next place of meeting, with ringing at Brain-tree in the evening.

FREISTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.—On Wednesday, April 26th, 1,260 Bob Minor: A. Burchal 1, A. Sharp 2, W. Bradley 3, C. Betts 4, W. E. Clarke (conductor) 5, E. Barnes 6.

THE RINGERS' HANDBOOK

by E. S. and M. POWELL.

Containing full and complete instruction from the first handling of a bell to the ringing and conducting of peals of Grandire, Stedman, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob.

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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.
Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.
Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL. POSTPONEMENT OF MEETING.

On the recommendation of the Ministry of Transport, the meeting arranged for Whit Monday is now postponed.

GEO. W. FLETCHER,
Hon. Sec.

Members of the Midland Counties Association should note that the meeting on Whit Monday will be at Ticknall, not Tickhill as stated in the notices last week.

Mr. N. Sharpe, of Paisley, writes to correct the statement made at the meeting of the Scottish Association that St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, and St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, are the only towers in Scotland where regular Sunday service ringing and weekly practices are being held. The bells of St. James', Paisley, are rung for two services on Sundays and for practice on Wednesdays. Recently a 720 of Grandsire Doubles was rung on the eight bells with 1-2 leading and the tenor covering.

The handbell peal of Spalding College Major reported in our last issue should have been credited to the Oxford University Society instead of the Oxford Diocesan Guild.

ST. MARGARET'S, LEICESTER.

The peal of Stedman Cinques at St. Margaret's, Leicester, last Sunday, was rung on the 500th anniversary of the signing of a deed by Bishop Alnwyke, of Lincoln, for the building of the tower.

To mark the anniversary, a fund has been started with the object of raising £500. It is hoped to place a 'thanksgiving' bell in the tower, to put a new door to the parvis and to make some other improvements to the church.

On Sunday evening a special service of thanksgiving was held, at which the Bishop of Leicester preached and the lesson was read by the Lord Mayor. The Archdeacon and Rural Dean also took part in the ceremony and the bells were rung during the service.

Bishop Alnwyke's Register, 1444, in Latin, reads: 'Commission of the Lord Bishop to levy smoke farthings, otherwise Lincoln farthings, from our faithful lieges of the Archdeaconry of Leicester, to be converted to the use of our Mother Church of Lincoln, our sponsor: the said smoke-farthings are granted for the Construction of a bell-tower to the Prebendal Church of St. Margaret, Leicester.'

ST. NICOLAS', GUILDFORD.

A CORRECTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your report of the meeting of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, held on May 13th, and published in your issue of May 19th, it is stated that the 'S. Nicolas' peal of ten was reduced to eight because the 4th bell is cracked. This is, fortunately, untrue; it was the bearings which had become dangerous. These have now been replaced and the whole peal of ten was in use for the services on the day I write.

A. C. HAZELDEN.

RAISING A BELL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—If a ringer does the same amount of work at each pull, then, neglecting the relatively small amount of energy absorbed by friction and by the clapper, the highest level reached by the centre of gravity of the bell is raised by the same amount at each pull.

Now draw a circle of, say, four inches diameter to represent the path of the centre of gravity of the bell. On the vertical diameter mark off a number of points at equal distances apart; a quarter of an inch will do. Through these points draw horizontal lines to the right to cut the circle. The points of intersection will represent the positions of the centre of gravity of the bell at the ends of successive swings, and the radii of the circle drawn to these points will represent the positions of the axis of the bell at the ends of the swings. The figure will show at a glance that these radii are closest together when the bell is nearly half-way up.

A mathematical proof of this is easy enough, but seems unnecessary. The phenomenon is really due to a simple property of the circle and has nothing to do with the force on the gudgeons of the bell, about which some of the statements made in your columns are incorrect.

R. O. STREET.

Glasgow.

Dear Sir,—To criticise a statement which on his own admission he has not read, as Mr. Oliver sets out to do, is not a very scientific approach to a technical problem and must be my excuse for a last word on this subject before you apply the closure.

His main criticism, that of the variation in the centre of gravity, was covered in my first letter.

An analogy need not be obvious to be true, and if Messrs. Sibley and Oliver will separate what the bell may be said to do to itself (which cancels out in any case) from what the ringer does to it, and concentrate upon the latter, which is the subject under consideration, they will see that it is just the old simple problem of the small effort through a long distance to move a heavy load through a short distance, which is the function of the block and tackle.

A. W. DAVIS.

Hereford.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Davis, in your issue of May 12th, is guilty of some confused thinking. In his first paragraph he rejects a thesis which, in his second paragraph, he asserts, namely, that stored energy is carried forward from one swing to another. Mr. Davis is also quite wrong in assuming that the change in direction affects the point in question.

Compared with a flywheel, the essential difference is the continual shift in the centre of gravity, and the consequent change in the foot-pounds formula. A flywheel has no potential energy: only kinetic. A bell has both. If 'the energy received from the pull is present . . . as an increase in height,' then, as potential energy is measured as foot-pounds of work, the bell has more 'stored' energy than in the preceding swing. This energy will be available for the following swing. A moment's consideration will show that if this condition did not hold good it would be quite impossible to raise a bell by swinging it.

This, after all, is to state nothing more than the 'Law of Conservation of Energy,' kinetic energy being changed into potential energy and vice versa.

A. G. OLIVER.

76, Carshalton Grove, Sutton, Surrey.

SERVICE TOUCHES

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

Two old and easy quarter-peals.

A. 1,260		B. 1,260	
2314567		2314567	
6543127	10	6543127	10
6547132	14	4735162	5
2475163	5	1584372	6
6142375	4	4237156	8
1752634	3	3415627	13
4516237	6		

Each four times repeated.

A. Call the treble—Out Slow, Out Slow, Out Quick, In Slow, Last Half Turn, In Quick.

B. Call the treble—Out Slow, Out Quick, First Half Turn, Out Quick, In Quick.

MR. T. B. WORSLEY'S COMPOSITIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reference to the excellent appreciation of the late Mr. T. B. Worsley and the paragraph referring to the long lengths of Treble Bob Major, I have received a letter from Mr. F. Timbrell, in which he says that Mr. Pitman's peal is Spliced Oxford and Kent, and is, therefore, a different proposition to pure Treble Bob. He also states that Henry Johnson produced the extent 40,320 of Spliced Oxford and Kent.

E. R. MARTIN.

Hartington Road, Preston.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

(Continued from page 213.)

Kedleston Church, Derbyshire, is perhaps the smallest cruciform church having a central tower in the country. It abounds in interesting memorials of the Curzons, extending from the 13th century to the present time. The earliest one is of exceptional interest, and consists of two heads sculptured within quatrefoils and sunk about a foot below the pavement. About a hundred years ago, when the pavement was removed, it was found that these heads were cut in one large gravestone, four feet wide and ten inches thick, without any inscription or lower aperture for the feet, as is usual with monuments of this description. It is generally assumed that they represent a Curzon Lord of Kedleston and his lady. The tower has but one bell by T. Mears, of London, dated 1830.

All Saints', King's Cliffe, Northants, anciently called Clive, is a fine cruciform church with central tower and spire containing a ring of five, tenor 12 cwt. The tower is the oldest part of the building and dates from 1100. It is the only remaining part of a church which had a tower between the nave and chancel without transepts, the north and south walls of the tower being external. It now measures 17 feet from north to south, and 15 ft. 8 ins. from east to west. The west wall is 3 ft. 4 in. thick and others 3 ft. There is no masonry staircase to the tower, and its upper stages are reached by an iron circular stair in the south-west corner. Of the bells, the treble is by Henry Penn, 1714; 2nd is dated 1619, inscribed 'Mist'ris Maria Hartleie Widdo cast this bell [she was, of course, its donor]. 3rd, T. Mears, 1832; 4th is dated 1592; and tenor, originally by T. Eayre, 1739, was recast 1917 by Mears and Stainbank. In 1914 Messrs. J. Warner and Sons rehung them in a six-bell frame, with all new fittings.

One of the most interesting and beautiful parish churches of Sussex, often referred to as the 'Cathedral of the South Downs' is that of Alfriston, St. Andrew. Partly surrounded by a common or tye, it is a regular cruciform building, and is of one date throughout, the architecture being of the last part of the 14th century. It is said to be one of the finest specimens of flint work in the country. Near the church is the 14th century clergy house, which is unique of its kind and is now the property of the National Trust. There is a ring of six bells, tenor about 9 cwt., cast about 1390 by William Wodeward, a London founder; the 5th by an unknown founder dated 1587; 4th by John Wood, an itinerant founder, 1698; 3rd, T. Mears, 1811, and recast 1908 by Mears and Stainbank; 2nd by John Wood, 1698, and treble, 1819, by T. Mears. The bells are rung from the ground floor in full view of the congregation, as no ringing chamber can be provided owing to want of height. The bells are reached from the churchyard by means of an iron ladder to the transept roof, thence up the roof and to the tower door. The bell frame is of mediæval oak and stands about 8 ft. high, and when viewed from above presents a most remarkable composition of additions, patchings, etc.

Ashbourne Church, Derbyshire (St. Oswald) is a glorious cruciform structure with central tower and spire. From a tower of early Decorated character, with a turret, rises the lofty octagonal spire, which is of extremely elegant proportions, ribbed and handed with the

ball-flower moulding, and pierced with twenty windows in five tiers of four each, surmounted by crocketed canopies. It reaches to a height of 212 feet from the ground. This spire, from its beauty and grace, is widely known as the 'Pride of the Peak,' and is conspicuous for many miles around. The trefoiled parapet of the tower is of simple but effective design, and has been carefully reproduced from the original pattern. The space beneath the tower was paved in 1883 at the cost of Mr. C. Minton Campbell, M.P. for N. Staffs. Four massive piers, relieved by the graceful wave-moulding, support the tower and spire. The area is well lighted owing to the double transept arrangement, and thus contrasts favourably with most central tower spaces, which often present a gloomy appearance.

Above the arches is a blind-story with, at one time, a passage in the thickness of the wall, but at the restoration of 1931-2, necessitated by signs of failure in the masonry of the tower, this passage was filled up, as was also the staircase to the belfry. The latter, until that date, was in the S.E. pier of the tower. To reach the belfry after this staircase was filled in, a circular oak stair was erected in 1932 in the south transept behind the choir stalls. The belfry is now approached from this staircase over the roofs of the transept and the chancel. The same weakness necessitated rehang-ing the bells at a lower level, which partly obliterated the ringing chamber, so that now the bells are rung from the floor of the church in full view of the congregation. For Sunday service ringing alpaca jackets were provided for the use of the ringers.

In 1547 there were 'three bells in the steeple, one clock upon one of them, one broken bell, one little bell called a Sanctus bell, two handbells and two sacring bells hanging before the Altar of Grace.' Up to 1815 the ring consisted of six bells, tenor 17 cwt. 17 lb. In October of that year a new ring of eight was erected, four wheels of the old bells being preserved. Two of the old bells are still in existence. No. 3, cast in 1590, and inscribed 'God save our Queen,' forms one of three bells in the church of Blore Ray nearby; and No. 5 is now in the Cathedral of All Saints, Derby. It was dated 1632, but was recently recast. The new eight of 1815 were by William Dobson, of Downham Market, and the tenor weighs 14 cwt. 7 lb. In 1891 they were rehung in a metal frame, but in 1931 they were again rehung in a wood frame, teak being used.

Cricklade, near Swindon, Wilts (St. Sampson), is like Bath Abbey, a late tower of Perpendicular style, and like many other ambitious towers, is too big for the church to which it is attached. Its great windows are placed in its lower half, which forms a lantern to the church, and the bell-chamber above has only tiny windows. The result is that the upper stage looks as if covered uniformly with panelling and only on scrutiny does it appear that a minute portion of the panelling is perforated to form a window or sound hole. Large windows in the upper stage would have made this a grand tower, for its other features are excellent. The parapet, though inconspicuous, is very graceful, and the spired turrets are larger in proportion than those of any other English tower. The internal arrangement of this tower at the lower stage is similar to Fairford, Glos.

Here is a ring of five, tenor 15 cwt., recently rehung by J. Taylor and Co. in an eight bell frame. Treble by

(Continued on next page.)

CENTRAL TOWERS.

(Continued from previous page.)

James Wells, 1803; other four by Abr. Rudhall, 1703, the tenor being recast by Warner, 1887. They are rung from the ground floor in full view of the congregation, but owing to the long draught of rope are rather awkward to handle.

SS. Peter and Paul's, Godalming, Surrey, is an ancient cruciform church in Bargate stone, with central tower and lofty spire. The roofs are tiled, and spire covered with lead. About 1100 the primitive church had its first enlargement, and from that time onwards has been extended in many ways. The central tower is 16½ feet square and it contains a ring of eight bells, tenor 24 cwt. by C. and G. Mears, 1849. Other bells are by T. Mears, T. Lester and T. Swain, dating from 1740 to 1839. The 5th was recast by Warners in 1874. The ascent to the ringing chamber is by newel stairway in the north wall, then over a narrow open gallery on the west wall of the side chapel. Then more steps to the room itself, which has no windows.

The church of All Saints, Fooks-Cray, Kent, is somewhat unusual from a ringers' point of view. It is a building of flint and stone, mostly in the Decorated style, though other styles appear. It has a tiny wooden tower with spire about halfway along the roof, and there are five bells, tenor 5 cwt., rung from the aisle and among pews. The treble and 2nd ropes drop in the centre aisle against the pews on north side; 3rd in a pew opposite, while the 4th and tenor ringers stand alongside the font. Owing to the light weight they are somewhat tricky to handle. Before augmentation there were three bells, all by Warner, 1863. In that year the church was restored and they had two old bells—both cracked and useless—so they were recast into three. In 1552 there were 'ij bells suted in the steple conteynyng in compas eyther of them iij foote and half of brasse. Item ij sacryng bells.'

A somewhat similar arrangement to the above peculiar conditions is at Corley, near Coventry, Warwickshire. Here the bells hang in a little wooden tower in the centre of the church, and the five bell ropes fall among the pews. Treble in a pew on north side; 2nd by the pulpit; 3rd opposite, and 4th and tenor in pews on south side. The dedication of this ancient church is unknown, and the building is in Norman and Early Decorated style, having, as already noted, a small wooden turret or tower built in the roof, and containing five bells. In 1937 they were rehung in a new steel frame by J. Taylor and Co., and the bells are a quaint ring not in perfect tune, but the architect requested that the 'quaint plaintive melody' of Corley bells remain unaltered. The tenor is 5 cwt. 1 qr. 16 lbs. by T. Hancox, 1631; 4th an ancient blank; 3rd by H. Bagley, 1702, and recast 1937; 2nd by John de Colsale, 1410; treble by Hugh Watts, 1641.

(To be continued.)

DEVIZES.—On Sunday, April 23rd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. J. Gulley 1, *Miss B. J. Davis 2, *J. Romain 3, J. S. Weeks 4, F. W. Hale 5, W. G. Mortimer 6, S. G. Grant (conductor) 7, H. Sturgess 8. * First quarter-peal.

BEXLEY, KENT.—On Sunday, April 30th, 1,264 Bob Major: *Miss Betty Frost 1, *Miss Audrey Holden 2, J. Wheadon 3, H. A. Holden 4, D. L. Hall 5, N. Chaddock 6, A. G. Hall 7, J. E. Bailey (conductor) 8. * First quarter-peal of Major.

BISHOPSTOKE.—On April 30th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. H. Higson 1, Miss J. Wheeler 2, J. Faithful 3, G. Pullinger 4, E. Wilson 5, E. Tompkins 6, E. Salmons (conductor) 7, R. Burford 8.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.—Annual meeting at Faringdon, Saturday, May 20th, 2.30. Service 4.30.—R. F. J. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Chelmsford, Saturday, May 27th, 2 p.m. Service in Cathedral 3.30 p.m. Meeting 4 p.m. Tea, Cannon's Restaurant after meeting. Notify for tea. Great Bad-dow (8), Springfield (6) in evening.—L. J. Clark, Hon. Sec., Southdene, Petersfield Lane, Gosfield, near Halstead.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Annual meeting at Howden, Saturday, May 27th, 2 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 2s. 6d. Business meeting after tea.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Meeting at Bennington, Saturday, May 27th, 3 p.m. Business meeting. Bring food. Bus from Ware Station 2 p.m.—G. Radley, 18, Macer's Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesden.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport and Bowdon Branch.—Meeting at Mottram, Saturday, May 27th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Bring food.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Bicester Branch.—Annual meeting, Kirtlington, Saturday, May 27th. Short meeting in belfry 6 p.m., followed by ringing.—F. Sharpe, Hon. Sec., Launton, Bicester, Oxon.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Hatfield, Saturday, May 27th, at 3 p.m.—W. E. Lloyd, Hon. Sec.

BECKENHAM, KENT (10 bells).—Service ringing on Whit Sunday, 5.30-6.30 p.m. Train from Victoria 4.54 p.m.—P. A. Corby.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting at Irthlingborough on Whit Monday. Committee meeting 2.45. Service 3.30. Tea and business in Wesley Hall 4.30. Names by May 20th. Business after tea. Bells: Irthlingborough 11 a.m.; Finedon 11 to 12.30 and 6.30 to 8; Wellingborough 11 to 12.30 and 7 to 8; Higham Ferrers after tea.—R. G. Black, Gen. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton-on-Trent and Derby Districts.—Meeting at Ticknall on Whit Monday, May 29th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided. Important business.—W. Lancaster and J. Cotton, Hon. Secs.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby and Nottingham Districts.—Joint meeting at Sawley, Saturday, June 3rd, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m., 1s. 3d. each. Names to Mr. C. Hutchinson, 3, Wilmot Street, New Sawley, Long Eaton, Notts, by Monday, May 29th.—W. Lancaster and T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Secs.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — Next meeting, Saturday, June 3rd, Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — North Bucks Bucks Branch.—Annual meeting, at Newport Pagnell, Saturday, June 3rd, 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting in Church House. Names by May 29th.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District. — Meeting at Sundridge, Saturday, June 3rd, 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea, 5 p.m., at Beechcroft. Names to Miss B. Richardson, Beechcroft, Sundridge, Sevenoaks, by May 30th.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch. —Meeting at Warminster, Saturday, June 3rd, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Please advise. — W. C. West, Hon. Sec., 584, Semington Road, Melksham. Phone 297.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch. — Meeting at Old Leake, Saturday, June 3rd. Bells (6) 2-3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea at the Vicarage at 5 p.m. Names for tea by Tuesday, May 30th.—W. E. Clarke, 99, Norfolk Street, Boston.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Remembrance visit to grave of J. S. Goldsmith at Pyrford, Saturday, June 3rd. Service there 5.15 p.m. Buses leave Woking Car Park 10 minutes to each hour.—G. L. Grover, East Clandon, Surrey.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Lincoln and Sleaford Districts. — Meeting at Sleaford, Saturday, June 3rd, 2.30. Service 4.30 p.m. No tea.—G. V. S. Andrews and K. W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Secs.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at Kingsley, Saturday, June 3rd. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Eccleston, Saturday, June 3rd, 2.30. Bring food.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Taunton Deanery.—Meeting at Pitminster, Saturday, June 3rd. Bells (6) 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Light tea (if possible) and meeting to follow.—A. Walker, Hon. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION. — Gloucester Branch.—Meeting at Maisemore, Saturday, June 3rd, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Names by June 1st to W. H. Harris, Hon. Branch Sec., 4, G.W.R. Terrace, Lydney Dock, Lydney, Glos.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Loughborough District.—Meeting at Shepshed, Saturday, June 3rd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea (1s. 6d.), The Cafe, near Bull Ring, 5.45. Meeting follows. Special business. Names to G. R. Edwards, Snell's Nook Lane, Nanpantan, Loughborough, by May 31st.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Bunwell, Saturday, June 3rd, 2 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Bring food.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, Close, Norwich.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION. — Eastern District. — Meeting at South Shields (St. Hilda's, 8 bells), Saturday, June 3rd, 2.30. Cups of tea provided. — Frank Ainsley, 30, Aysgarth Avenue, Grangetown, Sunderland.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Combined practice at St. Michael's, Southampton, on June 3rd, 2.30 to 6 p.m. No teas. Meeting at Eling on June 10th, 2.30 p.m. Names by June 6th.—G. Pullinger, 17, Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District. —Meeting at Woburn, Saturday, June 10th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names by June 7th to Mr. H. D. Harris, 37, Leighton Road, Woburn.—D. E. Ledbetter, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District. — Meeting at Bitton, June 10th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Number for tea by June 5th. — N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Bath.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at St. Margaret's, Uxbridge, Saturday, June 10th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by business meeting in Vestry, St. Andrew's, Hillingdon West, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. No tea.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Market Drayton, Saturday, June 10th. Bells (8) available 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea, for which arrangements are being made.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Leatherhead District.—Meeting at Christ Church, Epsom, Saturday, June 10th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea in Christ Church Hall 5.15. Names to Mrs. Massey, 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, Surrey, by June 7th.—A. H. Smith.

BIRTH.

GOWER.—On May 6th, at Fir Cone Nursing Home, Bolton-by-Bowland, Clitheroe, Lancs, to Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Gower, the gift of a daughter.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES

WILLESDEN.—On Sunday, April 30th, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: Mrs. M. Hodgson 1, R. Kersey 2, M. Hodgson 3, Miss E. Bedford 4, Mrs. F. Botham 5, A. Cutler 6, E. C. S. Turner (conductor) 7, H. Kilby 8.

ST. ALBANS.—On Wednesday, May 3rd, at St. Peter's, 1,260 Grand-sire Triples * T. J. Southam 1, S. Jones 2, W. J. Southam 3, E. J. Gale 4, R. Darvill (conductor) 5, R. Dobson 6, C. F. Sayer 7, G. Blake 8.

STANMORE.—On May 4th, 1,260 Grand-sire Triples: A. Wenban 1, Miss E. R. Fulton 2, G. Hart 3, W. Wenban (conductor) 4, F. A. Vincett 5, Flight-Sergeant Cadamy 6, G. A. Hughes 7, C. Wenban 8.

SANDIACRE, DERBYSHIRE.—On May 7th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: W. R. Drage 1, A. Hartland 2, P. L. Parrott 3, G. Cliff 4, G. Rigby 5, H. Turner (conductor) 6.

WALKDEN, LANCs.—On Sunday, May 7th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: W. Grundy 1, F. Barraclough 2, R. Allred 3, J. Potter (conductor) 4, J. R. Budd 5, F. Grundy 6, P. H. Derbyshire 7, A. Burton 8.

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No. 1,782. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, JUNE 2nd, 1944.

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THE ORGANISATION OF THE EXERCISE

The Midland Counties Association is considering a proposal to divide itself into four smaller guilds, and that brings to the fore the question of the general organisation of the Exercise, which has always been of interest to ringers.

At present the Exercise is divided into a comparatively large number of separate societies which differ considerably from each other. Some are large and wealthy, and some are small and rather poor. Some are territorial, and others are not. Some are on a diocesan basis, some on county, and some cover smaller and less strictly defined localities. Some have a nominal membership altogether larger than their actual practical strength. It seems a rather chaotic state, and it is no wonder that many men think that a better system could and should be found. This is one of the reasons why the idea of a national association finds supporters.

If ever it fell to the lot of any man or body of men to draw up a scheme for the complete reorganisation of the Exercise there cannot be any doubt that a diocesan basis would be adopted. The bells are the property and instruments of the Church, ringers exercise their calling mainly in her service, and the future and well being of the Exercise and the art of change ringing depend to a very large extent on the co-operation of the ringers and the church authorities. An organisation which takes the parochial band as the unit and the diocese as its scope, with the parson as the local head and the bishop as the general head, would seem to be so obvious as hardly to admit of an alternative. Indeed, the tendency is toward that direction, and it might seem rather strange that any other system has ever come into being.

One of the things which most strikes the man who has studied the history of the Exercise is the extraordinary way in which in its development and organisation it has, on its small scale, reproduced the general characteristics of the English nation and people. Englishmen have never been logical in what they do; they have never troubled about general principles; they have been content to take things as they come and to provide for contingencies as they arise; with the result that the English constitution, English common law, and English institutions are largely a matter of hand to mouth expedients with no few anomalies. The justification of the system has been that, on the whole, it worked well,

(Continued on page 226.)

though, owing to the increasing stringency of modern life, the old style is fast disappearing.

It was therefore quite in accordance with things in general that when the reformers seventy years or so ago founded the earliest territorial associations they never thought of adopting some general scheme, but used what seemed to be the most suitable for their immediate time and place. So we have county associations for Devon and Yorkshire and Kent, and Diocesan Associations for Oxford and Norwich—to mention only one or two of the earliest.

And, after all, though it was not logical, it was the sound thing to do. The first object of an organisation is to serve the interests of the Exercise; and desirable as it is as a general rule, the diocese is not in every case the best unit. Kent, for instance, is shared by two dioceses, and if the diocesan area was universally adopted, not only would what is for ringers a homogeneous district be divided, but Croydon, which is in the heart of Surrey, would be attached to far-off Canterbury. Some of the more recently founded dioceses in populous districts are not very suitable as the area of a territorial ringing association because the number of ringing peals and ringers they contain bears no relationship to their general population.

Our present organisation has grown up mainly because it was the best for its particular purposes, and it would be folly to seek to alter it merely for the sake of change. Nevertheless, alterations should always be possible when they are needed, and the diocesan association should always be looked upon as the ideal. The Exercise will watch with interest the experiment the Midland Counties Association contemplates making, and will wish it every success.

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

WALSALL, STAFFS.

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

On Sat., May 27, 1944, in Three Hours and Thirty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor 26½ cwt. in D.

THOMAS H. REEVES ... Treble	JOHN PINFOLD ... 7
WILLIAM C. DOWDING ... 2	HERBERT C. SPENCER ... 8
DANIEL T. MATKIN ... 3	FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... 9
FRANK E. HAYNES ... 4	ALBERT WALKER ... 10
HENRY H. FEARN ... 5	A. PADDON SMITH ... 11
GEORGE E. FEARN ... 6	WILLIAM T. FROGGATT ... Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER.

Conducted by FRANK E. HAYNES.

TEN BELL PEAL.

HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., May 24, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5187 CHANGES;

Tenor 32 cwt. in C sharp.

FRED HAYES ... Treble	GEORGE R. GOODSHIP ... 6
*AUDREY MABEL LOOK ... 2	CECIL A. SMITH ... 7
JAMES W. WILKINS ... 3	FRANK WEST ... 8
RALPH COLES ... 4	MAJ. J. H. R. FREEBORN ... 9
ARTHUR JONES ... 5	†ALECK STRATHDEE ... Tenor

Composed by MAJOR FREEBORN.

Conducted by FRED HAYES.

* First peal on ten. † First peal.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WOODSTOCK, OXON.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Fri., May 26, 1944, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt.

*†ALAN WHITE ... Treble	†BETTY SPICE ... 5
†MARGARET D. TELFORD ... 2	HARRY MILES ... 6
MARGARET L. TUTT ... 3	JOHN E. SPICE ... 7
*†JOAN HOULDSWORTH ... 4	REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG ... Tenor

Composed by T. DAY.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Major on tower bells. † First peal of Treble Bob.

† First peal of Treble Bob on tower bells. The first peal of Treble Bob on tower bells for the society.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., May 27, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5086 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

WALTER AYRE ... Treble	MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT ... 5
FRANCIS KIRK ... 2	EDWIN JENNINGS ... 6
EDWIN A. BELSHAM ... 3	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 7
RICHARD G. BELL ... 4	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON.

Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

FIVE BELL PEALS.

RAYNE, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., May 21, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 extents.

Tenor 7 cwt.

RONALD SUCKLING ... Treble	STANLEY BONES ... 3
HENRY PRATT ... 2	HERBERT REASON ... 4

ROBERT LE BEAU ... Tenor

Conducted by RONALD SUCKLING.

TERLING, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., May 27, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF ST. SIMON'S DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 extents.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

MRS. E. HUXTER ... Treble	STANLEY BONES ... 3
HENRY PRATT ... 2	ROBERT LE BEAU ... 4

RONALD SUCKLING ... Tenor

Conducted by RONALD SUCKLING.

First peal in the method by all.

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52436	—	—	—	52436	—	—	—
34526	—	—	—	23564	—	—	—
35264	—	—	—	23645	—	—	—
23564	—	—	—	42635	—	—	—
23645	—	—	—	42356	—	—	—
42635	—	—	—	34256	—	—	—
23456	—	—	—	23456	—	—	—
1,280				1,280			
23456	B	W	H	23456	B	W	H
23564	—	—	—	52436	—	—	—
62534	—	—	—	52364	—	—	—
36524	—	—	—	36524	—	—	—
36245	—	—	—	62345	—	—	—
23645	—	—	—	34625	—	—	—
42635	—	—	—	34256	—	—	—
23456	—	—	—	23456	—	—	—

RAISING A BELL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Street dismisses too readily the notion that changing ratios of weight play an important part in the behaviour of a bell. His geometrical figure is a good point, but one which I omitted because I did not wish to make the subject mathematical in treatment. It is, however, a secondary phenomenon when compared with other phenomena which are taking place, and the conclusions he reaches are an over simplification. True, the behaviour of a bell has nothing to do with the force on the gudgeons. I made the point in an endeavour to show the distribution of weight at various angles. The operative factor is not the weight on the gudgeons, but the weight which is not on the gudgeons.

Let me illustrate the point by analogy; the steelyard type of balance. Let us begin by setting the weight to the 1 lb. mark on the scale, and on the hook at the other side placing a weight of 1 lb. The scale will now balance. Now move the weight further from the pivot until it coincides with the 2 lb. mark on the scale. Result: the arm will behave as though it had acquired additional weight and will come to rest on its lower stop. From this we can state a principle: that, in an apparatus of this kind, if the centre of gravity be moved further from the axis, it will exert a greater potential force in relation to a fixed point at the other side of the balance.

Now, let me state another principle involved, again by analogy: the type of runway used to lower barrels from a brewer's dray. If the carter is wise, he will so arrange his runway that it makes the smallest possible angle with the horizontal, and for a very good reason. That is to say, the ratio, weight supported by carter/weight supported by runway, at successive points, will be small. The fact that the barrel will now travel further, as Mr. Street in effect points out, is merely a function of this process.

Now, let us compare our analogies with the bell, still using the geometrical figure. First draw the circle. Now plot through its axis a vertical and a horizontal diameter. In one of the lower quadrants plot radii at equal angles to represent the centre of gravity in relation to the axis at successive points. At the outer ends of these radii, plot lines at right angles. This will show the effect due to the sloping runway principle. Now from the points where the radii intersect the circumference, plot lines vertically to intersect the horizontal, and these points of intersection will show the effect due to the steelyard balance principle. This is so, because, no matter how far the rope extends round the wheel, it will behave as though the weight were being applied to a fixed point: the point of intersection of the horizontal with the circumference. (Note here, that the effect of this weight will be to shift the operative centre of gravity further from the axis.)

If Mr. Street still doubts this thesis, let him try an experiment. Stand beneath a bell weighing, say, 14 cwt., and let him push her until he has raised her centre of gravity half an inch. He will not find this too difficult. Now let him arrange to have the bell raised through an angle of 90 degrees, and have her supported by timbers in this position. He will be a remarkable man, if he can now raise the centre of gravity for a quarter of this distance.

The potential energy necessary to raise a bell by any amount must first of all be sufficient to neutralise the potential energy exerted by the bell. Finally, it must be pointed out that the above is true, only if the structure in which the bell swings be perfectly rigid. If this condition is not satisfied, then centrifugal force must be taken into account, together with frictional losses due to bearings, ropes, pulleys and air resistance.

A. G. OLIVER.

Sutton, Surrey.

Dear Sir,—I fully agree with Mr. Street and think his admirably concise treatment explains the matter well. However, for ringers who are not geometers I would like to suggest the following: Suppose a very strong man pulls on the rope of a light bell without letting go. As the bell rises the force he must exert increases to a maximum when the bell is horizontal and then decreases again—a result which follows from the principle of moments of forces about a point—the downward moment of the bell increasing as the centre of gravity moves away from the vertical axis of the bell at rest. Now suppose that the strong man does not increase his pull uniformly, but raises the bell by jerks. Each time he applies the same pull for the same time, i.e., he does the same amount of work, but as the downward moment of the bell increases, and work done=downward moment×distance the C.G. rises, so the latter quantity must decrease each time until the bell is half-way up.

This is exactly what a normal ringer really does—he must apply his pull when the bell has nearly come to rest, or is just beginning to move again. Hence, we may forget what happens in between and so kinetic energy, centrifugal force, etc., do not enter into the problem.

Last, the block and tackle analogy is not a good one, as one end of the rope supporting the load must be fixed, whereas in a rising bell the rope and load are only stationary for an infinitesimal time while the bell stops, then changes direction and falls back. The nearest principle is that of the lever—the force applied via the rope is transmitted to the load via the wheel spokes, the effective fulcrum being the line joining the gudgeons.

J. MERRITT.

Hulme Hall, Manchester.

WAR MEMORIALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Reading through past numbers of 'The Ringing World' recently, I have noticed an occasional suggestion here and there, which is bound to come up for greater discussion as the war approaches its end. I refer to the idea of increasing the numbers of bells in the towers of England as a war memorial.

I have myself rather strong views on this point. A war memorial should be something which takes the mind back to something we have all had to go through together, and to the losses we have had to suffer in order to achieve the ultimate freedom. It is a sorrowful, and yet glorious, memory.

But are bells a fitting memorial for these things? I do not think so. Bells are a symbol of joy, to be used on the happiest occasions.

The time is 1950. The bells of the parish church have been increased from eight to ten. On the wall of the belfry is the list of men these bells commemorate. But the victory peal has been rung, and who cares now about who the new trebles are for? A few of the older ringers, who knew the fallen—the occasional interested visitor.

But generally to the ringers it will matter far more that they can now ring Grandsire and Stedman Caters instead of Triples, and they can start practising Cambridge Royal.

Do not let us use the war, and the fallen ones, to obtain our own ends. If we want two new trebles, let us be honest, and have them for the real and proper reason—because we want to ring more for the greater glory of God. Let us have them for things joyful, not as a standing memorial of some of the greatest horrors that have yet been perpetrated.

KENNETH S. B. CROFT, Lieut.

India.

MUSIC AND METHODS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your issue of May 19th I noticed the letter of Mr. C. Brett Smith on music and methods. Whilst I agree with him on the musical qualities of Grandsire Caters, I cannot agree with his reference to the Rev. C. D. P. Davies' book, 'Surprise Methods.'

I take it that the intricate methods he refers to are Cambridge and London. These methods, according to the reverend gentleman, are hopeless as regards music, and it is obvious that they were included in the book owing to the fact that they were very popular with the Exercise at the time of writing. But I am afraid that Mr. Smith cannot say the same about the other methods in the book.

In the Minor version we have Annable's London, Norwich, Norfolk, Ipswich, Primrose and Hull. These are all excellent methods, very easy to ring by any Minor band who cares to give a little time to study, and contain all the best musical properties.

The above version also applies to Major. Mr. Davies tries to make it clear that the Burton variation of Cambridge was much the better of the two, and goes to no small amount of trouble to impress on the Exercise the undesirability of the intricate methods that Mr. Smith talks about, i.e., Cambridge and London.

E. M. BRADLEY.

Sherburn-in-Elmet.

RAISING A BELL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—After reading Mr. Oliver's interesting letter and considering the matter further, I should like to submit the following conclusions.

During the process of being raised, the bell, at the start and at the finish of each swing, is momentarily at rest *whatever its height* at the time. The whole weight is, therefore, being taken by the gudgeons whatever the bell's position, and there is no variation in this factor as Mr. Oliver contends.

If for the sake of simplicity we consider a frictionless bell at either end of its swing, the only forces acting on it are the bell's weight and the reaction at the gudgeons. These two are equal and opposite and constitute a couple whose moment tends to rotate the bell and the bell will fall and rise again to the same height as before, but with its centre of gravity now on the other side of the gudgeons. This motion, but for friction and air resistance, would be perpetual and is independent of the height from which it starts.

What the ringer has to do, therefore, is (a) to overcome the resisting friction, and (b) to increase the height of the bell. To my mind, the effort required for this work is practically the same in any position.

The ringer finds it harder when only half-way up than, say, when three-quarter way for two reasons only: (1) In the former case the period of the bell is smaller, so he has to work faster, i.e., put in more strokes per minute, and (2) the fillet-hole in the wheel is not yet past the ground-pulley at the end of the swing, so the ringer can only work at back-stroke and can put in no hand-strokes at all. In the latter case, however, not only does the ringer have more time between strokes, but he can now work at both ends of the swing thereby halving the force he need exert.

To my mind, therefore, Mr. Oliver has drawn the right conclusions, but has reached them in spite of incorrect reasoning.

G. A. S. DIBLEY.

Lewknoor, Oxford.

ELEMENTS OF ENGLISH CHURCH ARCHITECTURE.

By MAJOR J. HOWARD FREEBORN, M.A.

Lic. : Royal Institute of British Architects.

Fellow : Chartered Surveyors' Institution.

No section of the population has a better opportunity to study church architecture than ringers, and I hope that these notes will encourage many to gain a greater appreciation of this glorious heritage of inspired achievement than is possible in a few cursory glances on the way to the tower. To be able to read the history of a church in its stones is an attractive accomplishment: many of them can show the work of several centuries, and it is satisfying to be able to distinguish the original building from the alterations and additions of later ages. An acquaintance with the outlines of our Island History, which exercised so great an influence upon the development of churches, is presumed.

The early Saxon churches were crude wooden affairs but, as intercourse with the Continent increased, knowledge and taste developed. By the date of the Conquest, there existed over 4,000 cathedrals, monasteries and churches, mainly of stone, modelled on the Romanesque; of which some sixty have survived to this day, wholly or in part, and provide proof of an excellent building tradition. The Normans introduced an improved pattern of the same style into England. A very large proportion of our mediæval churches have something of Norman in them, while there are many which have stood through the eight intervening centuries with little alteration.

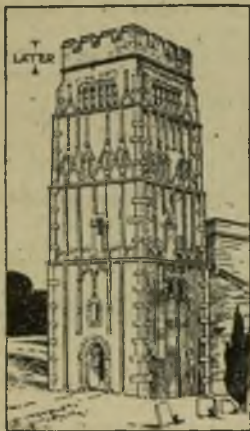


FIG. 1.

Earls Barton (Saxon).

The early Norman work was plain, rugged and massive, but the XII. century saw great progress in richness of detail and greater delicacy of structural design, for which the Cistercian Order was responsible. By the year 1170, a transition had begun which within a comparatively few years blossomed into the first true native style, known to us as Early English or First

Pointed. Towards the end of the XIII. century, design had been further developed, in decorative rather than structural detail; and the term Decorated has, therefore, been given to the Second Pointed style, during which English Gothic reached its greatest heights.

As early as 1350, the Gloucester School of Masons began to build in a new and striking manner which everywhere supplanted the

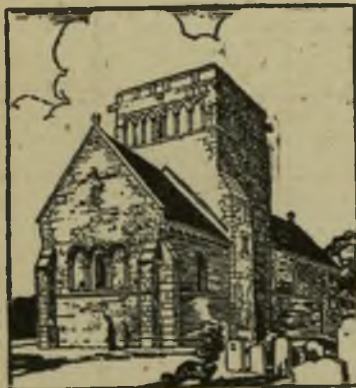


FIG. 2.

Stewkley (Norman).

Decorated as soon as the country recovered from the effects of the Black Death of 1349. Greater riches and security raised a demand for new, larger, and better-lighted churches. Wider windows, with depressed arches, and a general striving after verticality, prompted a later age to attach the term Perpendicular to this, the Third (and last) Pointed style of the Gothic art. During these four centuries every feature of the church was constantly undergoing change, and each period may be distinguished, not only by its windows but its doors, arches, mouldings, capitals, ornament, woodwork and external features. The great Minster of Beverley is but one of many instances of this constant change. Of the Norman church the Font remains, the Transepts and Quire are Early English, the Nave is Decorated, and the east window and western towers are Perpendicular. The Stalls are early XVI. century, and there is a Restoration font-cover.



FIG. 3.

Frampton (Early English).

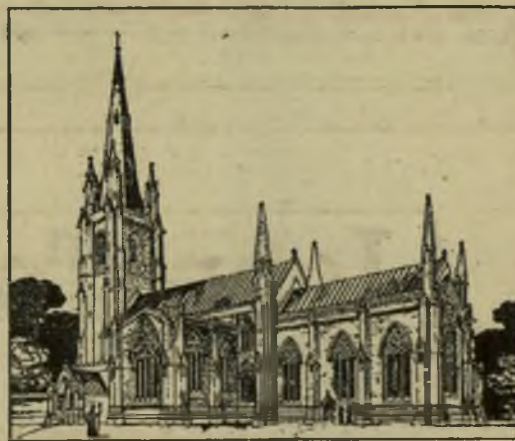


FIG. 4.

Heckington (Decorated).

When Henry VIII. came to the throne, most inhabited localities had a church, and the disappearance in that reign of both monastic and papal influence further discouraged the building of churches. Such new work as went on, for example, at Oxford and Cambridge, was in a form of Perpendicular called Debased, from its greatly depressed arches and general air of utility, but which, none the less, has given us many beautiful buildings, as the Divinity School at Oxford. The growth of Protestantism and interest in Classical forms during the reign of Elizabeth, with the Puritan interlude of the XVII. century, killed the Gothic influence. When building began again with the Restoration of Charles II., the

few new churches were in the pure Roman manner (as at Avington), which persisted for 150 years.

The term Gothic needs some comment. It became the fashion to sneer at the Pointed styles and to dub them rough and uncouth by comparison with the classical work of the Renaissance. Now, the roughest people known to Christendom were the Goths, who overran Southern Europe in the IV. century. So the intelligentsia of the new era could think of no better term than Gothic with which to label the form of architecture they despised; that, at any rate, is as likely an explanation as any. And while the term of opprobrium has stuck, public opinion has once again learned to know the Gothic as the most beautiful form of building ever devised by human skill and devotion.

The later years of the Georgian era saw a Gothic revival, stilted and ill-understood (with one or two notable exceptions), for the tradition had been lost. Queen Victoria had reigned nearly fifty years before the true mediæval spirit was recaptured, and meanwhile much harm had been done to ancient fabrics by well-intentioned but ignorant restorers.

The dates I have given are, of course, approximate, for each period merged almost imperceptibly into the next. Changes began later and were more gradual in remote parts of the country than in the larger centres of population. Each style developed in sympathy with local conditions and materials. Thus we have, for example, the flintwork of East Anglia and Herefordshire, the fine stone churches of the Stone Belt from Somerset to Lincolnshire, the timber towers and spires of Kent and Hampshire, the rectangular plan and simple, lofty towers of the West, the rugged strength

of the North, and the good tower tradition of Yorkshire. Every church has its peculiar interest, for of this great heritage, which is at once our pride and our responsibility, there is no building, however humble, in which may not be discovered some detail of construction, plan or decoration, not to be found in any other.

The styles which I have passed in brief review may thus be tabulated:—

1. Saxon or pre-Conquest, VI. century-1066.
2. Norman, 1066-1189 (XI.-XII. century).
3. Transitional, 1160-1200.
4. Early English or First Pointed, 1189-1307.
5. Decorated or Second Pointed, 1272-1377.
6. Perpendicular or Third Pointed, 1350-1603.
7. Classical Revival, 1558-1820.
8. Gothic Revival, 1820 onwards.

The three Pointed styles are often referred to loosely as XIII., XIV. and XV. century respectively. I propose to deal in some detail with the first six periods.

GLOSSARY.

CAPITAL. Carved and/or moulded topmost member of a column or pier.

MOULDINGS. Contours given to angles to produce light and shade.

NORMAN. The style introduced by William the Norman (the Conqueror).

RENAISSANCE. The rebirth of the Classic style of ancient Rome which began to influence English architecture about 1575.

ROMANESQUE. The western European version of the Roman to XII. century.

SAXON. All building from the Saxon invasions to the Norman Conquest.

(To be continued.)

HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX.—On Sunday, May 14th. at St. Andrew's, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Barber 1, G. H. Gutteridge 2, P. Jones 3, F. W. Goodfellow 4, F. Blondell 5, W. Honor 6, T. G. Bannister (conductor) 7, C. Over 8.

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The official Journal of the Central Council of
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Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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'The Ringing World.'

Yesterday was the second anniversary of the death of John Sparkes
Goldsmith, founder and for 31 years editor of this journal.

REBUILDING OF WAR DAMAGED CHURCHES.

Last week a statement was issued by the War Damage Commission,
giving the terms of which have been decided upon after a long series
of consultations with a committee, presided over by the Bishop of
London, representative of the Christian Churches.

Nearly 14,000 churches, monasteries, convents and other ecclesiastical
buildings have suffered in varying degree during air raids on Great
Britain. These buildings belong not only to the Church of England,
but also to the Roman Catholics and the Free Churches. All are,
of course, for this purpose treated alike.

The damaged churches will, unless they are no longer required, be
either reinstated on the same site or else rebuilt elsewhere.

In exceptional cases where the damaged building remains for archi-
tectural, historic or other reasons of special importance, it may be in
the public interest to secure exact reinstatement.

In ordinary cases the aim will be replacement in the former
materials and in style appropriate to the situation of the church. A
tower or spire will be replaced, but if the new church is smaller than
the old one, the tower and spire will be proportionately smaller, and
where the design will allow it, the spire may be omitted.

It is satisfactory to find that towers are to be rebuilt, for this feature
is usually considered to be the one which from the point of utility
can most easily be dispensed with. No mention is made of bells, for
they were expressly excluded from any scheme of restoration by public
funds, and the various parochial authorities were advised either to
safeguard them or to insure them.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at
the Church House, Salisbury, on May 20th. The Master, the Rev.
C. C. Cox, presided over an assembly of about 90 members.

The president, the Earl of Shaftesbury, who was unable to be pre-
sent, wrote: 'May we hope the time is not far distant when we shall
be able to ring in the blessings of peace.'

The Master referred to the recent death of Mr. C. H. Jennings,
who had been a tower of strength to the Guild.

The statement of accounts presented showed a credit balance of
£88 2s. 9d.

The officers were re-elected: Master, the Rev. C. C. Cox; general
secretary, the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards; assistant secretary, Mr. F. Green.
The auditors and committee members were also reappointed. Mr.
F. W. Townsend was elected a life member. The Rev. F. Ll. Edwards,
Messrs. F. W. Romaine, W. C. West and J. T. Godwin were elected
representatives on the Central Council.

The question of undertaking arrangements for a competition in
bellringing was discussed, and it was resolved to refer the matter to
the branches, and a small committee was appointed to report on the
result.

The Guild service was held in St. Martin's Church. The Rev. C. C.
Cox officiated. The Rev. C. A. Phillips read the lesson, and the
Rector addressed a few words of welcome and encouragement to the
large congregation of ringers.

Tea was served in St. Martin's Hall.

The bells of all the city churches were rung during the day.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT LEEDS.

More than 80 members of the Yorkshire Association and their friends attended the annual meeting of the society, held at Leeds Parish Church on May 6th.

Evensong was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. A. S. Reeve, and tea followed in St. Peter's Hall. At the business meeting, the president, Canon C. C. Marshall, was supported by Mr. L. W. G. Morris, the general secretary, Mr. S. F. Palmer, the treasurer, and Mr. W. Barton, the peal secretary. Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. F. W. Dale, E. Hudson, R. Duffield, F. Tingle, J. B. Hutchinson and George Lewis.

Canon Marshall presented the 68th annual report, which, as he said, showed that the association was in a very satisfactory condition. 'In

these difficult times,' it stated, among other things, 'it is good to record that our actual membership has gone up during the year. We started with a membership of 1,127, and of these 15 have died and 10 have lapsed, but we have elected 33 new members, leaving the membership now at 1,135. The numbers serving in H.M. Forces are 114. Amongst those who have passed from us we would especially mention two or three of our old and valued members. Josiah Woodhead was one of the few surviving original members of the association and a contemporary with our first president. He spent his ringing years between Leeds Parish Church and St. Matthew's, Holbeck, and is credited with 51 peals. George Titterton, of Bradford, was a very familiar figure at all our meetings to which he could get. He died



CANON C. C. MARSHALL.

at the age of 88. H. N. Imeson, of York, had been a member of the General Committee for many years. Harry Gibson was at his death the president of the Northern District.'

Owing to war conditions it had been possible to hold only two general meetings during the year. The annual meeting was at Leeds, at which about 40 members attended.

Nineteen peals had been rung during the year, eight on tower bells and eleven on handbells. Two members rang their first peals.

The eight tower bell peals were rung in eight churches. They consisted of Superlative Surprise Major 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 3, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Plain Bob Major 1, Stedman Triples 1, and Treble Bob Minor 1.

The eleven handbell peals consisted of Kent Treble Bob Royal 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 3, Bob Major 6, and Bob Minor 1.

MR. BARTON'S GREAT TASK.

Mr. William Barton had now completed the great task he set himself of proving all the compositions rung by the association since its foundation in 1875. The number exceeded 2,000 and it was believed that the Yorkshire Association was the only one which had undertaken such a task and brought it to a successful conclusion. Out of the total only 38 were found to be false. They included two to be added to the list given in the last report. One was a peal of St. Clement's Bob Triples, which was rung to a true composition of Grandsire Triples, and the other a peal of Grandsire Cinques, rung at Ashton-under-Lyne in 1915.

The balance sheet appeared at first sight to show a loss, but this was accounted for by the fact that the accumulated indebtedness for notices of meetings had been paid off, and those members who were serving in H.M. Forces had been excused their subscriptions.

The report was accepted on the motion of Mr. P. J. Johnson, seconded by Mr. H. Lofthouse.

Mr. L. W. G. Morris was re-elected hon. general secretary on the proposition of Mr. H. S. Morley, seconded by Mr. P. J. Johnson.

Mr. Morris, returning thanks for the election and the vote of thanks which accompanied it, said he was one who believed that official positions should go round, and he asked that the members should seriously consider the appointment of a successor. His work during war time had been difficult, but the loyal support of his colleagues had greatly lessened his task.

It was decided on the proposition of Mr. Johnson that no collections for the Bell Repairs Fund should be made at general meetings. Mr. Johnson pointed out that those members who most regularly attended general meetings were those who most regularly attended district meetings, and, therefore, were called upon to subscribe twice. The committee had approved the motion.

Canon Marshall and Messrs. L. W. G. Morris, S. F. Palmer and P. J. Johnson were re-elected as representatives on the Central Council.

The Rev. J. C. Pearks, Provost of Bradford, was elected an hon. life member, and Miss M. E. Spencer and Messrs. J. Hargreave, C. Ashworth, B. Sutcliffe, W. Southwell, J. Briggs, E. Hirst and R. Wheatley as ringing members.

It was decided to accept an invitation to hold the next meeting at Tadcaster.

Thanks were given to the Vicar of Leeds and the churchwardens, to the local company, and to the association's officers for the work they had done, including Mr. Barton, the peal secretary, and Mr. Palmer, the treasurer.

The Yorkshire Association is one of the very few guilds which have been able to issue a printed report during war time. Although small

compared with peace time issues, it is a booklet of fifty pages and contains a full list of towers and resident members, particulars of peals and compositions, annual report and balance sheet and list of deceased members. There is also a full list of the compositions which Mr. Barton found to be false. This should be a great help and safeguard to conductors, for there is a surprisingly large number of really first rate composers in the list, men whose names might reasonably be taken as guarantees for the peals, men like William Harrison, James and Tom Lockwood, Henry Johnson, Charles H. Hattersley, Arthur Knights, John Thorpe, Henry Law James and others. It is not quite fair to Joseph J. Parker that his name is there, for it was not his fault that somebody used his true peal of Grandsire Triples for St. Clement's. It has often been pointed out and should be generally known that Holt's singles are the only ones which may be used with pure symmetrical Triples methods other than Grandsire.



MR. WILLIAM BARTON.

may be used with pure symmetrical Triples methods other than Grandsire.

Before and after the meeting the twelve bells of the Parish Church were rung. Unfortunately, during a touch of Stedman Cinques the clapper came out of the tenor and the ringing after that was restricted to lesser numbers.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT SANDIACRE.

Forty members of the Midland Counties Association attended a meeting of the Nottingham District held at Sandiacre on May 6th. After service, conducted by the Rector, the tea and business meeting was held, at which Canon Wilkinson, president of the association, took the chair.

Meetings were decided on at Bingham in July, Stapleford in August, and Woolton in September.

The proposal to decentralise the Midland Counties Association was considered, but as only about 30 per cent. of the members was present, the secretary, Mr. Thomas Groombridge, was instructed to get a full vote of the members before the Woolton meeting.

It was agreed that the association had become somewhat unwieldy and that some of the outlying areas had suffered from it. Reorganisation on diocesan lines would make for more efficiency and lead to closer co-operation with other regional societies such as the East Derbyshire and North Notts Association. The retention of the initials M.C.A. in the titles of the new guilds was favoured as an indication of their origin, and those present agreed with the president's suggestion that all who have been members of the association before 1944 should be recognised by all the new guilds alike as members for peal ringing and social purposes.

It was considered that the assets of the present Midland Counties Association should be divided equally between the four new guilds.

These proposals will be forwarded to all the helfries in the district and a decision arrived at by the meeting at Woolton on September 2nd.

Mr. P. L. Parrott, of the local band, who had arranged the tea, said it had realised a profit of 10s. This he handed over to the Belfry Repair Fund.

Votes of thanks concluded the meeting.

BELLS AND THE REFORMATION.

(Continued from page 209.)

The bells in the parish churches survived the dangers caused by the Reformation and so far as the people at the time were concerned the changes in doctrine and ritual made little difference to their use. But actually these changes influenced ringing and the Exercise profoundly, and the more permanently so, because their effect was gradual and unnoticed. The Exercise of today and the art of change ringing are what they are mainly because of what happened in the sixteenth century.

The most important result was that the laity took almost entire control of the bells, and ringing (as distinct from tolling and chiming) became completely secular. There is no doubt that this was a tendency which had been going on for many years, and which was largely unconnected with any changes in doctrine or ritual. The bells had through the ages been used for civic and secular purposes as well as for ecclesiastical purposes. The love of the sound of the bells had grown up among the people and the love of ringing as a sport among the young men. While there was ringing for processions and vigils as well as for victories and weddings and the visits of great persons, the Church might seem to have the first claim on the services of the ringers; but when the more advanced leaders of the Protestant party discouraged 'superstitious' ringing, the common folk were not at all inclined to argue the point. So long as the bells were rung they did not care very much what they were supposed to be rung for; if they might not ring for saints' days then they would ring for sport, and if they were not allowed to ring on Sundays then they would ring on week-days. It was this twofold objection of the puritans to ringing (that it was superstitious and that it was Sabbath breaking) which almost completely divorced ringing from the service of the Church and made it the secular art and sport which for centuries it was and still to a very large degree remains.

Not all or the majority of Church leaders were puritans and those who belonged to the Anglo-Catholic party (or as it was then called the Arminian) would have had little objection to the old semi-liturgical uses of bells. The most influential of these men was William Laud, successively Bishop of London and Archbishop of Canterbury. Laud was a statesman as well as a bishop, and he had many much more important things to think of, but in his episcopal visitations he took care to inquire whether the bells were in proper order, and, if not, to give instructions that they should be repaired.

'Directions given to the Deane and Prebendaries of the Cathedrall Church of Rochester for the reformacon of certen thynges presented in the Metropolitan Visitacon of the moste Reverend Father in God, Willm by Goddes provydence Archbishop of Canterbury.

"3 Item. You are withoute delaye to repayre the glasse windowes of your church in a decent manner as alsoe to put your bells in good order together with the frames of them.'

Whereunto the Dean and Chapter replied—'To the thirde we answere that at our last audit we tooke order for performing of both those thinges mentioned . . . and the belles likewyse soe soone as the season for felling of tymber for that purpose will permytt.'

Coventry and Lichfield—1635—'Item that the frame of your great belles wch is much decayed be substantially replayed.'

Peterborough. 'That enquireye be made after the executors or administrators of Deane Fletcher that some satisfaction may be had from them either by a faire composican or by compulcion of the lawe for that great bell wch through his meanes in his tyme was taken away and that the ringe of belles wch wants repayre be suddenly amended and that you give an accompte of yor doinges therein.'

Bishop Wren, of Norwich, also set himself to counteract puritan ideas—'Particular orders, directions, and remembrances given in the diocese of Norwich upon the primary visitation of the reverend father in God, Matthew, lord bishop of that See, 1636. That there be the same manner of ringing and tolling of bells to church on holly days as is used on Sundays and there be no difference of ringing to church when there is a sermon more than when there is none, excepting knells for funerals.'

But the time of the ascendancy of the puritans was at hand and once more the church bells of England were in danger of destruction. As in Edward's reign, it did not actually happen and for the same reason; but that the danger was real is shown by an order of the House of Lords on December 12th, 1642, that the ring at Exeter Cathedral should be melted into ordnance, and the motion brought before the House of Commons in 1652 'that the bells of such Cathedrals as Parliament shall think fit to be pulled down shall be applied to publick use for making ordnance for shipping.' The motion was defeated by only two votes.

During the actual Reformation period (say from 1532 to 1559) there was little or no casting of bells and for the same reasons that there was no church building. The activity of the previous years had given England all the bells she needed for her present purposes, and the dissolution of the monasteries had made many more available for parish churches. But in Elizabeth's reign there was a great revival of bell founding, and parishes all over the country began to increase the rings in their steeples; not because the bells were wanted for church services, but because the common people wanted more bells for ringing as a sport. It was a movement which concerned the laity almost exclusively and from which the clergy and especially those of the puritan party, stood aloof.

As a rule the puritans had no objection to bells in church towers so long as they were used only for the purpose of calling the people together, and for that one or two were sufficient. Ringing they disliked and discouraged, partly because they looked on it as a relic of popish superstition, partly because it was in their opinion a form of Sabbath breaking, and partly because they disapproved of all sport. But though their influence steadily increased during the first half of the seventeenth century they remained but a minority of the people, and even when during the Commonwealth they had gained complete power in Church and State, they could not prevent either the spread of the new art of change ringing or the provision of new bells for its service.

It has generally been assumed that during the Commonwealth and the rule of the puritans there was little

or no bell founding in England, but that is not correct. From 1642 to 1647, owing to the unsettlement caused by the Civil War, and still more, we may assume, to the heavy taxation, there were few bells cast and bell founders fell on an evil time; but as soon as the country had settled down to order and prosperity under the rule of the Protector, Oliver Cromwell, the trade began to revive. In 1641 the number of church bells known to have been cast is over 100. In 1641 it drops to 36. Only one bell is known to have been cast in 1643, and only two in 1644. In 1645 the number is seven, and in 1646 is eight. In 1647 the number rises to 40 and after 1651 there is a steady upward tendency until the average of over 100 is again reached. Meanwhile, ringing societies like the College Youths were popular and flourishing.

There was a small but violent section of the puritans who were bitterly against anything like ornament or decoration in the churches, and whenever they had the opportunity they did enormous damage to the buildings that had come down from the Middle Ages, smashing painted glass and defacing carved stone and woodwork. It was these men who petitioned Parliament to destroy the bells in cathedrals and led to the motion I referred to above. One of them, a man named Samuel Chidley, published a pamphlet supporting the petition and entitled 'Bell Founder Confounded or Sabinianus Confounded with his Damnable Sett.' It is said to have been a violent tirade against bells. I have not been able to see a copy of it, but some few years later Chidley published another pamphlet addressed to His Highness the Lord Protector, etc., and the Parliament of England, in which he maintains that 'idols, temples, steeples and bells' are evil things and should be destroyed. He reminds Cromwell that the Long Parliament abolished 'the Kingly office as useless and unprofitable. How much more ought these Steeples to be demolished for the uselessness and unprofitableness thereof. And therefore you ought to root them out, lest the great God of heaven root you out as he did your predecessors. They took away the crosses from the tops of Steeples as idolatrous, but gave no order to demolish the Steeples, for their judgement was not informed and they saw not that the Steeples were idolatrous as the Crosses thereupon. But it is no new thing for better and wiser than they to be mistaken like the Scribes and Pharisees. . . . So it may be said contravertive of these, which is greater the Crosses or the Steeples the pillars and foundations thereof? Therefore, when they pulled down the Crosses from the Steeples they should have pulled down the Steeples also, the Steeples being as idolatrous and useless as the others. Therefore down with these old Chyming Chimneys of the drunken whore of Babylon, that so the fire and smoke of abomination which maketh desolation may be utterly extinguished with the names of the idols out of these places. And what are these Steeples? Are they not Popish Pillars? for they were erected by the Catholick Papists in honour of their Popish gods.' Therefore, although these towers of Babel are builded to reach up to heaven and some have as many steps as there are days in the year, down with them and their Babylonish bells to the very ground and let not one stone of them remain upon another.'

Samuel Chidley and his friends were extremists and this wild tirade cannot be taken to represent the opinions

of the more moderate puritans, but it shows the spirit of the men who at the time did so much to deface the churches and cathedrals of England. There was, however, little destruction of bells. It was easy for the gangs of fanatics like the notorious Will Dowsing, who did so much harm in East Anglia, to break into churches and destroy carved work, painted windows and vestments; but the bells were not so accessible. When 'ye faire bell called Jesus Bell at Lichfield was knocked in pieces by a Presbiterian Pewterer who was ye chiefe officer in demolishing of ye Cathedrall' he may have had other motives than zeal for purity of worship, for he was a worker in metals and knew the value of the bell as scrap metal.

In the year 1660 came the restoration of the monarchy and the Church of England. From that time there has been no danger of the loss of bells by violent means. What destruction there has been has been caused by neglect, bad usage and fire.

(Concluded.)

BARNSELEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT HORBURY.

A meeting of the Barnsley and District Society, held at Horbury, near Wakefield, on May 13th, was well attended, ringers being present from Bushey, Eastwood, Felkirk, Friesland, Kirkburton, Liversedge, Rothwell, Rotherham, Sandal, Sherburn-in-Elmet and the local belfry. Tea was served in the Co-operative Cafe, and the Vicar, the Rev. R. Coombe, presided at the business meeting. Mention was made of the death of Mr. S. Woodcock, of Darfield, who had passed away on May 7th.

Nine new members were elected, J. Smith and C. R. Parkin (Friesland), J. Carter (Saddleworth), J. Clayton (Mosley), I. Kay (Moor-side), A. Blackburn and L. Bardon (Liversedge) and C. Scott (Horbury), all as ringing members, and S. W. Strangeways (Rothwell) as honorary life member.

Replying to a vote of thanks, the Vicar said that during the following week the 150th anniversary of the building of the church would be celebrated, and there could not have been a better beginning than a meeting of ringers and the ringing of the bells. He assured his visitors that they were very welcome at Horbury. He said that when he was returning from abroad the two things he longed for were to hear the church bells and to hear a blackbird.

The next meeting was fixed for Ecclesfield on June 17th.

During the afternoon and evening various methods of Minor, Triples and Major were rung on the tower bells; and touches of Triples and Major and a course of Grandsire Caters on handbells.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

Over sixty members and friends were present at the annual meeting of the Surrey Association, held at Croydon on May 20th.

Service in the Parish Church was conducted by the Bishop of Croydon assisted by two of the curates, and tea was at the Sylverdale Hall. The Master, Mr. D. K. C. Birt, took the chair at the business meeting. An apology was received from Mr. Cyril F. Johnston, who was absent through indisposition.

The hon. secretary, Mr. C. de Ste. C. Parks, submitted the annual report, which gave a satisfactory account of the activities of the association. In spite of widely separated towers and war conditions, some towers had been able to maintain ringing by joining forces, and in one instance seven ladies and two lads had taken up ringing and were now able to ring for Sunday services.

Six meetings had been held during the year with an average attendance of 35 in addition to a joint meeting with the Guildford Guild.

Three peals were rung, Bob Major on handbells and Bob Major and Cambridge Surprise Royal on tower bells.

The committee regretted to have to record the death of Mr. W. England, of Carshalton.

The hon. treasurer, Mr. C. H. Kippin, presented a satisfactory balance sheet, which was passed unanimously.

Ringling took place at Croydon Parish Church before and after the meeting.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT COLLINGTREE.

A meeting of the Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Collingtree on May 20th. Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. G. G. Thompson, who welcomed the ringers and afterwards took the chair at the business meeting. The bells were rung at three o'clock and after the business.

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH.

Among the many London churches destroyed or damaged during air raids is Chelsea Old Church which stands by the riverside and was the parish church until 1819, when St. Luke's was built.

Originally it was dedicated to All Saints, but towards the end of the seventeenth century it began to be called St. Luke's, the alteration, it is supposed, having been suggested by Dr. Adam Littleton, at the time rector, as a compliment to a physician, Dr. Baldwin Hamey, a prominent man in the parish who gave a bell to the church tower. Since the new St. Luke's has been opened it has usually been called the Old Church, but officially of late years the original dedication has been revived.

The eastern part of the building is pre-Reformation and includes the chapel built by Sir Thomas More to be the place of his sepulchre, though where his body actually lies no one knows.

During the seventeenth century the nave and tower were pulled down and the present structures erected, the tower being finished in 1674. At the time of Edward the Sixth there were 'in the steeple three greete bells and one lyttill saunce bell.' These may have been added to in the following years, and when the new tower was finished the ring of bells was restored.

Besides the bell given by Dr. Hamey, another was the gift of William Ashburton, who endowed it with money so that it could be rung every night at nine o'clock. The tradition is that he had lost his way one dark night and was in danger of falling into the river when the sound of the bell from Chelsea Church striking the hour warned him of his whereabouts. The ringing was discontinued in 1822, but the bell was preserved and still, we believe, is safe.

In 1762 Thomas Janaway recast the other bells and made a ring of eight, which hung in the steeple until 1824, and then, when the new church was built, all but the fourth were sold and a new ring of ten supplied to St. Luke's by Thomas Mears.

During the sixty years they were in existence only one peal is known to have been rung on Janaway's bells. This was a 5,040 of Bob Major in 1785, conducted by James Worster and rung by a band of College Youths who belonged to the belfries in the villages on the western outskirts of London. As the tablet refers to it as the first 'true' peal on the bells, the presumption is that another, false either in composition or performance, had been rung. The tablet was preserved on the north wall of the tower by the entrance and a photograph of it is reproduced in the Survey of London issued by the London County Council.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WOODFORD.

At a meeting of the South-Western Division of the Essex Association, held at Woodford on May 13th, 64 members and friends were present from Hornchurch, Dagenham, Walthamstow, Leyton, West Ham, Leytonstone, Wanstead, Barking, Woodford, Chigwell Row, Waltham Abbey, Epping, Shenfield, Watford, Brentwood and Cardiff. Service was conducted by the Rev. T. J. Ison, and Mr. J. G. Mathieson presided at the business meeting. Seven honorary members from Woodford were elected and 13 ringing members, four from Woodford, two from Wanstead, three from Shenfield, three from Brentwood and one from Hornchurch.

It was decided to send letters to Mr. Henzel and Mr. Theobald and to hold the next meeting at Epping in June. A collection for the Bell Restoration Fund amounted to £2 1s. 6d.

The ringing ranged from Grandsire Triples to Cambridge Surprise Major.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received **NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby and Nottingham Districts. — Joint meeting at Sawley, Saturday, June 3rd, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m., 1s. 3d. each. — W. Lancaster and T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Secs.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — Next meeting, Saturday, June 3rd, Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District. — Meeting at Sundridge, Saturday, June 3rd, 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea, 5 p.m., at Beechcroft.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch. — Meeting at Old Leake, Saturday, June 3rd. Bells (6) 2-3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea at the Vicarage at 5 p.m.—W. E. Clarke, 99, Norfolk Street, Boston.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Remembrance visit to grave of J. S. Goldsmith at Pyrford, Saturday, June 3rd. Service there 5.15 p.m. Buses leave Woking Car Park 10 minutes to each hour.—G. L. Grover, East Clandon, Surrey.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Lincoln and Sleaford Districts. — Meeting at Sleaford, Saturday, June 3rd, 2.30. Service 4.30 p.m. No tea.—G. V. S. Andrews and K. W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Secs.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Bunwell, Saturday, June 3rd, 2 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Bring food.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, Close, Norwich.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Combined practice at St. Michael's, Southampton, on June 3rd, 2.30 to 6 p.m. No teas. Meeting at Eling on June 10th, 2.30 p.m. Names by June 6th.—G. Pullinger, 17, Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District. — Meeting at Bitton, June 10th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Number for tea by June 5th. — N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Bath.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at St. Margaret's, Uxbridge, Saturday, June 10th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by business meeting in Vestry, St. Andrew's, Hillingdon West, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. No tea.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Market Drayton, Saturday, June 10th. Bells (8) available 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea, for which arrangements are being made.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Leatherhead District.—Meeting at Christ Church, Epsom, Saturday, June 10th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea in Christ Church Hall 5.15. Names to Mrs. Massey, 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, Surrey, by June 7th.—A. H. Smith.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Practice at St. Mary's, Reading, on Saturday, June 10th, 6.30 to 8.30 p.m.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Gainsborough District. — Meeting at Epworth on Saturday, June 10th. Bells (8) afternoon and evening. Service 4.30. Business meeting 6 p.m. Bring tea. — Geo. L. C. Lunn, Hon. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION. — Swindon Branch.—Meeting at Highworth, June 10th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting at Lingfield, June 10th. Bells (8) 3-7 p.m. Tea 4.30. Names to Mr. H. Wallis, Mount Pleasant, Lingfield, by June 5th.—C. A. Bassett.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD. — Mid-Devon Branch. — Meeting at Newton Abbot on Saturday, June 10th. High-week bells (8) 2.30 p.m., Wolborough (8) 6.15 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m., at Thomas's Restaurant, Courtenay Street. Names by Tuesday, June 6th.—A. L. Bennett, Branch Sec., Cornerways, Elliott Plain, Buckfastleigh. Phone 3121.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan and Liverpool Branches. — Meeting at Halsall, Saturday, June 10th, 3 p.m. Names to Mr. A. Maudsley, Post Office, Halsall, near Ormskirk, by Wednesday.—S. Forshaw, G. R. Newton, Branch Secs.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION. — Meeting at Sutton-in-Ashfield on Saturday, June 10th, 2 p.m. Business 3 o'clock. Tea 5 p.m. Names to Mr. F. Bradley, 34, Mansfield Road, Skegby, by Wednesday, June 7th. Bring sugar.—J. W. England, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Central Bucks Branch.—Annual meeting at Great Horwood, Saturday, June 10th. Bells (6) 2.45 p.m. Service 4. Tea and cakes provided.—E. F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., 30, Horn Street, Winslow, Bucks.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch. — Meeting at Braunston (6), Saturday, June 10th. Bring sandwiches. Cup of tea provided.—W. C. Moore, 5, William's Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Biggleswade District. — Meeting at Eaton Socan on Saturday, June 10th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. — C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch. — Meeting at Singleton, Saturday, June 10th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food.—J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District. — Meeting at Market Harborough, June 10th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Names to Mr. W. Hector, 12, Highfields Street, Market Harborough, by June 8th.—R. Barrow, 10, East Road, Birstall.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. Southern District.—Joint meeting with Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield Societies at Ecclesfield, Saturday, June 17th, 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tea at Black Bull Hotel, 5 p.m., at 2s. 6d. (plain 1s. 6d.). Names to Mrs. Crossland, Black Bull Hotel, Ecclesfield, near Sheffield, by 14th, stating which required. Business meetings follow tea. — Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH GUILD.—Towcester Branch. — Meeting at Cosgrove, Saturday, June 17th. Service 4 p.m. Picnic tea. Bring food and sugar. Cups of tea provided.—Rev. E. V. Fenn, Hon. Sec., Lois Weedon, Towcester.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Shilton, near Coventry, Saturday, June 17th. (Hampton bells not available). Bells (6) 3-9 p.m. Cups of tea in school 5 p.m. Bring food and sugar.—D. E. Beamish, 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

BIRTH.

CASTLE.—On May 25th, at The Briars, Westfields Road, Winnersh, Berks, to Violet (nee Newell), wife of B. C. Castle, a brother for Sylvia (Robert John).

DEATH.

CORBETT.—On May 21st, at Loveday Street Maternity Hospital, Mary (nee Prestidge), wife of Ted and daughter of Mr. A. Prestidge (late leader of St. Andrew's Band, Netherton) and Mrs. A. Prestidge, of 3, St. Andrew's Street, Netherton. 'If God thinks it best we doubt not his word.'

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES

OXHEY, HERTS.—On April 25th, 1,260 Stedman Doubles: Miss T. Waldron 1, H. Hodgetts 2, *E. Rosson 3, F. W. Brinklow 4, J. Rosson (first quarter-peal as conductor) 5, *H. Hayes 6. *First quarter-peal in method.—On May 2nd, 720 Bob Minor: *Miss T. Waldron 1, R. Cadamy 2, *J. Cleaver 3, *L. Tarr 4, *J. Rosson 5, F. W. Brinklow (conductor) 6. *First 720 in method.

BARNBY DON, DONCASTER.—On Saturday, May 6th, 1,440 Bob Minor: J. Wardle (conductor) 1, *T. Shaw 2, *R. Hirst 3, R. Lunn 4, *F. Lamb 5, *E. Padget 6. *First quarter-peal.

ISLEWORTH.—On Sunday, May 7th, 720 Plain Bob Minor, with 6-8 covering. Rung half-muffled for the late Flight-Sergeant A. J. Brian Wayman: D. Chamberlain 1, Mrs. O. L. Rogers 2, Miss K. Brooks (first 720 inside) 3, A. Thirst 4, F. D. Bishop 5, H. Brooks 6, Capt. H. W. Rogers (conductor) 7, A. Tomblin 8.

STAPLEGROVE, SOMERSET.—On Thursday, May 11th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles (ten callings): Douglas Fear (first quarter-peal) 1, Samuel Pyne 2, L.-Bdr. Charles Denyer, R.A. (conductor) 3, Gdsm. Reginald Borsberry 4, Jack Roy 5, Frederick Copham 6.

SOUTHGATE.—On Sunday, May 14th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. G. Nash 1, A. R. Glasscock 2, D. Wright 3, W. J. Bowden 4, N. A. Tomlinson 5, S. G. Piper 6, S. Wade (conductor) 7, H. Miller 8.

SINGLETON, LANCASHIRE.—On Sunday, May 14th, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Minor: A. Tomlinson (conductor) 1, J. Hill 2, B. H. Hall 3, J. H. Foster 4, Cpl. E. Stainrod 5, Gnr. H. E. G. Jeane (first quarter-peal in method) 6.

STANMORE.—On May 18th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss E. R. Fulton 1, G. A. Hughes 2, F. A. Vincett 3, W. Wenban (conductor) 4, J. W. Best, R.A.F. 5, C. J. Kazer 6, J. E. Rootes 7, C. Wenban 8.

GAINSBOROUGH.—On Sunday, May 21st, 720 Bob Minor: F. S. W. Butler 1, H. Torr 2, J. Dixon 3, E. Batters (first 720 inside) 4, C. H. Baker 5, George L. C. Lunn (conductor) 6.

CRADLEY.—On Sunday, May 21st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. White 1, A. Grove 2, B. Lawton 3, J. Lloyd 4, V. Warr 5, A. Wyre 6, J. Cox (conductor) 7, T. Greenhall 8.

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THE RINGING WORLD

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CHURCH ARCHITECTURE.

It is one of the privileges and advantages of the ringer's calling that it brings him into contact with several other interests of the highest importance and value. The Exercise and the art of change ringing no doubt seem at first sight very much self centred and independent, remote from other activities and quite uninfluenced by popular opinion and fashions of thought: And it is true that change ringing has its own laws and standards which are valid only because they belong to the essential nature of the art and the science on which it is founded. Nevertheless, the ringer's craft has many contacts with other arts and sciences, and the Exercise has been made what it is by the course of national and ecclesiastical history.

Music has its say in the tuning of bells, in the construction of methods, and the composition of peals. The whole structure of change ringing is mathematical. Mechanics decide how a bell should be hung and how it should be handled. The uses to which bells are put, the relationship of ringers to the church authorities, and, indeed, the causes why there are any bells, or ringers, or ringing at all, can only be explained by reference to the age-long history of the people of England and the Church of England. Obviously no man can claim to understand ringers and ringing thoroughly unless he knows at least something about these things.

We do not mean, of course, that a man cannot be, not merely a competent ringer, but a first class ringer without this knowledge. He need not know anything about theoretical mechanics to handle and strike his bell well. He may be quite ignorant of the principles of music and yet have a keen ear for the tune of the bells and the music of the method. Many first class ringers have in fact been men who outside ringing have had little knowledge and small abilities, but who have not inside the belfry seemed to suffer from the disabilities. Yet it is probably true that every good ringer would be a better ringer if he possessed a knowledge of these things, and it is certainly true that no man is really competent to discuss or judge the various questions and arguments which arise in the Exercise if he is a peal ringer and nothing much else.

There is something besides. Though these subjects are not essential to a ringer, and though they do not appeal to all, yet any one of them is worth study for its own sake, and, since they are not unconnected with ring-

(Continued on page 238.)

ing, may properly be dealt with in the pages of 'The Ringing World.'

It is especially so with the subject of church architecture, though that has little direct bearing on the ringer's art. Men who are constantly visiting different belfries can hardly fail to make comparison between one steeple and another, to admire the form and proportions of this, or to criticise what seem to be the shortcomings of that. If they are at all observant they will hardly fail to examine the church itself and the more they do so the more they will find that it is worth attention, and, if worth attention, in need of explanation. It is here they will find the value of some plain but concise and accurate description such as Major Howard Freeborn is at present contributing to our pages. What he has written is but an introduction to a vast and complicated subject, but it is an introduction. If it is read carefully it will put the reader on the right road towards understanding much of the history of the churches he visits and will reveal beauties he never before suspected. The English parish churches are among the glories of this land. The countries of the Continent, rich as they are in cathedrals and large churches, cannot in their parish churches equal ours, and therefore, since ringers in the pursuit of their art are brought so frequently into touch with these buildings, they will welcome these articles which give them the opportunity of knowing and understanding something about them.

SERVICE TOUCHES. STEDMAN TRIPLES.

1,260		1,260	
231456 S H Q		231456 S H Q	
345261	x x	345261	x x
435216	x	426315	x x
125346	x x	125346	x x
1,260		1,260	
231456 S H L Q		231456 H L Q	
641235	x x	625431	x x x
435216	x x	345261	x
125346	x x	125346	x x
Each of the above to be four times repeated.			
1,260		1,260	
231456 H L Q		231456 S H L	
536421	x x	641235	x x
342516	x x	435216	x x
152436	x	316254	x x
642153	x x	154263	x x
312645	x x	563241	x x

Each twice repeated.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES

GUILDFORD.—At Holy Trinity Cathedral Church, an attempt was made for a peal of Grandsire Triples following the institution, induction and installation of the Very Rev. R. S. B. Sinclair as Provost of Guildford on May 20th. After ringing for 100 minutes the clapper of the seventh broke and fouled the tenor, and the peal had to be abandoned. The ringers were: T. W. White 1, O. Modford 2, W. R. Robinson 3, A. H. Pulling (conductor) 4, F. Oldroyd 5, G. L. Grover 6, W. Beeson 7, R. Hagley 8.

BURGHFIELD, BERKS.—On May 20th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: T. Lanaghan 1, H. Tucker 2, L. Whitehead 3, E. Humfrey 4, R. Rex (conductor) 5, A. Diserens 6.

CHATHAM.—At St. Mary's on Sunday, May 21st, 1,260 Kent Treble Bob Major: Miss N. Gardiner 1, F. Richardson 2, D. T. Hills 3, E. A. G. Allen 4, H. Springate 5, C. E. J. Norris 6, W. J. Walker 7, W. A. J. Knight (conductor) 8.

SWAVESEY, CAMBS.—On Sunday, May 21st, three 720's Plain Bob Minor: H. Pratt 1, F. Turrell (West Grinstead) 2, F. G. Gleaves 3, J. Perkins 4, G. L. Perkins 5, F. Warrington (conductor) 6, B. Norman 1, L.A.C. E. R. Nobles (Northampton) 2, L. W. Fisher 3, J. Perkins 4, G. L. Perkins 5, F. Warrington (conductor) 6, H. Pratt 1, F. G. Gleaves 2, L. W. Fisher 3, L.A.C. E. Nobles 4, Fred Turrell 5, F. Warrington (conductor) 6.

TEN BELL PEALS.

BECKENHAM, KENT.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Sat., June 3, 1944, in Three Hours and Thirty-One Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt. in F.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE ... Treble	ERIC B. HARTLEY ... 6
GEORGE M. KILBY ... 2	GEORGE W. CECIL ... 7
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3	† FREDERICK E. COLLINS 8
* PHILIP A. CORBY ... 4	RICHARD F. DEAL ... 9
J. FRANK SMALLWOOD ... 5	† CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... Tenor

Composed by W. PYE.

Conducted by P. A. CORBY.

* 50th peal of Surprise. † 100th tower bell peal together. First peal of Surprise Royal on the bells.

CLAINES, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 3, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5057 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt. in F sharp.

ALLEN MORGAN ... Treble	† PERCY L. BLISSETT ... 6
GEORGE E. LARGE ... 2	WILLIAM RANFORD ... 7
WALTER H. RAXTER ... 3	* GEORGE AMBLER ... 8
REGINALD WOODYATT ... 4	CHARLES J. CAMM ... 9
* DENIS R. MORRIS ... 5	FREDERICK G. YATES ... Tenor

Composed by EDGAR GUISE.

Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

* First peal of Grandsire Caters. † First peal on ten bells.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

GREASLEY, NOTTS.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., May 27, 1944, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

* WILFRED RADCLIFFE ... Treble	VICTOR TAYLOR ... 5
ALFRED MOULD ... 2	PHILIP L. PARROTT ... 6
WILLIAM LANCASTER ... 3	ALEX. HUTCHINSON ... 7
WILLIAM THORNLEY ... 4	EDWARD F. GOBEY ... Tenor

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by EDWARD F. GOBEY.

* First peal.

KEGWORTH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., May 27, 1944, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

Tenor 17 cwt.

WILLIAM DAWSON ... Treble	GIRLING RIGBY ... 5
CHARLES HUTCHINSON ... 2	WILLIAM E. SIMPSON ... 6
WILLIAM T. KING ... 3	W. RICHARDSON DRAGE ... 7
* FRANCIS R. LOWE ... 4	JACK BAILEY ... Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

Conducted by J. BAILEY.

* First peal. First Major as conductor.

SOUTH WIGSTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., May 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

J. LESLIE WILLIAMS ... Treble	† W. REGINALD PERRY ... 5
* ARTHUR PATRICK ... 2	CHARLES MARSHALL ... 6
JOHN E. CLARK ... 3	ERNEST J. JELLEY ... 7
SYDNEY COX ... 4	FRED LORD ... Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES MARSHALL.

* First peal of Stedman. † First peal. First peal on the bells by an entirely local band. All are regular Sunday service ringers.

KIDLINGTON.—On Sunday, May 21st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. Hancox 1, Miss Valhalla Hill 2, W. C. Porter 3, W. F. Judge 4, C. Bennett 5, G. Caudwell 6, W. Judge (conductor) 7, O. Lambourn 8.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Whit Monday, May 29, 1944, in Three Hours and One Minute,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th the observation). Tenor 16 cwt.
*PERCY MELLOR ... Treble | WILLIAM WELLING + ... 5
ALBERT DISERENS ... 2 | H. WILLIAM BARRETT ... 6
GEORGE H. GUTTERIDGE ... 3 | GEORGE GILBERT ... 7
†GEORGE W. MORRIS ... 4 | WILLIAM HENLEY ... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE GILBERT.

* First peal. † First peal of Triples.

MARKET DRAYTON, SHROPSHIRE.
THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., May 29, 1944, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th the observation). Tenor 17½ cwt.
WILFRED E. BOX ... Treble | FREDERICK PRICE ... 5
WILLIAM SAUNDERS ... 2 | EDWARD V. RODENHURST ... 6
WILLIAM J. CHESTER ... 3 | ARTHUR PRITCHARD ... 7
WALTER LYCETT ... 4 | JOHN N. LINDON ... Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR PRITCHARD.

NORTON, DERBYSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(Sheffield District Society.)

On Sat., June 3, 1944, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.
TOM BROTHWELL ... Treble | ARTHUR FIRTH ... 5
F. BERNARD DITCHER ... 2 | WALTER ALLWOOD ... 6
JACK G. BROTHWELL ... 3 | JOHN H. BROTHWELL ... 7
J. EDWARD CAWSE ... 4 | JOHN E. TURLEY ... Tenor
Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by J. ED. CAWSE.

WARFIELD, BERKS.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Sat., June 3, 1944, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL-THE-ARCHANGEL,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt. 2 qr. 27 lb. in F.
C. ALFRED LEVETT ... Treble | *ARTHUR J. N. RANCE ... 5
ALBERT DISERENS ... 2 | NORMAN V. HARDING ... 6
ALFRED J. RANCE ... 3 | FRANK H. HICKS ... 7
JOHN M. GAYFORD ... 4 | GEORGE GILBERT ... Tenor
Composed by T. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by GEO. GILBERT.
* First peal of Major.

BOCKING, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 3, 1944, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt.
*ROBERT LE BEAU ... Treble | LEWIS W. WIFFEN ... 5
GEORGE SAUNDERS ... 2 | FRANK CLAYDON ... 6
GEORGE SCHLEUTER ... 3 | †RONALD SUCKLING ... 7
*HENRY PRATT ... 4 | H. WALTER SMITH ... Tenor
Conducted by RONALD SUCKLING.

* First peal of Major. † 100th peal.

BOLTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 3, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Vicar's. Tenor 15½ cwt.
*NORMAN NIGHTINGALE ... Treble | ALBERT GREENHALGH ... 5
JAMES WM. KAY ... 2 | SGT. K. W. CHEESEMAN ... 6
JOHN R. LUNHAM ... 3 | PETER CROOK, SEN. ... 7
EVEREST FORD ... 4 | WILLIAM SMALLEY ... Tenor
Conducted by PETER CROOK.

* First peal and first attempt. Rung muffled for Thomas B. Worsley.

ERITH, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 3, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

REV. C. D. P. DAVIES' TRANSPOSITION. Tenor 15 cwt.
DENNIS L. HALL ... Treble | FREDERICK A. COLEY ... 5
JAMES E. BAILEY ... 2 | HARRY HOVERD ... 6
ROBERT WAKE ... 3 | FREDERICK J. CULLUM ... 7
HARRY HOSKINS ... 4 | HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ... Tenor

Conducted by FREDERICK J. CULLUM.

Rung half-muffled for Mr. Thomas Mortimer, many years a ringer and sidesman at the above church.

SIX BELL PEALS.

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS, DORSET.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., May 27, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 7½ cwt.
MEYRICK A. MARTIN ... Treble | *GEORGE WAREHAM ... 4
LIONEL H. PINK ... 2 | HAROLD E. WHITE ... 5
WILLIAM C. SHUTE ... 3 | †DERICK KING ... Tenor
Conducted by HAROLD E. WHITE.

* First peal 'inside.' † First peal (aged 13).

WORSLEY, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., May 27, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three extents of Oxford Treble Bob, three of Kent Treble Bob and one of Plain Bob.
JAMES W. GROUNDS ... Treble | JOHN BOOTH ... 4
*NORMAN HEAPS ... 2 | PERCY DERBYSHIRE ... 5
JOHN H. GARTSIDE ... 3 | JOSEPH RIDYARD ... Tenor
Conducted by J. RIDYARD.

* 100th peal. Half-muffled by Joseph H. Ridyard, of Worsley, and Thomas B. Worsley. Rung on the front six after meeting short for Royal.

STISTED, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., May 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

*DERYCK TALBOT ... Treble | FRANK MAY ... 4
*ROBERT LE BEAU ... 2 | *STANLEY BONES ... 5
HENRY PRATT ... 3 | RONALD SUCKLING ... Tenor
Conducted by RONALD SUCKLING.

* First peal of Minor.

OASTLE HEDDINGHAM, ESSEX.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Mon., May 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt.
L. W. BULLOCK ... Treble | J. BULLOCK ... 4
J. A. BULLOCK ... 2 | E. E. HOLMAN ... 5
T. H. BULLOCK ... 3 | E. W. PYE ... Tenor
Conducted by J. BULLOCK.

HANDBELL PEAL.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., May 24, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAXIMUS, 5016 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.
*ERIC A. DENCH ... 1-2 | †MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 7-8
†MRS. J. THOMAS ... 3-4 | *ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 9-10
†JOHN THOMAS ... 5-6 | *DENNIS H. LANGDON ... 11-12
Composed by J. REEVES. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First peal of Maximus. † First peal of Bob Maximus.

YORKSHIRE SURPRISE ROYAL.

A PROBLEM IN COMPOSITION.

A good many years ago in the pages of 'The Bell News' there was a rather heated controversy between two composers concerning the authorship and ownership of a peal which had lately been published. That, of course, was a very common thing in those days, and we refer to it now only to use it as a text on which to say something about a matter which is not without general interest.

The two disputants were men whose names stand high among composers. Both had done excellent work, and to both the Exercise owes a debt of gratitude. The bone of contention was a peal of Yorkshire Surprise Royal which had recently been published. It was a 5,040 in fourteen courses, and had the sixth the extent (twelve courses) at home.

The older composer wrote to the journal and pointed out that if in a twenty-seven course peal of Superlative Surprise Major, which belonged to him, a certain bob was added or omitted (we forget which) the exact figures of this peal of Yorkshire would be produced, and therefore he claimed it as his property.

To that the other would not agree. Any resemblance between the two peals, he maintained, was purely accidental. His Royal was an original composition and was his, and he was not going to give it up.

We do not intend to judge between the two men. Each of them was right in his contention, provided the premises from which he argued are accepted. What we intend to do is to point out what are the conditions necessary to produce a 14-course block in which the sixth is twelve courses at home, in any method in which the bob making positions come in the order — Middle, Wrong, Right. When we have done that, the reader can judge how much scope there is for originality on the plan, and how far the custom of dividing the peals that are possible, among a number of composers, is really justified.

Since in the block there are only two courses in which the sixth is away from home, the twelve courses in which it is at home must be either in one block or in two. Now, it is not possible by bobs only to join twelve complete courses of any method into one round block. That is a truth well known to composers, and we need not stay to explain why it is so. It is possible to join together by bobs only the rows which form the twelve courses, but when the bobs are made by the bells in 2, 3, 4 (as they are in Yorkshire Surprise) the last of the rows must be 4326587 in Major and 432658709 in Royal, and there is no means of getting the bells round. When the bobs are made on the three hind bells it is possible to use a similar block to obtain apparent extents (as in the peals with the sixty in-course tittum courses of Stedman-Caters), but in a peal of Yorkshire Royal the twelve courses with the sixth at home definitely cannot be had in one block. They must be in two round blocks.

Our peal consists of fourteen courses and therefore must have two courses in which the sixth is away from home. The duty of these courses is not only to make up the requisite number of changes, but also to supply the links by which the two round blocks with the sixth at home are joined together.

The problem then is to find a round block which shall consist of two full natural courses with the sixth at home, and two other courses in which the sixth is away from home. These latter may consist of either full natural courses or parts of natural courses. We can then add the other ten courses with the sixth at home to one or both of the courses we have already got and our task is completed.

Experiment and inquiry will soon convince us that there is only one four-course block which fulfils the necessary conditions. It is the following:—

Middle.	Wrong.	Right.	M.	W.	R.
43652	54632	65432	—	—	—
45236	45236	45236	—	—	—
25634	32654	63254	—	—	—
23456	23456	23456	—	—	—

This really consists of two separate 2-course round blocks (all the courses called M, W, R), which are joined together by omitting bobs at W and R. This fact has an important bearing on the extent to which the 4-course block can be used.

The twelve courses with the sixth at home can be grouped into two round blocks in seven ways only. We can have an eleven and a one course block, and their reverses. We can have a ten and a two course block, and their reverses. We can have a nine and a three course block, and their reverses. And we can have two six course blocks which are the reverse of each other.

What we must do is to group the twelve courses with the sixth at home into these various pairs of blocks so that one of the courses in the 4-course block is in one and the other in the other. Then, by combining the bobs in the 4-course block and whichever pair of blocks we select to join the whole together and our peal is complete.

We shall speedily find that we cannot use either the two 6-course blocks, or the ten and two course blocks, or their reverses; and the reason is this—these blocks are really founded on 2-course blocks joined by omits, but so is the 4-course block, and however we prick them we shall always find that both the courses in the 4-course block are in one block of the pair; never one in each. We can therefore only use the four other pairs of blocks, either the eleven and one, or the nine and three.

Here are the four peals:—

5040					5040				
23456	M.	W.	R.		23456	M.	W.	R.	
65432	—	—	—		65432	—	—	—	
24536	—	—	—		34256	—	—	—	
52436	—	—	—		53246	—	—	—	
45236	—	—	—		45236	—	—	—	
63254	—	—	—		63254	—	—	—	
42356	—	—	—		52436	—	—	—	
35426	—	—	—		43526	—	—	—	
43526	—	—	—		24536	—	—	—	
54326	—	—	—		32546	—	—	—	
32546	—	—	—		54326	—	—	—	
53246	—	—	—		25346	—	—	—	
25346	—	—	—		42356	—	—	—	
34256	—	—	—		35426	—	—	—	
23456	—	—	—		23456	—	—	—	

5040				5040			
23456	M.	W.	R.	23456	M.	W.	R.
65432	—	—	—	65432	—	—	—
45236	—	—	—	45236	—	—	—
63254	—	—	—	63254	—	—	—
52436	—	—	—	52436	—	—	—
43526	—	—	—	35426	—	—	—
24536	—	—	—	42356	—	—	—
53246	—	—	—	54326	—	—	—
25346	—	—	—	32546	—	—	—
32546	—	—	—	43526	—	—	—
54326	—	—	—	24536	—	—	—
35426	—	—	—	53246	—	—	—
42356	—	—	—	25346	—	—	—
34256	—	—	—	34256	—	—	—
23456	—	—	—	23456	—	—	—

These are the only possible peals of Yorkshire Surprise Royal in fourteen courses with the sixth the extent at home and they are all really the same composition. All may be varied by beginning from different course ends, and that for practical purposes will give us a considerable number of separate peals. Many of these peals have been ascribed to different composers, and it is no great matter if it continues to be done, provided that the real relationship of the compositions is understood.

HUDDERSFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT LIGHTCLIFFE.

There was a good attendance at the meeting of the Huddersfield and District Society at Lightcliffe on May 27th, the towers represented being Huddersfield, Lindley, Liversedge, Longwood, Almondbury, Kirkburton, Meltham, Halifax, Brighouse, Elland, Ripponden and the local belfry. Heptonstall was selected as the place of the next meeting.

COMPOSITION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Recently I have been investigating Thompson's Papers on Grandsire Triples, and the following question interested me: 'Why was Thompson able to place his Q-sets on a dodecahedron?' In trying to answer this question I have found a method of arranging the in-course lead-ends of Minor, and the course ends of Major, on a dodecahedron, and thereby a method of composing and proving touches and peals very simply. Whether this has been done before I do not know.

Thompson was able to do what he did because of the mathematical fact that the even permutations of five figures can be arranged on a dodecahedron symmetrically: that is, any two pairs of permutations with the same mutual relations occupy the same relative positions. (Those interested will find all this in Burnside's 'Theory of Groups.') Thus, we may arrange the in-course lead-ends of Minor in such a way that the P-sets come conveniently on the faces of the dodecahedron, and the B-sets around the corners. This geometrical interpretation makes composition of any Minor method extremely simple, as we do not bother with the actual figures, but only the calls. The line patterns, which the brain can deal with so much more easily, constitute an automatic way of composition and proof. It is simpler to see if two points belong to the same circle than if two lead-ends belong to the same plain course.

But this arrangement on the dodecahedron does not stop at Minor, as Thompson has shown. The course ends of Major may as easily be so arranged, with corresponding simplification of peal composition. On the model I have made, three courses capable of being united by three bobs at M lie at the corners of green triangles, those by three bobs at W on black circles, and of bobs at H on red triangles. As the W, M and H Q-sets of courses are independent in operation, round blocks of Major may speedily be built up without regard to the actual figures, in fact there are no actual course end numbers on my model. One, two, three or five part peals may be composed. The first peal I composed took me under ten minutes altogether. I do not claim these peals as original, but they are not copied.

Thompson certainly knew a lot about this type of theory, and he may have known the above and considered it trivial. I advance my findings for what they are worth, and lay myself open to criticism.

B. D. PRICE.

Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

[For the benefit of some of our readers, we may explain that a dodecahedron is a solid figure with twelve equal faces, in the same way that a cube is a solid figure with six equal faces.—The Editor.]

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

**The official journal of the Central Council of
Church Bell Ringers.**

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CENTRAL COUNCIL PUBLICATIONS.

It should be clearly understood that only those Central Council publications whose titles are given in the advertisement on the back page can at present be supplied. Others advertised in back numbers of 'The Ringing World' are either out of print or are temporarily not available.

Owing to the large demand, the stock of these publications immediately available is temporarily exhausted. Outstanding orders will be executed as soon as fresh supplies are available.

Postal subscribers and subscribers generally are reminded that, owing to the present transport restrictions, the occasional delay in the delivery of 'The Ringing World' and other journals is unavoidable.

Last week Mr. Cyril F. Johnston, as Master, presided at a livery luncheon of the London Company of Clockmakers, held at the Connaught Rooms. Several well-known and prominent men were present, including the Lord Mayor, aldermen and Sheriffs, the Editor of 'The Sunday Express' and the Bishop of Croydon. The Rt. Hon. Oliver Littleton, Minister of Production, who replied to the toast of 'The Visitors,' in the course of an optimistic review of the war in Italy and the preparations and prospects of the coming invasion of Europe, mentioned that during the last war he was adjutant of the battalion of Grenadier Guards in France in which Mr. Johnston served as a lieutenant.

THE REV. J. F. HASTINGS.

On the grounds of advanced age and ill-health, the Rev. J. F. Hastings has resigned the incumbency of Martley, Worcs, which he has held since the death of his father, the Rev. J. P. Hastings, in 1907. From 1891 up to that time he had been curate to his father as well as holding from 1897 the Rectory of Shelsley Walsh.

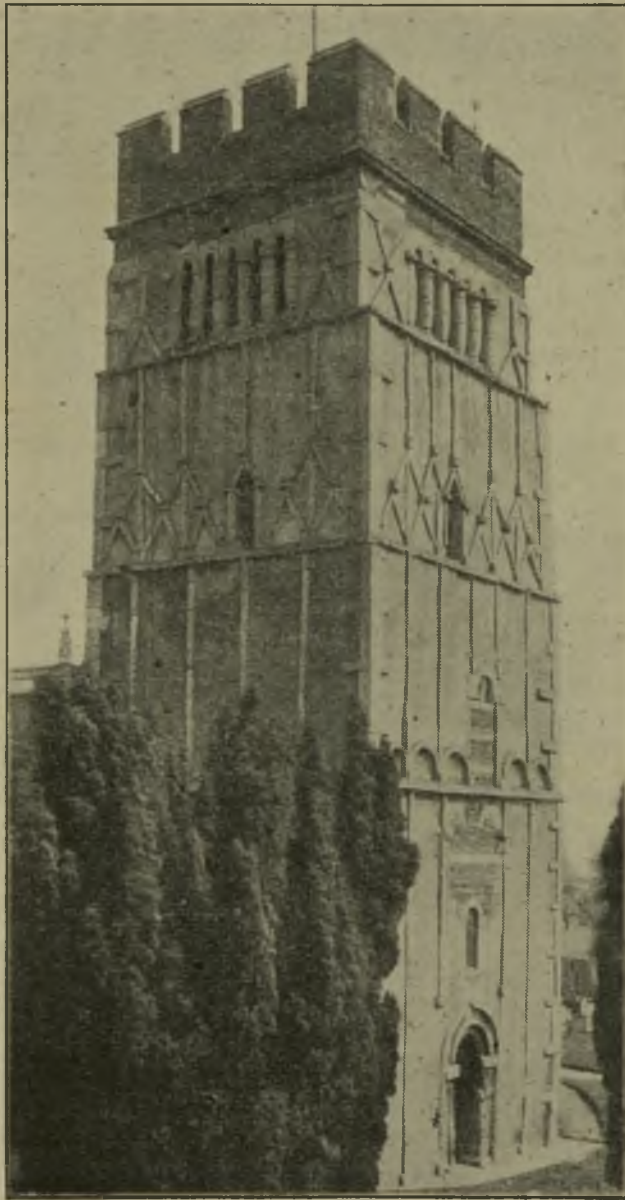
Mr. Hastings was ordained in 1888, and after a short time at Great Yarmouth returned to Martley, and has been connected with the incumbency for over 50 years. For many years he was clerical secretary to the Worcestershire and Districts Association, and was an authority on church bells as well as being a competent ringer. He was also a member of the Oxford University Guild and the Ancient Society of College Youths. He took part in the peal of Stedman Caters at Watwick rung by ten members of the clergy for the Ancient Society.

Mr. Hastings is succeeded by his nephew, the Rev. J. Hastings Lloyd, who has been Rector of Niton, Isle of Wight, since 1919. The association of the Hastings family with Martley is a long one, beginning in the later part of the 18th century. The present Mr. Hastings' great-grandfather, the Rev. James Hastings, was appointed Rector in 1797. He was a relative of the famous Warren Hastings and was 101 when he died. He was succeeded in 1856 by his son, the Rev. H. J. Hastings, who died in 1875, and was followed by his son, the Rev. J. P. Hastings, father of the present holder. The four generations between them have filled the incumbency for close on 150 years.

ENGLISH ARCHITECTURE.

By MAJOR J. HOWARD FREEBORN, M.A.

(Continued from page 229.)



EARL'S BARTON (Saxon).

THE SAXON PERIOD (VI. CENTURY—1066).



FIG. 6.

Saxon Midwall Shaft.

When St. Augustine came to Canterbury he found there a Saxon church, and in the four-and-a-half centuries which followed many churches were built. The early ones were generally of timber, and it was not until late in the period that stone was generally used. We still have left to us a number of

churches almost entirely Saxon in character, and there is Saxon work in a great many more. What the Saxons knew of architecture they got from the Continent, and so their arches are usually round (Fig. 7), though there are examples of triangular-headed windows (Fig. 7a). The aspect of their work is rough in comparison with Norman and Gothic, and they built into their walls, windows and doorways the Roman bricks and shafts which they took from the ruined temples and villas of the Occupation, as at Colchester (Holy Trinity) and Brixworth.



FIG. 7a.

The plan was rarely other than a simple rectangle, though there are sometimes transepts, as at Worth and Dover, and porches, as at Bradford-on-Avon. They used for their vertical angles alternate upright and horizontal stones, known as 'long-and-short' work (Fig. 1), and pilaster-strips for ornament, particularly in the later towers, which have two-light windows, with a centre or 'mid-wall' shaft (Fig. 6) and heavy square abacus. The walls are roughly faced with the axe in chevron patterns—chevron-tooling—or are plastered. The square east-end was dictated by the timber construction of



FIG. 7.
Saxon Arches.

the earlier phases, and persisted throughout the period, though apsidal terminations, with crypts below them, sometimes occur, as at Ripon, Repton, Worth and Wing. There is a unique and attractive example of an early XI. century timber nave at Greenstead-by-Ongar, built to receive the body of St. Edmund on its last journey to Westminster. Vaulting was rarely employed, and that on but a small scale, as at Hexham, Monkswearmouth, Repton and Ripon.

Other typical examples of the period are to be seen at Barton-on-Humber, Braemore, Brixworth, Deerhurst, Earls Barton, Escourt, Monkswearmouth, Sompting and Stow (Lincs).

GLOSSARY.

ABACUS. The projecting member next above the capital, from which the arches spring.

APSE. (apsidal) Semi-circular or polygonal eastern termination.

CHEVRON. A pattern of stripes, as for a sergeant.

CRYPT. A vault beneath the quire or chancel.

NAVE. The western limb of a church, used by the congregation.

PILASTER. An ornamental wall projection, flat and rectangular, used in Roman buildings, which the Saxons tried to imitate with plain strips of stone.

TRANSEPTS. The arms of a church, at right angles to the nave, and making the cruciform plan.

(To be continued.)

TEACHING AND ORGANISATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Let me congratulate Mr. Stephen Thompson, his father and the Whickham band on their progress without any call changes or stoney. Teaching always is lengthy at first, but they seem to have got on fast, and they have the satisfaction of knowing that they have not injured their own, nor prejudiced the ears of outsiders.

The Midland Counties Association was the first I joined, some 55 years ago, so that I am glad to hear that it is being put on a more diocesan footing. I quite endorse all that you say that our tendency now should be more towards a diocesan footing for all associations. But I should like to add that one association might act for two or more dioceses, or that two or more associations might be joined in one diocese.

HERBERT DRAKE.

Ufford Rectory, Woodbridge.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

(Continued from page 222.)

Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey, is rich in history. Seven Saxon kings were crowned there, and the stone on which the ceremonies took place is still to be seen near the market place. About 838 Egbert held a Council there, and in Anglo-Saxon times there was a royal palace. In St. Mary's Chapel, which fell down in 1730, some of the early kings were crowned. Kingstone was royal property at the time of Domesday, and had a merchant guild.

Through the ages the bells in the great central tower of its parish church of All Saints have played a prominent part in local royal celebrations and other national events. In 1552 there were 'fyve great belles in the steple, a sauns bell and a chyme for the belles,' but as early as 1503 the churchwardens show payment for a rope for the 'chym,' and in 1509 the 'curfrey bell' was trussed and other work done, including 'borde for flooring of loft over bells.' Charges in 1561 for 'castyng of the bell & for the mettill putting to it' was £6 5s., and 'for Dynner at Meydenhedd when we carried the bell to be cast 6s. 8d.' Many such quaint entries for payments for bells and ringers are shown in churchwardens' accounts. There is now a ring of ten, with tenor 27 cwt. 2 qr. 24 lb. in D flat. In 1937 all were retuned and rehung on ball bearings on the old frame which was strengthened by Mears and Stainbank, who recast the front four bells. They hang anti-clockwise.

A good number of peals have been rung in this tower and one—'5040 Holt's Grandsire Trebles'—rung as early as December 10th, 1787, was remarkable as being conducted by Robert Porter, aged 17 years. In 1801 a long peal of 7,001 Grandsire Caters was rung, superseded by 10,386 in 1803, the latter taking 6 hours 56 minutes to ring. The following year they rang 5,040 'Bob Major Royal,' and since then many other peals have been scored.

The central tower of Kingston is 17 feet square, and of the four arches on which it stands the north and south are their original height, but the other two have been heightened in modern times. The axial line of the tower is some two feet to the south of that of the chancel, deflecting to the north of it. The upper part of the tower is of brick with plain parapet and pineapple corner pinnacles. The older walls immediately above the roofs are of flint with an admixture of freestone. The windows of the bell chamber are modern. In a panel on the south side is the date of the rebuilding of the tower—1708.

The church of St. James, Grimsby, Lincs, built originally by monks of the neighbouring abbey of Wellow about 1200, is an ancient cruciform building in Early English style with central Perpendicular tower with pinnacles built in 1365. It has a ring of eight by William Dobson, dated 1830. The ascent here is curious. First

by a spiral stairway at the end of a transept, then emerge on a narrow ledge open to the church and along under the roof, only guarded by a thin iron rail. Traverse this to the central tower and ascend a further short spiral. In the belfry itself is a maze of timber beams and cross supports on which the bell frame rests in the chamber above. These beams creak and groan horribly when the bells are being rung. A number of peals have been rung here.

St. Mary's, Kidlington, 4½ miles north of Oxford, is a fine church originally a cruciform Early English structure, of which the piers and lower story of the tower and other portions still remain. About 1320 extensive alterations were made in Decorative style, and in Perpendicular times further alterations took place. The beautiful tapering spire, conspicuous for miles around, was set on the Early English tower. It is 170 feet high, and has a graceful parapet of slender arcading with 72 trefoiled arches. The tower rests on massive arches borne by clusters of 700 year old columns, and the spire—an octagonal ribbed one—is relieved by dormers at the base and others near the top. It was repaired between 1756-9, and again in 1811-12 in consequence of having been struck by lightning in 1810. The tower was restored in 1837. The old ring of six bells, dating from 1610 to 1715, were completely restored in 1897 by Mears and Stainbank, who added two trebles and recast the old treble, 2nd and 4th. The whole were rehung in a new iron frame on an oak base by Webb and Bennett. The new bells bear the name of the then Vicar, Rev. A. C. R. Freeborn, with those of the churchwardens, founders and bell-hangers. The tenor weighs 26 cwt. and is by Abraham Rudhall, 1708.

Kirtlington, which must not be confused with Kidlington, is some nine miles north of Oxford, and lies at the junction of Akeman Street with the Saxon road called the Port Way, and was in Saxon times a position of some importance. It is conjectured that here was the scene of Birinus' early missionary efforts; and that the name—Kirklington—indicates that here was built the earliest Saxon church in the neighbourhood. When the present Norman chancel was being restored in 1877, the foundations of an earlier apse was discovered within it, which may well have been those of a Saxon church. The early importance of the place is witnessed by a synod held here in 977, and attended by Dunstan and King Edward the Martyr. The present church was originally Norman with a central tower, now rebuilt, but which retains three original piers, while the fourth is Decorated period. The ceiling is groined. There are eight bells, dating from 1718 to 1853, with a tenor 19½ cwt. by Abel Rudhall, dated 1753.

(To be continued.)

SWINDON, WILTS.—On Sunday, June 4th, at Christ Church, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: C. J. Gardiner (conductor) 1, G. W. Townsend 2, F. J. Daniell 3, W. W. T. Daniell 4, H. W. Bishop 5, S. Palmer 6, W. Carter (first quarter-peal) 7, A. G. Wells 8, T. Townsend 9, J. H. Shepherd 10.

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THE BELLS OF HOLLAND.

WHOLESALE GERMAN CONFISCATION.

The following recently appeared in 'The Voice of the Netherlands,' the war-time Dutch newspaper published in England:—

'Six thousand five hundred church bells had been surrendered in Holland by the end of 1943 under German requisition orders; 4,500 of them, totalling 1,700 tons in weight, having been sent to Germany.

'Bells considered of historical value were stored "for safety" in special depositories. But it now turns out that these, too, were melted down, the protecting "safety measures" having consisted only in photographing and taking rubbings of the most important ornamentation and inscriptions. The Metal Mobilisation Board at Berlin has provided the finishing touch to this measure of spoliation by announcing that the bells are "a present from the Dutch people for the struggle against Bolshevism." Presumably this means that Holland will receive no compensation for the bells.'

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING* AT IRTHLINGBOROUGH.

The twenty-first annual meeting of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Irtlingborough on Whit Monday. Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. R. S. Sleight, and 98 sat down to tea in the Wesley Hall. The Master, the Rev. E. S. Powell, presided and was supported by most of the officers. Apologies were received from the Rev. W. R. M. Chaplin, the Rev. W. R. Flex and Messrs. W. R. Butcher, B. P. Morris and T. Tebbutt.

All the officers were re-elected.

A grant of £10 was made from the Belfry Repair Fund to Heyford towards the rehanging of four bells and the addition of two trebles, and one of 10s. to Empingham towards the cost of a small repair job. Kettering was selected as the place of the next annual meeting. A sub-committee was appointed to revise the rules and report to a later meeting. First peal certificates were presented to Mr. D. C. Birkinshaw and Miss M. Clarke, of Staverton.

Among the visitors were Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Poole with Miss J. Poole and Mr. G. Straw, of Leicester Cathedral, Mr. R. F. Elkington, of Anstey, and Mr. Harry Chapman, of Keyston. A number of beginners of both sexes were present. Thanks were given to the clergy, to the Rector and to the organist.

During the day the bells were rung at Wellingborough, Finedon, Higham Ferrers and Irtlingborough.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT.

The annual meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association, held at Howden on May 27th, was attended by about 35 ringers representing 16 towers. Visitors included Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Sherwood, of Headingley, Leeds, Mr. Nolan Golden, of Norwich, and Mr. J. Gardner, of Halewood, Liverpool.

Service in church was conducted by the Vicar, who afterwards took the chair at the business meeting. Reference was made to the death of Mr. J. M. Norley, of Selby, father of the district secretary, who had recently passed away.

Two new members were elected: Messrs. F. England, of St. Mary's, Lowgate, Hull, and J. Hobson, of Holy Trinity, Hull, and an invitation to hold the next meeting at Hessle was accepted. The district secretary and three retiring committeemen were re-elected. The secretary was asked to write a letter of condolence to Mr. W. Middleton, of Beverley Minster, on the death of his wife, and appreciation of his services to ringing on his retirement from active ringing on account of ill-health. A collection for the association's Bell Repair Fund realised 15s. 9d.

WAR MEMORIALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I do not think we ought to agree with all Lieut. Kenneth Croft says about bells as war memorials. It certainly is not quite fair to collect money from people for bells, or anything else, on the pretence that they are to be a war memorial when it is only an excuse for getting them in the easiest way. But if there is really a desire to have something as a memorial, bells are in some respects one of the most suitable things.

There are few things which last so long as they do. A bell cast to-day will most likely be in use 500 years hence and its inscription readable, while stone and marble may have perished and their inscriptions become illegible. On the other hand, bells are very remote and inaccessible. They are hardly sufficient as a memorial without some tablet in the church below.

There is nothing in Lieut. Croft's contention that bells are unsuitable because they are symbols of joy, and a memorial should express 'a sorrowful and yet glorious memory.' Bells can express every emotion—nothing better. There are not only 'the merry wedding bells,' but 'the solemn death bell' also.

I do, however, think that most eight bell bands should, for their own sake, think twice before they try to get two extra trebles, and to add two to a peal of ten is generally a mistake, or at the least an unnecessary waste of money. I am not sure that six bells is not enough for most village churches.

'X.'

RAISING A BELL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The problem set is to raise a bell from rest, in which position it has no potential energy as we are not expecting it to fall down out of the tower, and the investigation does not require a study of 'the principles of a bell in motion.' To introduce kinetics is to complicate unnecessarily an essentially simple problem of statics. Nothing more is required than the height of the centre of gravity in relation to the effort, which at the top of the first swing from rest is given by the equation $fd=WH$ where f is the force applied, d the distance through which it is applied, W the weight of the bell and fittings; and H the vertical height of the centre of gravity from rest. This is nothing but the mathematical form of my statement that the energy account must balance, and it is stated as well as it can possibly be by Mr. Street in the first paragraph of his letter of May 26th.

It follows that the height of the centre of gravity above rest level at any point of the rise is given by $fdn=WH$, where n is the number of pulls. Mr. Street's diagram shows more clearly than any written description why the work appears heavy to the ringer about half-way up. He does not appear to be gaining height comparable to his effort because he is measuring by the rope let out, the angular advance in the path of the centre of gravity, instead of its vertical rise.

A. W. DAVIS.

Hereford.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Merritt is skating on very thin ice when he compares the raising of a static load with the raising of a dynamic load. It contains enough truth to be misleading. His analogy of the strong man does no more than beg the question. If he does the same amount of work (by which is understood foot-pounds) at each pull, then the centre of gravity will be raised the same distance. This is so, because, although the downward moment of the bell increases as the C of G departs from a vertical with the axis, the length of the arc on the wheel will decrease (see Mr. Street's geometrical figure, 'The Ringing World,' May 26th, 1944). Even so, this has very little in common with the dynamics of a bell in motion.

It is useless to talk of doing work, unless you state how you propose to do it; and here I think we had better define our terms. Work done, refers to a weight, $W \times D$ the distance through which it is raised vertically. Energy (potential or kinetic) refers to a capacity to do work, i.e., the electricity undertaking supply you continually with energy at an E.M.F. of 230 volts, or whatever the case may be. When you switch on a fire and make this energy do work in raising the temperature of a room, they are supplying you with watts (Power). Power is the rate of doing work. $P=WD/T$, where P =Power, W =Weight, D =Distance through which W is raised, and T =Time in which it is raised. Its practical unit is the horse-power: 550 foot-pounds per second.

By reference to the geometrical figure referred to above, it is not difficult to see that even if the speed of the bell's rotation were constant throughout its flight, and its terminal velocity were no less, then the time taken to raise the C of G at points approximating the horizontal will be less than at any other point. In actual fact, its speed of rotation is anything but constant, and is such as to accentuate this variation in time. This follows from the principle of acceleration in falling mass, and is analogous to the sloping runway. Let me put it differently. Suppose a ball weighing 1 lb. were raised a distance of 3 ft. and allowed to drop. Its energy when it reaches the ground will be $\frac{1}{2} \text{ Mass} \times \text{Velocity}^2$. Now, suppose the ball be made to travel down a runway 9 ft. long, one end being raised 3 ft. above the ground. Neglecting friction, the forces at our disposal are exactly the same. Its mass has not altered, therefore its terminal velocity must be the same; but as the ball has now been made to travel further, its rate of acceleration must, of necessity, be less. Otherwise, if it increased speed at the same rate as in the former case, its terminal velocity would be greater, and its energy more. The inverse process, of driving a weight upward, applies equally well, but now from a viewpoint of decreasing speed. The runway principle, within the limits of this discussion, may be considered as a device for defeating, in changing ratios, the law of gravitation.

Clearly then, if anything happens to make T less in our equation $P=WD/T$, then P will become greater. The interesting point is that the bell itself will govern both the T factor and the W factor. Furthermore, if any attempt be made by the ringer to compensate for this by making D less, the bell will immediately reply by making T a function of D , and the condition is not remedied. The chief difficulty is experienced because human physiology is such as to find working at high rates of horse-power the most difficult. If the effective fulcrum is the line joining the gudgeons, then the lever is the potential and kinetic energy of the bell's motion, and here, fortunately, the ringer has the choice of leverage. He can put the energy into the bell by applying a large weight through a small distance, or a small weight through a large distance, the bell again deciding the T factor.

I submit this in the hope that readers who have been unable to follow my reasoning in previous letters may find this explanation more satisfactory.

A. G. OLIVER.

76. Carshalton Grove, Sutton, Surrey.

[Enough has now, we think, been said on this subject.—The Editor.]

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

LEYTONSTONE.—On Sunday, May 7th, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: Mrs. F. W. Housden 1, A. W. Brighton 2, A. Prior 3, C. H. Hughes 4, G. Dawson 5, F. W. Housden 6, E. W. Furbank 7, E. D. Smith (conductor) 8.

WITHEYCOMBE RALEIGH.—On May 7th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: E. G. Stocker 1, J. Brown 2, F. Dimond 3, A. Chamberlain 4, E. Sprague 5, E. Piper 6, W. Hayman (conductor) 7, J. Glanvill.

NAILSEA.—On Sunday, May 7th, 1,260 Doubles, 480 Plain Bob, 780 Grandsire: B. Shearn (first quarter-peal and first attempt) 1, J. Yeates 2, E. J. Baker 3, L. F. Derrick 4, E. F. Shearn (conductor) 5, R. Durbin 6.

EAST BRENT, GLAMORGAN.—On Monday, May 8th, 2,520 Grandsire Doubles: E. Stiche (conductor) 1, *C. Champion 2, Miss V. Look 3, *J. Champion 4, W. E. Witeman 5, T. Lock 6. *Longest length.

NORTON, STAFFS.—On Sunday, May 14th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: O. Williams 1, S. B. Bailey 2, J. Jolley (first 720 in the method) 3, W. C. Cornfield 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6.

EAST CROMPTON.—On Sunday, May 14th, 720 Plain Bob Minor: B. Whitehead 1, W. Oates 2, R. H. Byrom 3, C. Howorth 4, J. R. Buckley 5, J. Butterworth (conductor) 6.

ALLESLEY, COVENTRY.—On Sunday, May 14th, for matins, 720 Bob Minor: D. Hardwick (first 720) 1, O. H. Aylett 2, E. Stone 3, J. W. Taylor 4, J. W. T. Taylor (conductor) 5, F. W. Perrens 6.—For evensong, 720 London Surprise Minor: C. H. Aylett 1, F. W. Perrens 2, J. W. T. Taylor 3, E. Stone (first in the method) 4, H. G. Summers 5, W. A. Stote (conductor) 6.

IPSWICH.—On Sunday, May 14th, at St. Margaret's, 720 Bob Minor: C. Crapnell 1, W. Kinsey 2, E. Ellinger 3, C. Woodward 4, G. More 5, F. Trotman (conductor) 6. Also 720 Bob Minor: C. Crapnell 1, W. Kinsey 2, F. Bowell 3, E. Ellinger 4, G. More 5, F. Trotman (conductor) 6.

TILEHURST, READING.—On May 18th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss E. Collins 1, H. Hunt 2, W. Lewenter 3, S. Miles 4, E. Langley 5, J. Lewender 6, R. N. Runham (conductor) 7, D. Sellar 8.

FULHAM.—On Thursday, May 18th, 1,323 Stedman Caters: H. Page 1, H. Langdon (conductor) 2, H. Belcher 3, W. Paice 4, R. Mackrill 5, P. Miles 6, H. Miles 7, C. Hunt 8, A. Wiffen 9, J. Rumley 10.

BRAY, BERKS.—On Saturday, May 20th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: *M. C. Upstone 1, T. J. Fowler 2, F. J. Russell 3, G. Mitchell 4, Alf Levett 5, *Rev. E. S. C. Lowman 6. *First quarter-peal.

NORTON, STAFFS.—On Sunday, May 21st, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: W. C. Lawrence 1, S. B. Bailey 2, C. S. Ryles 3, H. Sutton (first 720 in the method) 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6.

OUOKFIELD.—On May 21st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: C. Starley 1, F. F. Godsmark 2, E. Quickenden 3, T. Mitchell 4, G. Lewery 5, T. Gasson (conductor) 6, G. Apps 7, A. E. Mitchell 8.

WONSTON, HANTS.—On Sunday, May 21st, 720 Bob Minor: Mrs. W. R. Melville 1, William Marks 2, William R. Melville 3, Reg. Dolton 4, Frank Rayment 5, Richard Smith 6.

MILTON REGIS, KENT.—On Sunday, May 21st, 1,260 Bob Minor: Bert W. May 1, Ronald Belsom 2, Tom Jull 3, Reginald Belsom 4, William A. Wood 5, Arthur S. Boar (conductor) 6.

IPSWICH.—On Sunday, May 21st, at St. Margaret's, 720 Bob Minor: Charles Crapnell 1, John Munnings 2, William Kinsey 3, George More 4, Frank Trotman (conductor) 5, Claude Woodward 6. Also 720 Bob Minor: Charles Crapnell 1, John Munnings 2, William Kinsey 3, Edward Ellinger 4, George More 5, Frank Trotman (conductor) 6.

RICKINGHALL SUPERIOR, SUFFOLK.—On Sunday, May 21st, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: F. Shemming 1, Barbara Hill (first 720 in the method) 2, W. Goodson 3, A. E. Cook 4, L. Wright 5, J. Bailey (conductor) 6.

SOUTH WIGSTON, LEICESTER.—On Monday, May 22nd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Mrs. F. Hicks 1, Cpl. L. Stevens 2, J. E. Clark 3, J. L. Willars 4, G. Deacon 5, E. J. Jelley 6, C. Marshall (first quarter-peal of Grandsire as conductor) 7, F. Ford 8.

NETHERTON, WORCS.—On Thursday evening, May 25th, with the bells half-muffled, a 720 Bob Minor: A. Houghton 1, A. Davies (conductor) 2, H. Shuck 3, W. Davies 4, T. Townsend 5, H. Hubball 6.

ST. IVES, HUNTS.—On Wednesday, May 24th, 720 Bob Minor: H. Pratt 1, L. W. Fisher 2, L. Williams 3, F. Warrington (conductor) 4, E. Nobles 5, J. Perkins 6.

LAMBETH.—On Saturday, May 27th, at St. Mary's, 1,264 Bob Major: *W. D. Smith 1, *Miss D. T. Richardson 2, D. Hall 3, P. A. Corby (conductor) 4, V. J. Benning 5, *D. Langdon 6, A. G. Hall 7, G. R. H. Smith 8. *First quarter-peal in the method. †First quarter-peal on tower bells.

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS.—On Whit Sunday, 720 Bob Minor: H. Pratt 1, L. W. Fisher 2, F. Warrington (conductor) 3, E. Nobles 4, G. L. Perkins 5, J. Perkins 6.

TROWBRIDGE.—On Sunday, May 28th, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: *D. Gain 1, W. Loud 2, C. Butcher 3, R. Amor 4, W. R. Baxter 5, J. Francis 6, E. Parker 7, *D. C. Mears 8, G. H. Harding (conductor) 9, S. Francis 10. *First quarter-peal in the method.

PRINDSBURY.—On Whit Sunday, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. Callishaw 1, E. A. G. Allen 2, D. T. Hills 3, S. T. Jarrett 4, C. E. J. Norris 5, H. G. Springate 6, W. A. J. Knight (conductor) 7, A. Vidgeon (first quarter-peal) 8.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

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NOTICES must be received **NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District. — Meeting at Bitton, June 10th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow.—N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Bath.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—Meeting at Christ Church, Epsom, Saturday, June 10th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea in Christ Church Hall 5.15.—A. H. Smith.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Practice at St. Mary's, Reading, on Saturday, June 10th, 6.30 to 8.30 p.m.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Gainsborough District. — Meeting at Epworth on Saturday, June 10th. Bells (8) afternoon and evening. Service 4.30. Business meeting 6 p.m. Bring tea. — Geo. L. C. Lunn, Hon. Sec.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting at Lingfield, June 10th. Bells (8) 3-7 p.m. Tea 4.30. Names to Mr. H. Wallis, Mount Pleasant, Lingfield, by June 5th.—C. A. Bassett.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—Mid-Devon Branch. — Meeting at Newton Abbot on Saturday, June 10th. High-week bells (8) 2.30 p.m., Wolborough (8) 6.15 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m., at Thomas's Restaurant, Courtenay Street.—A. L. Bennett, Branch Sec., Cornerways, Elliott Plain, Buckfastleigh.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Margaret's, Uxbridge, Saturday, June 10th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by business meeting in Vestry, St. Andrew's, Hillingdon West, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. No tea.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District. — Meeting at Market Harborough, June 10th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea and meeting 5 p.m.—R. Barrow, 10, East Road, Birstall.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Shilton, near Coventry, Saturday, June 17th (Hampton bells not available). Bells (6) 3-9 p.m. Cups of tea in school 5 p.m. Bring food and sugar.—D. E. Beamish, 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Joint meeting with Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield Societies at Ecclesfield, Saturday, June 17th, 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tea at Black Bull Hotel, 5 p.m., at 2s. 6d. (plain 1s. 6d.). Names to Mrs. Crossland, Black Bull Hotel, Ecclesfield, near Sheffield, by 14th, stating which required. Business meetings follow tea. — Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby, Burton and Loughborough Districts.—Meeting at Melbourne, June 17th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea at Public Cafe 5 p.m. Important business.—W. Lancaster, J. Cotton and A. Rowley, Hon. Dis. Secs.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — St. Albans District. — Meeting at Wheathampstead, June 17th. Bells (6) 3.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food. Names by June 14th.—R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District. — Meeting at Higham-on-the-Hill, June 17th, 3.30 p.m. Tea will be arranged if possible. Stoke Golding may be available during evening. — W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

HIGH WYCOMBE. — Practice on Saturday, June 17th, 6.30 p.m. (instead of on June 24th). Sunday ringing 10.15-11 and 5.55-6.30.—Ralph Coles, 27, Priory Road, High Wycombe.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Grappenhall Branch.—Meeting at Runcorn, June 17th. Names to Mr. Hulse, 97, Perceval Lane, Runcorn, by June 14th. —John E. Ashcroft, Branch Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Crewe Branch.—Meeting at Wistaston, Saturday, June 17th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 5. Tea 5.30. Names for tea by June 13th.—A. Crawley, 197, Alton Street, Crewe.

BATH AND WELL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—Meeting at Weston-in-Gordano, Saturday, June 17th, 4.30 p.m.—Percy G. Yeo, Long Ashton.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—Meeting at Compton (6 bells), Saturday, June 17th. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names to Mr. W. H. Turvey, Fair View, Compton, Berks, by Wednesday, June 14th.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec., Arniston, Manor Lane, Newbury.

NORTH MUSKHAM, NEWARK.—Practice, Saturday, June 17th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Own tea arrangements.—H. Denman.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — South-Western Division. —Meeting at Epping, June 17th. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. Names by June 13th. — J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — Meeting, Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Saturday, June 17th, 3 p.m. Ringing, St. Dunstan's, Stepney. Sunday ringing, Stepney, June 18th, 9.30.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting, Hagley, Saturday, June 17th, 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and business.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—Meeting at Naseby (5 bells), Saturday, June 17th. Tea provided.—C. Green, Sec., Murrcott, Long Buckby, near Rugby.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District. — Meeting at Hersham, Saturday, June 24th. Particulars later. — D. Cooper, Hon. Sec., 51, Waddon Road, Croydon.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — Northern Division. — Meeting at Black Notley, Saturday, June 24th. Service 4 p.m. Tea afterwards. Ringing at Braintree in the evening. Names by June 21st to H. A. Pratt, 3, Council Houses, Black Notley, near Braintree, Essex.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — North and East District.—Meeting at Harrow Weald, Saturday, June 24th, 2.30 p.m. Service 3.45 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. No. 114 bus from Edgware Tube Station to Brockhurst Corner.—T. J. Lock.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD. — Annual meeting at Walsall, Saturday, June 24th. Bells (12) 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea at 5, followed by general meeting. Names by June 20th. — H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester and Bolton Branches. — Meeting at Worsley on Saturday, June 24th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea only.—Frank Reynolds, Peter Crook, Branch Secs.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division. — Practice meetings: Billingshurst, June 10th, 6 p.m.; Goring, July 1st, 3 p.m. Tea at 1s. 6d. — L. Stilwell, Pikeholme, Pulborough.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS. — After June 15th letters for Mr. L. Wright, secretary of N.E. District, Essex Association, should be addressed to Park Farm Cottages, Shrimpling, near Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.

HANDBELLS WANTED.

A SET OF SIX (or more) handbells required; price to Vicar, Abbotsbury, Weymouth.

WANTED.

WANTED.—The gift of gramophone records of church bells of ringing and chiming; would give 2s. each.—F. Fowler, jun., 9, High Street, Stourton, Warminster, Wilts.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT TICKNALL.

A meeting of the Midland Counties Association, held at Ticknall on Whit Monday, was attended by members from Overseale, Netherseal, Ashby, Ibstock, Derby (Cathedral, St. Luke's and St. Peter's), Spondon and Alvaston. Among the visitors was Mr. J. H. Shepherd, of Swindon.

Good practice was had in Double Court, Double Oxford, Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise Minor, Grandsire Doubles, with rounds and Thirds for the learners. Tea was served on the Vicarage lawn, when the Rev. J. G. Pope and the churchwarden, Mr. Hill, joined the party.

After tea a discussion on the decentralisation of the Midland Counties Association took place, and after many members had spoken, the meeting was very decidedly of the opinion that the Midland Counties Association was more capable of catering for ringers' requirements than diocesan guilds would be. As one ringer put it, the association has carried on since 1882 and can continue for a long time yet.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. J. Cotton and seconded by Mr. W. Lancaster. Ringing on handbells and tower bells followed.

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- 'STANDARD METHODS,' tenth edition; a new book; Letterpress, 2s.; Diagrams, 2s.
- '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.
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- 'SURPRISE METHODS,' 2s. 10d. A book by the late Rev. C. D. P. Davies, M.A., F.R.A.S. Contains a tabulated list of peals, 10 diagrams, 126 pages.

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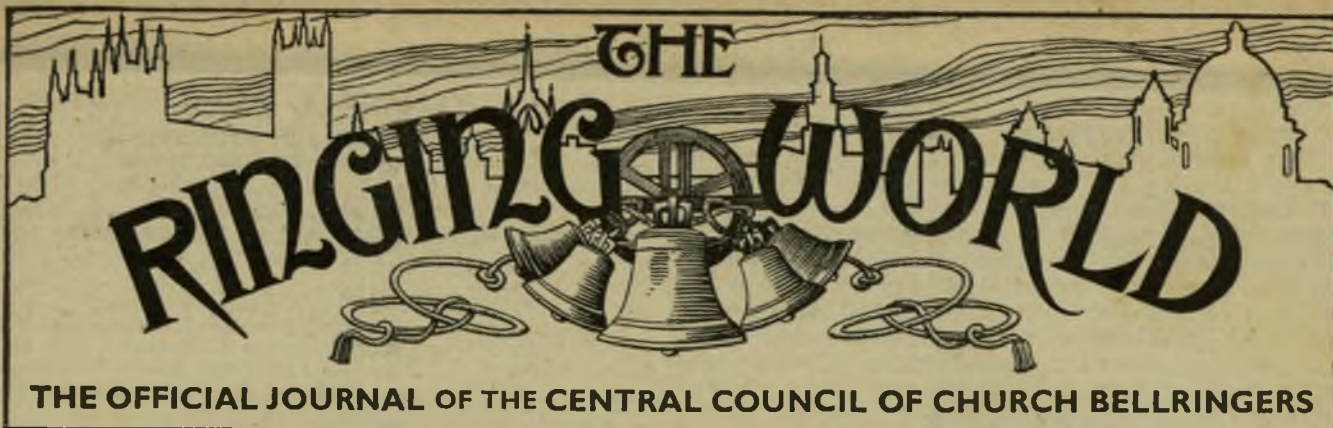
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No. 1,734. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, JUNE 16th, 1944.

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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.

COMPOSITION.

Last week we pointed out that there are several subjects worthy of a ringer's attention on account of the light they throw, directly or indirectly, on some phase of his art and activities. Some of them, no doubt, have very little to do with what takes place in the belfry, and to be a thoroughly skilled and competent ringer it is not necessary to know anything of the national or ecclesiastical history of England, or of the architecture of the tower in which the ringing takes place, or of the musical principles on which the bells are tuned. A knowledge of these things is of value to a ringer, as a ringer, in a more indirect way, but it is of value. And there are some subjects which, though a knowledge of them is no more essential to the actual practical ringing of bells, do concern the ringer's art intimately. Of these the most outstanding is composition.

To be a first class ringer a man need know nothing about the way peals are composed, and, indeed, throughout the history of the Exercise it has been the custom to look on it as a matter which must be left in the hands of a small number of skilled men who have the desire and the ability to devote themselves to its study. Methods and peals and touches, ringers must have; but, for the most part, they are content to take them from the hands of other men, much in the same way that they use the bells which are necessary for their art without considering the way in which they are cast.

For many years, in fact down to quite recent times, the only object men had in turning to composition was to produce peals and methods; and almost the only object of producing peals and methods was that they should be rung. The standard of a man's ability as a composer was the number of peals to which he could make good his claim and men treasured up the list of peals they had composed in the same way that ringers generally treasure up the list of peals they have rung.

All this was quite natural, but the time came when the number of peals which had been composed reached enormous dimensions. There was not a method in ordinary use which had not been worn, as it seemed, threadbare, and the Exercise had far more compositions at its disposal than it needed for its practical purposes. The chances of a man being able to publish a peal and to maintain his claim against all comers that it was original and that it was his and his alone, became very slender. It was freely said that most methods were "worked out," that practically everything that could be done in

(Continued on page 250.)

composition had been done, and there was no more room or need for new composers.

In a sense it was true; but if it had meant that the Exercise, having got as many peals as it required for practical purposes, need concern itself no longer with composition, it would have been a disaster. One thing is quite certain, which is that one of the greatest incentives to progress in practical ringing has been the study of composition. Eliminate that and change ringing itself would suffer. So far as composition means the putting together of a certain number of course ends which will give a peal fit to be rung, the need for it may certainly be said to have almost, if not quite, passed away, and the old style composer with his ideas of originality and ownership is out of date. But increasing knowledge during the last half century has shown that there is much more in composition than the mere stringing together of course ends and the proving the result. Change ringing is based on a definite mathematical science which is worth studying for its own sake. It is not merely that it presents many problems which call for a mathematical solution. The whole thing is a unity and there are certain definite general laws which decide everything, though there is a great amount of variety in their application.

Some day no doubt a writer will give us a full and authoritative explanation of the science of change ringing as a whole, and in the meanwhile these laws are worth studying, especially by the more intellectual of the younger generation, who are better fitted by education and less hampered by prejudice and preconceived ideas than their forerunners were. They will find that the knowledge will not only add to the general interest of ringing, but help in the practical activities of the belfry.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., June 1, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

At 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CINQUES, 5037 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 1-2	MRS. G. W. FLETCHER... 7-8
MRS. J. THOMAS ... 3-4	*WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 9-10
JOHN THOMAS ... 5-6	DENNIS H. LANGDON ... 11-12

Composed by MORRIS J. MORRIS. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First peal of Cinques.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Sun., June 11, 1944, in Two Hours and Nine Minutes,

At NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF KIDLINGTON COLLEGE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

ALAN WHITE ... 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6
BETTY SPICE ... 3-4	SHEILA M. MCKAY ... 7-8

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

The first peal in the method.

IPSWICH.—On Sunday, June 11th, at St. Mary-le-Tower, 384 Superlative Surprise Major: Hob. Smith 1, Fredk. Bowell 2, Wm. P. Garrett 3, H. Roper 4, F. J. Tillet 5, C. J. Sedgley 6, Wm. G. Brown 7, John P. Tillet 8. Also 720 Cambridge Surprise Royal: Wm. F. Tillet 1, Mrs. P. E. Marriott 2, Hob. Smith 3, Fredk. Bowell 4, Charles Sedgley 5, H. Roper 6, F. J. Tillet 7, Wm. Brown 8, George Symonds 9, John P. Tillet 10. Conducted by C. J. Sedgley.

PINNER.—On Thursday, June 8th, 720 Bob Minor: Robert Colyer 1, Hugh Mackinder 2, Frank Blondell 3, Norman Genna 4, Tom Collins (conductor) 5, William Bunce 6.

TEN BELL PEAL.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 10, 1944, in Three Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5079 CHANGES;

Tenor 30 cwt.

SYDNEY O. CHENEY ... Treble	WILLIAM J. ROOT ... 6
HAROLD J. POOLE ... 2	SHIRLEY BURTON ... 7
T. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. ... 3	REDVERS F. ELKINGTON ... 8
GEORGE STEDMAN MORRIS ... 4	ARTHUR DEBENHAM ... 9
HARRY WAYNE ... 5	*H. PETER RAYNOR ... Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by T. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN.

* First peal on ten. First peal of Stedman Caters as conductor.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

DARTFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., June 8, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 18½ cwt.

JOHN WHEADON ... Treble	HARRY RAYNOR ... 5
*ROBERT WAKE ... 2	HARRY HOVERD ... 6
*DENIS L. HALL ... 3	JAMES E. BAILEY ... 7
HARRY HOSKINS ... 4	NORMAN CHADDOCK ... Tenor

Conducted by HARRY HOVERD.

* First peal of Grandsire Triples.

FELTHAM, MIDDLESEX.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., June 10, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. CATHERINE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

Tenor 11 cwt. 2 qr. 19 lb. in F sharp.

WALTER SPARROW ... Treble	G. WILLIAM MORRIS ... 5
*RICHARD E. PRICE ... 2	WILLIAM WELLING ... 6
H. WILLIAM BARRETT ... 3	WILLIAM HENLEY ... 7
JOHN M. GAYFORD ... 4	TONY PRICE ... Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

Conducted by TONY PRICE.

* First peal of Major. The clappers were fitted with softeners.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

NORTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 3, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. EDWIN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings.

Tenor 14 cwt.

JUBILEE BEASLEY ... Treble	WILLIAM HUGHES ... 4
GEORGE BAYLIS ... 2	*RALPH HARRIS ... 5
R. STEPHENS ... 3	*G. OSBOURNE ... Tenor

Conducted by RALPH HARRIS.

* First peal.

BLACK NOTLEY, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 10, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 12 extents each of Plain Bob and St. Simon's and 18 extents of Grandsire.

REV. J. R. SOUTHERN ... Treble	STANLEY BONES ... 3
DERYCK TALBOT ... 2	HENRY PRATT ... 4

RONALD SUCKLING ... Tenor

Conducted by RONALD SUCKLING.

First peal of Doubles by all in three methods. Rung for the re-opening of the church after damage by enemy action.

EGHAM, SURREY.—On Thursday, June 8th, 2,520 Grandsire Triples: W. C. Parker 1, W. A. Peck 2, E. Armstrong 3, W. Shepherd (conductor) 4, J. B. Hessey 5, R. Andrews 6, E. Morey 7, R. Greenough 8.

ADMIRAL SIR FRANCIS GEARY.

A DISTINGUISHED COLLEGE YOUTH.

When William Woty wrote his 'Campanalogia, a poem in praise of ringing,' he had to mention one or two distinguished ringers and the names he selected were not Fabian Stedman, or Benjamin Annable, or John Patrick, but John Hardham, the Fleet Street tobacconist, Samuel Blackwell, the Member of Parliament, and Francis Geary, the Admiral. The reason he did so was, of course, that they were well known to the general public to whom he addressed his poem, and each in his own way held a prominent position in public life. None of the three can be said to have occupied a leading position in the Exercise, but two of them at least were practical peal ringers when peal ringers were very rare, and the Society of College Youths has more justification in being proud of Geary as one of themselves than is the case with many of the names on its membership roll.

Francis Geary was the only son of a country gentleman of no great substance who lived at Cheddington in Buckinghamshire. In the tower of St. Giles' Church in that village there are five bells which were already old in Geary's time, and on them the boy most probably learnt to ring. The bells are interesting as being by little known founders — the treble and third are by James Keene, 1638 and 1634; the second is by John Dier, towards the close of the sixteenth century; the fourth probably by John Saunders, of Reading (1539-1559); and the tenor by R. Chandler, 1638. A few years ago the bells were in their old frame with their old fittings (they may still exist), two of the wheels were of a very old pattern, and one of the stocks had a mortice cut in it for the insertion of a lever, showing that it dated from the time of the oldest style of bell hanging.

Francis Geary was baptised on October 4th, 1709. He was entered as a boy for the Navy, and the fifteen months or so when he was waiting for a ship after having been accepted were spent with his maternal grandfather in London. Then it was he made the acquaintance of Benjamin Annable and the band of the College Youths, most of them not much more than boys themselves, who, first among ringers, made peal ringing the highest ambition of a ringer's career. He showed such aptitude in the art that, though no more than sixteen years of age, he at once took a place in the company's leading band. He owed his rapid advance perhaps to something besides ability and social position, for he was a person of singularly sweet temper and of a lovable disposition, though without any claims to intellectual brilliance.

Geary joined the College Youths in 1725. At that time the society had rung only two peals, Grandsire Cinques at St. Bride's and Grandsire Caters at St. Magnus', both in the same year. Then they turned their attention to Major, and when on April 26th they rang at St. Bride's the first peal of Plain Bob ever accomplished, Geary was at the second. In the following November he rang the same bell to the first peal ever rung of Royal, and three months later to the first of Maximus.

In March, 1725, he stood in a peal of Grandsire Caters at St. Giles', Cripplegate, and in June in a 6,832 of Bob Major at Lambeth, the first long peal by any company. As up till then no more than sixteen peals are known to have been rung throughout the country, this was a good record. Then the Navy claimed him and his peal ringing days were over. He did not, however, lose his in-

terest in the art. In 1744 he held the office of steward in the Society of College Youths, and we may suppose that when he had the opportunity he visited his old friends and took a rope in the belfry.

The European politics of the eighteenth century and the many wars which rose out of them form a tangle which is not easy to unravel, but for this country the main factor was the rivalry between France and England and the struggle for trade and colonies in India and America. In these wars the English Navy played an important part. Geary first saw service on the 'Revenge' in 1727, when a fleet, under Sir John Norris, was sent to the Baltic as a demonstration against Russia. Spain in the same year laid siege to Gibraltar and the 'Revenge' was dispatched to support it, though there was no actual fighting. Geary was promoted lieutenant in 1734.

In 1739 war was declared against Spain amid the general rejoicing of the people. This was the occasion when Sir Robert Walpole made his famous pun: 'They are ringing their bells now. They will be wringing their hands soon.' Geary served on board the 'Victory,' and soon afterwards was in command of the 'Squirrel,' of 20 guns, then of one or two frigates and of one or two battleships. He did good service, though he missed all the big naval battles, and he advanced steadily in rank, becoming rear admiral, vice admiral of the blue, and admiral of the white. He held the post of Port Admiral at Portsmouth for two terms, and in 1780 was appointed to the command of the Channel Fleet. In war time this was a most responsible position, but he lacked the ruthless energy and dogged determination necessary for a great commander, and during his command nothing particular happened. At the end of the year he resigned on the grounds of ill health, and that no fault could be found with his conduct is shown by the fact that he was created a baronet when he retired. It was well, however, for England that she had at the time other admirals like Hawke and Rodney.

Sir Francis Geary died on February 7th, 1796. He was universally beloved; by the ringers with whom he associated in the belfry, by the sailors whom he commanded in war, and by all sorts of men he came in contact with in ordinary life. He was by no means a great man or a great ringer, but his is a name of which the Exercise has a full right to be proud.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WOBURN.

Ringers from Luton, Leighton Buzzard, Linslade, Dunstable, Stony Stratford, Newport Pagnell, Maulden, Chicheley, Weston Underwood, Turvey, Tilsworth, Lavenham and the local band met at Woburn on Saturday, June 10th.

The methods included Stedman and Grandsire Triples, Plain and Little Bob Major, Double Norwich and Cambridge Surprise.

Tea was followed by a short business meeting at the Magpie Hotel, presided over by the Rev. W. E. Bloss.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HIGHWORTH.

Ringers from 15 towers were present at a meeting of the Swindon Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, held at Highworth on June 10th. The bells do not go very well, but some fairly good ringing in the four standard methods was achieved. Tea was provided by the local ringers, and at the business meeting Brinkworth, South Marston and Lydiard Millicent were chosen for the next three meetings.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.—On handbells, on Wednesday, June 7th, 720 Bob Minor: B. D. Price 1-2, G. Dodds (first 720 on handbells) 3-4, Rev. A. C. Blyth (conductor) 5-6.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to:—

The Editor,

'The Ringing World,'

c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
Guildford, Surrey.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the office for 4s. 3d. per quarter payable in advance.

Cheques and remittances should be made payable to 'The Ringing World.'

By calling the peal of Stedman Caters at Loughborough, Mr. Thomas Groombridge, jun., added to a very fine record. He has now conducted peals of Grandsire and Stedman on five, seven, nine and eleven bells; Plain Bob on six, seven, eight, ten and twelve; and Cambridge Surprise on six, eight, ten and twelve.

The Nottingham District meeting at Sawley on June 3rd had to be cancelled owing to serious illness close to the church.

THE MONTH'S PEALS.

During the month of May 41 peals were rung, 32 of them on tower bells and nine on handbells.

The tower bell peals consisted of Plain Bob Doubles 3, Minor 3, Major 3; Grandsire Doubles 2, Triples 6; Stedman Triples 2, Caters 2, Cinques 3; Kent Treble Bob Major 3; Cambridge Surprise Major 1; Three Minor Methods 2; Seven Minor Methods 1; St. Simon's Doubles 1.

The handbell peals were Grandsire Triples 1, Caters 1; Bob Major 2, Royal 1, Maximus 1; Double Bob Major 1; Spalding College Bob Major 1; Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1.

The number of peals in January was 50, in February 34, in March 37, and in April 48; making a total for the year, so far, of 210.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

1,024				
23456	M	B	W	R
24536	1	—	2	2
25346		1	2	
23456		1	2	
1,024				
23456	M	B	W	R
45236	1	—	2	1
25346	1	—	1	
23456	1	—	2	2
1,056				
23456	M	B	W	R
43526			2	1
25346			2	2
23456	1	—	2	2
1,088				
23456	M	B	W	R
24536			1	2
25346	1	—	2	2
23456	1	—	2	2

1,024				
23456	M	B	W	R
43526	1	—		1
25346			2	2
23456			1	2
1,024				
23456	M	B	W	R
62534		—	2	2
54326	1	—	1	2
23456	1	—		2
1,056				
23456	M	B	W	R
52364	2		2	2
65243		—		2
23456	1		1	2
1,088				
23456	M	B	W	R
56234	2		1	
34625	2	—		2
23456	2		2	2

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

1,260

221456 H L Q

345261 x x
426315 x x
125346 x x

Four times repeated.
Corrected from last week.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT UXBRIDGE.

A meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association was held at Uxbridge on June 10th, and was attended by about 50 members and friends from Acton, Ashton-under-Lyne, Chester, Ealing (Christ Church, St. Mary's and St. Stephen's), Farnham, Goring-on-Thames, Harmondsworth, Harrow, Hatch End, Hillingdon (St. Andrew's and St. John's), Hughenden, Kensington (St. Mary Abbot's), Kingsbury, North Mimms, Pinner, Ruislip, Uxbridge, Westminster (St. Stephen's) and Weybridge.

The bells at St. Margaret's were rung at intervals from 3 p.m. till 8.30 p.m., and those of St. Andrew's, Hillingdon, from 6.30 p.m. till 9 p.m., under the supervision of Mr. E. C. S. Turner, Ringing Master, and Mr. T. G. Bannister, Deputy Ringing Master. The methods included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob and Double Norwich Court Bob Major, Cambridge, Superlative and London Surprise Major and rounds.

Choral evensong was at St. Margaret's. The Vicar, the Rev. R. Bruce Eadie, welcomed the association and referred to a previous meeting with them when he was Vicar of St. George's-in-the-East, now destroyed.

A short business meeting followed in the vestry, at which the vice-president, Mr. J. A. Trollope, thanked the Vicar, who said he hoped the meeting would be one of many to come.

Five new members, all of Uxbridge, were elected.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Cranford, probably on July 8th, and it is hoped to follow it with one at Harmondsworth a few weeks later. Mr. F. W. Goodfellow drew attention to the monthly ten bell practice at St. John's, Hillingdon, and invited anyone interested to attend.

Thanks were accorded to the Vicars of St. Margaret's, Uxbridge, and St. Andrew's, Hillingdon, and to Miss E. Bedford and Mr. F. Corke and their local companies.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association was held at Sundridge on June 3rd and was attended by 20 members, including Mr. T. Groombridge, sen. Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. E. J. Eyre, and afterwards tea was served at Beechcroft.

At the business meeting the Rector took the chair. Mrs. Richardson, of Sundridge, was elected an honorary member, and Marden was selected for the next meeting on August 5th. Mr. A. Bullin proposed a vote of thanks for the tea and to the Rector. The ringing ranged from rounds to Cambridge Surprise Minor.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT SHEPshed

A meeting of the Loughborough District of the Midland Counties Association, held at Shepshed on June 3rd, was attended by members from Copt Oak, Hugglescote, Ibstock, Kegworth, Loughborough, Thrumpton and Whitwick, together with several of the local company and visitors from Ashby and Leicester. The Vicar, the Rev. A. C. Worman, conducted the service and 28 ringers and friends sat down afterwards to tea. Mr. C. Harrison, vice-president of the association, took the chair at the business meeting which followed.

An invitation to a joint meeting with the Burton and Derby Districts at Melbourne on June 17th was discussed, but the date was not convenient, and Ashby was suggested as a more suitable place for a meeting to be held early in August. Copt Oak was chosen for the next district meeting on July 8th.

The decentralisation of the association was again debated, and the reports from the various towers in the district, which had been sent a draft of the scheme and asked to discuss it, showed practically a unanimous opinion in its favour.

Mr. O. A. Over (Hugglescote) was elected a member of the association, and Messrs. J. H. Rudkin and A. James (Woodhouse) rejoined. Thanks were given to the Vicar and to the local members.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

MEETING AT NEWTON ABBOT.

The Mid-Devon Branch of the Devon Guild held a quarterly meeting at Newton Abbot on June 10th, when members and friends attended from Honiton Clyst, Exeter, Kenn, Dawlish, Newton Abbot, Paignton, Buckfastleigh and Plymouth.

During the afternoon touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob Major and rounds were rung on the bells of Highweek Church.

Tea was followed by the business meeting, presided over by the Rev. W. R. D. Mill (chairman), supported by Mr. A. L. Bennett (secretary). It was reported that the General Committee had decided to hold the annual general meeting at Exeter on August Bank Holiday if possible. An apology was received from Mr. A. Newman, of Dartmouth, who was indisposed. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Paignton on October 7th. The chairman welcomed the members of other branches and hoped that they would continue to support the branch. Thanks were given to the Rectors of Highweek and Wolborough for the use of their bells, to Mr. C. R. Walker and to the secretary. It was found necessary to cancel the visit to Wolborough Church in the evening.

ENGLISH CHURCH ARCHITECTURE.

By MAJOR J. HOWARD FREEBORN, M.A.

(Continued from page 243.)

THE NORMAN PERIOD (1066—1189).



FIG. 8.

Norman Enrichment. round-headed windows are narrow and deeply-splayed, and in the early phases are quite plain. Later, both door and window arches are elaborately decorated, especially the latter, which are adorned

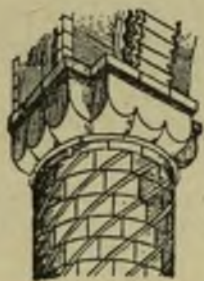


FIG. 9.

Norman Pillar and Capital.

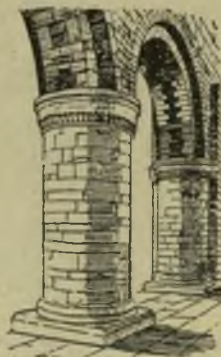


FIG. 10.

Norman Arcade.

with as many as five rings of ornament, each springing from a jamb-shaft. The popular enrichments are the zig-zag or chevron, billet, rosette and cable (Fig. 8).

The early capitals are of plain cushion type, later to be scalloped (Fig. 9), and in some cases, as at St. Peter's, Northampton, use is made of Classical detail. The piers are round, sometimes ornamented with designs chiselled *in situ*, as at Durham, with plain square base and abacus. The arcading is round-arched (Fig. 10), as are the triforium arches, which appear in a



FIG. 11.

Norman Vault.



FIG. 12.

Barrel Vault (Crypt).

variety of designs, with jamb-shafts and sub-arches. The Normans did not adopt the pointed arch until their day was nearly done; their vaulting was of barrel or semi-circular type (Fig. 11, Durham), which they did not dare to use for wide nave spans, and confined to the narrower aisles, except at Durham, whose builders were better

engineers than their contemporaries. * Wall arcading, of intersecting arches, is a usual form of decoration in the more important churches (Fig. 13, West Door, Stewkley).

The buttresses were broad and shallow, for the thrust of the round vault was downwards and not outwards. There was often a corbel-table under the eaves and around the top of the tower, carrying the squat and solid parapet. Towers had small twin-shafted windows and plain pitched and gabled roofs, or a pyramid. Most of these towers which survive to-day have received a later upper storey or, at any rate, a later parapet. Many Nor-



FIG. 13.

Norman West Door and Wall Arcade.

man churches, also, have received later—and larger—windows, and new arcades; but the doorways, proving adequate for the needs of later generations, and being beautiful withal, have mercifully been spared. The smaller churches had a three-cell plan—the chancel, the nave, and the western tower—the larger churches were cruciform, and there was a general development of the plan later in the period. The Chancel was often apsidal, a legacy from the Continent, where nearly all east-ends were semi-circular or polygonal. Crypts became much less common, the best examples being at Lastingham, Rochester, Winchester, Canterbury (Fig. 12) and Gloucester.

Norman churches, typical of the best work, may be found at Adel, Christchurch, Hemel Hempstead, Iffley, Kilpeck, Melbourne, Northampton (St. Peter), Peterchurch, Romsey, Old Shoreham, Stewkley, and Walsoken. There is also the fine Norman tower at Bury St. Edmunds.

GLOSSARY.

- ARCADE. A range of arches borne on columns or piers.
- AISLE. The bays on either side of nave, chancel or quire, separated therefrom by the arcades.
- BUTTRESS. Masonry projecting from external walls to add strength and resist the thrust of roofs.
- CHANCEL. The eastern limb of the parish church.
- CRUCIFORM. In the form of a cross; the plan of a church made by nave, chancel and transepts.
- CORBEL-TABLE. A range of corbels or brackets beneath a roof.
- JAMB-SHAFT. Slender columns at the side of a doorway or window.
- PARAPET. A low wall, solid, pierced and/or embattled, surrounding a roof.
- PIER. A vertical support, round or rectangular, stouter than a pillar.
- PILLAR. A straight-sided vertical support, slender in comparison to the superstructure.
- TRIFORIUM. The arcaded storey, usually blind, between the nave arcade and the clerestory of the greater churches.
- VAULTING. Any form of arched roofing, except the dome.
- WALL-ARCADING. A blind arcade used as a form of wall decoration.

(To be continued.)

OXHEY HERTS.—On Tuesday, June 6th, 1,260 Boh Minor: *E. Rosson 1, *Miss T. Waldron 2, *J. Cleaver 3, *L. Tarr 4, *J. Rosson 5, P. W. Brinklow (conductor) 6. *First quarter-peal of Boh Minor.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

HORNCHURCH, ESSEX.—On Whit Sunday, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major: G. L. Joyce 1, J. Carrott 2, J. G. Macdougall 3, E. Groves 4, J. Cornford (conductor) 5, E. M. Bailey (first quarter-peal of Major) 6, R. Stannard 7, F. Freestone 8.

SANDAL.—On Whit Sunday, a date touch, 1,944, consisting of 720 of Sandal Exercise, 720 Kingstone, 504 Oxford: H. Spencer 1, A. Lamb 2, J. W. Moxon 3, C. Netherwood 4, W. Womack 5, G. Cutt (conductor) 6.

ALDBOURNE, WILTS.—On Whit Sunday, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: N. W. Hawkins 1, A. Adams 2, T. J. Palmer 3, T. A. Palmer (conductor) 4, G. G. Jerram 5, F. D. Jerram (first quarter-peal) 6.

WILLESBOROUGH.—On Whit Sunday, two 720's Bob Minor: M. Gillham, J. Ireland, R. Newton, M. Lancefield, W. Lancefield and E. S. Ruck.

ST. ALBANS.—On Whit Sunday, at St. Peter's, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: B. Johnson (first quarter-peal) 1, S. Jones 2, W. J. Southam 3, E. J. Gale 4, R. Dobson 5, R. Darvill (conductor) 6, A. Day 7, R. Smith 8.

SCUNTHORPE, Lincs.—On Whit Sunday, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: M. Lings 1, F. Lacey 2, *Miss J. Lacey 3, J. Bray 4, †Rev. A. Muxlow 5, G. Hobbins 6, F. Lord (conductor) 7, †G. Thompson 8. * First quarter-peal. † First quarter-peal in the method.

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS, DORSET.—On Whit Sunday, 1,260 Doubles in eight methods (240 each of Plain Bob and Antelope, 120 each of St. Simon, Reverse Canterbury, April Day, St. Dunstan's and London Singles and 180 of Grandsire, 11 callings in all): Miss V. Maberly 1, Miss P. Marsh 2, L. H. Pink 3, W. C. Shute 4, H. E. White (conductor) 5, G. Wareham 6.

LEISTON.—On Sunday, May 28th, 1,024 Kent Treble Bob Major: A. D. Wilson 1, C. Whiting 2, F. Youngman 3, H. J. Bulton 4, E. S. Bailey 5, J. G. Rumsey 6, L. P. Bailey 7, J. M. Bailey (conductor) 8.

PETERBOROUGH.—On Whit Sunday, 1,008 Grandsire Triples: T. Vaughan 1, S. Wright 2, *C. Woods 3, W. H. Waldron 4, W. Cross 5, H. Goakes 6, W. Rose (conductor) 7, *E. Warner 8. * Longest length.

EYTHORNE, KENT.—On Friday, June 2nd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Mrs. H. George (first quarter-peal) 1, C. George 2, C. Turner (conductor) 3, T. E. Ellender 4, Bernard Smith 5.

LUTON, BEDS.—On June 3rd, 1,260 Stedman Triples: A. Rushton 1, A. King 2, J. Herbert 3, A. Smith 4, H. Wood 5, R. Kendall 6. L. A. Goodenough (conductor) 7, D. Newman 8.

STAVERTON.—On Sunday, June 4th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss N. Jackson (first quarter-peal) 1, Miss M. Clarke 2, D. C. Birkinshaw 3, Mrs. Powell 4, Rev. E. S. Powell (conductor) 5, H. Groom 6.

SUDBURY, SUFFOLK.—On Sunday, June 4th, at St. Gregory's, 784 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: S. Gridley 1, H. Herbert 2, T. Chinery 3, O. W. Clarke 4, A. Fitch 5, D. H. Elliot (conductor) 6, S. T. Howell 7, A. Haynes 8.

DINDER.—On Sunday, June 4th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: H. Horler 1, P. Hull (conductor) 2, S. Vowles 3, F. Harvey (first quarter inside) 4, F. Bird 5, R. Morgan (first quarter-peal) 6.

CUCKFIELD, SUSSEX.—On Sunday, June 4th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. F. Godsmark 1, G. Apps 2, C. Starley 3, F. Quickenden 4, G. Lewery 5, T. Gasson (conductor) 6, T. Mitchell 7, G. T. Gasson 8.

NORTON-IN-THE-MOORS, STOKE-ON-TRENT.—On June 4th, for morning service, 720 Cambridge Surprise: S. Bellinge 1, Andrew Shufflebotham 2, J. E. Wheeldon 3, S. Ryles 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6.—For evening service, 720 Biddulph Surprise: S. Bellinge 1, S. Ryles 2, J. E. Wheeldon 3, W. C. Lawrence 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6.

DAYBROOK, NOTTINGHAM.—On Sunday, June 4th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: T. Groombridge jun. (conductor) 1, Mrs. R. A. Ward (first quarter-peal) 2, F. Bradley 3, P. E. Ball 4, R. A. Ward (first quarter away from the tenor) 5, H. Paling 6, J. A. Barratt 7, W. Perkins 8.

BEXLEY, KENT.—On Sunday, June 4th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Betty Frost 1, H. A. Holden 2, Audrey Holden 3, D. Hall 4, A. Ball 5, A. Hall 6, A. Williams (conductor) 7, D. Shepherd (first quarter-peal) 8. First quarter-peal by an entirely local band.

SHIRLEY, BIRMINGHAM.—On Sunday, June 4th, 720 Plain Bob Minor: Edward Leadsam (first 720) 1, Mrs. Kathleen Watts 2, Oscar Thomas (first 720 of Plain Bob 'inside') 3, Arthur D. Cook 4, Arthur Morris 5, V. A. Hemming 6.

RICKINGHALL SUPERIOR, SUFFOLK.—On Sunday, June 4th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: F. Shemming 1, Barbara Hill (first in the method) 2, W. Goodson 3, A. E. Cook 4, L. Wright 5, J. Bailey (conductor) 6.

BANSTEAD.—On Sunday, June 4th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *Jill Brittain 1, *Margaret Pitslow (under 14) 2, *D. N. Lavton 3, A. J. Cheesman 4, H. J. Smerdon 5, A. G. Oliver 6, H. N. Pistow (conductor) 7, E. T. Woolloff 8. * First quarter-peal.

ASTON, BIRMINGHAM.—On Sunday, June 4th, 1,287 Stedman Caters: W. Pettigrew 1, F. E. Haynes 2, H. C. Spencer 3, F. Price 4, A. Short (conductor) 5, W. Best 6, F. Rishworth 7, E. Franklin (first quarter-peal of Caters) 8, W. Davies 9, A. Inett 10.

LONDON.—On Sunday, June 11th, at St. Giles-in-the-Fields, 1,280 Bristol Surprise Major: W. Nudds 1, J. A. Trollope 2, Miss H. Oakshott 3, G. M. Kilby 4, C. T. Coles (conductor) 5, W. Hewitt 6, E. C. S. Turner 7, J. Bennett 8.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

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NOTICES must be received **NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—The meeting arranged for June 1st at Wheathampstead is cancelled.—R. Darvill, Dis. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Joint meeting with Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield Societies at Ecclesfield, Saturday, June 17th, 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tea at Black Bull Hotel, 5 p.m. Business meetings follow tea.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby, Burton and Loughborough Districts.—Meeting at Melbourne, June 17th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea at Public Cafe 5 p.m. Important business.—W. Lancaster, J. Cotton and A. Rowley, Hon. Dis. Secs.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—Meeting at Compton (6 bells), Saturday, June 17th. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec., Arniston, Manor Lane, Newbury.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—Meeting at Epping, June 17th. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting, Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Saturday, June 17th, 3 p.m. Ringing, St. Dunstan's, Stepney. Sunday ringing, Stepney, June 18th, 9.30.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting, Hagley, Saturday, June 17th, 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and business.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District.—Practice meeting at St. Peter's R.C. Church, Lancaster (8 bells), Saturday, June 17th, 2.30 p.m.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Meeting at Black Notley, Saturday, June 24th. Service 4 p.m. Tea afterwards. Ringing at Braintree in the evening. Names by June 21st to H. A. Pratt, 6, Council Houses, Black Notley, near Braintree, Essex.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and East District.—Meeting at Harrow Weald, Saturday, June 24th, 2.30 p.m. Service 3.45 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. No. 114 bus from Edgware Tube Station to Brockhurst Corner.—T. J. Lock.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Annual meeting at Walsall, Saturday, June 24th. Bells (12) 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea at 5, followed by general meeting. Names by June 20th.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Tewkesbury Abbey, Saturday, June 24th, 3 p.m.—7 p.m.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—Meeting at Cogenhoe on Saturday, June 24th, 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Cup of tea provided. Bring food.—R. S. Cowley, 83, Beech Avenue, Northampton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at Oldham Parish Church (12 bells), Saturday, June 24th, 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30 p.m.—I. Kay, Branch Sec.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery.—Meeting at Burnham-on-Sea, Saturday, June 24th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business, Blue Bird Tea Rooms, 5 p.m.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Idle, near Bradford, Saturday, June 24th, 3 p.m. Bring food, tea for drinking supplied. Business meeting in Schools.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch.—Meeting at Bacup (St. Saviour's), Saturday, June 24th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea only. Bring food.—H. Parkinson, Acting Branch Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Hughenden, Saturday, June 24th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Names by June 19th.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—Meeting at Hersham, Saturday, June 24th, 5.30. Service 5.30, followed by tea and meeting in Church Hall. Names for tea to Mr. W. Simmonds, 33, Burwood Close, Hersham, by Wednesday, June 21st.—D. Cooper, Hon. Dis. Sec.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch.—Meeting at Terrington St. John, Saturday, June 24th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5. Bring food.—W. W. Cousins, Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Practice at Helmingham and Framsden, Saturday, June 24th, 2.30 p.m. Tea at Framsden Greyhound at 5.—T. W. Last, Helmingham.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Oxford City Branch.—Half-yearly meeting at Marston, Saturday, June 24th, 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea afterwards. Headington, ringing, 6 p.m. Names by June 20th.—M. R. Cross, The School House, Radley, Abingdon.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at Great Wymondley, June 24th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. No teas.—A. E. Symonds, The Cottage, Windmill Hill, Hitchin.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Meeting at Houghton-le-Spring Parish Church (8 bells), Saturday, June 24th, 2.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided.—Frank Ainsley, 30, Aysgarth Avenue, Grangetown, Sunderland.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Rural.—Meeting at Marshfield, Saturday, June 24th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Advise for tea.—R. C. Gifford, Branch Hon. Sec., Diamond Jubilee, Short Hill Road, Westerleigh, Bristol.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—Meeting at Netherseale, Saturday, June 24th. Bells (8) 3.30. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Campsall, June 24th, 3 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided at 3d. per head.—W. E. Lloyd, Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—Meeting at Uckfield, Saturday, July 1st, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names to Mrs. E. L. Hairs, The Oaks, Theobolds Road, Burgess Hill, by June 27th.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—A meeting will be held at Kingston-on-Thames, July 1st. Further details later.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Meeting at Bingham, Saturday, July 1st, 2.30. Tea at 5. Names by Monday, June 26th.—T. Groombridge, Jun., Hon. Dis. Sec., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Meeting at King's Norton Parish Church, Saturday, July 1st. Business meeting at 3.30. Tea 4.15. Bells 5. Names to Mr. W. B. Cartwright, 115, Westhill Road, King's Norton, Birmingham 30, by June 28th.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

DEATH.

GILBERT.—On Thursday, June 8th, at the Grange Loan Hospital, Edinburgh, at the early age of 20, from injuries, Captain Eric George Gilbert, R.E.M.E. (eldest son of George Gilbert, Burnham, Bucks, and Mrs. G. Gilbert, Rainham, Kent). 'He did what was asked of him.'

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT WARMINSTER.

A meeting of the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held at St. Denys' Church, Warminster, on June 3rd, was attended by 30 members from the towers of Warminster, Melksham, Trowbridge, Westbury, North Bradley, Keevil, Longbridge Deverell, Bishops Cannings, Devizes (St. John's and St. Mary's) and Southbroom, in addition to visitors from Salisbury, Walton, Frome, Hitchin and Southampton.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. C. T. Coulston, who gave an address and welcomed the ringers. Tea was in the schoolroom, and the business meeting which followed was presided over by Mr. E. F. White, the branch chairman. The methods rung during the afternoon and evening were Grandsire, Stedman, Bob Major and rounds.

SHOREDITCH, LONDON.—On Sunday, June 11th, at the Church of St. Leonard, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: H. E. Audsley 1, *D. L. Hall 2, *R. A. Constant 3, *J. Wheadon 4, A. J. Hughes 5, *N. Summerhayes 6, *R. Wake 7, N. Chaddock 8, J. E. Bailey (conductor) 9, H. Hoeverd 10. * First quarter-peal of Caters. First quarter of Caters as conductor.

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RINGING AND AIR RAIDS.

When a year ago the order relating to the use of church bells was withdrawn every official war time restriction on ringing came to an end, and it was left to the church authorities and to ringers to decide when and how far the bells should be used. The only restraints are common law, common sense, and a right judgment of what is fitting in these abnormal times.

We can say definitely that the liberty gained has not been abused, and indeed has not been used to its fullest legitimate extent. The public generally has welcomed the ringing and complaints have been few and almost non-existent. There is, however, one point on which there still seems to be some difference of opinion, and that is whether it is permissible or advisable to continue ringing after an air raid warning has been sounded. Many, ringers, and others too, are under the impression that the police have not only the power, but the duty to forbid such ringing.

That is a mistake. The order was withdrawn without any qualification, and the police have no special authority to interfere with ringing as such. They have the right which belongs to every citizen to ask that any practice shall stop if they consider on good grounds it is contrary to public interest, but the duty and responsibility of deciding in the case of ringing rests with the parson and the ringers.

Should ringing cease directly an alert has been sounded? This is a question which has hardly presented itself during the past twelve months because enemy air activity over this country has been mainly confined to the hours of darkness, and ringing has generally, for various reasons, ceased with the black-out.

A new phase of the question has now arisen. By using pilotless planes the enemy is able (for the present at any rate) to launch an air attack on a widely spread area of southern England, and to do so at any time during the day or night. Warnings may be given at any moment, and not only when peal ringing and practice ringing is in progress, but also when the bells are ringing for Sunday service. What is the best and right thing to do?

When there is an air raid in the immediate vicinity of the church, when the guns are shooting, and bombs perhaps dropping, most ringers would think that the only thing to do is to stop ringing, but circumstances are not always like that. It usually happens (especially in

(Continued on page 258.)

the present phase), that an alert may last for hours, and apart from the sound of occasional distant gun fire, the people in a particular locality may see and hear nothing. Consequently they quite properly go about their business as if nothing unusual was happening. Why should not ringers do the same?

If ringers had to consider themselves only we think they would be quite justified in ignoring everything but an immediate attack, but there are others to think about. It certainly is not true that the sound of the bells would attract the attention of enemy planes, but there are nervous and ill-instructed persons who think it would. It is difficult to see how it could in any way interfere with the messages given by the sirens or hamper the work of the A.R.P. personnel, yet there are those who think it would. And there are people who think it wrong and unseemly for the bells to be ringing when an air raid is in progress and would resent it accordingly.

These opinions may not be sound or reasonable, but it will not pay ringers to ignore them. It would be foolish to give any excuse to those persons who are always ready to find fault with the bells, or to discourage those who like bells but would disapprove of their use in what they think improper circumstances.

Speaking generally, we may say it is wise and prudent not to ring while an alert is pending, but no general rule can be laid down. Much will depend on locality. In open country it might be quite safe and proper to ignore an alert, but in populous districts and especially in large towns it is better to stop at once.

This particular phase of enemy air activity will pass, and pass probably very quickly. It need not interfere much with ringing, even with peal ringing, but so long as the war lasts no band should ever lock themselves in a belfry so that they are isolated from the outside world. It should always be possible for a message to reach them without loss of time either through the unlocked door or through someone who is immediately available with a key.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WORSLEY, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 17, 1944, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th the observation). Tenor 24 cwt.

MISS ANNIE POTTER ... Treble	JOHN POTTER ... 5
*BRIAN ROYLE ... 2	FRED GRUNDY ... 6
*TREVOR ROYLE ... 3	PERCY H. DERBYSHIRE ... 7
CHARLES RIDYARD ... 4	ROBERT ALLRED ... Tenor

Conducted by JOHN POTTER.

* First peal. Rung for the centenary of the church.

KIRTLINGTON, OXON.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., June 17, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 16½ cwt. in E.

JOHN E. JUDGE ... Treble	PHILIP A. CORBY ... 5
*WILLIAM C. PORTER ... 2	REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG ... 6
MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 3	*NEIL ALLNATE ... 7
*JOHN E. SPICE ... 4	WALTER F. JUDGE ... Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES.

Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

* First peal in the method.

TEN BELL PEAL.

WARWICK.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Sat., June 10, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERERS, 5065 CHANGES;

ALBERT WALKER ... Treble	†LEONARD TREVOR ... 6
*JOSEPH H. W. WHITE ... 2	FRANK E. PERVIN ... 7
FRANK W. PERRENS ... 3	†DOUGLAS H. ARGYLE ... 8
WILLIAM COLLETT ... 4	†LESLIE BRAMALL ... 9
ADOLPHUS ROBERTS ... 5	†ERNEST BOSWORTH ... Tenor

Composed by F. W. PERRENS.

Conducted by F. E. PERVIN.

* First peal of Stedman Caterers on tower bells. † First peal of Stedman Caterers.

SIX BELL PEALS.

NANTWICH, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., June 10, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents.	Tenor 14 cwt.
FRANK BARNARD ... Treble	FRANK OLLIER ... 4
JOHN E. BROUGH ... 2	ALBERT CRAWLEY ... 5
CHARLES E. PAGE ... 3	HARRY PARKER ... Tenor

Conducted by H. PARKER.

Rung half-muffled for Mr. W. C. Sutton.

NAILSEA, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 10, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 16 of Bob Doubles and 26 of Grandsire.
*Tenor 11 cwt. 1 qr. 17 lb.

*E. J. BAKER ... Treble	*C. KORTRIGHT ... 4
*J. YEATES ... 2	†E. F. SHEARN ... 5
†H. L. F. DERRICK ... 3	*R. E. DURBIN ... Tenor

Conducted by E. F. SHEARN.

* First peal. † First peal of Doubles. First peal on the bells.

SILEBY, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 10, 1944, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Ten callings.	Tenor 23 cwt.
*MRS. BENE ROBERTS ... Treble	*WILLIAM SWAN ... 4
*G. LESLIE LOVETT ... 2	*WILLIAM W. DRAPER ... 5
GEORGE T. H. WALKER ... 3	*THOMAS DEXTER ... Tenor

Conducted by G. LESLIE LOVETT.

* First peal. First peal as conductor. Rung for the silver wedding of William Swan.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., June 15, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAXIMUS, 5016 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 1-2	MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 7-8
MRS. J. THOMAS ... 3-4	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 9-10
JOHN THOMAS ... 5-6	DENNIS H. LANGDON ... 11-12

Arranged and Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Fri., June 16, 1944, in Two Hours and Two Minutes,
AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF MAIDSTONE BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

ALAN WHITE ... 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6
BETTY SPICE ... 3-4	SHEILA M. MCKAY ... 7-8

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

The first peal in the method.

ST. PAUL'S, HAMMERSMITH.

The old parish of Fulham stretched from the Thames to the borders of Willesden. At the extreme south were the village and the church, and from them a road ran northward until it joined the great road from London to the west, and here a large hamlet had grown up with several gentlemen's houses nearby. To meet the needs of this district St. Paul's, Hammersmith, was built in 1631, as a chapel of ease, on land given by the Bishop of London, Dr. William Laud.

The full cost was supplied by the inhabitants, and a number of leading parishioners signed an undertaking in which they acknowledged their liability to be rated for the repairs and maintenance of Fulham parish church and recognised the rights of the vicar. Every inhabitant of Hammersmith was bound to communicate at Easter time at the parish church and had the right to do so at any other time he chose, and also the benefit of other sacraments and ministrations; but no charges for the upkeep of the new chapel were to fall on the parish funds.

Among the leading subscribers was Sir Nicholas Crispe, a wealthy London citizen, who had built himself a lordly mansion on the banks of the Thames at Hammersmith, and on which he is said to have spent nearly £25,000. During the Civil War he was a prominent Royalist and suffered much for his loyalty. Largely through his generosity a ring of five bells was hung in St. Paul's tower, and four still remain which bear his name, though the tenor has twice been recast. In 1657 a treble was added and in 1813 the octave was completed.

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the bells were rung regularly and the following are among the entries in the churchwardens' accounts.

1656	Nov. 5. Spent upon the Ringers on Gunpowder Treason Day	00 17 00
1657	Mar. 7. Payd. for a new sett of Bellropes weighing forty-two pounds at ninepence the pound	01 01 06
1658	Paide to the ringers and on Legg of Porke at Mr. ffrenches	0 13 07
1659	Pd. to Southey the Shoemaker for goatherd for the bells	00 12 00
1667	Aprill 23. Given to the Ringers at twice when ye king past bie	000 04 00
1672	April 23. Laid out on the ringers on St. George's Day	000 08 00
1681	Spent on the Ringers on Queen Elizabeth's birthday	0 06 00
1685	May 20. Gave to the Ringers and other Assistants in mete and Drinke being the King's restoration and birthday	00 15 00
1685	July 8. Gave to ye Ringers upon ye News of ye Rebells routing in the west	00 08 06
1685	July 10. Gave to ye Ringers and other expenses upon ye news of Monmouth beinge taken	00 04 06
1688	When the Quen dined at Hamssmeth	08 00
	When the King returned from his progris	08 00
	When the king returned to London	08 00

When ye king Dined at Quen Dogeres

08 00

1696	Ye 28 day of July. paid to ye Ringers for ye taking of Namgar	00 07 00
1702	The thanksgiving day for taking Vigo ffor ringing	00 15 00
	Paid for ringing when Prince Eugene beat ye French	00 06 08
1706	May 25. Paid for Ringing for ye Victory of Ramiles	00 02 06

Towards the end of the eighteenth century there was a number of young ringers connected with the tower who called themselves the Hammersmith Youths, and in 1774 they rang seven 720's of Bob Minor. James Worster was the conductor and he and some of the others were afterwards prominent members of the London Exercise.

The first peal on the bells, after they were increased to eight, was rung in 1814 by a band of College Youths made up of men from Kensington and Isleworth, in addition to two local ringers, Hallett and Paris. The method was Grandsire Triples, and so was every peal known to have been rung in the old tower. William Hallett and William Paris rang in a five-thousand in December, 1826, nearly fifty-three later than the peal of Minor in which both had taken part.

In 1820 the attempt of George the Fourth to obtain a divorce from his wife, Queen Caroline, caused a great amount of excitement and feeling throughout the country and nowhere more so than in Hammersmith, where the Queen was living. When the House of Lords decided in her favour St. Paul's bells were rung for four days, and on one of them nine bottles of wine were drunk in the belfry in honour of the event. There were nine ringers, but we may suppose they had others to help them to consume the wine, including Mr. James Gomme, the churchwarden, Mr. James Moody, the landlord of the Six Bells, who presented the wine, and Mr. Thomas Wescombe, the plumber, who paid for the board which still records the ringing and the drinking. Either Wescombe, or, more likely, his son of the same name, was a ringer, and rang the tenor to a peal of Grandsire Triples in 1841.

Twelve peals are known to have been rung in the old tower, the last in 1848. The church was pulled down in 1882, and when the present fine building was built the bells were rehung in the new steeple and the old boards replaced in the belfry. The Cumberland Youths rang the first peal after rehanging. It was one of Double Norwich Major in December, 1891, conducted by George Newson, and the band included men still well remembered—Henry Dains, Benjamin Foskett, E. F. Cole, A. Pittam and Arthur Jacob.

The bells are not a good peal and they were not well hung. For several years now they have been practically unringable.

HAVERHILL, SUFFOLK.—On Sunday, June 11th, 720 Bob Minor: N. Nunn 1, Muriel C. Backler 2, Mrs. L. Wright 3, H. Backler 4, J. W. Jennings 5, L. Wright (conductor) 6.

NORTON-IN-THE-MOORS.—On Sunday, June 11th, 720 Biddulph Surprise Minor: G. Lawrence 1, S. Ryles 2, J. E. Wheeldon 3, W. Lawrence 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6. Also 720 Milton Surprise Minor: J. Jolley 1, S. Ryles 2, J. E. Wheeldon 3, W. Lawrence 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6.

ST. IVES, HUNTS.—On June 16th, two 720's of Bob Minor, 26 singles: H. Pratt 1, S. Sgt. E. J. Coe, R.A.F. 2, P. Skipworth 3, F. Warrington (conductor) 4, L.A.C. E. Nobles 5, L. W. Fisher 6.

ROBERT ROANE.

THE COMPOSER OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES.

Not so very long ago it was universally believed in the Exercise that the first man to compose anything like our modern style of changes was Fabian Stedman. He was often called the Father of the Art, and it was stated that 'he invented the method of hunting the treble up and down.' Actually there was change ringing before he was born and some of the methods still in use were composed and rung while he was yet only a boy. One of these was our present Bob Doubles, except that the bob was made on the three back bells instead of on the bells in 2-3-4. In the year 1667 this was already Old Doubles, which shows that it had then been in use for a considerable time.

Who the composer was and where it was first rung we do not know, nor do we know anything of the men who produced the earliest forms of change ringing out of which our modern art has developed by an orderly and logical process; but we do know who was the man who produced the first method which in every respect and detail agreed with the modern standards.

Changes in the first instance were produced by changing only one pair of bells at a time, as is the case with modern stoney, but the old Plain Changes were worked out on a thoroughly scientific and mathematical basis, with strict regard to truth. Then came Cross Peals, which were largely constructed of double changes, with a certain proportion of single changes intermixed. Of these, those most familiar to-day are Bob Doubles and New Doubles.

Robert Roane set himself the task of producing an extent on five bells with double changes throughout, and though he did not quite succeed (for the task was an impossible one), he did compose Grandsire Doubles, 'the best and most ingenious peal that ever was composed to be rung on five bells.' Afterwards, using it as a basis, he produced Grandsire Bob on Six Bells, which is what we now know as the standard 720 of Bob Minor.

These two peals have probably been more rung than any others on any number of bells, and whether we consider that fact or the vast development which has come out of them, we must admit that Roane earned a prominent place among the composers of all time.

Yet his name was clean forgotten. It is characteristic of Stedman and his age that, though he refers to Roane as a worthy and knowing member of the Society of College Youths, who, 'when the art of cross pricking lay enveloped in such obscurity, that it was thought impossible that double changes on five bells could be made to extend further than ten and triple and double changes on six further than sixty, dissipated those mists of ignorance,' yet he does not mention his name. No doubt his readers knew well enough who was referred to, and probably it did not occur to anyone that there might be people who two hundred and fifty years and more later would be interested in the matter. The only means of identification is that Richard Duckworth printed in the 'Tintinnalogia' the lines Roane wrote when he presented Grandsire Bob to the College Youths and added the initials R.R. These lines, thirty in number, show that Roane was a better composer of changes than he was a poet, but he did achieve a rather difficult feat; throughout the rhyme is the same and only three words are used twice.

Robert Roane was for many years in the service of the household of King Charles the First and held the office of sworn clerk of the pantry. Apparently he retained the office during the Civil War and the protectorate of Oliver Cromwell, but at the Restoration of Charles the Second it was given to another man. As compensation he was granted £50 a year board wages, but this fell into arrears and in 1662 he petitioned the King for its restoration. He stated that he had been daily employed by the officers of the Greencloth (a section of the Lord Steward's department which, among other things, had charge of the kitchens and dining rooms of the palace) about the accounts of the house (the palace at Whitehall) and that he had served for 44 years, but the last quarter he was reduced £25 per annum board wages.

Whether his petition had any effect is doubtful, but five years later another petition of his referring perhaps to another transaction was read by the Treasury officials, who ordered him 'to attend Mr. George on Monday next.' Later a warrant was issued to pay him £100.

Robert Roane joined the Society of College Youths in 1647 and held the office of Master in 1652.

I have said that Roane used Grandsire Doubles as the basis on which he composed Grandsire Bob, the standard 720 of Plain Bob Minor. At first sight the connection does not seem very clear, but we are fortunate enough to have Duckworth's definite statement (which probably he got through Fabian Stedman) as to how the 720 actually was produced. Roane pricked a six-score of Reverse Grandsire Doubles on 23456, using the second as the whole hunt and the fourth as the half hunt. He then wrote a 1 in front of every row and there were the lead heads and ends of a 720 of Minor.

12345	23456
21435	
24153	32546
42513	35264
45231	
	53624
54321	56342
45312	
54132	65432
51423	56423
15243	
	65243
12534	62534
21354	
23145	26354
32415	23645
23451	
	32465
32541	34256
23514	
32154	43526
31245	34562
13425	
	43652
14352	34625
etc.	
	43265
	42356
	24536
	25463
	etc.

To get the full extent on both five and six bells Roane found he had to use two singles, and to avoid this he adopted an ingenious plan. In each half of the six-score at one of the bobs the bell in thirds moved straight into fifths.

41325 instead of 41325

14253 14352

Then he called Grandsire True. It was ingenious, but it is just as well it was never adopted by the Exercise.

Thomas Roane, who was Steward of the Society of College Youths in 1682 and Master in 1689, was most likely Robert's son. He, too, was in Government employ, and was appointed Controller of Customs at Chichester port in 1673. He resigned the office in the next year.

GLoucester and Bristol Association.

MEETING AT MAISEMORE.

A meeting of the Gloucester Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held at Maisemore on June 3rd. The visitors were welcomed by the Rector, the Rev. M. Playfoot. He and Mrs. Playfoot are members of a new band which is being taught by Mr. W. B. Etheridge. It numbers 13 and all have joined the association.

Tea was provided by Mrs. Playfoot, Mrs. Tompkins and Mrs. Cornock, who were thanked on behalf of the members by Mr. Romans. It was proposed to hold the next meeting at Quedgeley.

DEATH OF MR. ROBERT BRETT

The death is announced of Mr. Robert Brett, of Warren Farm, Mickleham, Surrey, which occurred on June 2nd. Mr. Brett, who had rung over fifty peals, chiefly for the Kent County Association, was for many years a member of the Newdigate band before going to Mickleham.

The funeral at Mickleham Church was attended by many relatives and friends, including ringers from Leatherhead, Ashted and Newdigate. In accordance with his wishes, Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells at the graveside by Messrs. A. H. Winch, A. Harman, A. H. Smith and J. Hoyle.

CHIMING AND RINGING.

A MID-VICTORIAN OPINION.

From the 'Ecclesiologist' of June, 1864.

We have always considered chiming the bells to be the legitimate way of assembling the congregation to the public worship of the sanctuary. There is something in the soft tones which are thereby produced, more in harmony with the subdued joyfulness with which we should enter the courts of the Lord, than the louder and overpowering sound of bells in full swing, ringing out at the full extent of their power, peals which are properly suited to times of public rejoicing and thanksgiving.

And where this latter practice prevails, as it does in the northern and eastern counties, it is generally found that the ringers who have been thus calling their neighbours to church seldom enter themselves, but walk stealthily away as soon as the time is up for the parson to enter; and he has often the pain of seeing in the distance one or more escaping his observation—it may be in their everyday dirty working dress—retreating like those who feel ashamed of being seen by their more decently attired neighbours. Therefore, if for no other reason, we are opposed to peal-ringing on Sundays as a mode of calling to church and we advocate chiming in preference.

But it is sometimes found difficult to secure the regular attendance of a sufficient number of persons to do this, and so the work is left to the sexton to do the best he can with some chance help.

We are at a loss to know why there should be any difficulty in getting persons to chime. There is not much art in it nor is it at all laborious as we know from our own personal experience; neither can we conceive that any—the most respectable parishioner—would be thereby damaged in his position; and he might take a pleasure in helping to call his neighbours together to prayer, and if the ropes fall to the pavement of the sacred building, as we hold they should, there is no need of climbing up the narrow staircase of a tower to perform the work in some gloomy and dirty ringing loft above.

DEATH OF MR. W. C. SUTTON.

The death is announced of Mr. William C. Sutton, head ringer and sidesman at Nantwich Parish Church, which occurred on June 8th. Mr. Sutton, who was 70 years of age, had been a ringer for about 54 years. He was not a great peal ringer, having only rung seven peals, but was always ready to teach the younger ringers. The funeral was at Acton on June 10th, when a large number of ringers from the district attended. The bells at Acton were rung half-muffled before and after the interment, and a peal of Bob Minor was rung at Nantwich.

John Taylor & Co.

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THE RINGING WORLD.

The official journal of the Central Council of
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President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.
Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.
Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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NOTICE.

Secretaries of associations and readers generally are reminded of the rule that no notices can be published unless they are prepaid.

The peal of Stedman Oaters at Warwick was rung for the 90th birthday of Mr. William Male, a member of the local band and the oldest resident member of the Warwickshire Guild.

Mr. E. J. Baker, who rang the treble in the peal of Doubles at Nailsea, has been a ringer at the church for 50 years.

A band of ringers has been formed at Bramley, Surrey, consisting entirely of members of the Red Cross Cadet Unit under the supervision of Mrs. Moore, their commandant. They are being trained by Mr. J. R. Mackman.

ENGLISH BELLS IN NORMANDY.

In 'The Church Times' last week there was an attractive article by Mr. B. C. Boulter on Normandy, from which the following is an extract:—

'I lunched at Dives-sur-Mer, which is now, like our own Sandwich, deserted by the sea, and no longer a port of note, but a sleepy and very attractive little place. My ancient inn was the Hostellerie de Guillaume le Conquerant, for it was from Dives that the Conqueror and his fellow-bandits set out for the only invasion of England which succeeded. When Edward III. battered down the old church of Dives, fortunately the west wall survived, for over the door on the inside wall are painted the names of Williams Knights, names, that is, of the Norman villages nearby from which they took their titles—Vernon and Harcourt and Rosel (or Russell) and so on.

'I met the parish cure of Rosel walking among the apple orchards with his book. He told me that the sweetest bell in the church tower was made in England by a firm which had been making bells ever since the time when "England" (this with a twinkling eye) "was a Christian country." I climbed the old stairway among jackdaws' nests and found a bell made in Whitechapel and presented to the Church of St. Martin, Rosel, by Francis Rosel, or Russell, fifth Duke of Bedford, and I looked down on the orchards and thought of the apples in the Duke of Bedford's Co(n)vent Garden by Russell Square.'

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HAGLEY.

A quarterly meeting of the Northern Branch of the Worcester and Districts Association, held at Hagley on June 17th, was attended by 82 members.

The service, conducted by the Rector, the Rev. Robert Burns, was followed by a picnic tea in Hagley Park, by permission of the Viscount Cobham, and the beauties of this lovely hill-country were fully enjoyed by all.

At the business meeting 31 new members were elected from Cradley, Kidderminster, Lye, Wollaston, Brierley Hill, Belbroughton and Chad-desley Corbett towers, and it was decided to hold the annual meeting at Clent on Saturday, September 16th, as well as monthly meetings at Kingswinford on Saturday, July 15th, and Halesowen on Saturday, August 19th.

Thanks were given to the Rector and those who had worked to make the gathering enjoyable.

ENGLISH CHURCH ARCHITECTURE.

By MAJOR J. HOWARD FREEBORN, M.A.

Lic. : Royal Institute of British Architects.

Fellow : Chartered Surveyors' Institution.

(Continued from page 253.)

THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD (1160—1200).

The Transition can hardly rank as a style of Architecture; it was a brief phase linking the Norman and Early English, and occurring by no means all over the country. Up to this time the Benedictine Order of monks had been the leading church builders; they derived their knowledge entirely from the Romanesque, with its round arch. But in the later years of the twelfth century there was an influx of Cistercians, who brought with them the pointed arch then coming into use in western Europe. They quickly supplanted the older Benedictines as the ruling Order in monastic life, and wherever they settled we see the pointed arch used in conjunction with late Norman piers and decoration, a curious but attractive intermingling of styles. The arches are not the narrow and very pointed type of the first early English builders; they have a more generous curve and are to be seen side by side with the round arch.

The Quire at Canterbury is an outstanding example of this brief but eloquent phase, which is also to be seen in the great and romantic ruins at Fountains and Glastonbury. Parish churches which possess transitional work are, among others, Deeping St. James, Eastbourne (St. Mary), Selby Abbey, New Shoreham and Woodford.

THE EARLY ENGLISH PERIOD (1189—1307), OTHERWISE KNOWN AS FIRST POINTED OR XIII. CENTURY.

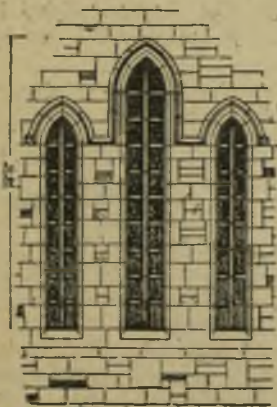


FIG. 14.
Lancet Windows.

with the death of Edward III., by which time Perpendicular detail had been increasingly used for a quarter of a century. By the death of Henry II. the Normans had been finally absorbed by the conquered English, and a new and vigorous nation entered upon a new and vigorous native architecture, which developed with extraordinary rapidity. The pointed arch permitted a freedom of design unknown in former times, construc-

tion became lighter, and was marked by great dignity and simplicity.

The tall, narrow and acutely-pointed arch epitomised the new idea of height, as of churches soaring heavenwards. These lancet windows are deeply splayed and often occur in twos, threes (Fig. 14), or even a group of five, under one arch. The tracery thus formed is known as plate-tracery (Fig. 15), and was followed in the later phases by the more interesting and logical bar-tracery, upon which all window-heads continued to be designed throughout the Gothic Age. Piers became slenderer than the Norman, often taking the form of a cluster of detached shafts around a central column, and supporting the vaulting ribs.



FIG. 15.
Plate Tracery.

The vaulting of wide spans was now made possible by the use of the pointed arch, with a series of structural ribs, the quadripartite (four-part) being the common form (Fig. 16), though it was sometimes increased to one of six parts (sexpartite). The intersections of the ribs presented the carvers with an opportunity they were not slow to take, and henceforth beautifully carved



FIG. 16.
Groined Vault.

bosses become an attractive feature of vaulting. The outward thrust of these vaults was met by narrower buttresses of deeper projection, replacing the flat and shallow Norman variety. Buttresses also appear at each angle of the building, usually in pairs.

The doorways have detached shafts and are deeply recessed; the mouldings are a series of bold rolls and deep hollows, the latter often decorated with the dog-tooth ornament, characteristic of the period (Fig. 17). The capital and abacus are now formed from a single stone, and are round or octagonal; they are either moulded or surmounted with conventional (stiff leaf) foliage (Fig. 18). The pyramid roof of the Normans gave way to a tall and graceful spire, with an octagonal base formed from the square by means of four 'broaches,' and springing without a parapet from the tower walls (see Fig. 3). Roofs are steep-pitched, and gabled porches become a feature, often of great beauty, as at West Walton. The plan was more usually cruciform, and aisles are more numerous.

Of the many fine churches of this period, there are good examples at Bampton (Oxon), Grantham, Hexham, Pershore Abbey, Shrewsbury (St. Mary), Stone (Kent), Stamford (St. Mary), Uffingham, Witney, and that perfect monument, West Walton.



FIG. 17.
Dog-tooth Enrichment.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 244.)

The church of St. Mary, Harting, Sussex, near Petersfield, has a central tower and spire with clock, and six bells, all by Chapman and Mears, of London, 1782. These are rung from the ground floor in full view of the congregation, and I have received the following two amusing notes on this place. First, Major F. A. Yorke writes: 'I recall it as a boy some 47 years ago. There were six bells and the fall of ropes made a circle at the head of the nave and thereby took up all the room between the first pews and entrance to choir. We boys hoped to high heaven the tenor man would get the bight of his rope round the "dicky bird," and he and the lectern soar up—but that never came off. Rolled up sleeves, fustian and corduroys were a bit oppressive on hot summer days. How I wish those days back!'

The Rev. A. J. Roberts, Rector of Harting, writes: 'There are six bells hung in the central tower, and the ringers ring from the floor of church. The church was built in 1180. The distance from church floor to the bell chamber floor is about 30 feet, and so the length of rope—without guides—makes ringing rather difficult. I have been a ringer myself nearly all my life, and I am now in my 85th year. Alas, during the war the bells are silent, but we had, years ago, two teams of men ringers and one team of boy ringers. Their enthusiasm made ringing a joy, but for some years past, as the older members died off, the younger generation succumbed to other attractions, and at the present time only three or four ringers are left and we have to depend upon a mechanical apparatus fixed in the bell chamber. The ascent from the church floor to the bell chamber is by a fine oak circular staircase. I remember on one occasion, one of the ringers lost his rope completely, and it flung about and entwined itself round one of the seats (or pews), which it wrenched from its base and swung it up and down in face of the assembled congregation. Also on a week-day once, I happened to be in church when two or three lady visitors came in, and the bells, quite contrary to the rules, had not been rung down before the ringers left, and one of these daring damsels took hold of a rope, gave a pull, and up she went—up and down—in the 30 feet of space above her head. Red petticoats and patent shoes, etc., were wangling above our heads for some time, till her weight brought her down to terra-firma. We never succeeded to be efficient enough to ring the bells by ropesight in the service—though we did manage now and again on practice nights. Bennett, of Midhurst—a fine ringer—brought his team, thrice did some fine ringing for some hours, but he always said it would be impossible to ring a peal with the people coming and going by you, and the rope was directly over their heads in one pew. My predecessor's wife had two seats added to those which were originally the front pews, and two of the ringers had to stand in these added front pews to ring. Your friend's—Major Yorke's—reference to the choirboys' hopes to see a ringer get his rope round the "dicky bird"—meaning the lectern—was quite a possibility, as this lectern was literally standing amongst the ringers. When I became Vicar in 1897 (I was curate for some years) I had the intrusive pews removed, and

moved the lectern to another position; and the ringers robed in black cassocks.'

The Vicar also sends the following amusing account of an incident which occurred here: 'A young curate brought the members of a Mothers' Meeting for a holiday—and asked me to show them the bells. I consented to take six at a time. Among the first six was a fat old gal of rather alarming proportions for such a venture, but she was insistent on trying. When the time came for ascent through the trapdoor she managed with great effort to get there, but the return journey was another matter. For a full half-hour the old lady was trying to force her way through the small trapdoor to the descending ladder, but all in vain. When I took the matter in hand, I dismissed everyone from the bell chamber, had a talk with the old lady, told her what I intended to do, and she was to divest herself of every bit of clothing she could spare. Then I took off a couple of the bell ropes—they must be 40 feet long—and wound one round her body, like the string on a cricket bat handle. She was quite ready to do anything I wished. Then, having one rope for safety preventive, and another attached to her body and which was under my command, I quietly shifted her to the top of the descending ladder, and, with some care and constant adjustments, I got her to the floor of the clock chamber, she murmuring from time to time: "If ever I gets out of this—never no more—never no more," which, by the bye, became a catchword in the village for long afterwards.'

Another tower that should be added to my list of places where ringing under a central tower is done from the ground floor in full view of the congregation is that of Branscombe, Devon. Here at the church of St. Winifred are six bells. This Norman cruciform building is peculiar, as the transepts are to the west of the tower and not—as is usual—abutting or contiguous to it. Originally five bells, all of differing dates, viz., 1669, 1696, 1635, 1747, 1741, one was recast and another added in 1898, making six. The latter work was carried out by H. Stokes, of Woodbury.

The church of St. Mary, Hanley Castle, near Malvern, Worcs., has a central tower with a ring of six bells, where the ropes come down in the chancel and ringers perform in full view of the congregation. It is built of brick and stone in the Decorated style and dating from 1674, the nave alone being a portion of the original Norman building built by the Earl of Warwick in the 15th century. There are many interesting monuments and tablets to the Lechmere family. The bells were originally six by Abraham Rudhall, 1699, but the treble was recast 1895 by Llewellyn and James, and again in 1925 by J. Taylor and Co., who also recast the second at the same time. The fifth was recast by G. Mears in 1858. In 1925 they were rehung in a new iron frame for eight bells; the tenor being 14 cwt. in F. There is also a Sanctus by I. B., of Gloucester, 1600.

The glorious church of Hemingbrough, Yorkshire, is a cruciform building with central tower, and a spire rising 120 feet above its tower and visible for miles around the Selby district. This spire has recently undergone considerable repairs. Of the six bells, five are by E. Seller, Ebor (York), and treble by J. Taylor and Co., 1907, in which year the whole were rehung. The tenor is 10 cwt. 1 qr. 15 lb. (F). Ringers here stand at the

crossing of the transepts and before the chancel in full view of the congregation. The writer visited this church on Sunday, June 2nd, 1918, for an afternoon peal. Owing to a false start we were late finishing. The congregation had assembled, and choir waiting for rounds to come some five or more minutes after service time. They were very patient, and so I had the pleasure of conducting a very good peal, now recorded on a tablet placed on one of the tower piers.

The Glamorganshire village of St. Athan, whose parish church bears the same name, is a small place on the Llantwit and Barry road, five miles from Cowbridge. The small but ancient church has a central embattled tower containing a ring of six (tenor about 8 cwt.) and a clock. Originally four old bells, two of which were cracked, they were increased to six by addition of two trebles and recasting the old bells by J. Warner and Sons in 1919. For this work the cost was defrayed by Alderman W. Roberts, Lord Mayor of Cardiff, 1917-18, a native of St. Athan. To get to the ringing room one goes up an iron staircase out of the chancel, thence through a hole or doorway and down a staircase into the room. There is no window or ventilation in the ringing room except for the doorway mentioned, so it is necessary to always have a light to ring by. The bells are hung in an iron frame.

The massive square central tower of Tawstock, near Barnstaple, Devon, according to Risden, 'hath a delightful tuneable ring of bells.' Five of these were cast by W. Evans in 1753, and one—the second, was cast by 'Ino. Rudhall' in 1794. In 1908, the old wooden frame, having become unsafe, a new iron frame was inserted and the 4th bell recast, and thirty years later—1938—Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. again rehung the bells and added two trebles, making the octave. The tenor is 16 cwt. 3 qr. 20 lb. The tower is 70 feet 7 inches to the battlements and 86 feet to top of pinnacles.

The approach to the ringing room is somewhat unusual. First one enters a small door on the outside of the north transept, then climbs a few steps of stone—seven or eight—at the top of which is a door. Passing through this turning sharp right, one enters a small gallery some 20 feet long and 4 feet broad, and 20 feet above the floor of the transept, fixed on the inner west wall of the transept. The late Sir Gilbert Scott, who some 70 years ago superintended the restoration of this church, considered this gallery to be quite the best piece of carving in the building. Its beauty consists in the 'vignette,' which is a running ornament of leaves and tendrils such as is frequently carved in the hollow mouldings of Gothic architecture. This gallery leads to some wooden steps with a guard rail, and then you enter a circular stone staircase which leads to the ringing chamber, and then on up to the bell chamber and tower roof. From the ringing room two 'squints' can be used by the ringers, one looking towards the altar rails and vestry to watch the wedding couples leave the church, and the other looking to the south door to stop tolling the bell for a funeral. There was, until recently, living evidence that the ringers rang in sight of the worshippers in the church, on a platform immediately below the present ringing chamber, but, unfortunately, the problem of how they got there is unsolved.

Tawstock treasures a 'Ringers' Jug' made of cloam,

a clay dug in the neighbourhood which still provides the raw material for the noted Royal Barum ware. The jug is glazed a bright yellow, and on the front is the crude outline of a bell, inside which is inscribed: '1812. Succes to the hearty Ringers of Tawstock.' Then are drawings of five bells, and further 'The youngest ringers shall carry the jug.' On the back is inscribed 'E. Fishley, Fremington, 1850,' which refers to the repairing of the jug. It is 15½ inches high, and 3 feet 2½ inches in circumference.

Another ringers' jug belonging to a well-known central tower is that at Witney, Oxon. Here is preserved in the rectory a vessel of semi-glazed earthenware capable of holding 16 quarts, of which the neck alone takes one. This ringers' jug is reputed to be at least 250 years old, and an old ringer—Howell Ball, a tinker—some 70 years ago stated that his grandfather, also a tinker, repaired this jug, it having been broken. This was done by neatly placing three bands of iron round it, and also inserting eight brass rivets.

Witney is 11 miles from Oxford, and is chiefly famous for its long established and still thriving manufacture of blankets. Its splendid church, with central tower and spire rising 156 feet high, is a landmark for all the country round. The present cruciform church was built in Early English times, and there are traces of an early Norman structure. The central piers with tower and spire are Early English. Above the roof the tower has twelve tall lancets and turret pinnacles. A great array of grotesques run along the cornice, and the buttresses of the walls have elaborate niches. Here are eight bells, tenor 18½ cwt., by T. Mears, jun., 1815, the others dating from 1660 to 1885.

The church of St. Mary the Virgin, Magor, Monmouthshire, situated some six miles from Newport, has a central tower with six bells rung from the ground floor near chancel, and seats have to be moved to accommodate the ringers. It was once the seat of a Priory, an offshoot of the Cistercian Abbey of Tintern. The monks left a lasting memorial of their connection with the district in the addition they made to the parish church, which, in consequence, was long known as the 'Cathedral of the Moors.' They found it a small building with a massive west tower, having a square turret at the N.W. corner, and transformed it into a handsome cruciform minster by taking the original building for the chancel, attaching to the west face of the tower a spacious Perpendicular nave, and throwing out transepts north and south. The old weather moulding on the west face of the tower still remains as evidence of the earlier dimension of the church. It was thoroughly restored in 1868.

Another Monmouth church with a central tower is that of St. Mary, Caldecot. The church is a somewhat heterogeneous and unsymmetrical structure with many features of merit, but spoilt as a whole by its lop-sidedness. Though the builders have given it a central tower they have abandoned the usual cruciform design by omitting the transepts and, by way of compensation, added a north aisle. In style the building is a blend of Decorated and Perpendicular. There is a ring of eight bells, tenor 13 cwt. 6 lb., which is a pre-Reformation bell. In 1913 Messrs. Gillett and Johnston rehung the whole in a new steel and iron frame.

(To be continued.)

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336

2314567

3154276 Every course called
1524367 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 12, 13
5234176
2314567

In every course call the 4th. In Slow, First Whole Turn, three times in 6-7 up and twice in 6-7 down.

480

2314567

1243576 1, 3, 4, 10
4132567 1, 3, 4, 10
3421576 1, 3, 4, 10
3241567 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10
Repeated.

In the first three courses call the 5th to make the bob, out Quick and make the bob, out Slow. In the fourth course add bobs at First Whole Turn and First Half Turn.

STEDMAN CATERS.

249

231456789

256431978 2, 5, 11
643152879 5, 7, 9, 10
165243978 7, 9, 10
214365879 7, 9, 10

Call bobs when the 9th is in 8-9 down, and in 4-5 down before going in Slow. The 6th will make the latter and 1-2 dodge behind. Then call a bob when the 9th is dodging in 4-5 up after coming out Slow. The treble will make it, and 7-8 dodge behind. This will bring up the course end in the next Six—a slow one.

In the second course call a bob when the 9th is dodging in 4-5 down before going in Quick. The 2nd will make it, and 4-6 dodge behind. Miss a Six and call a bob when the 9th is in 4-5 up after coming out Quick. The 7th will dodge in 8-9 up. Miss another Six and allow the 9th to go up to the 7th. Then call two bobs with 9-7 behind, and after the second of them the 8th will come up into 6-7 and the course end will be at the end of a Slow Six.

The bobs in the third and fourth courses are at the same intervals as those in the third course except that the first bob, when the 9th is dodging in 4-5 down, is not made. But as there are no fixed bells the observation is different. In the third course call a bob when the 9th is about to make its last Half Turn, miss one Six, then call the 9th out Slow and in 4-5 up.

The fourth course is called as the second except for the first bob.

ENGLISH CHURCH ARCHITECTURE.

(Continued from page 263.)

GLOSSARY.

BROACH SPIRE. A spire without a parapet, of two pitches, the lower being the flatter.

BOSS. Carved ornament covering intersection of ribs in vaulting.

CLERESTORY. The upper walls of the nave, lit by windows clear of the nave roof.

COLUMN. Circular vertical support.

DOG-TOOTH. A small E.E. ornament set in a hollow moulding.

LANCET. Narrow E.E. pointed window, like a lancet blade.

QUIRE (CHOIR). The eastern limb of a Cathedral church, containing the stalls.

RIB. Structural member of a vault.

SHAFT. A small column used in conjunction with piers or at the jambs of doors and windows.

TRACERY. Design in the head of a window.

E.E.: Plate, bar, geometrical.

Dec.: Geometrical, reticulated, curvilinear.

Perp.: Rectilinear.

TREFOIL. Ornament representing the three-leaf clover; an arch of three curves.

TYMPANUM. The space between the lintel and arch of a doorway.
(To be continued.)

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

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NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Meeting at Black Notley, Saturday, June 24th. Service 4 p.m. Tea afterwards. Ringing at Braintree in the evening.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and East District.—Meeting at Harrow Weald, Saturday, June 24th, 2.30 p.m. Service 3.45 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. No. 114 bus from Edgware Tube Station to Brockhurst Corner.—T. J. Lock.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery.—Meeting at Burnham-on-Sea, Saturday, June 24th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business, Blue Bird Tea Rooms, 5 p.m.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—Meeting at Hersham, Saturday, June 24th, 3.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and meeting in Church Hall.—D. Cooper, Hon. Dis. Sec.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch.—Meeting at Terrington St. John, Saturday, June 24th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5. Bring food.—W. W. Cousins, Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Oxford City Branch.—Half-yearly meeting at Marston, Saturday, June 24th, 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea afterwards. Headington, ringing, 6 p.m.—M. R. Cross, The School House, Radley, Abingdon.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at Great Wymondley, June 24th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. No teas.—A. E. Symonds, The Cottage, Windmill Hill, Hitchin.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—Meeting at Netherseale, Saturday, June 24th. Bells (8) 3.30. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chester Branch.—Practice meeting at St. Mary's, Handbridge, Chester, on Saturday, June 24th. Bells (8) from 5.30.—J. W. Clarke, Hon. Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—A meeting at Turvey on Saturday, June 24th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. It is hoped to arrange tea.—Frank C. Tysoe, Hon. Sec.

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LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch. —Meeting at Padiham on Saturday, June 24th, 2.30 p.m. Business 6 p.m. Bring food.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Practice meeting at Tonbridge every Friday evening from 7.30 to 9 p.m., commencing June 30th.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—Meeting at Uckfield, Saturday, July 1st, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names to Mrs. E. L. Hairs, The Oaks, Theobolds Road, Burgess Hill, by June 27th.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Meeting at Bingham, Saturday, July 1st, 2.30. Tea at 5. Names by Monday, June 26th. — T. Groombridge, Jun., Hon. Dis. Sec., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Meeting at King's Norton Parish Church; Saturday, July 1st. Business meeting at 3.30. Tea 4.15. Bells 5. Names to Mr. W. B. Cartwright, 115, Westhill Road, King's Norton, Birmingham 30, by June 28th.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Stone (8 bells) on Saturday, July 1st. Cups of tea provided, so bring food.—Andrew Thompson.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, July 1st. Ringing St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 3 p.m. Summer meeting at Bushey July 15th. Further details later. Names for tea to A. G. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch (Grimsby District). — Annual meeting at Barton-on-Humber (8 bells), Saturday, July 1st, 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea in Assembly Rooms 4.45. Names to Mr. A. W. Hoodless, 11, Holydyke, Barton-on-Humber, Lincs, by June 28th.—H. I. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec., Grimsby.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at St. Cuthbert's, Benfieldside (6 bells), Saturday, July 1st, 2.30 p.m. Bring food, cups of tea provided.—J. A. Brown, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Finchdale Terrace, Chester-le-Street.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—Meeting at Westoning, Saturday, July 1st. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—D. E. Lidbetter, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—Meeting at Wool, Saturday, July 1st. Bells (6) 2 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Notify for tea by June 27th.—J. T. Godwin, Acting Hon. Sec., 10, High West Street, Dorchester.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The annual meeting at Whittle-le-Woods, near Chorley, on Saturday, July 1st, 2.30 p.m. Bring food.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Meeting at Kingston-on-Thames on Saturday, July 1st. Ringing from 2.30 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. No arrangements for tea.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Annual meeting at Basingstoke, Saturday, July 1st. Central Committee 2 p.m. General meeting 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names to Mr. J. B. Woodley, 40, Mortimer Lane, Basingstoke, Tuesday, June 27th. The towers of St. Michael's and All Saints' available.—G. Williams, Master, for F. W. Rogers, Hon. Gen. Sec.

LADIES' GUILD (Southern District) and GUILD-FORD DIOCESAN GUILD (Farnham District).—Combined meeting at Aldershot, July 8th. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4.30. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—Miss H. F. Mills, W. H. Viggers, Hon. Secs.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Rowley Regis, Saturday, July 8th, 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea and meeting afterwards. Send names. — F. Colclough, Hon. Sec., 27, Hall Park Street, Bilston.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Rothwell, Leeds, on Saturday, July 8th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. A charge of 1s. 3d. will be made. Names to Mr. H. Homer, 37, Temple Avenue, Rothwell, before Thursday, July 6th. Business meeting after tea.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting, Whaplode, July 8th. Service 3.45. Light refreshment 4.30. Names to Mr. H. Lawson, Ainsgarth, Whaplode, by July 4th.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Banbury Branch.—Annual meeting at Banbury, Saturday, July 8th, 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea at 5. Notify H. Impey, 1, George Crescent, Easington, Banbury.

BARNSELY DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Shield Contest, Hoylandswaine, near Penistone, July 8th. Draw 2.45 p.m. Ringing 3 p.m. Entrance fee 6s. Entries must reach me by July 7th. Tea provided, 2s. each, only for those who notify me by July 4th. — D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Swaffham on Saturday, July 15th, 2 p.m. Service 4.45. Tea and business meeting 5.15. — A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

NOTTINGHAM.—If any ringers (Forces or civilians) are drafted to the Nottingham area, I shall be pleased to hear from them, and fix them up for ringing—tower or hand bells.—T. Groombridge, jun., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood; Nottingham.

MARRIAGE.

SWANN—WOOLLARD.—On June 10th, 1944, at the Church of St. John the Baptist, Royston, Herts, at 2 p.m., Joyce Dorothy, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Woollard, of Ashlea, Driftways, Royston, to Raymond Eccleston, only son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Swann, of 2, Church Lane, Royston, Herts.

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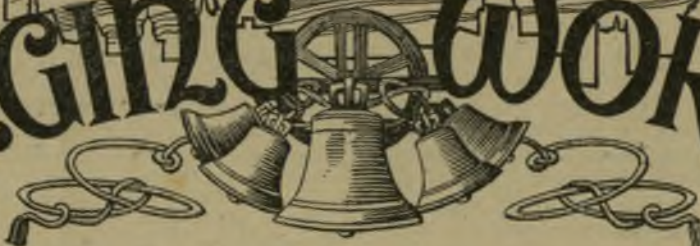
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THE RINGING WORLD



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

No. 1,786. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, JUNE 30th, 1944.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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PRINCIPAL BELLFOUNDERS

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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.

METHODS.

One of the chiefest attractions of method ringing is that it sets before the ringer a difficult task which taxes his utmost skill and full attention, and gives him the satisfaction of feeling he has done something which will raise him in the estimation of his fellows; and so the custom is to value methods according to their real or reputed difficulty, or (to use the word the old ringers favoured) their intricacy. This is quite natural and, up to a point, quite right. It is the intellectual task of finding and following the intricate path through the other bells which in very large measure forms the fascination of change ringing, and so long as our art is living and progressive men will always esteem a method which is really difficult, even if it is markedly deficient in other good qualities.

But in all these matters there is always a tendency to run to one extreme, and in the pursuit of one good thing to lose sight of others just as god.

Difficulty is an attraction in a method, but it is not the only one, and with practice it necessarily tends to become less difficult. Variety and novelty are to some an even greater attraction, and there are few peals more enjoyable than when the band is really first class and the method one they have never practised before.

There was a time not so long ago when it would have been thought rather wonderful for a man, let alone a whole band, to ring a peal in a method he had not practised, but of late years many examples have shown that it is quite easy, provided that ringing and methods are approached in the right way.

It is, we believe, true to say that very many ringers and very many bands are deceived by false values. It is the custom to consider a Surprise method as a higher class method, just because it is a Surprise method. Men do not stop to consider what a Surprise method is, or why, and wherein, it should be superior. They simply follow the crowd and by contrast get into the way of rather despising what they look on as the inferior methods. That is a mistake. There is scarcely any method which will not give the fullest amount of interest provided the ringer expects it and looks for it. If he starts for a peal of Grandsire or Treble Bob with the idea that there is nothing in it and it is hardly worth doing, he will certainly find it dull and uninteresting, and probably his ringing will not be too good. But if he brings to the job the same keenness and attention

(Continued on page 270.)

that he would to an attempt for London or Bristol he will find just as much interest though, perhaps, of a different kind.

It is the custom for a man or a band to try to push on as fast as they can and to take their place among the so-called Surprise ringers, but there are other plans they could adopt just as good. No keen and progressive band would be content with Grandsire alone however much they might appreciate its merits; but there are several other methods almost as simple which they could master without much trouble, and they would have the advantage of attempting something which would afford the interest and pleasure which come from novelty, while, at the same time, not taxing their powers so much that they neglect the finer points of striking.

One such method is Oxford Bob Triples which is worth practising by any band however skilful they may be. It is not in any way difficult, but it has many excellent qualities and should receive far more attention than it has done.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., June 21, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirteen Minutes,
At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

ERIC A. DENCH ... 1-2	ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 5-6
JOHN THOMAS ... 3-4	JAMES FERNLEY ... 7-8

Arranged by I. J. ATTWATER. Conducted by J. THOMAS.

LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Fri., June 23, 1944, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL, HEADINGLEY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 1-2	PERCY J. JOHNSON ... 5-6
*BETTY SPICE ... 3-4	JOHN E. SPICE ... 7-8

Composed by S. H. WOOD. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.
* First handbell peal in the method. First handbell peal in the method as conductor.

SIX BELL PEAL.

BUNWELL, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 17, 1944, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt. in G.

*HERBERT G. LAKE ... Treble	REV. J. E. TREDENNICK 4
FREDK. W. MIDDLETON 2	FREDERICK C. GOODMAN 5
ERNEST G. SHORTING ... 3	HENRY TOOKE ... Tenor

Conducted by HENRY TOOKE.

* First peal and first attempt.

BACKWELL, SOMERSET.—On Friday, June 23rd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: G. Olliver 1, G. C. Clift (conductor) 2, Miss M. J. F. Richardson (first quarter-peal on tower bells) 3, Major J. H. B. Hesse 4, H. W. Knight 5, Lieut. C. Glenn 6, E. Hancock 7, J. Lott 8.

PIDDINGTON, NORTHANTS.—On Friday, June 23rd, two 720's Kent Treble Bob Minor and one 720 Bob Minor: Geoffrey Gayton (11) 1, John Fitzhugh (15) 2, Philip Jones 3, William Hammonds (16) 4, Ronald Noon 5, George Care (17) (conductor) 6. First 720 by all the band.

CREWE.—On June 24th, at Christ Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. Barnard 1, H. F. Holding 2, W. Holding 3, H. Overton 4, G. Packer 5, W. Edge 6, R. D. Langford (conductor) 7, F. Stenson 8. Rung half-muffled for Mr. J. H. Riding.

TILEHURST, READING.—On Sunday, June 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Goodger 1, J. Marsh 2, S. Miles 3, H. Hunt 4, E. Langley 5, J. Lewendon 6, R. N. Runham (conductor) 7, D. Sellar 8.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

UPTON-ON-SEVERN, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 17, 1944, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 17½ cwt.

*EDWARD MAUND ... Treble	WILLIAM RANFORD ... 5
GEORGE E. LARGE ... 2	GEORGE AMBLER ... 6
REGINALD WOODYATT ... 3	†ERNEST F. CUBBERLEY 7
DENIS R. MORRIS ... 4	CHARLES J. CAMM ... Tenor

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

* First peal of Major. † First peal of Treble Bob.

KIDLINGTON, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., June 22, 1944, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 23½ cwt.

WALTER F. JUDGE ... Treble	WILLIAM AMBLER ... 5
JOHN E. JUDGE ... 2	CECIL G. CALCUTT ... 6
WILLIAM C. PORTER ... 3	WILLIAM JUDGE ... 7
ARTHUR JONES ... 4	JOHN E. SPICE ... Tenor

Composed by H. J. TUCKER. Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

SELLY OAK, BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Sat., June 24, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 12 cwt. 1 qr. 17 lb.

HENRY H. FEARN ... Treble	JAMES F. HARVEY ... 5
DANIEL T. MATKIN ... 2	WILLIAM B. CARTWRIGHT 6
*RICHARD J. B. HADDEN 3	GEORGE E. FEARN ... 7
JOHN PINFOLD ... 4	EDWARD HOLT ... Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM B. CARTWRIGHT.

* First peal of Stedman. Rung for the marriage of the Rev. David R. Atkins, assistant priest at the church.

OLD WINDSOR, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., June 24, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 11 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb.

GEORGE H. GUTTERIDGE Treble	FRANK H. HICKS ... 5
H. WILLIAM BARRETT ... 2	JAMES A. GLASS ... 6
THOS. G. BANNISTER ... 3	GEORGE GILBERT ... 7
*G. WILLIAM MORRIS ... 4	WILLIAM WELLING ... Tenor

Composed by J. J. PARKER. Conducted by WILLIAM WELLING.

* First peal in the method.

LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 24, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, HEADINGLEY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 20½ cwt.

LEONARD DRAKE ... Treble	WILLIAM BARTON ... 5
G. WILFRED SLACK ... 2	JOHN E. SPICE ... 6
BETTY SPICE ... 3	RONALD H. DOVE ... 7
EDWARD BRADLEY ... 4	PERCY J. JOHNSON ... Tenor

Composed by H. W. WILDE. Conducted by WM. BARTON.

Rung for the baptism of Charles Barrie, son of the ringers of the seventh.

HORRINGER, SUFFOLK.—On Friday, June 23rd, 720 Bob Minor: Barbara Hill 1, L.A.C. Peter Carter 2, A. W. Rolfe 3, F. Cooper (first 720 inside) 4, A. Gillings 5, L. Wright (conductor) 6.

NORTON-IN-THE-MOORS.—On June 18th, 720 London Surprise Minor and 120 of Violet: J. Lawrence 1, S. Bellings 2, J. E. Wheeldon 3, S. Ryles 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6.

HALEWOOD.—On Sunday, June 18th, 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor: *I. Fraser 1, G. H. Hesketh 2, T. Lee 3, *F. S. Almond 4, W. Robinson 5, T. W. Hesketh (conductor) 6. * First 720 of Treble Bob.

THE LATE MR. ROBERT BRETT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was sorry to read of the death of Mr. Robert Brett, of Mickleham and late of Newdigate, Surrey. He will be remembered by few ringers in North Kent, but about the year 1903 when he came from Suffolk, as farm bailiff, with his brother Ernest, who afterwards became prominent in London ringing circles, as assistant bailiff, at the Homes for Little Boys at Farningham, he did much for ringers and ringing in those parts until he left about five years later.

He made Eynsford, then a peal of six with a stoney band, his first tower and in a short time transformed them into a good Minor band which rang the first peal on the bells and the first by all except himself.

He interested the late Mr. E. D. Till (whose efforts to break the tied house system in public-houses may be recalled) and persuaded him to add two trebles, and he called the first peal on the eight with most of the local band in it.

Later he transferred his efforts to Dartford, where ringing was at a very low ebb and the bells went badly, but he again revived interest. A few repairs were effected and a number of peals were rung until the bells became unringable. About this time he moved to Newdigate where he retained his interest in ringing, but his peal ringing activities ceased. I remember him ringing only one afterwards, when he called Holt's Original at Ruspur. With this composition he was a safe conductor.

We corresponded occasionally and he never seemed to recover from the loss of one of his sons, a pilot officer, who was killed early in the present war.

He was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths and with this society took part in at least one peal, Grandsire Triples at Dartford.

E. BARNETT.

Crayford.

A LETTER FROM ITALY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Corpl. Ted Coward and I met quite by chance in the streets of the local town, and following the initial surprise and greetings, the subject of campanology soon arose. Together we proceeded to a survey of the towers and ringing in this town and very interesting it proved to be.

The photograph I send shows Corpl. Coward and myself standing before the 'tenor' bell of the Cathedral, and the typical long-waisted shape of Italian bells is quite evident. From its note and size I should say this bell weighs about a ton. Unfortunately, the photograph does not bring out the full beauty of the bell, for it is actually very elaborately inscribed with flowers, wreaths, etc. It bears the date 1843.

The ringing we found was mainly chiming, although some bells are swung waist high by means of a rope and a stay bolted at right angles to the stock. A lot of the ringing is performed by small boys, who can often be seen standing high up on the parapets, furiously clapping the bells.

Bells take a prominent part in the church services of Italy, for they ring almost hourly from 6.30 in the morning to 8.30 in the evening. Although none of the ringers has heard of Snowdon's 'Diagrams,' 'method ringing' is practised, for they use several variations, with two special ones for weddings and funerals.

At present, ringing reminiscences afford us exiles a lot of pleasure, but we live in hopes of contacting another ringer and ringing a hand-bell peal on some horse bells from the local brass foundry—the first in Italy.

I hope, sir, you will accept our best wishes for continued success to 'The Ringing World,' and to the College Youths and all our ringing friends we send hearty greetings with a hope that we may be partakers in next year's 'victory' peals at home.

KENNETH ARTHUR, Sgt.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

STEDMAN CATERS.

231456789	324
135426978	1, 4
532416	4
231456789	4, 6, 7, 12, 13, 18

Call a bob at the go-off and one when the 9th is dodging in 6-7 down. These will produce the first course-end after the 9th has gone down, first Slow and then Quick.

In the second course call another similar bob when the 9th is in 6-7 down three sixes after the course-end.

In the third (boming) course, call another bob when the 9th is in 6-7 going down, one when it is making the First Whole Turn and another (at the following six) when it is about to make the First Half Turn. 1-6 dodge behind at these bobs. Call the 9th to make the bob after Slow, and another bob (at the following six) when it is in 6-7 down. 7-3 will dodge behind at these bobs. Finally, call the 9th to dodge in 8-9 up after it has gone in Quick. The bells will run round at the second change of the following Six in the ordinary way.

DEATH OF MR. J. T. WHITE.

The death is announced of Mr. John Thomas White, which occurred on Sunday, June 7th, at his home, Manor View, Shafton, after an illness of about eight months. He was 63 years of age.

Mr. White had been a member of the band at Felkirk for about 45 years, and was captain for a large part of that time. In 1929 the band rang 253 720's in as many methods, and 247 of them were conducted by Mr. White. He rang 32 peals, all of them Minor, ranging from Plain Bob to seven Surprise methods. Many of them he called. He was a member of the Yorkshire Association, the Barnsley and District Society, and the Doncaster and District Society.

The funeral was at Felkirk on June 8th. The service, which was choral, was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. J. E. Barlow, and members of the band acted as bearers. A touch of Bob Minor was rung on handbells at the graveside by Messrs. D. Smith, P. Woodward and R. Ford, and the tower bells were rung fully muffled after the service. Among the many floral tributes was one from the ringers.

RINGING AND AIR RAIDS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following might be of interest and valuable to some towers: On Sunday, June 27th, 1943, the bells in our tower were left up after ringing for morning service, and before we were able to ring for evensong the shell warning was given to the town, and in consequence evensong was abandoned. We lowered the bells as quickly as we could, but I had to give an explanation why the bells were ringing during the warning and instructions were then given that no bells must be rung while a shell warning is in operation, no matter how long it lasts.

Under the present circumstances I think it would be wise of ringers in the South if they lowered their bells after each service because if the military authorities or police give instructions for the public to take cover immediately no bells must be ringing.

Disregard of these instructions might be the curtailment of all ringing in a tower for the period while these weapons are being used. The bells have been treated quite reasonably and all ringers should take the utmost care.

CHARLES TURNER, Capt., St. Mary's Ringers, Dover.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT MARNHULL.

A meeting of the North Dorset Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Marnhull on June 10th, and was attended by 25 members from Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Child Okeford, Okeford Fitzpaine, Shroton, Zeals, Silton, Buckhorn Weston, Stoke Trister, Hazelbury Bryan, Henstridge, Kington Magna and Marnhull. There was ringing at Sturminster, Stalbridge and Fifehead as well as at Marnhull.

Service was conducted by the secretary, Dr. E. W. J. Hellins gave an address, and the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards was at the organ. Tea, at the invitation of the Rector, was served on the Rectory lawn. Apologies for absence were received from the Revs. W. Delahay and T. Sefton.

The following new members were elected: A. E. Cox, George Cox, G. Crew, J. M. Watts, C. Brixey, John Coward, from Buckhorn Weston. Mrs. R. G. Heward, Shaftesbury, was also elected.

A vote of thanks to the Rector of Marnhull was passed with acclamation.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT COGENHOE.

There was a good attendance at a meeting of the Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, held at Cogenhoe on June 24th. Service was conducted by the Rev. M. L. Couchman, and refreshments followed, provided and served by Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Sharman.

Mr. Couchman presided at the business meeting, and mentioned the death of Mrs. W. H. Ashby. A vote of thanks was moved by Mr. W. Rogers and carried. Mr. H. England referred to the golden wedding of Mr. W. Rogers and the silver wedding of Mr. B. O. Soden: the chairman offered the congratulations and good wishes of the members to those gentlemen, who replied.

The bells were rung before the service and after the business meeting.

KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

Mrs. Chandler, of Beechgrove, Kington, whose husband, Stoker Petty Officer Harry T. Chandler, was reported missing, presumed killed, has been officially informed that he was killed on June 15th during operations.

Petty Officer Chandler was 38 years of age. He had rung about 30 peals, mostly for the Hereford Diocesan Guild. He had served over 18 years in the Royal Navy.

BIRMINGHAM.—On Wednesday, June 21st, at St. Chad's R.C. Cathedral, 1,260 Stedman Triples: J. Pinfold 1, W. B. Cartwright (conductor) 2, R. J. B. Hadden 3, G. E. Fearn 4, H. H. Fearn 5, J. F. Harvey 6, E. T. Sibley 7, W. T. Froggatt 8.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to:—

The Editor,

'The Ringing World,'

c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
Guildford, Surrey.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the office for 4s. 3d. per quarter payable in advance.

Cheques and remittances should be made payable to 'The Ringing World.'

Members of the Society of Cumberland Youths should note that the meeting arranged for to-morrow at Kingston-on-Thames has been cancelled.

It has been possible to arrange a tea at the joint meeting at Aldershot on July 8th, and visitors need not bring their own food as requested in last week's notice.

DEATH OF MR. JAMES H. RIDING.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. James H. Riding, which occurred at Crewe on June 19th after a short illness. He was 55 years of age.

The funeral was at Wistaston on June 23rd and was attended by Messrs. S. Sutton, of Acton, J. Brough, of Nantwich, A. Crawley, of Wistaston, and W. Chadwick and R. D. Langford, of Crewe. A quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung half-muffled on June 24th at Christ Church, Crewe.

Mr. Riding was a ringer of exceptional ability and his merits were known and recognised in many parts of the country. He had taken part in 471 peals, of which he conducted 77. They included three record lengths. On July 21st, 1923, he rang the tenor at Over, Cheshire, to Mr. J. W. Parker's 17,280 Kent Treble Bob Major, Mr. Robert Sperring conducting. On August 5th, 1929, Mr. Riding rang the tenth in the 15,312 Cambridge Surprise Maximus, which William Pye conducted, the longest length on twelve bells. On January 29th, 1927, Mr. Riding rang the seventh to T. B. Worsley's 11,232 Superlative Surprise Major. Mr. Edward Jenkins conducted from the third and Gabriel Lindoff rang the tenor.

For some time before the war Mr. Riding, who was in the service of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway, was stationed in the London area. He was in close touch with the Metropolitan ringers, with whom he rang several peals and who were impressed by his ability and personal qualities.

The following is his list of peals: Grandsire Triples 39, Caters 8, Cinquses 3; Plain Bob Minor 1, Major 19, Royal 5, Maximus 1; Kent Treble Bob Minor 3, Major 66, Royal 20, Maximus 2; Oxford Treble Bob Major 12, Royal 1, Maximus 2; Stedman Triples 40, Caters 22, Cinquses 12; Double Norwich Court Bob Major 78; Spliced Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Major 2, Royal 1; Cambridge Surprise Major 43, Royal 14, Maximus 8; New Cambridge Surprise Royal 2; Yorkshire Surprise Major 2, Royal 3; Superlative Surprise Major 21, Belgrave 1, Wembley 1, Rutland 1, Rochester 1, London 20, Bristol 8; Edmonton Bob Major 1; Erin Caters 1; Four Spliced Surprise Major 3; Three Minor Methods 2.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HARROW WEALD.

A meeting of the North and East District of the Middlesex County Association, held at Harrow Weald on June 24th, was attended by upwards of 35 members, among whom were a large number of young ringers. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. C. S. Durham, who gave an address.

An open-air business meeting was held, at which the chair was taken by Mr. G. R. Goodship, of Great Missenden, life member and past secretary. Two members were elected.

Tower bell ringing during the afternoon and evening included many methods from rounds to a touch of Spliced Surprise Major in four methods. Triples and Caters were rung on handbells.

SEVEN BELL METHODS.

1. OXFORD BOB TRIPLES.

1234567	continued.
2135476	7526134
2314567	5762314
3241576	5673241
3425167	6537421
4352617	6354712
4536271	3645172
5463721	3461527
5647312	4316257
6574132	4132675
6751423	1423657
7615243	1246375
7162534	2143657
1726543	2416375
1275634	4261357
2176543	4623175
2715634	6432715
7251643	6347251
	etc.

On six bells there are several hundred good methods to be rung; on eight bells there are many thousand; but on seven bells the number is small. Why it should be so is quite an interesting question, but it does not for the moment concern us. What we should notice is that though there is as much Triples ringing as Major, and probably more, it is entirely confined to two methods, Grandsire and Stedman. Both are first class methods and it is quite safe to say that, so long as change ringing lasts, they will continue to hold a foremost place in the ringers' repertoire. But surely, we might think, there are others which, if not quite so good, are still well worth ringing.

For many years Plain Bob Triples enjoyed a considerable and not entirely undeserved measure of popularity. But it has one serious defect. At every lead end a bell lies still for four blows and this, though it is tolerated in the common Grandsire Single and the Kent bob, was enough to condemn the method in the opinion of the authorities fifty years or so ago, and after a formal condemnation by the Central Council, it dropped into disuse. It is only right to say that the Council's condemnation would not have had that effect unless it had had the approval and assent of the Exercise at large.

There are some Triples methods which are fully worthy of attention and should come into general use. It would be for the good of the Exercise, and we propose to call attention to one or two of them especially for the benefit of the younger generation to whom probably they are quite unknown. The mistake must not be made of thinking they are suitable only for immature bands who are not capable of attempting what are called higher methods. They are worth ringing by any band. One of them, the first we shall deal with, and the simplest of all, is Oxford Bob.

Oxford Bob Triples is an old method, and was given by William Shipway in his 'Campanalogia' published in 1816. The Exercise, at the time, had no need of new methods and Oxford Bob passed unnoticed until the end of the last century, when the late Joseph J. Parker did a good deal to popularise it in his own district, and a fair number of peals were rung. It was not, however, taken

up by the more skilled and ambitious bands who hankered after Surprise, and it dropped out of use.

Before studying the method the best thing to do is to prick a full plain course. It will not take long, for there are only five leads. Then draw a line in red ink along the path of the third and another in black ink along the paths of the treble and second. If you have not coloured inks handy draw a thick line along the path of the third and a thin line along the path of the treble. You can make things more distinctive by using a pencil for the path of the second. Keep this course in front of you when you study anything connected with the method. We cannot, of course, print such a course in 'The Ringing World,' but we have given two full leads which will show the working of the method.

Oxford Bob, like Grandsire, has a plain hunting treble and a bell-in-the-hunt which courses immediately after the treble and takes it off the lead and turns it from behind. Oxford Bob also reproduces the Grandsire place—Thirds, made by the bell which is taken off the lead by the treble and turns the bell-in-the-hunt. In addition, there are two other places—Fifths when the treble is hunting up from thirds into fourths, and another Fifths when the treble is hunting down from seconds to the lead. All these places are made at handstroke and consequently all the dodging in the method is at handstroke.

We shall expect from these things that the method will be very similar to Grandsire, and indeed it reproduces all the place-making of Grandsire with the addition of extra work.

The rules to ring the method are simple and easy to learn. After making Thirds place you take the bell-in-the-hunt off the lead, hunt up behind, turn the same bell, lie a whole pull, and make a 3-pull dodge in 6-7 down.

Hunt straight down to lead, dodge in 4-5 up, make Fifths place, and return to lead.

Hunt up, make Fifths place, dodge in 4-5 down, and return to lead.

Hunt through to behind, make a 3-pull dodge in 6-7 up, and lie a whole pull behind. The treble will turn you from behind. Go straight down to lead. The treble will turn you from the lead and you will be in the position to make Thirds place again.

Put so, the work is quite simple to remember, and there are many other things which will help you to know what to do. Since the Grandsire Thirds place and its attendant dodging are reproduced, the ringer who knows Grandsire can use his knowledge in making this place and dodging. He can also make the other work largely by using Grandsire rules. For it will be seen that substantially the work consists of Grandsire Doubles on the front five bells with two bells dodging in 6-7 from the time the treble and the bell-in-the-hunt leave behind until they return there. So long as you are below the treble you plain hunt. Above the treble you ring Grandsire Doubles and you never go into 6-7 unless the treble is above you when you reach fifths.

The bob is made in the same way as in Grandsire

7615243

7162534

1765243

1672534

6175243

6712534

There is this distinction however—only the three bells in thirds, fourths and fifths are affected, for though those in 6-7 dodge, they would have done so in any case by the ordinary rule of the method.

Singles are practically useless in the method, for though with care and skill true touches can be produced with common Grandsire singles, peals are impossible. Two special calls must be used and they are not suitable for ordinary touches.

Oxford Bob Triples is a simple and easy method, but it is musical, it is an interesting change from the more familiar methods, and it is a stepping stone to other and more complex methods.

(To be continued.)

RINGERS AND AIR RAIDS.

'Urbanus,' the accomplished writer who contributes a notable column each week to 'The Church Times,' has some kind and even flattering things to say about ringers. Here is an extract:—

My Saturday afternoon tea-party was in the invigorating company of bellringers. Though, according to the German newspapers, the earth beneath us 'was shaking as if in the grip of an earthquake,' and the sky above us 'transformed into a sea of fire,' and everything, 'enveloped in thick unbroken clouds of smoke,' we none the less enjoyed ourselves very much.

About seventy ringers had converged on the tower, some travelling thirty or forty miles for a meeting of the county change-ringers' association. Except that from time to time the sirens proclaimed an alert, there was complete forgetfulness of the war in the ringing chamber. At the alert the ringers paused so that the glorious music of the bells should not drown the evil throb of a pilotless aeroplane should it pass that way.

As it turned out, none came near us, and the moment the All Clear was sounded the noble clangour began again. As I stood in the belfry and took note of the ringers, I could see that here were picked men: not chosen by any rule, but by the motions of the spirit that made them ringers; upright, clear-complexioned men; honest men, and standing well to life as they stood to the bell ropes.

There is that about bellringing which extrudes mean and crooked men. And they are men of independent mind; individualists, for all that they perfectly united in a band engaged, let us say, in the complicated method of Cambridge Surprise or Double Norwich.

Change-ringing is an art unknown outside these islands. It is a cherished mystery demanding great devotion and years of striving. And because it stands midway between the music of art and the music of nature, there is ever an incalculable waywardness about it. Bella, said Thomas Hood, are 'music's laughter.'

Seated at his keyboard, the carillonneur can make foreign bells do his will utterly; but not so the change-ringer in an English tower. For him perfection is for ever out of reach, and therein is a large measure of the enchantment which suffers no true ringer to lay aside the bell-ropes while breath and muscle remain. I heard, indeed, of a ringer who this year in the tower of his parish church greeted Easter morning for the seventy-third time.

ENGLISH CHURCH ARCHITECTURE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I say that Tutbury could be included in the best examples of Norman churches. The late Rector had extensive alterations carried out before the war, and the floor of the church has been lowered to its original level.

WILLIAM P. DEANE.

Norton-in-the-Moors.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF LEICESTERSHIRE.

On Monday, June 19th, at Leicester Cathedral Church House, an illustrated lecture on 'The Church Bells of Leicestershire' was given to members of the Leicester Architectural and Archaeological Society by Mr. Ernest Morris, F.R.Hist.S., F.R.G.S. The meeting was presided over by Lt.-Col. Sir Robert Martin, supported by Mr. A. Herbert (secretary), the Ven. Archdeacon W. P. Hurrell, Mr. L. H. Irvine and a distinguished company. Mr. Morris pointed out that since the publication of Thomas North's book on the county, many restorations and augmentations have taken place. In North's time (1876) there were 998 bells, but at the present day there are 1,286. All these bells are now tabulated, and Mr. Morris has carefully copied inscriptions and gathered together all the history possible up to date. Further names of ancient Leicester bellfounders have come to light, such as Rog. le Bellevetere, 1307-11; Stephen le Bellveter, 1323-1346; John Hose, 1352-1366; Thomas Hose, 1406; William Noble, 1417-1427; Thomas Innocent, 1458-1495; W. Millers, 1497-1508; Matthew Norris, 1575-1605.

The 1,286 bells in the Leicester Diocese are thus divided according to dates: Pre-1500, 25; 1500-1600, 88; 1600-1700, 304; 1700-1800, 228; 1800-1900, 348; 1900-1940, 293.

The lecture was well received, and after numerous questions had been answered, votes of thanks and appreciation were passed.

THE SCIENCE OF CHANGE RINGING

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should be grateful if you would allow me to comment on your excellent leading article concerning composition. It most certainly would be a great help to the Exercise if a thorough mathematical investigation could be made. But I feel that before this can be done the ground should be thoroughly cleared and prepared.

I am a newcomer to the theoretical side of the art, and so feel that I can speak plainly without 'any prejudice or preconceived ideas' (as your article says). I expect I shall raise a hornet's nest, but my purpose in writing is only a genuine desire for information. So here goes.

My first act in studying the way in which methods were built up was to find the rules that had to be obeyed. And straight way it seemed to me that many were quite artificial and unnecessary. I hope I may be enlightened as to why these were laid down. Before I mention some of them, however, let me state the two which have a good reason for them:—

(a) There is an obvious practical reason why bells may not move more than one position each change (but I'm not so sure that I am clear as to why only *two* blows may be struck in any position when place making—cp. the Grandsire Single).

(b) From a musical point of view, it is good that ordinary length peals of Major should keep the tenors together, and a similar reason for the Tittums position, etc., for peals on higher numbers of bells.

But what are the reasons for the following, please? Aren't they artificial?

(a) Plain Bob lead heads (especially when the Snowdon series on Surprise Methods states (p. 35), 'An investigation was made with a view to see if there were any other methods producible with similar qualities (as Superlative). Though there are several, *many of these being doubtless excellent methods*, they have, with one exception, lead heads other than those of Plain Bob'). Isn't it artificial, therefore, to allow only Plain Bob lead heads when there are excellent methods not having them? Surely the method and its music should come first.

(b) Why is it bad if the bells don't turn up at the back in their 'natural coursing order' (and why this term—shouldn't it be Plain Bob Coursing Order?)

(c) Why is it bad to have bells lying in 7-8 in Major?

(d) Why the seemingly artificial dividing of methods by place making into Surprise, Delight, Exercise and Treble Bob, giving the idea the former are most complex when they're not necessarily. And why the keen study of the first at the expense of the latter?

(e) Why is it bad to have 'back-handed' places?

I could find others—but these should suffice at present! To me the fact that there is not a single Surprise method (I believe) which does not break one at least of the above rules (even Superlative) seems to suggest artificiality of rules.

Wouldn't it be more reasonable to base rules on Proof, e.g., to regard a method with a clean proof scale as 'good,' and others with more or less false courses as bad to moderate? Of course, I know I am speaking as a novice from the theoretical side (in any case it doesn't follow that the 'good' methods would be popularised any more than the accepted good methods on the old rules ever were really popular). But until more 'natural' rules are made, I'm not sure whether mathematics will have much more to say than it has done already in, for instance, the Thompson papers.

K. W. H. FELSTEAD.

Weston Vicarage, Southampton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

The summer meeting of the Burton District of the Midland Counties Association at Netherseale on June 24th was attended by members from Derby Cathedral, Ashby, Measham, Ticknall, Overseal and the local company.

Tea was in the Rectory Hall, and the Rector, the Rev. Dr. W. J. Beale, presided at the business meeting. Four new members were elected from Ticknall and Netherseale, and the proposal of the Loughborough District to hold a joint meeting at Ashby on August 12th was agreed to.

Further discussion took place on the proposed decentralisation of the association and not one member present was in favour of the scheme.

Thanks were given to the Rector and to Mrs. Beale for cups of tea. The methods rung included Stedman and Grandsire Triples, Plain Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob and Double Oxford Minor and rounds.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held at Bunwell on June 3rd, at which 24 ringers were present from Norwich, Ranworth, New Buckenham, Redenhall, Winfarthing, Diss, Garboldisham, Mulbarton, Fornectt St. Mary, Fornectt St. Peter, and Bunwell. Ringing took place in various methods, the service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. I. Graham Jones, and tea and meeting were held in the school. New members elected included Mr. Cecil A. Thompson (Redenhall), a rejoining member; Dr. and Mrs. Frewin Moor (Norwich), and the Rev. J. E. F. Tredennick (Norwich). Mr. Nolan Golden having intimated his desire not to represent the association on the Central Council, the general secretary, the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, was elected in his stead.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Practice meeting at Tonbridge every Friday evening from 7.30 to 9 p.m.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—Meeting at Uckfield, Saturday, July 1st, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Meeting at King's Norton Parish Church, Saturday, July 1st. Business meeting at 3.30. Tea 4.15. Bells 5.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, July 1st. Ringing St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 3 p.m. Summer meeting at Bushey July 15th, 3 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m., 1s. 3d. Names for tea to A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch (Grimsby District).—Annual meeting at Barton-on-Humber (8 bells), Saturday, July 1st, 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea in Assembly Rooms 4.45.—H. I. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec., Grimsby.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Annual meeting at Basingstoke, Saturday, July 1st. Central Committee 2 p.m. General meeting 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. The towers of St. Michael's and All Saints' available.—G. Williams, Master, for F. W. Rogers, Hon. Gen. Sec.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—The meeting arranged for Kingston-on-Thames on Saturday, July 1st, is cancelled.

DERBY CATHEDRAL.—On Saturday, July 1st, 10 visiting members of the Midland Counties Association will attempt a peal of Stedman Caters at 4 p.m.—James Pagett, Ringing Master.

LADIES' GUILD (Southern District) and GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD (Farnham District).—Combined meeting at Aldershot, July 8th. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4.30. Arrangements will be made for tea.—Miss H. F. Mills, W. H. Viggers, Hon. Secs.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Rowley Regis, Saturday, July 8th, 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea and meeting afterwards. Send names.—F. Colclough, Hon. Sec., 27, Hall Park Street, Bilston.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Rothwell, Leeds, on Saturday, July 8th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. A charge of 1s. 3d. will be made. Names to Mr. H. Homer, 37, Temple Avenue, Rothwell, before Thursday, July 6th. Business meeting after tea.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting, Whaplode, July 8th. Service 3.45. Light refreshment 4.30. Names to Mr. H. Lawson, Ainsgarth, Whaplode, by July 4th.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Banbury Branch.—Annual meeting at Banbury, Saturday, July 8th, 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea at 5. Notify H. Impey, 1, George Crescent, Easington, Banbury.

BARNSELY DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Shield Contest, Hoylandswaine, near Penistone, July 8th. Draw 2.45 p.m. Ringing 3 p.m. Entrance fee 6s. Entries must reach me by July 7th. Tea provided, 2s. each, only for those who notify me by July 4th. — D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY and MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Creswell on Saturday, July 8th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. L. W. Bacon, Newlyn, Skinner Street, Creswell, near Worksop, by July 6th.—G. G. Graham and S. Scattergood, Hon. Secs.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Salisbury Branch.—Meeting at Shrewton, Saturday, July 8th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Names for tea by July 3rd. — F. W. Romaine, 41, Green Croft Street, Salisbury, Wilts.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting at Fairwarp, Saturday, July 8th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea at Marigold Tea Room, Maresfield (catch 4.20 bus from church). Names to Miss Rich (the proprietress) by July 6th.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Cranford, Saturday, July 8th, 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Cups of tea will be provided.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec. Per 5320.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Meeting at Brinkworth on Saturday, July 8th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. — W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—Meeting at Copt Oak, Saturday, July 8th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food. Bus passes Flying Horse 2.45. One leaves Whitwick 3.15.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Ringing at Kirkby Mallory on Saturday, July 8th, 3.30 to 5. Cups of tea in School at 5, followed by meeting. Peckleton bells during evening. Bring food.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Ratby and Groby, Saturday, July 8th, 3 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m., Ratby Schools. Names to Mr. H. Spencer, 101, Station Road, Ratby, by the 6th.—R. Barrow, 10, East Road, Birstall.

LADIES' GUILD (Southern District) and GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD (Farnham District).—Meeting at Aldershot, Saturday, July 8th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Names for tea to W. H. Viggers, 37, Highfield Gardens, Aldershot, by July 5th.—Miss H. F. Mills, W. H. Viggers, Hon. Secs.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—Meeting at Daventry (8), Saturday, July 8th. Names to W. C. Moore, 5, William's Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Swaffham on Saturday, July 15th, 2 p.m. Service 4.45. Tea and business meeting 5.15. — A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—Summer meeting, Wingham, Saturday, July 15th, 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea (1s. 6d.). Meeting. Names for tea to Mrs. Fleetwood, Bridge Stores, Bridge Street, Wingham, near Canterbury, by July 10th.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Quarterly meeting Stratford-on-Avon, Saturday, July 15th, 3 p.m. Tea 4.30, The Rosalind Chef, Church Street. Evensong 5.30. Business to follow in ringing chamber. Names for tea by July 12th.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES

GROBY, LEICS.—On June 10th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: *Miss Nancy Price 1, William Smith 2, Ernest Morris (conductor) 3, Ernest Geary 4, Victor Geary 5, *Miss Margaret Morris 6. *First quarter-peal.

FORDINGBRIDGE, HANTS.—On Saturday, June 10th, 4,300 Grand-sire Triples: Miss J. Chick 1, Percy Brayshaw 2, Mary E. Davis 3, Charles R. Forfitt 4, Andrew Pearmain 5, Mrs. F. John Marshall 6, Arthur Davis 7, John Cole 8. An unsuccessful peal attempt.

HERSHAM, SURREY.—On Sunday, June 11th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: E. Armstrong (first quarter of Stedman) 1, W. Shepherd 2, F. E. Hawthorne 3, Capt. A. Poynt 4, W. H. Seabrook 5, C. W. R. Grimwood 6, W. Simmonds (conductor) 7, H. Colcombe 8.

NORTON, STAFFS.—On Sunday, June 11th, 720 each of Biddulph and Milton Double Surprise Minor: G. E. Lawrence 1, C. S. Ryles 2, J. E. Wheelton 3, W. C. Lawrence 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6.

LEYTON.—On Sunday, June 11th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: F. Newman 1, E. W. Furbank 2, A. W. Brighton 3, J. Phillips 4, F. C. Maynard 5, A. Prior (conductor) 6, E. D. Smith 7, A. W. C. Ball 8.

WIMBLEDON.—On Sunday, June 11th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: H. Belcher 1, H. Miles (conductor) 2, W. Paice 3, Lieut. W. Gibbons 4, P. Miles 5, C. Hunt 6, F. Skevington 7, H. Page 8.

BROMLEY COMMON, KENT.—On Sunday, June 11th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. Lyddiard 1, J. Lyddiard (conductor) 2, G. H. Kite 3, C. Cullen 4, P. Spice 5, G. F. James 6, I. Emery 7, E. Mounter 8.

YORK.—On Sunday, June 11th, at the Minster, 720 Bob Minor: John Bensen (first 720) 1, T. F. Earnshaw 2, E. Rickett 3, F. Atkinson 4, S. Steel 5, H. Walker (conductor) 6. Rung on the middle six.

OXFORD.—On Sunday, June 11th, at the University Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: C. G. Calcutt 1, Miss B. Spice 2, Miss M. R. Cross 3, W. F. Judge 4, N. Allnatt 5, J. E. Spice (conductor) 6.

WORSLEY.—On Wednesday, June 14th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: *Miss Barbara Smedley 1, Miss Annie Potter 2, *Brian Royle 3, John Potter (conductor) 4, *Trevor Royle 5, Percy H. Derbyshire 6. *Longest length.

APPLETON, BERKS.—On Saturday, June 17th, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: A. Cornish 1, R. White 2, T. Bond 3, H. C. White 4, F. Messenger 5, A. H. White 6. — Calcutt 7, G. Holifield (conductor) 8, C. G. White 9, F. White 10.

HINDERCLAY, SUFFOLK.—On Saturday, June 18th, 720 St. Clement's Bob Minor: F. Shemming 1, L. Wright 2, Barbara Hill (first in the method) 3, W. Goodson 4, A. E. Cook 5, J. Bailey (conductor) 6.

NORTHAMPTON.—On Monday, June 19th, at St. Edmund's Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. Gammage 1, T. Haynes 2, G. Tanner 3, T. Tebbutt 4, H. England 5, J. Dove 6, B. Oden (conductor) 7, W. Atterbury 8.

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RULES OF METHOD CONSTRUCTION

During the last ten years of the nineteenth century and the first twenty of the present century no question was more debated among ringers than this—What are the rules which should control the construction of methods?

That there should be such rules and that a clear distinction ought to be made between what were called 'legitimate' methods and were considered suitable for practice, and 'illegitimate' methods which ought to be forbidden, everybody agreed. Where men differed was as to what rules should be laid down and how the distinction should be made.

The controversy was carried on with the utmost keenness in the columns of the ringing papers, in the Central Council and by private correspondence. To-day, as we read again what was said and written, much of it seems stale and unprofitable, as is usually the case with burnt-out controversies, but in the end, though none of the disputants convinced the others, a certain equilibrium of opinion was reached, and the Exercise as a whole accepted some general rules as necessary for the construction of a method. That the controversy did much good we cannot doubt, for it stimulated and influenced the great development in method ringing which has been the most notable feature of the last quarter century, and which perhaps would never have occurred without it. Nor need we doubt that on the whole the best decisions were arrived at.

To-day those rules are usually taken for granted, and the younger generation is rather inclined to be mildly amused at the idea of anyone thinking it worth while to trouble about them. That is natural enough. In everything we do we are bound to take some things for granted, and so long as they work well in practice, need not concern ourselves as to their precise origin and meaning. But that spirit must not be carried too far in a thing like the science of change ringing, and it would not be good for the Exercise and the art of change ringing if men ceased to enquire why certain things are done, and why certain rules are necessary.

For this reason we welcome the letter from the Rev. K. W. H. Felstead, which appeared in our last issue, and we think it would be an excellent thing for those who are interested in composition and the theory of change ringing to try to answer the questions he asks. We do not propose here and now to attempt to answer

(Continued on page 278.)

them. Obviously that would be an impossible task, for it would mean a full explanation of the science of change ringing, a formidable job to undertake; but there are one or two general observations to be made.

Anything like change ringing, if it is to develop and prosper, must have rules, but it is essential to understand what those rules really are and especially what they are not. The rules we observe in ringing are not like the rules which are laid down by some competent and recognised authority in such things as cricket and football. When our rules first appeared there was no authority to make them, and, though we have now the Central Body, that body does not claim or possess the sort of authority that the Football Association, for instance, does. It has no need to do so, for our rules are quite different in character from those that control football.

The rules in ringing are broadly of two kinds. Either they are the recognition of facts which belong to the essential nature of the science and the art, or they are standards which long experience has convinced ringers are valuable if the best is to be got out of change ringing. They must be judged on those grounds. To many people, as to Mr. Felstead, some of them appear 'artificial,' and if they are artificial there is no reason why anyone should be bound by them. But it is hardly likely that the Exercise as a whole would have accepted them unless there was some good cause, although it may not appear on the surface. It is worth while trying to understand why they were accepted.

Mr. Felstead mentions two for which he agrees there are good reasons. There is, he says, an obvious practical reason why bells may not move more than one position at any change. No doubt there is, but as a matter of fact the obvious reason was not the one which caused the rule to be adopted. The idea which did actually create change ringing, which developed it, and which still dominates it, is not just the idea of striking the bells in different orders but the idea of moving the bells among each other. Movement is the root idea. Consequently a bell which at one change has struck in, say, Fourth's, may strike in Fifth's at the next change, but not in Sixth's; not because of the physical difficulty of manipulating the bell, but because the idea of movement implies a connected path.

On the other hand the rule about keeping the tenors together is not really a rule at all, but a somewhat rough and ready description of a quality in ringing which is universally accepted as a good one.

The old idea that there is a clear-cut distinction between 'legitimate' and 'illegitimate' methods is largely exploded, but it is clearer than ever it was that there are certain fundamental principles which in varying degree decide which are the best methods for practical use.

FIVE BELL PEAL.

BRAFIELD, NORTHANTS.
THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., June 25, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores. Tenor 12 cwt. 1 lb.

PHILIP JONES	Treble	CECIL WHITE	3
RONNIE NOON	2	GEORGE CARE	4

CYRIL BARRICK Tenor

Conducted by P. JONES.

First peal of Stedman on the bells. A farewell to the ringer of the third, who is joining H.M. Forces.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

ANSTLEY, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 24, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION.

Tenor 10½ cwt.

MISS JILL POOLE	Treble	JOSIAH MORRIS	5
JOHN R. SMITH	2	ERNEST MORRIS	6
*PETER J. STANFORTH ...	3	REDVERS F. ELKINGTON	7
*DENNIS DODSON	4	MISS IVY E. SIMPSON ...	Tenor

Conducted by REDVERS F. ELKINGTON.

* First peal.

NUNEATON, WARWICKSHIRE.
THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Thurs., June 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

MRS. P. BILLINGTON ...	Treble	LEONARD TREVOR	5
FRANK W. PERRENS	2	ERNEST STONE	6
HUBERT SUMMERS	3	FRANK E. PERVIN	7
JIM DRAYCOTT	4	DOUGLAS H. ARGYLE ...	Tenor

Composed by J. JAGGAR.

Conducted by F. E. PERVIN.

A farewell to the Rev. Marcus Knight, Vicar of the parish and President of the Warwickshire Guild, who was installed Canon and Precentor of St. Paul's Cathedral earlier in the day.

WHISTON, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., June 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

JOHN H. BROTHWELL ...	Treble	*JAMES E. BAILEY	5
JACK G. BROTHWELL	2	GEORGE S. LEE	6
*MRS. J. E. BAILEY	3	*HERBERT O. CHADDOCK	7
J. EDWARD CAWSE	4	JOHN E. TURLEY	Tenor

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by J. E. TURLEY.

* First peal in the method.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.
THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., July 1, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF SPICED SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Consisting of 1,472 Bristol, 1,408 Cambridge, 1,408 Superlative and 768 London, with 126 changes of method. Tenor 13 cwt.

JOHN E. ROOTES	Treble	JOHN E. SPICE	5
FRANCIS KIRK	2	MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT	6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ...	3	WALTER AYRE	7
EDWIN JENNINGS	4	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ...	Tenor

Composed by A. J. PITMAN. Conducted by HAROLD G. CASHMORE.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LEICESTER.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., July 1, 1944, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,
IN THE BELFRY OF ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5005 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

MISS JILL POOLE	1-2	ERNEST MORRIS	7-8
HAROLD J. POOLE	3-4	GEO. STEDMAN MORRIS...	9-10
PERCY L. HARRISON	5-6	JOSIAH MORRIS	11-12

Composed by F. H. DEXTER.

Conducted by H. J. POOLE.

Bung on the 77th birthday of Mr. J. Morris and to mark the birth of a daughter to Mrs. Enid Wayman, wife of the late Flight-Sergt. Brian Wayman.

BRISTOL.
THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., July 2, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes,
AT, 21, WATHEN ROAD, ST. ANDREW'S,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 15 in C.

MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON	1-2	ROYSTON G. BRYANT	5-6
CLEMENT GLENN	3-4	DONALD G. CLIFT	7-8

Conducted by CLEMENT GLENN.

SEVEN BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 273.)

OXFORD BOB TRIPLES.

Oxford Bob Triples is a simple method to ring, but it is by no means a simple method to call, and the conductor who likes to know how the bells are working and perhaps to make up his short touches as he goes along will find it will fully tax his skill.

The reason is the peculiar way in which the bob is made. As we have seen, it is the ordinary Grandsire bob, and for practical purposes doubtless it is the best that can be chosen, but only three bells are actually affected by it, and they are not three which are in natural coursing order, as is the case in most methods when a bob is made. It might have been better if Third's place were made at backstroke when the treble is hunting up from Fourth's to Fifth's; or Fifth's place were made at handstroke when the treble is hunting down from Fourth's to Third's. In Double Norwich Caters both of these styles of bobs are used, and either will allow a bob on 2, 3, 4; one on 2, 3, 5; and one on 2, 4, 6; which correspond to the Right, Wrong and Middle of Bob Major, Cambridge, Superlative and the rest; and to the Out, In and Fifth's of Double Norwich.

In Oxford Bob Triples at the bob the bells in Sixth's at the previous lead-end goes into the hunt, the bell that comes out of the hunt takes the place of the bell in Fifth's at the previous lead-end, and the Fifth's place bell takes the place of the Sixth's place bell. The conductor who watches and checks the alterations made by the bobs in the coursing order must study the matter pretty closely. But with the average conductor such knowledge is unusual and is hardly necessary. He must, however, know what are the positions the observation bell is in when the bobs are called and what will be the general effect of the calls.

Any bell may be selected to be the observation bell in a seven-bell methods, and often one is just as good as another; but the seventh is the more usual, and we will select that. A bob may be called at any lead in the course, but there are three lead-ends at which the observation is not affected by the call, and these are the most suitable to use in the first place for touches.

At the first lead-end of the course the observation is about to make Third's place, and there the bob Before may be called. Three bells are affected—the sixth (which goes into the hunt), the second and the fifth, which become the bells in 5-6 at the course-end. The course-end is 634257. This bob Before will give a touch of three courses, or 210 changes. In Grandsire Triples the bob Before produces five courses.

At the second lead-end in the course the observation is dodging in 6-7 down. This is the position for the bob Wrong, and the conductor will make his call as he is striking the handstroke blow of his whole pull behind. He has just passed the treble in 5-6 up.

A bob Wrong affects three bells and produces the course-end 364527. This also will give a three course touch of 210 changes.

The bob Home or Right is called at the last lead-end of the course. The observation is going to dodge in 6-7 up after having passed the treble in 4-5. The conductor will call as he strikes his first blow in Sixth's. The course-end is 532467, and again a three-course touch is produced.

At the third lead-end the observation may be called into the hunt and may be retained there for one, two, three, four or five leads, giving a variety of different changes. If it is called in and out at the next lead-end the course-end 423567 will be produced and a three-course touch of 210 changes will be had.

At bob at the fourth lead-end causes the observation to dodge in 4-5, as it did at the previous lead-end.

At all these calling positings the observation and the treble are in the same relative positions as they are in Grandsire (although the effect of the bobs is so different), and therefore the conductor who has had some experience of calling Grandsire will have no difficulty in making the calls in Oxford Bob at exactly the right time.

Many easy short touches can be had in Double Oxford. Here is a simple one. Call three bobs Before and after the last, the bells will be back in the plain course. Instead of letting them run round at the course-end, call a bob at Wrong and then two more in successive courses. After the third Wrong the bells will be once more in the plain course, and if they are allowed to run round at the course-end a touch of 350 changes will be produced. But instead of letting them run round at the course-end, a bob at Right may be called, and then two more in successive courses, at the last of which the bells will come home, giving a touch of 490 changes.

Before and Wrong gives three courses, and so does Before and Right. Wrong and Right gives five courses. Before, Before and Right, repeated, gives four courses or 280 changes.

504.

23456

35426 Before and Wrong.
34256 Wrong. In and out at 3.
Twice repeated.
1,008.

23456

24536 Wrong. In and out at 3.
25346 Wrong. In and out at 3.
54326 Before and Wrong.
42356 Before and Wrong.
1,260.

23456 B. W. R.

35426 — —
56423 — —
23645 — —
23564 — —
63254 — —
34256 — —

Twice repeated.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BLACK NOTLEY.

A meeting of the Northern Division of the Essex Association, held at Black Notley on June 24th, was poorly supported, only eight of the 21 members who were present coming from outside belfries. The Notley band, which supplied the remainder, are showing great promise, and with the Rector, the Rev. J. R. Southern, should prove a great asset to the association.

The service was conducted by the Rector, and the choir and organist assisted.

In the absence of the District Master, Mr. Southern took the chair at the business meeting. Two members from Black Notley and three from Wickham St. Paul's were elected. Mr. L. W. Wiffin proposed a vote of thanks, and it was decided to hold the next meeting at Sible Hedingham.

THE J. D. & C. M. 'CAMPANALOGIA.'

During the latter years of the seventeenth century booksellers found a steady sale for books dealing with ringing. Besides Richard Duckworth's 'Tintinnalogia' and Fabian Stedman's 'Campanalogia,' there was a number of other publications which contained chapters on the art. They were somewhat ephemeral productions which professed to give information on sport, gardening, weather forecasts, drinks, fireworks and odds and ends of subjects. In the same year that Stedman's 'Campanalogia' appeared, an edition of J. White's 'Rich Cabinet' was issued, which included a chapter on ringing, and it is not unlikely that it was put in by the publisher to take advantage of the interest created by Stedman's book. Seven years later, Howlett's 'School of Recreation' and 'The Husbandman's Magazine' appeared; at the end of the century Lambert's 'Countryman's Treasure'; and in the early days of the new century the Shepherd's Calendar.

The chapters on ringing in White's and Howlett's books were copied, and badly copied, from Duckworth's and Stedman's works. Whether any copies of the 'Husbandman's Magazine' or of the 'Countryman's Treasure' are still extant I am unable to say. Each contained a chapter on the Noble Recreation of Ringing, and it is pretty certain they were by hack writers and cribbed from Duckworth and Stedman, either directly or through Howlett's or White's book. There may have been other similar publications. As text books on ringing they are worthless, though for the Exercise they have now a considerable historical and bibliographical value, and they are evidence that, at the time, there was a fairly wide public which took an interest in the art.

Stedman's 'Campanalogia' was now nearly thirty years old; the original impression had long since been sold out; and in the circumstances it seemed to George Sawbridge, a bookseller of Little Britain, a good business proposition to reprint the book. Fabian Stedman was still alive, but he had probably retired from active contact with ringers, and in any case it is not likely he was consulted about the matter. The law of copyright was very vague, and other booksellers had not scrupled to make use of his work without any acknowledgment.

Sawbridge went to the London Scholars, then one of the two leading Metropolitan ringing societies, and two of them agreed to help him. Probably they had already formed the intention of writing a book which should be an entirely new production; but Sawbridge knew the selling value of Stedman's book and insisted that its form should be followed closely, its title retained, and only such additions made as were necessary.

The new book appeared in 1702 and is a landmark in the history of the Exercise. Coming, as it did, at the close of one century and the beginning of another, it shows on the one hand what progress had been made during the seventeenth century, and, on the other, the starting point of the eighteenth. The 'Tintinnalogia' appeared at the close of the period during which the foundations of the art were laid; the 'Campanalogia' at the close of the time when five-bell ringing was developed to its utmost; the new book almost at the close of the time when six-bell ringing supplied the main interest of ringers. In the early eighteenth century the

best bands became eight and ten-bell ringers, and a whole field was opened up which was entirely unknown to the men of the previous century. As a consequence, all three books were quickly out of date for the more advanced bands, though during many years they formed the standard text books for the lesser companies.

The authors of the new book were two members of the Society of London Scholars, and the book was produced under the patronage of that company. The custom of putting the author's initials, instead of his full name, on the title page was common at the time, and was a survival from the days when the honours of authorship were outweighed by the dangers. Who J. D. and C. M. were was early forgotten, and can now only be partially known. From a statement by Thomas Melchior in the 'Norwich Gazette' of December 11th, 1731, we learn that J. D.'s name was Doleman, and that is practically all we know about him. On September 18th, 1718, a John Doleman, of All Hallows-the-Less, married Mary Constable, of Greenwich, at St. Benet's, Paul's Wharf, but there is nothing to identify him with the ringer, and it would not carry us far if there were.

Who C. M. was is still more obscure. One or two attempts have been made to identify him with men whose names appear in the lists of members of the Union Scholars, College Youths, and other societies. Charles Marsh, who joined the Union Scholars in 1717, has been suggested, but it is not likely. Charles Mason, who joined the College Youths in 1796, is perhaps more probable, but C. M. was a prominent member of the London Scholars, and all the records of that society are lost.

The presence of two names (or initials) on the title page raises another interesting speculation. Experience has shown that men capable of writing a really good book on ringing are rare. There have been many who possessed the requisite technical knowledge; there have been some who possessed the required literary skill; but the two have seldom been found together. More than once the Exercise was promised a book on ringing by a recognised master of the science, but nothing came of it. Such was the case with Benjamin Annable and with Christopher Lindsey. That Annable knew more about ringing than any other man of his time is certain. Whether he was able to write a good book on the subject is more than doubtful. Richard Duckworth possessed both qualifications to a greater degree than almost any man the Exercise has produced. He knew what he was writing about, and he knew how to write about it. Fabian Stedman, too, was very good, but there have been few like them, and, until the time of Jasper Snowdon, none.

This, no doubt, accounts for the dual authorship of the 1702 'Campanalogia.' Doleman was the technical expert; that we know from the testimony of Melchior and Annable, and also from the book itself. C. M. probably was the literary author. There was a somewhat similar division of labour in the case of the 'Clavis.' John Patrick, who was the leading composer among the College Youths, also lent his assistance to the earlier book.

The title page of the book is as follows: 'Campanalogia Improved: or the Art of Ringing made Easie: by Plain and Methodical Rules and Directions whereby the Ingenious Practitioners may with a little Practice and Care attain to the Knowledge of Ringing all manner of Double, Tripple and Quadruple Changes. With variety

of New Peals upon 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 Bells. As also the Method of Calling Bobs for any Peal of Tripples from 168 to 2,520 (being the Half Peal). Also for any Peal of Quadruples or Catons from 324 to 11,340; never before Published. By J. D. and C. M., Members of the Society of London Scholars. Liberi artibus instruendi: Cato Lib. 1. London. Printed for George Sawbridge at the Three Flower-de-Luces, in Little Britain, 1702.

SERVICE TOUCHES. BOB MAJOR.

1,008				1,024			
23456	W	M	R	23456	W	B	M R
42635	—	—		52364	—	1	—
62534	—	—		43265	—	—	—
52436	—	—		52436	—	—	—
43526	—	—		43526	—	—	—
54326	—	—		54326	—	—	—
35426	—	—		35426	—	—	—
42356	—	—		42356	—	—	—
34256	—	—		34256	—	—	—
23456	—	—		23456	—	—	—
1,040				1,040			
23456	W	B	M R	23456	W	B	M R
23564	—	1	—	52364	—	1	—
45236	—	—	—	35264	—	—	—
24536	—	—	—	23564	—	—	—
24365	1	—	—	45236	—	—	—
32465	—	—	—	24536	—	—	—
43265	—	—	—	43265	—	1	—
52436	—	—	—	52436	—	—	—
35426	—	—	—	35426	—	—	—
23456	—	—	—	23456	—	—	—
1,056				1,056			
23456	W	B	M R	23456	W	B	M R
23564	—	1	—	35264	—	1	—
45236	—	—	—	42356	—	—	—
34256	—	—	—	35426	—	—	—

Twice repeated.

Twice repeated.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WHITTLE-LE-WOODS.

The annual meeting of the Preston Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at Whittle-le-Woods on July 1st and was attended by over 40 ringers from the Liverpool, Wigan, Fylde, Blackburn and Preston Branches, as well as Sergt. Wilson from Kent.

Service was conducted by the Vicar and the Rev. D. P. Roberts. Mr. J. H. Gartside was at the organ.

At the business meeting Mr. F. G. Bradley took the chair, but vacated it when Mr. L. Walmsley was elected to preside.

Mr. Bradley gave a report of the committee meeting at Lancaster. The secretary gave his annual report, in which he said there had been during the year meetings at Leyland, Penwortham, Higher Walton, Chorley, Adlington, Broughton, Tarleton, Eccleston and a joint meeting with the Wigan Branch at Coppull. Five members had been elected and two had died. Three peals had been rung, Kent Treble Bob Major and Minor in three methods at Penwortham, and Minor in three methods at Broughton.

The meetings had been well attended, the average number being 24. An encouraging feature had been the progress made by the younger members and the assistance given by older members to depleted bands for service ringing. Fourteen members of the branch were serving in H.M. Forces.

Nominations were made for the office of president of the association and Central Council representatives, and the place and date of future meetings were decided. Votes of thanks to the church authorities and the local ringers were passed.

The ringing ranged from Plain Bob to Cambridge Surprise Major.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT EPPING.

Seventy members and friends of the Essex Association were present at a meeting of the South-Western Division, held at Epping on June 24th. They came from Woodford, Loughton, Harlow Common, Leyton, Leytonstone, Wanstead, Dagenham, Springfield, Watford, Walthamstow, West Ham, Brentwood, Edmonton, Epping, St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, Waltham Abbey, Romford and Bishop's Stortford. Three ringers in H.M. Forces were from Frome, Kempstone and Tempsford.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. C. B. Mortlock, who afterwards presided at the business meeting. Three members were elected, two from Epping and one from St. Mary's, Walthamstow. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Waltham Abbey if it can be arranged. Mr. C. T. Coles proposed a vote of thanks. A collection for the bell restoration fund amounted to £1 5s. 4d.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

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The official journal of the Central Council of
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Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
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Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
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The peal of Stedman Triples at Anstey on June 24th was a wedding
compliment to Miss Eileen Cufflin, a member of the local band and
daughter of the late Alfred Cufflin, formerly steepplekeeper at Anstey.
Mr. J. Martin Smith, the bridegroom, is a ringer and organist at
Markfield.

Members of the Swindon Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol
Diocesan Association should note that the meeting advertised for to-
morrow at Brinkworth will be held at Lydiard Millicent instead.

RINGING AT EYNSFORD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I notice that Mr. Barnett in his excellent letter concern-
ing the ringing career of the late Mr. Robert Brett gives some par-
ticulars of his work at Eynsford. Mr. Barnett also says that there
was at that time a stoney band at Eynsford. Is Mr. Barnett sure of
his facts in this particular?

I have by me a book in which during my ringing life I have recorded
visits and outstanding touches, together with the names of ringers
with whom I rang. I find from this book that during the last few
weeks before I moved to Guildford I visited Eynsford twice. First on
Friday, September 26th, 1900, when we rang 360 Bob Minor. Secondly,
on October 19th, 1900, when we rang 600 Bob Minor, which I called.
The names are T. Collier 1, E. Howard 2, T. Booker, sen. 3, F. Head 4,
R. Baldwin 5, C. Hazelden (conductor) 6. We also rang a short
length of Grandsire Minor, in which Mr. Booker's son, a young lad,
rang the treble.

I am aware that all this was some years before Mr. Brett became
associated with Eynsford, but in my visits I had the impression of
change ringing being well established and with it a quite good standard
of performance.

A. C. HAZELDEN.

Guildford.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT IDLE.

A meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society was held
at Idle on June 24th. In the absence of the president through indis-
position, Mr. S. Barrow took the chair, and members were present
from Armley, Bradford Cathedral, Drighlington, Guiseley, Headingley
St. Chad, Idle, Leeds Parish Church and Shipley.

Three new members were elected—Messrs. Wilkinson, Idle, A. Wear
and Geoffrey Dixon, of Guiseley.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens and to the local
company was proposed by Mr. F. Hutchinson and seconded by Mr. F.
Seager. The Vicar and Mr. T. Hill replied.

The next meeting was fixed for July 29th at Drighlington, which is
easy of access by bus from Leeds, Bradford and other places. Tea will
be arranged for those who send in their names.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING.

A meeting of the Eastern District of the Durham and Newcastle
Diocesan Association was held at Houghton-le-Spring on June 24th
and was attended by ringers from Chester-le-Street, Whickham, South
Shields, Sunderland, Newcastle and the home tower. The methods
rung ranged from rounds and Grandsire Doubles to Cambridge Sur-
prise Major.

Tea was followed by a short business meeting, at which Mr. R. L.
Patterson presided. He gave a welcome to Miss Sheila M. McKay, of
the Oxford University Society. It was decided to hold the next meet-
ing at St. Michael's, Bishopwearmouth, Sunderland, on July 22nd.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

PROPOSED DECENTRALISATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir.—No doubt many of your readers after your reference in your leader of a few weeks ago to the proposed decentralisation of the Midland Counties Association would like to know more about it. I am therefore enclosing a copy of the proposals so that you may be acquainted with the facts of the case. With a view to having the whole matter fully discussed before voting on it in September, I think a service would be rendered to all Midland Counties Association members and an opportunity given the 'opposition' for presenting the case 'against' if the matter were discussed in 'The Ringing World.'

You will notice in the proposals no specific advantages claimed for Diocesan Guilds over the M.C.A. or any reference that the M.C.A. has failed in its chief objects to promote ringing for divine service and to advance the art of scientific change ringing.

Members attending the Derby district meetings are decidedly in favour of continuing the M.C.A. and strongly opposed to Diocesan Guilds for the following reasons. In the event of a Derby Diocesan Guild being formed this would mean robbing Burton district of several towers, while Leicester would claim others, leaving Burton with very few towers.

Derby's territory would be increased enormously, making it very unwieldy and entailing on members at present catered for by the Burton district such places as Netherseale and Overseale, increased travelling to attend monthly meetings. In some instances three separate bus journeys would be entailed and I think you will agree this would deter most ringers. Reference has been made to the long distance travelling by officials to attend quarterly meetings, borne principally by the M.C.A., but if this is to be passed on to the ringing member to attend monthly meetings, then the meetings will undoubtedly suffer.

I think enough has been said to show that the proposed Diocesan Guilds have decided disadvantages, and until some outstanding claims are made in their favour, over and above which can be obtained within the framework of the M.C.A., then Derby ringers will continue to support the M.C.A.

WILLIAM LANCASTER, Hon. Sec., Derby District.

83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

THE DRAFT SCHEME.

Mr. Lancaster encloses a copy of a circular letter signed by Mr. Harold Poole. It is as follows:—

It has recently been mooted amongst the members of the Leicester District that a separate Guild should be formed for the Leicester Diocese. Many appear to be in favour and much thought has been given to it.

It can be done in one of two ways.

- (a) By forming a separate Guild in addition to and apart from the Midland Counties Association; or
- (b) By decentralising the Midland Counties Association into Diocesan Guilds.

There is little doubt that if (a) is adopted the Midland Counties Association will be weakened and it would lose what is at present one of the most enthusiastic divisions.

No one wishes to see the M.C.A. broken up or in any way abandoned and there are many reasons why it should be preserved for the future. The thought has, therefore, turned to the probability of decentralisation. This has been suggested before from other quarters and it is considered by many of the Leicester District members that the time has now arrived when the association would benefit by it.

In order to avoid any undue waste of time, the following proposals are submitted as a basis for discussion and consideration:—

1. That the four diocesan branches now existing be known as the Derby, Lichfield, Leicester and Southwell Diocesan Guilds, affiliated to the Midland Counties Association. If any difficulty occurs regarding the name of the Lichfield Branch that, it is suggested, might be termed the Burton-on-Trent and District Guild. Each to have separate authority for own government, including finance.
2. That the president, hon. treasurer and hon. secretary of each Guild, together with the president, hon. treasurer and hon. secretary of the association, form the General Committee. It is suggested that such a committee of 16 members would be better able to conduct the business than the present committee of 38 members.
3. That the annual meetings be continued as at present and held in the four main centres. Guild reports and balance sheets to be submitted by the respective officials of each Guild. No quarterly meetings of the M.C.A. to be held, these to be substituted by the Guild quarterly meetings. This would avoid a great deal of unnecessary long distance travelling by the officials.
4. That the annual official affiliation fee of 6d. per ringing member and 1s. per honorary member be paid by each Guild to the M.C.A.
5. That representation on the Central Council be on the Guild basis. This, if desired, would double the present representation.
6. That 2s. 6d. for each member, as recorded in the report for the year 1940, be paid from the M.C.A. funds to the respective Guilds.
7. That the remaining funds be kept by the M.C.A. to be used discretionally for the advancement of change ringing and the advertisement of the association activities. It is suggested that at the

annual meetings at least 12 persons of local repute be invited as guests of the meal and so spread the knowledge of campanology.

8. That the bell repair fund continue in the hands of the association for grants as heretofore.

9. That the annual report be printed by the M.C.A. on the pre-war basis and to include under separate parts the activities and balance sheet of each Guild, in addition to the report and balance sheet of the M.C.A.

10. That each Guild be governed by a president, hon. secretary, hon. treasurer and a committee consisting of the chairman and hon. secretary of each sub-district in the Guild. The formation of districts to be left to the Guild Committee.

11. That separate auditors be elected for each Guild in addition to the M.C.A. auditors.

12. That each sub-district be governed as at present by a chairman, hon. secretary and two committee members.

13. That new members be admitted to the Guilds and certificate of membership be issued as at present by the M.C.A. to include also the name of the Guild.

14. That a special general meeting of the M.C.A. be convened not earlier than three months and not later than six months after the annual meeting on April 15th, 1944, and that each district be asked to consider these proposals in the interval and be prepared at the special meeting to vote upon it.

15. That authority be sought at the forthcoming annual meeting to alter rules at that special meeting, should the decision be in favour of the decentralisation.

16. That if it is decided in favour of this suggested scheme the new arrangement to take effect on and from January 1st, 1945.

Branch.	Hon. Members.	Ringing Members.	Hon. Life.	At 2/6 per Member. £ s. d.
Lichfield	34	81	4	14 17 6
Paid to M.C.A. in 1940, £16 15s. 6d.				
Chesterfield	12	65	2	
Derby	40	69	5	
	52	134	7	24 2 6
Paid to M.C.A. in 1940, £13 17s.				
Hinckley	8	118	4	
Leicester	14	202	7	
Loughborough	16	99	3	
	38	419	14	58 17 6
Paid to M.C.A. in 1940, £30 15s.				
Southwell	10	159	6	21 17 6
Paid to M.C.A. in 1940, £9 18s.				

It will be seen from the foregoing that £119 15s. would be paid out of the M.C.A. funds into the several Guild accounts and would leave in the association account (working on the 1940 figures) the very substantial sum of £232 17s. 3d.

As previously stated, the above is submitted merely as a basis upon which discussion can commence, and the suggested amounts concerning the financial business can be varied at the wishes of the members.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

ANNUAL MEETING AT WALSALL.

At the annual meeting of the Stafford Archdeaconry Society, held at Walsall on June 24th, the affiliated towers were well represented, and visitors were present from Birmingham, Stourbridge and elsewhere.

Archdeacon Hodson gave an address during the service in church on ancient bells in the Archdeaconry and the pros. and cons. of wood and metal bell frames. Tea, provided by the local ringers in the Blue Coat Schoolroom, was followed by the general business meeting. The Archdeacon, who presided, expressed his pleasure in being back among the ringers again after several years' absence. He said he was glad to see so many young people present and hoped that they would do their share in maintaining ringing of the future. The committee's report and statement of accounts were accepted. Messrs. C. Wallater and H. Knight were elected as representatives on the Central Council and the other officers were re-elected en bloc.

The following places were chosen for future meetings: Tettenhall, September; Wood Green, April; and the annual meeting in June, the place being left open till the April meeting.

The Rev. C. H. Barker stated that he had been looking up the list of members of 50 years' standing, and congratulated the lay secretary on being entitled to have his name added to that list. A vote of thanks to the chairman and to the local ringers and ladies concluded the meeting.

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.

The 133rd ringing anniversary meeting was held at Lavenham on June 24th and was attended by ringers from Bury St. Edmunds, Horringer, Ingham, Long Melford, Little Walsingham, Newton, West Bergholt, Wendover and the local heltry. The methods rung were Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Double Norwich Court Bob and Cambridge Surprise Major.

ENGLISH CHURCH ARCHITECTURE.

By MAJOR J. HOWARD FREEBORN, M.A.

(Continued from page 266.)

THE DECORATED PERIOD (1272—1377), OTHERWISE KNOWN AS SECOND POINTED OR XIV. CENTURY.



Heckington.

While it may seem amazing that such wonderful architecture could flourish in spite of the internal disturbances of the reigns of John and Henry III., it is easier to understand how the Age of Chivalry, with all the glamour and extravagance fostered by the three Edwards, should be reflected in the exuberance of its buildings. The



FIG. 18.
Early English Capital.



FIG. 19.
Reticulated Tracery.

basic system of construction, so well founded in the earlier period, now took on a greater breadth and an elaboration of decoration. There were extensive remodellings and replacements of Norman work, and an increase in new buildings.



FIG. 20.

Windows became broader, and arches equilateral and less sharply pointed. The geometrical tracery of the later Early English merged into the freer and more exciting reticulated (Fig. 19) and curvilinear (Fig. 20) forms, the former having the diamond-mesh pattern of netting, and the latter a riot of flowing curves. Doorways are often of triple form under one profusely-decorated arch. Clerestory windows developed in sympathy with the greater height and, in the big churches, at the expense of the triforium. Everywhere there is a wealth of carving, in the

form of natural foliage (Fig. 21, Southwell Minster), wonderfully skilful if less virile than before. The ogee arch distinguishes the period, appearing in wall arcades, canopied niches, tabernacle work and doorways. Mouldings are heavily enriched with the ball-flower ornament (Fig. 22), columns are a cluster of attached shafts or



FIG. 21.
Decorated Capital.

are deeply moulded, with an octagonal abacus, and the diaper pattern, so popular in the succeeding period, is first introduced (Fig. 23).

Intermediate (tierceron) ribs are introduced into the vaulting, together with short bonding or lierne (French lier=to connect) ribs, forming intricate star-shaped patterns, with an attendant increase in carved bosses at the intersections (Fig. 24). Much of this splendid work was richly painted in reds and blues and greens and gold, and must have presented a magnificent spectacle. Swept away by the Reformers, only patches remain here and there to remind us of the splendour which met the gaze of mediæval man when he went, as he did more often than most of us do, to church.

The woodwork is still immature and fashioned by masons' methods, but there is none the less beautiful work, as at Winchester, where the Stalls and other woodwork are the earliest in England.

Externally, the exuberance of the age expressed itself in crocketed spires, parapeted towers, and buttresses ornamented with canopied niches filled with statuary and terminating above the roof or parapet in crocketed pinnacles. Flying buttresses are sometimes carried from spire to pinnacle, roofs are less-steeply pitched, and porches become a prominent and richly-treated feature. The Black Death of 1349 put a stop to building, which, when it began again, increasingly followed that new and sumptuous style which had been introduced at Gloucester — for the West suffered less from the plague than the rest of the country — about 1350.

(Continued on next page.)



FIG. 22.
Ball-flower Ornament.



FIG. 23.
Wall Diapers.



FIG. 24.
Lierne Vault.

ENGLISH CHURCH ARCHITECTURE.

(Continued from previous page.)

Typical of the Decorated Period are the churches of Ashbourne, Bristol (St. Mary Redcliffe), Heckington, Higham Ferrers, Leominster, Nantwich, Patrington, Ringstead, Tewkesbury (the Quire) and Tideswell. In any competition for the Best Village Church, Patrington would rank very high.

GLOSSARY.

CANOPY. An ornamental hood over a niche or stall.

CROCKETS. A series of carved decoration applied to the angles of pinnacles, canopies and spires.

FLYING BUTTRESS. An open arch directing the thrust of a high vault across the roof of an aisle to the main buttress.

OGE. The combination of a concave and convex curve, usually in an arch.

PINNACLE. A small decorative tapering termination.

PISCINA. A stone basin built into the wall on the south of the altar.

QUATREFOIL. An arch with four curves; an ornament of four leaves in a square setting.

SEDILIA. Recessed and canopied seats, one lower than the others, in the wall south of the altar.

SPANDRIL. A triangular space between two angular forms or two arches.

SQUINT (HAGIOSCOPE). A slanting opening in the wall for those outside to see the High Altar during Mass, sometimes used by lepers.

STALLS. Seats in the Quire, usually with elaborately-carved canopies, called Tabernacle Work.

STRING COURSE. A horizontal band or moulding on a wall, often continuous around the building.

(To be continued.)

HARROW-ON-THE-HILL.

In the reign of Edward the Sixth there were 'in the ancient tower of Harrowe Church v great bells and a saunce bell.' They were recast and added to at various times in the following centuries, and by 1780 they were a ring of eight.

Two old bells still remain in the steeple, the third cast by W. Whitmore, of Watford, in 1654, and the sixth cast by William Eldridge, of Chertsey, in 1683. The first peal on the bells was by the London Youths, 5,040 changes of Bob Major, rung on May 7th, 1780, and conducted by Robert Pye Donkin, who rang the treble. William Paris rang the tenor, and John Reeves, Richard Wilson, and Allen Grant were in the band.

This was the last performance by this company before they joined the ancient Society of College Youths to begin the last period of activity of that society and ultimately to cause its final extinction.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century there was a number of ringers living at Watford and Rickmansworth who were members of the Society of Cumberland Youths. On April 20th, 1810, they rang a peal of Grandsire Triples at Harrow, conducted by Daniel Pope. These seem to be the only peals known to have been rung in the tower in early times with the exception of 5,088 Oxford Treble Bob Major by the College Youths in 1806.

A LETTER FROM THE REV. R. D. ST. J. SMITH*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I have been out here since the beginning of December and should be very grateful if you could find a corner in 'The Ringing World' some time to let my many ringing friends know where I am.

Ringing is absolutely non-existent out here—indeed, I think I have almost forgotten how to handle a bell! I did not bring my handbells with me—I do not think that the Africans would prove very apt pupils for Bob Minor. With all good wishes.

R. D. St. J. SMITH.

H.Q. 4th (WA) Infantry Brigade, West African Forces.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 265.)

Fairford, St. Mary, Glos., is a large and handsome edifice of late Perpendicular style, with fine central tower containing eight bells, recast and rehung in 1927. It is one of the great 'wool churches'—so named from its erection by one of the wool staplers or merchants of the 15th century. It is remarkable for its most beautiful stained windows, 28 in all, the gift of John Tame, the wealthy wool stapler, who erected the church in 1497. They set forth the Apostles' Creed.

The tower has for its most prominent feature the giant parapet, which is futile for its purpose, as a man might fall through its openings. The structure of the corners of the tower is exceptional. The corner buttresses, octagonal below, divide into three portions at the top stage. One of these portions forms the corner of the tower, and ends in an engaged pinnacle below the top of the parapet. The two other portions are continued as pinnacles above the parapet, and the corner of the tower is chamfered off between them. Other peculiarities are—at each corner in the middle stage is a short pedestal supporting a giant statue—niches containing smaller pedestals (now without statues) occur on the corner buttresses in the top stage, and between the sound holes on the same level. On the west side of the middle stage is a handsome niche with statue. The sub-structures of the tower within the church are peculiar, and should be compared with those at Cricklade, Wilts.

The eight bells originally were dated—tenor, 1735, by Ab. Rudhall; 7th and two trebles by C. and G. Mears, 1851/2; 6th, 1760; 5th, undated, by John Lond; 4th, 1783; 3rd, 1678. As stated above, all were recast in 1927 by J. Taylor and Co. Tenor 14½ cwt. in E.

St. Giles', the parent church of Camberwell, mentioned in Domesday, with its old square tower and ring of eight bells, was destroyed by fire in 1841. The present magnificent building, with its massive central tower and one of the finest spires in South London, was immediately erected. The old bell metal was recast into a ring of 10 bells (tenor 24½ cwt.) and hung by Messrs. Mears and Co. in 1844. In 1927 these were entirely rehung with new fittings by J. Taylor and Co., on the old oak frame, which was strengthened by tie rods, angle brackets, etc. The site of the church was believed to have been on that of a church erected in A.D. 670. In 1152 extensive alterations were carried out, and again in Henry VIII.'s time. The present church was designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott and W. B. Moffatt, in a style transitional between Early English and Decorated. It is cruciform with central tower and spire about 210 feet high. Some of the curious features of the church are political gargoyes—sculptured heads of Gladstone, Lord Randolph Churchill, Sir William Harcourt and Lord Salisbury.

The ancient church of St. Nicholas, Oddington, Glos., near Stow-on-the-Wold, situated half a mile from the village in a vale surrounded by wooded scenery, is a fine building of stone chiefly in the Early English style with a Norman doorway. The tower has five bells, and the space beneath the tower was restored and is now used as a chapel. The church is only used for services dur-

(Continued on next page.)

CENTRAL TOWERS.

(Continued from previous page.)

ing June, July and August. Of the bells, the treble, third and fourth are by Abraham Rudhall and dated 1684, which is—I believe—the earliest by this founder. The third has this curious couplet:—

'As I am third bell in this ring

Pray God presarve ovr nobell king.'

The second is also by Rudhall, 1738, and tenor by William Bagley, undated. The ropes hang down to the ground floor of the tower chapel, and so ringing takes place just in front of the altar. The church of the Ascension, erected 1852, midway between the two villages of Upper and Lower Oddington, is chiefly used by the parishioners. It has a small turret over the chancel arch with two bells, and a bellcote over the north porch with clock and one bell.

Another Gloucestershire tower where ringers perform just before the altar, between choir stalls and altar rails, is at Leckhampton, near Cheltenham. When stationed at the latter place during the last war, a special quarter-peal was arranged for the writer at this tower. On arrival I thought I had come to the wrong church, the tower being so small, with its slender, tall spire. The eight bells, tenor 10 cwt., hang in three tiers—three, three and two (top). Two trebles are by J. Taylor and Co., 1904, who recast the old second at same time. The third is by A. Rudhall, 1746. The fifth and sixth by Abraham Rudhall, 1688; the seventh by John Rudhall, 1833; tenor by C. and G. Mears, 1844.

Rye Church, Sussex, built in the 12th century on the site of one in existence in the reign of Edward the Confessor, is the largest in the county, and dominates the whole town. Dedicated to St. Mary, it contains work of all periods from late Norman onwards—Norman central tower, 15th century oak screens, and 16th century clock. The latter, over the magnificent north window, is one of the oldest clocks in the country, and is said to have been given by Queen Elizabeth. It has a pendulum which swings in the church far below the belfry stage. Two little golden cherubs strike the hour.

There were originally six bells, cast about 1360. Old records show that the French invaded the town in 1377 and carried off the bells as part of their loot. The men of Rye determined to have revenge and, setting sail for France, defeated the enemy, recaptured the bells and brought them back again. Nothing further of note is known about them until 1774, when Thomas Lamb, Mayor of Rye, had the old six recast and two added, this being done by Pack and Chapman, the work being completed in 1775. In 1897, J. Taylor and Co. quarter-turned them and rehung them in a new frame. The tenor is 19 cwt. 27 lb. Like most central towers, the ascent is not direct, and one first climbs a stairway within the church, thence along a low, narrow passage at the base of the roof overlooking the church and congregation; then up a few more steps into the ringing chamber.

HARROW WEALD.—On June 26th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: Miss E. K. Fulton 1, J. W. Best, R.A.F. 2, H. D. Butler 3, F. A. Vincett 4, Flight-Sergt. Cadamy 5, W. Wenban (conductor) 6.

TOWCESTER.—On Sunday, June 18th, 720 Bob Minor: J. Wilson 1, — Rigby 2, B. Shrivess 3, J. Garlick 4, W. Stookfort 5, V. Burt (conductor) 6.

LITTLE GLEMHAM, SUFFOLK.—On Thursday, June 22nd, 1,200 Plain Bob Doubles: Louis Carter 1, George Berry 2, Arthur Smith 3, Henry J. Vince 4, George R. Finch (conductor) 5. Rung half-muffled for Lt.-Col. J. M. Cobbold, of Glemham Hall, killed by enemy action.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received **NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Rothwell, Leeds, on Saturday, July 8th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Business meeting after tea.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting, Whaplode, July 8th. Service 3.45. Light refreshment 4.30.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting at Fairwarp, Saturday, July 8th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea at Marigold Tea Room, Maresfield (catch 4.20 bus from church).—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Cranford, Saturday, July 8th, 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Cups of tea will be provided.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec. Per 5320.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Ringing at Kirkby Mallory on Saturday, July 8th, 3.30 to 5. Cups of tea in School at 5, followed by meeting. Peckleton bells during evening. Bring food.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Ratby and Groby, Saturday, July 8th, 3 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m., Ratby Schools.—R. Barrow, 10, East Road, Birstall.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Gaywood, Kings Lynn, Saturday, July 8th. Tea at 5 o'clock. Bring food.—W. J. Eldred, 4, Wellington Street, King's Lynn.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Meeting at Lydiard Millicent (not Brinkworth) on July 8th. Bells (6) 5.30 p.m.—W. B. Kynaston.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting at Ormskirk on Saturday, July 8th, 3 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bushey, July 15th, 3 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m., 1s. 3d. Names for tea to A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Swaffham on Saturday, July 15th, 2 p.m. Service 4.45. Tea and business meeting 5.15.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—Summer meeting, Wingham, Saturday, July 15th, 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea (1s. 6d.). Meeting. Names for tea to Mrs. Fleetwood, Bridge Stores, Bridge Street, Wingham, near Canterbury, by July 10th.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Quarterly meeting Stratford-on-Avon, Saturday, July 15th, 3 p.m. Tea 4.30, The Rosalind Chef, Church Street. Evensong 5.30. Business to follow in ringing chamber. Names for tea by July 12th.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Bath Branch.—Meeting at Twerton on July 15th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Names for tea by July 11th.—S. Woodburn, Hon. Sec., The Manor Lodge, Upper Weston, Bath.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Meeting at Hessele, Saturday, July 15th. Bells (6) 2 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 o'clock in British Restaurant, Notify Mr. J. Pool, 6, Oaklands Drive, Hessele, by July 12th. Business meeting after tea.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Dis. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

BATH AND WELL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Glaston Deanery.—Meet at Baltonsborough, Saturday, July 15th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Meeting to follow. Own tea arrangements.—W. H. Marsh, 4, Dovecotes, Street, Somerset.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—Meeting at Ravensthorpe on Saturday, July 15th. Bells (5) 3 p.m. Tea provided.—C. Green, Sec., Murcott, Long Buckby, Rugby.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Practice meeting at St. Giles', Reading, Saturday, July 15th. Bells (8) 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Andover District.—Meeting at Whitechurch, Saturday, July 15th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names by July 12th to Rev. F. S. H. Marle, Deane Rectory, Basingstoke.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—Meeting at Yatton, Saturday, July 15th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m.—Percy G. Yeo, Long Ashton.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Business meeting at Kimpton, July 15th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. It is hoped to arrange tea. Names by July 12th to R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

NORTH COLLINGHAM, NOTTS.—Practice meeting, Saturday, July 15th. Tea 1s. Names to Mrs. L. East, Low Street, North Collingham, Newark. Bells (6) afternoon and evening.—G. Burchnell.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—Annual meeting at St. John's, Blackpool, Saturday, July 15th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food.—J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting Kingswinford, 3 p.m., Saturday, July 15th. Tea 5 p.m.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Cary Deanery.—Meeting at Charlton-Mackrell, Saturday, July 22nd. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Number for tea by July 19th.—H. C. Lintern, Hon. Sec., Alhampton, Ditchat, near Bath.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—Meeting at Boxley, Saturday, July 22nd. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting. Names to Mr. W. Gosling, Boxley, Maidstone.—C. H. Sone, Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual festival at Oxford, Saturday, July 22nd. Service in Cathedral at 11.30 a.m. Business meeting in Chapter House after service. Lunch in St. Aldate's Rectory Room at 1.30 p.m., tickets 2s. 6d. each. Application for tickets, with remittance, should reach secretary by Saturday, July 15th. Ringing will be announced at meeting.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

BIRTH.

WAYMAN.—On June 26th, in the Myntling Home, Spalding, to Enid (nee Richardson), wife of the late Flight Sergt. A. J. B. Wayman, R.A.F., the gift of a daughter, Patricia Mary.

TO LET.

TO LET, in pleasant country village, 2-berth CARAVAN, 35s. weekly; also large tent if required (10s.). Ringers especially welcomed.—Powell, Staverton Vicarage, Daventry.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES

OHILDE OKEFORD, DORSET.—On June 22nd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: W. Young 1, A. Houghton 2, A. Hart (conductor) 3, R. Harris 4, F. Winter 5, A. Dunn 6. First quarter-peal by the local band.

HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX.—On Sunday, June 25th, at St. John's, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters: G. H. Gutteridge 1, R. W. Darvill 2, J. J. Pratt 3, W. N. Genna 4, P. Jones 5, F. Blondell 6, W. H. Coles 7, W. Honor 8, T. G. Bannister (conductor) 9, C. Over 10.

BURFORD, OXON.—On Sunday, June 25th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: B. Phillips 1, L. C. Sly 2, A. Miles 3, B. S. Nichols 4, W. A. Godwin 5, W. J. Dixon 6, F. Soden (conductor) 7, G. Holton 8.

ISLEWORTH.—On Sunday, June 25th, 720 Bob Minor: D. Chamberlain 7, Mrs. O. L. Rogers 2, Miss K. Brooks 3, A. Thirst 4, F. D. Bishop (conductor) 5, H. Rogers 6.

WICKEN, NORTHANTS.—On Sunday, June 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: T. E. Roberts (conductor) 1, T. E. Read 2, W. A. Yates (first quarter-peal) 3, F. Walton 4, H. G. Keeley 5, G. M. Cooper 6, J. A. Green 7, G. Foddy 8.

OVERSEAL, DERBYSHIRE.—On Sunday, June 25th, 504 Grandsire Triples: H. Southerd 1, W. H. Curson 2, G. Hair 3, H. Carter 4, Rev. M. C. C. Melville 5, J. W. Cotton (conductor) 6, P. W. Grice 7, F. Sharpe 8. Also 448 Grandsire Triples: F. Sharpe 1, G. Hair 2, L. Freeman 3, H. Carter 4, J. W. Cotton 5, W. Brooker 6, P. W. Grice (conductor) 7, A. Parker 8.

CHORLEY, LANCs.—On Sunday, June 25th, 720 Bob Minor: Arthur Rigby (first 720) 1, F. Rigby (conductor) 2, T. Lucas 3, J. H. Gartside 4, H. Fisher 5, T. Lofthouse 6.

BELGRAVE, LEICESTER.—On St. Peter's Day, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major. Redvers F. Elkington 1, Dennis Dodson 2, John R. Smith 3, Josiah Morris 4, Ernest Morris (conductor) 5, Edwin Cattell 6, Arthur Skinner 7, Arthur Debenham 8.

BROWNEDGE.—At St. Mary's R.C. Church, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: C. Hardacre 1, J. H. Hardacre 2, F. McCarthy (conductor) 3, B. A. Knights 4, W. Sharples 5, J. Gartside 6.

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No. 1,738. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, JULY 14th, 1944.

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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The circulation of 'The Ringing World' has now reached the point where it becomes very difficult to meet the demand, and since there is sure to be a certain amount of disappointment to would-be purchasers, it is well that subscribers and readers and the Exercise generally should know how matters stand.

As everybody knows, soon after the war started there was a great shortage of paper due to increased demand and failing supplies. -It affected all newspapers and periodicals alike, but the matter was taken in hand, a paper control was set up, and a system of rationing was adopted which has operated quite fairly and given the same facilities to small and humble journals as to the great and wealthy newspapers. All alike had to be content with a definite percentage of their pre-war supplies and could please themselves whether they reduced the number of their pages or restricted their circulation.

So far as paper supplies are concerned, 'The Ringing World' has had nothing to complain of. It has been treated, not merely justly, but generously, for it has been allowed as high a percentage as any periodical. Its difficulties have been caused by other things. The outbreak of war, which put a sudden stop to the largest part of ringers' activities and turned men's minds to other things, had a twofold effect. The circulation of the paper dropped seriously and rapidly, and at the same time the supply of news copy almost entirely ceased. It looked for a time as if it would not be possible to carry on, not merely on account of financial reasons, but because there was nothing to fill the paper. A leading newspaper proprietor of a bygone generation used to say that a paper is like a baby; it is always crying for food. He might have added that you can just as easily kill it by cramming it with the wrong sort of food as starve it by giving it no food at all.

'The Ringing World' was faced with starvation. The trouble was not shortage of paper, but how to make use of the paper available. Something had to be done, and something was done. The fall in the circulation was checked after some months, and then gradually it began to improve. Slowly at first, for the ban on ringing made matters still more difficult; but when the ban was lifted, when the committee of the Central Council took over the responsibility for the journal, and when the general revival of interest in ringing began to take effect, the demand increased so much that, despite an extra allow-

(Continued on page 290.)

ance last autumn, the paper supply is not now large enough for all requirements.

What steps can be taken to meet the situation will be taken by the Managing Committee, 'who alone can decide what shall be done, and who may be trusted to act in the best interests of ringers generally. One point, however, must be made clear. Since a certain number of would-be subscribers must be left unsatisfied, it would seem only right and proper that the older subscribers should have the first chance and newcomers wait their turn. Unfortunately it is not possible to ensure this. After the paper leaves the hands of the printers it passes through the ordinary trade channels of distribution, and we have no control whatever. We have no means of ensuring that a man who has been having his copy for years past through a particular newsagent will continue to do so. Generally speaking, he will be able, but there are certain to be cases of disappointment.

What we can do is to give a reasonable guarantee that those subscribers who have their copies by post will continue to receive them regularly, but we are unable to add to the number indefinitely. New orders for delivery by post are placed on a waiting list, and will be executed as quickly as possible.

Meanwhile readers can help one another by passing on their copies. We have now reached the climax of the war, and some time must elapse before any improvement in the paper supplies may be expected. It will come, and there is at least the satisfaction of knowing that our present difficulties are due mainly to the success of the journal and its increased circulation.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

PIDDINGTON, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., July 1, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents (three callings).

Tenor 9 cwt.

*GEOFFREY GAYTON ... Treble	†JOSEPH LINNITT ... 4
†GEORGE ALLARD ... 2	†RONALD NOON ... 5
*JOHN FITZHUGH ... 3	†GEORGE CARE ... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE CARE.

* First peal. † First peal of Minor. First peal as conductor. A 21st birthday compliment to J. Linnitt.

CLIFFORD, HEREFORDSHIRE

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., July 2, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

WILLIAM BEAVER ... Treble	ALBERT E. JONES ... 3
G. JAMES R. PRICE ... 2	LESLIE EVANS ... 4

DAVID H. BENNETT ... Tenor

Conducted by D. H. BENNETT.

Rung half-muffled for Mr. J. P. Hyett, late captain of the Clifford band.

LITTLE HOUGHTON, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Mon., July 3, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of 720 each of Canterbury Pleasure, Antelope, April Day, London Plain Bob, New Grandsire and 360 each of Old Doubles and Grandsire.

Tenor 12 cwt.

*ARTHUR FITZHUGH ... Treble	GEORGE CARE ... 3
*EDDIE ROBINSON ... 2	RONALD NOON ... 4

PHILIP JONES ... Tenor

Conducted by PHILIP JONES.

* First peal. Rung for the induction of the Rev. N. H. Phillips as Vicar.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WIRKSWORTH, DERBYSHIRE.

On Sat., July 1, 1944, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT & OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

*WILLIAM LANCASTER ... Treble	ALFRED MOULD ... 5
*GEORGE H. PAULSON ... 2	*TPR. V. BOTTOMLEY ... 6
*BENJAMIN GREATORREX ... 3	ALEX. HUTCHINSON ... 7
*HERBERT TAYLOR ... 4	EDWARD E. GOBEY ... Tenor

Composed by E. C. GOBEY.

Conducted by E. F. GOBEY.

* First peal in the method.

SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., July 1, 1944, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND NICOLAS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

STANLEY E. BENNETT ... Treble	*PTE. ERNEST THORLEY ... 5
JOHN CURRY ... 2	WILLIAM E. CLARKE ... 6
JOHN W. CARTER ... 3	ARTHUR J. FARR ... 7
W. ALLAN RICHARDSON ... 4	JOHN G. AMES ... Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

Conducted by JOHN G. AMES.

* First peal.

HANDSWORTH, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(Sheffield and District Society.)

On Sat., July 1, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5168 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

*ROY GARTH ... Treble	JACK G. BROTHWELL ... 5
FREDERICK CARDWELL ... 2	HAROLD TAYLOR ... 6
HARRY WILSON ... 3	JAMES E. BAILEY ... 7
MRS. E. DORICE KELLY ... 4	JOHN E. TURLEY ... Tenor

Composed by NORMAN CHADDOCK.

Conducted by JOHN E. TURLEY.

* First peal.

NORWICH.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., July 1, 1944, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-DE-SEPULCHRE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt. in G.

ROBERT W. BARBER ... Treble	GEORGE MAYERS ... 5
*MRS. W. T. MOORE ... 2	REV. A. G. G. THURLOW ... 6
*MISS PEARL GRAPES ... 3	ARTHUR G. BASON ... 7
*GEORGE ALLEN ... 4	HENRY TOOKE ... Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS.

Conducted by HENRY TOOKE.

* First peal of Major.

HANDBELL PEALS.

HAWKHURST, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., July 8, 1944, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT 3, SANDROCK VILLAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Five callings.

DOUGLAS M. BELLAMY ... 1-2	WILLIAM GORRINGE ... 3-4
CPL. WILLIAM FAMIMOND ... 5-6	

Conducted by WILLIAM GORRINGE.

Witness: Mrs. W. Gorringer.

First handbell peal by all.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Sun., July 9, 1944, in Two Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

JEAN A. SOUTHERST ... 1-2	*ALAN WHITE ... 5-6
JOHN E. SPICE ... 3-4	BETTY SPICE ... 7-8

Composed by C. CHARGE.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal on an inside pair.

SEVEN BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 279.)

II. COURT BOB TRIPLES.

1234567	Continued.
2143657	4352617
2416375	4536271
4261357	5463721
4623175	5647312
6432715	6574132
6347251	6751423
3674521	7615243
3765412	7162534
7356142	1726543
7531624	1275634
5713264	2157364
5172346	2513746
1527364	5231764
1253746	5327146
	3572416
2135476	3754261
2314567	7345621
3241576	7437512
3425167	etc.

There is one other seven-bell methods as easy to ring as Oxford Bob, and, though not so good as the latter, fully worth occasional practice. This is Court Bob. At one time it had a certain amount of popularity, and a peal of it was rung as far back as 1886.

The method is simple in construction and really consists of the work which is added to Grandsire to make Oxford Bob. It has a bell-in-the-hunt, but does not contain the Third's place of Grandsire with its accompanying dodging.

The rules for ringing the method are few and easy. The bell which the treble turns from the lead, hunts up, makes Fifth's place over the treble, leads, makes a second Fifth's place, and leads again.

It then dodges in 6-7 down after passing the treble in 5-6 up; leads, and dodges in 6-7 up after passing the treble in 4-5.

A whole pull behind is followed by a dodge in 6-7 down; and after leading the bell dodges in 6-7 up.

The treble turns it from behind, and it hunts down to lead. The treble follows it and turns it from the lead, and the bell is ready to begin the work of the plain course over again.

All the place making and dodging are at handstroke. When the bell is below the treble it does nothing but plain hunt.

The bob is made as in Grandsire.

5713264
5172346
1573264
1752346
7125436

The bell which passes the treble in 2-3 up makes Third's place and goes into the hunt. The bells in 4-5 and 6-7 dodge. It must be remembered that the bell. Before in Court Bob does not make Third's place, and so at the bob there is only a single dodge, not a double dodge as in Grandsire. Only three bells are really affected; the bell which goes into the hunt, the bell which was in the hunt and now dodges in 4-5 down and takes the place of the bell which would have made

Fifth's had no bob been called; and the bell which was about to make Fifth's for the second time. This dodges in 4-5 up, then in 6-7 up and starts the place-making over again.

As in Oxford Bob, singles are not used in Court Bob except for the two necessary 'Holts' in a peal.

In Court Bob there are three calling positions where the bob does not affect the observation bell. They are: Before, when the observation is turned from the lead by the treble; Wrong; when the observation dodges in 6-7 down after passing the treble in 5-6 up; and Right or Home when the observation dodges in 6-7 up after passing the treble in 4-5 up. When the seventh is the observation, these are at the second, fourth and fifth lead-ends of the course.

A bob Before gives the course-end 634257. A bob Wrong gives the course-end 364527. A bob Right gives the course-end 532467. These are the same course-ends as are produced by the calls in Oxford Bob, and the touches we gave last week for that method are suitable for Court Bob if bobs at B., W. and R. only are used.

A bob at the first lead-end in the course will put the seventh into the hunt, and if it is called out again at the next lead-end a four-lead course will be produced. The course-end is 64523, and the calling will go five times, giving a touch of 280 changes.

If the seventh is called In and Out at 2 a five-lead course will be produced. The course-end is 42356, and the calling will go three times, giving a touch of 210 changes.

Here are two other useful touches:—

23456	420.	23456	840.
42356	In and out at 2.	35426	B.W.
25346	B.W.	43526	In and out at 2.
		54326	In and out at 2.
		42356	B.W.

Each twice repeated.

1260.
23456 B. W. R.

23645 — —
23564 — —
63254 — —
54326 — —
24536 — —
34256 — —

Twice repeated.

(To be continued.)

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE, LANCs.—At the Church of St. Peter for the patronal festival, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Merritt 1, W. W. Wolstencroft 2, S. Thompson 3, R. Wimpenny 4, W. Hawke 5, A. Roberts 6, Rev. F. F. Rigby (conductor) 7, V. Turner 8.

PIDDINGTON, NORTHANTS.—On Thursday, June 29th, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: Geoffrey Gayton (age 11 years) 1, John Fitzhugh 2, Phillip Jones 3, Joseph Linnitt 4, Ronald Noon 5, George Care (conductor) 6. First 720 in the method by all.

BEACONSFIELD, BUCKS.—On Sunday, May 7th, 1,260 Cambridge Surprise Major: F. Buckland 1, F. Hicks 2, R. Buckland 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, J. Harrison 5, C. A. Levett 6, W. Lee 7, H. Wingrove (conductor) 8.—On Sunday, June 4th, 1,260 Bob Minor: Miss M. Wingrove 1, Miss K. Fletcher 2, Rev. R. Routh 3, H. Wingrove 4, W. Lee 5, J. Harrison (conductor) 6, R. Buckland tenor.—On Sunday, June 18th, 1,260 Yorkshire Surprise Major: R. Buckland 1, Miss D. Fletcher 2, G. Gutteridge 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, F. G. Baldwin 5, J. Harrison 6, W. Lee 7, H. Wingrove (conductor) 8.

COOKHAM.—On Saturday, June 17th, on handbells, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Wingrove 1-2, Miss D. Fletcher 3-4, G. Martin (conductor) 5-6, W. Lee 7-8.

THE J. D. & C. M. 'CAMPANALOGIA.'

(Continued from page 281.)

The following is part of the epistle dedicatory to 'our honour'd and much esteem'd friends, the Society of London Scholars': 'Gentlemen, It being a thing much observ'd, and (as it were) made a general Rule by writers, to shelter their works under the wings of Protection of some ingenious Person whose knowledge is not only commonly esteem'd but likewise experimentally known to be universal in the matter they treat of, we cannot but think ourselves absolutely obliged to have you in the front of this small Treatise, not only because your knowledge in this art (from whence we have gain'd what our mean Capacities wou'd receive in the Knowledge and Experience of the same), together with your natural Reasons, is a sufficient Guard to defend it from the Assaults of ignorant and partial Persons, and may prove a Means to disprove or confute the malicious Sentiments of extrajudicious and illiterate Readers; but also in Regard it is the only Way we can produce, to let the World know the Happiness and Pleasure we enjoy in the Fraternity of such ingenious Persons, we mean yourselves.

'And now it wou'd be proper to particularize to the World wherein the said Happiness and Pleasure consist; but we are afraid we shall be censur'd and thought (though without a cause) guilty of Flattery and Self-Praise; nevertheless, to speak in general Terms, 'tis your Unanimity, Sobriety and Ingenuity (together with a strict observance and performance of the civil Orders and Constitutions whereby our Society is incorporated) which has been the cause of its being rendered meritorious and deserving of Fame.'

The first sentence contains no fewer than one hundred and sixty words, and the whole seems very ponderous and stilted, but such was the fashion of the times in penning epistles dedicatory, and considerable literary skill was needed to write like this. Long sentences are characteristic of the the authors' style. One describing muffled ringing has two hundred and twenty words, and that does mean rather heavy going for a modern reader. In style, the book falls a long way below the level reached by Duckworth and Stedman.

The book is modelled on Stedman's 'Campanalogia,' and in many ways the influence of the older work can be seen, but the authors are careful to point out that they are not merely copying Stedman, and, indeed, they make no more use of him than was perfectly legitimate and advisable. They are, however, not very generous in acknowledging the debt they did owe. 'Toward the latter end of the Reign of his late Majesty King Charles the Second was published a book intituled Campanalogia or the Art of Ringing, which name at the request and desire of the Bookseller we have given to this Treatise with such other Additions in the Title Page hereof as was Necessary for the same, but we hope and are assur'd that the Courteous Reader will not think that we have borrow'd any other thing but the name from so Unnecessary a Book as the same now is; tho' to speak with respect to all Ingenious Persons' works, the same might when writ be of use and necessary for all Ringers, though it does chiefly consist of plain or Single changes.'

That is hardly fair comment, for there are many things in the later book which came directly from the earlier, and without the one the other could hardly have existed, at least in its present form.

It is a remarkable tribute to the influence Stedman's book has had on the Exercise, that not only the J. D. and C. M. work and its reprints, but every text book on change ringing published down to the latter part of the nineteenth century was called by the same name.

'Multum in Parvo,' say J. D. and C. M., 'is a saying that may properly be applied in the case of this book, which, though short, contains full and methodical rules and instructions for a true perfection and knowledge in this Art of Ringing, the excellency whereof has but lately been found out by the laborious study of several ingenious persons who have had a particular respect or regard for the same.' The claim is a fair one, for the selection and arrangement of the methods are excellent; and as soon as the reader gets used to the somewhat ponderous style the directions are clear and accurate.

But before they tackle what is their real task, our authors feel themselves bound to defend ringers and ringing from their detractors, for, as they say, 'we are very well satisfied and assured that none are ignorant of the many scandalous and malicious Aspersions that have been cast upon this Art; more than a man without a great deal of deliberation is apprehensive of; and more than it has in Reason deserved.' The main charges brought against ringing were three. First 'it is objected against as mean and mechanical, because followed and practised by persons whose Course of Life as reported has been infamous; and also by persons whose subsistence for themselves and families is gained by painful and hard labour, and therefore not a fit and commendable Exercise and Recreation for one who has been genteely and handsomely brought up and educated.'

The second objection was, 'That it withdraws and alienates men's minds from the business by which they obtain and procure subsistence for themselves and families, making them Drunkards, neglective of their occupation and trades, and consequently the utter Ruin and Impoverishment of themselves and all who depend and receive a livelihood and maintenance from them.'

'The third objection made against Ringing is, That it is too laborious and painful to yield or afford any Pleasure or Diversion, and occasions so great Heats and Sweatings that a man subjects himself to catch great Colds whereby he endangers his Life.'

These objections the authors answer one by one at length, and then 'venture to say something in praise and commendation of this art, whereby it will further appear that the aspersions cast upon it are altogether malicious and uttered without the least consideration imaginable . . . because (as we have said, and hope made appear before) it is a very wholesome and healthful exercise; and though there are several other exercises and recreations, as bowling, tennis-ball, nine-pins, and such like (too tedious and long to be here inserted) that may work and stir the body and every one of its parts as much as this exercise does, yet they are not in the least to be compared to this, because not so artful, or requiring so thoughtful and ingenious a head piece to attain to the universal knowledge of them as this art does.'

It is thoroughly characteristic of the times that it never occurred to the authors to point out that bells were part of the church fittings and that ringing was work done in the service of the Church. The art had been far too completely secularised for that.

(To be continued.)

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.**MEETING AT ROWLEY REGIS.**

A quarterly meeting of the Dudley and District Guild was held at Rowley Regis on July 8th and was attended by 50 members. The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Herbert Card, who gave an address. The members were the guests of the Rowley ringers, who provided a substantial tea.

A collection, which realised the sum of £1 7s. 6d., was given towards the Sunday School Festival to be held on the following day. Five new members were elected. Thanks were extended to the Vicar, organist, ladies and Rowley Regis ringers for their hospitality and kindly welcome.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.**ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual meeting of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild was held at Basingstoke on July 1st and was attended by members from the districts of Alton and Petersfield, Basingstoke, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, Southampton and Winchester. Among the visitors were Mr. R. T. Hibbert and his son.

The service in St. Michael's Church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. A. W. Chute, who gave an address.

Mr. George Williams, the Master, presided at the business meeting, held in the Church Cottage, and was supported by Mr. W. Linter, the hon. treasurer, and Mr. G. Pullinger, who acted as secretary in the absence of Mr. F. W. Rogers.

Owing to paper shortage the annual report was reduced to the smallest limit. It stated that a good number of meetings had been held in two or three districts, although in others there appeared to have been difficulties. Thanks were expressed to the officials of the Central Council for their action taken in connection with 'The Ringing World.'

The financial statement showed a balance of £271 18s. 10d. The report and balance sheet were adopted.

A recommendation of the Executive Committee dealing with the revival of interest in ringing was accepted, and it was decided to circulate it to all towers in the dioceses.

Mr. George Williams was re-elected Master, Mr. Fred W. Rogers general hon. secretary, Mr. W. Linter hon. treasurer, Mr. A. V. Davis peal recorder, and Mr. G. Smith hon. auditor.

Portsmouth was selected for the annual meeting of 1945.

A vote of thanks was given to the Vicar and the ladies who provided the tea. The ringing during afternoon and evening ranged from rounds to Surprise Major.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT CRANFORD.**

A meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association, held at Cranford on July 8th, was attended by about 35 members and friends from Brentford, Cranford, Ealing (Christ Church, St. Mary's and St. Stephen's), Feltham, Harmondsworth, Hillingdon (St. John's), Isleworth, Kensington (St. Mary Abbot's), Madeley (Staffs), Pinner, Uxbridge, Wembley and Westminster (St. Margaret's). The pretty little peal of six were kept going at intervals from 3 o'clock till about half-past eight. The methods rung, under the supervision of Mr. E. C. S. Turner, Ringing Master, and Mr. T. G. Bannister, Deputy Ringing Master, included Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Cambridge, London and Spliced Surprise Minor, and rounds. The visitors were welcomed by the Rector, the Rev. Maurice Child. Choral evensong was conducted by the curate, the Rev. A. A. M. Sandeman, who was supported by the Liverymen, the lesson being read by the secretary (Mr. J. E. Lewis Cockey).

A business meeting was held in the ringing chamber following the service, at which the vice-president (Mr. J. A. Trollope) expressed the thanks of those present to the Rector and curate. The following new members were elected: Mrs. W. Paton, on the proposition of Mr. J. E. Lewis Cockey, seconded by Mr. W. H. Coles; Messrs. M. E. Clibben and M. H. Dick, both of Harmondsworth, proposed by Miss E. Bedford, seconded by Mr. J. E. Churchill. On the proposition of the secretary, seconded by Mr. E. C. S. Turner, it was decided to hold the next meeting at Harmondsworth on August 12th. On the proposition of the vice-president, the secretary was requested to write to the Vicar of Christ Church, Ealing, expressing the deep sympathy of the association in the disaster which has befallen his beautiful church. On the proposition of the secretary, seconded by Mr. E. C. S. Turner, the best thanks of the association were accorded to the clergy and organist, to the Liverymen (Mr. Woodger and his colleague), and to Mrs. Woodger and her ladies, who generously provided tea.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT ECCLESFIELD.**

A quarterly meeting of the Southern District of the Yorkshire Association, held at Ecclesfield on June 17th, was attended by about thirty members.

Tea was at the Bull's Head Hotel and the business meeting was presided over by the Vicar, the Rev. J. H. Pyke, who welcomed the association. Two new members were elected—R. Soresby, of Conisborough, and J. H. Myers, of Ecclesfield. It was decided to hold the next meeting in September at Handsworth.

A collection in aid of the Bell Repair Fund realised 16s. 6d.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official Journal of the Central Council of
Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.
Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.
Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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TO POSTAL SUBSCRIBERS.

We shall be glad if in future all cheques and re-
mittances are sent to Mr. G. W. Fletcher, 45, Walsing-
ham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Geoffrey Gayton, who rang the treble to the peal of Minor at
Piddington on July 1st, is eleven years old.

THE MONTH'S PEALS.

During the month of June 34 peals were rung, 28 of them on tower
bells and six on handbells.

The tower bell peals consisted of Grandsire Doubles 2, Triples 3,
Caters 1; Bob Minor 2, Major 3; Stedman Doubles 1, Triples 3, Caters
2; Kent Treble Bob Major 4; Little Bob Major 1; Double Norwich
Court Bob Major 2; Cambridge Surprise Royal 1; Bristol Surprise
Major 1; two methods of Doubles 1; three methods of Doubles 1.

The handbell peals consisted of Bob Major 1, Maximus 1; Grandsire
Cinquies 1; Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1; Kidlington College
Major 1; Maidstone Bob Major 1.

The number of peals in January was 50, in February 34, in March
37, in April 48, and in May 41; making a total for the first half of
the year of 244.

The list of handbell peals for June, though small, is a notable one.
It includes Cinques and Maximus, Double Norwich Major, and two
Major methods which were rung to peals for the first time.

OXFORD BOB TRIPLES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your article regarding Oxford Bob is good, and any
band of ringers that try it will find the method well worth ringing.
And this three pull dodge and 5th's makes good music not inferior to
Stedman Triples. J. W. WILKINS.

80, Whitelands Road, High Wycombe.

Dear Sir,—May I (like my brother of Weston Vicarage) ask a few
questions?

(a) Will not every method which has a plain hunt for the treble in
Minor be the same method in Triples, but in that case with a bell
in the hunt?

(b) If the method is true in the one case, and will produce the
extent, will it necessarily have the same qualities in the other?

(c) Is there a method which is like Oxford Bob Triples in Minor:
and if so, what is its name? It would have at each lead end (a)
make seconds, (b) dodge in three-four down, and return to lead. (c)
ditto up, (d) triple-dodge in five-six down, (e) ditto up.

(d) Should not 'fifths', on page 273, first column, last line but one
of the letterpress, be 'fourths'?

Ufford Rectory.

HERBERT DRAKE.

[The answers are: (a) Yes. (b) No. (c) Yes, Oxford Bob Minor.
The work is not correctly stated. (d) Yes.—The Editor.]

HUDDERSFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

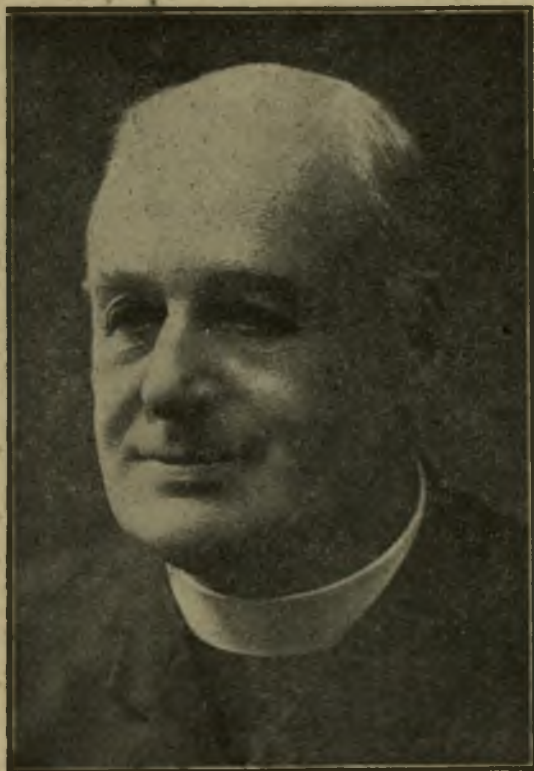
MEETING AT HEPTONSTALL.

A monthly meeting of the Huddersfield and District Society, held
at Heptonstall on June 24th, was well attended and several methods
were rung. The next meeting will be at Mirfield on Saturday, July
29th.

CANON G. F. COLERIDGE.**FIFTY YEARS VICAR OF CROWTHORNE.**

To mark the services rendered by Canon G. F. Coleridge during fifty years as Vicar of Crowthorne, a presentation has been made to him, which took the form of a cheque for £300 subscribed for by parishioners and friends outside the parish.

At a meeting held at the British Legion Hall, Crowthorne, on July 3rd, Miss F. M. Hunt, people's warden, presided, and was supported by the Bishop of Reading, Canon Winter, Vicar of Wargrave (Rural Dean), and several other clergymen.

**CANON G. F. COLERIDGE.**

Miss Hunt said that they were met to honour one who had served them faithfully for the past fifty years. They were pleased to have with them representatives of the Free Churches. Canon Coleridge had given them a splendid lead in their church life, and set them the highest example; no parish could be served by a more conscientious priest. He was not a parochial vicar, but had taught them to take their share in the work of the deanery and the diocese, and as a member of the standing committee of the S.P.G. had taken part in the selection of candidates for training for overseas work. He had other interests, such as bellringing, which he started when 10 years old. They offered their most sincere thanks to him for all he had done for them.

Canon Winter congratulated Crowthorne upon its possession of Canon Coleridge for so many years, and said he had set a high standard.

In making the presentation, the Bishop of Reading, who was present as Archdeacon of Berkshire, and was also representing the Bishop of the diocese, said he had happy memories of the Canon's work as Rural Dean of Sonning. He was a Freemason of the highest distinction and a fly-fisherman of extraordinary skill. In many ways he had won name and fame for himself, and above all by his geniality and kindness, to which was due in large measure his attractiveness as leader of a country parish with a public-spirited outlook. The Canon had shown himself a model of what a parish priest should be. It was with the greatest pleasure that he asked Canon Coleridge to accept the presentation, and with it the love of which he hoped he was in his heart aware.

Canon Coleridge, expressing his thanks, said that on the 25th anniversary of his advent to Crowthorne he was presented with an address and a cheque for £150, and now, 25 years later, they must needs repeat that kindness and double that cheque. He thanked them very much, and valued what lay behind it more than he could say. He had felt all through that they did not wish him to go, and had refused many opportunities to work elsewhere: offers of livings had come from the West of England, Cornwall, several from Devon, three

or four from Gloucestershire, Croydon and Lincoln. He mentioned that the living of Crowthorne was offered him by Bishop Stubbs, and that Bishop Gore appointed him Rural Dean, a position he held for 17 years, and in that time made him an Honorary Canon of Christ Church 'in recognition of all you have done for the diocese.' Later Bishop Gore asked him to accept the living of a town parish in Oxfordshire, which he refused. That the Bishop was not offended was shown when he inquired 'if it was any good asking him to leave Crowthorne and undertake the archdeaconry.'

The Canon said he had stayed because he felt it was not the will of God that he should leave Crowthorne, and, secondly, because Crowthorne had endeared itself to him, and few knew how much he loved it and its people. He would like to quote for himself the words of Queen Victoria on her jubilee: 'I thank you, my beloved people, from the bottom of my heart.'

No fewer than 621 names—husband and wife being counted as one—appeared in a booklet giving the list of the subscribers, and there is not a member of the ringing Exercise who will not join in congratulating one who is as widely known and as greatly beloved as any man in the long story of the art of change ringing.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.**MEETING AT KING'S NORTON.**

A quarterly meeting of the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham was held at King's Norton on July 1st. It was not possible to hold the usual service, and as the bells were not available until 5 o'clock, the business meeting was at half-past three, at which the Master, Mr. Albert Walker, presided.

Mr. Walker made sympathetic reference to the death of Bryan Wayman, son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson, of Surfleet. A letter of condolence had already been sent by the secretary and a half-muffled quarter-peal of Stedman Cinques had been rung at St. Martin's. Mr. Walker mentioned the serious illness of Mr. F. B. Yates, of Burnt Green, a highly respected member, and it was decided to send a letter to Mrs. Yates expressing sympathy and best wishes.

Mr. Leonard C. Trevor, of Nuneaton, was elected a life member and the following tower elections were ratified: Mr. Edward Holt, of Northfield, as an ordinary member, and Messrs. Arthur Pritchard, of Hadley, Wellington, and James G. Prior, of Balham, as life members.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Sutton Coldfield on August 19th and the next quarterly meeting at Great Barr on Oct. 7th.

Reference was made to the removal of the bells from St. John's, Deritend, and the secretary was requested to communicate with the Bishop regarding a stone peal tablet erected in the belfry recording two peals, one the first on the bells, rung over 100 years ago. It was suggested that possibly the tablet might be erected in the tower where the bells are installed. St. John's Church was seriously damaged by enemy action and is scheduled for demolition to allow road widening.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar of King's Norton and to Mr. W. B. Cartwright concluded the business.

Thirty-seven sat down to tea, over which Mr. Walker presided. He welcomed Canon Davies, of Worcester Cathedral, and expressed the hope that before long it would be possible for the St. Martin's Guild to visit Worcester again and ring for evening service.

The methods rung during the evening were Stedman Caters, Cambridge Surprise Royal, Bristol, Cambridge and London Surprise and Double Norwich Major.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT SHREWTON.**

A meeting of the Salisbury Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held at Shrewton on July 8th, was attended by 33 members from Britford, Amesbury, South Newton, Shrewton, Wishford, Wilton, Enford, Swallowcliffe, Coombe Bissett, and the city churches of St. Martin, St. Thomas and St. Paul.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. C. F. Barnard, who gave an address. The ringers were the guests of Mr. J. Hawker at tea. The branch chairman (Mr. E. G. Caple) presided at the business meeting, supported by Mr. G. Norton, vice-chairman, and the branch secretary, Mr. F. W. Romaine. Six new members were elected from South Newton (a new affiliation), two from Wilton and one from Amesbury. Seven ladies were admitted as associate members.

A practice meeting was announced at Amesbury on July 29th, and it was decided to hold the next quarterly gathering at Downton. Votes of thanks to Mr. Hawker for his hospitality, and to the Vicar, closed the business of the meeting. The bells were rung in various methods and rounds throughout the afternoon and evening.

MR. AMBROSE W. OSBORNE.

Owing to advancing years and failing health, Mr. Ambrose W. Osborne has been compelled to resign the office of captain of the band at St. Giles', Reading, which he has held for forty years; and recently at a meeting of the ringers at the Rectory he was given a framed copy of a resolution passed by the Parochial Church Council and asked to accept a cheque from the Council in recognition of his services. The churchwardens gave another cheque.

Mr. Osborne was for many years secretary of the Reading Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. Sunday service ringing has been restarted at St. Giles', and it is hoped that Mr. Leonard Osborne will take over his father's duties.

ENGLISH CHURCH ARCHITECTURE.

By MAJOR J. HOWARD FREEBORN, M.A.

(Continued from page 285.)

THE PERPENDICULAR PERIOD (1350—1603), OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THIRD POINTED OR XV. CENTURY.



WALPOLE ST. PETER.



FIG. 25.
Perp. Window.

this new form was in full flood throughout the land, and had a long course. The early phases exhibit an insistence upon verticality, with the stiffening of the flowing lines of tracery into those long straight mullions which give to the period its distinguishing name. The XV. century saw the perfection of this new constructive ideal, while, during the early years of the XVI. century, the



FIG. 26.
Perp. Doorway.

both domestic and ecclesiastical. The latter tended more and more to be financed by the laity rather than, as in former ages, by the bishops and monks. There is a marked increase in window surfaces, with clerestory win-

The Perpendicular had been gradually taking the place of the Decorated for two decades or more before the death of Edward III., particularly in the West, where the famous Gloucester School of Masons began, about the middle of the XIV. century, to demonstrate a new idea in church building. By the end of the Edwardian era,

the introduction of Continental detail, prompted by the Renaissance, now spreading its influence westward from Italy, was significant of the decline of the Gothic tradition.

The growing wealth of the trading classes, particularly that of the wool staplers, and the introduction of Craft Guilds encouraged an increase in building,

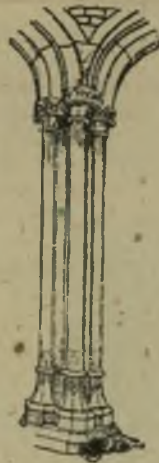


FIG. 27.
Perp. Column and Capital.



FIG. 28.
Flint Flushwork.

increased elaboration in crenelled parapets and pinnacles (Fig. 29).

Carpenters' methods and joints had now replaced those of the mason in woodwork, resulting in a riot of elaborate and beautifully-done work in stalls, misericords, poppy-heads, screens, pulpits, reredoses, chantries and roofs. The tie-beam was dispensed with in the hammer beam roof, its spandrels enriched with arcading, and its wall brackets with the spreading wings of angels. Structural ribs in vaulting disappear in favour of fan shapes, with carved pendants, perhaps the most distinguished and beautiful of all Perpendicular innovations (Fig. 30).

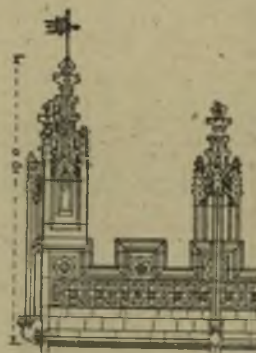


FIG. 29.
Parapet and Pinnacle.

are highly ornamented, and often have an upper storey. Buttresses are less often pinnaced and more often

dows continuous along the length of the church, which looks increasingly like a great stone lantern. Although the two-centred pointed arch persists throughout the period, particularly in doorways and nave arcades, the window-heads become flatter, with the arch struck from four centres, known later as the Tudor arch. The lofty mullions rendered necessary the stiffening transom, and the tracery has a series of subarches (Fig. 25), or is reticulated. Later, the windows are often squareheaded, with a dripstone or label terminating some way down each side with a carved boss. Doorways (Fig. 26) have similar hoods, and doors are sometimes panelled in linenfold, that attractive pattern representing folded linen, and have fine ironwork.

The slender pillars of the arcade have a diamond plan and attached shafts with tall moulded bases, small octagonal capitals, and a moulded abacus (Fig. 27). The carving is shallow and conventional, and the enrichment takes the form of miniature battlements, cresting, grotesques, and, from Henry VII., the Tudor rose. Sunk panels oust the wall-arcade, and in East Anglia are done in flint (flushwork) (Fig. 28), and diaper (see Fig. 23), particularly on porches and towers, a rich

The plan tends to become rectangular, with aisles to chancel or quire as well as to nave, absorbing the transepts. Porches

carved, and towers, while still crowned in the early years by spires, later have flat roofs richly embattled and pinnacled. In an age when few, apart from monks and clergy, could read, the carving, colouring and frescoes (wall paintings) of our churches constituted a veritable 'sermon in stone,' full of the meaning of the story of Christ, of Life and Death and retribution for sins, for a population untouched by modern education and inventions.



FIG. 30.
Fan Vault.

There are so many good churches in this age of greater wealth and comfort that any list of typical examples cannot but omit many as worthy of inclusion as those I have selected; Boston Stump, Cul-lompton, Cirencester, Hull (Holy Trinity), King's Lynn (St. Nicholas), Lavenham, Ludlow, Market Harborough, Newark, Norwich (St. Peter Mancroft), Terrington St. Clement, Taunton (St. Mary), Woolpitt and Wrexham.

GLOSSARY.

- CHantry. A chapel within or attached to a church, in which Masses were said for the soul of the testator.
 CRESTING. Continuous ornament above a canopy or screen.
 DIAPER. Leaf-pattern on a plain surface; chequer-pattern in stone and flint.
 DRIPSTONE. Projecting moulding above a door or window; a hood.
 GROTESQUES. Distorted carved heads of men or beasts; when used as rainwater heads are called Gargoyles.
 LABEL. A square dripstone.
 MISERICORDS (MISERERES). Hinged stall seats, with carved bracket beneath.
 MULLION. Vertical divisions in windows.
 POPPY-HEAD (POUPÉE-HEAD). Carved termination of a canopy or bench.
 REREDOS. Carved screen behind the altar.
 TRANSOM. The horizontal bar in tracery.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 286.)

Leicestershire has three five-bell towers which are central, and each entirely different in style and architecture, viz., Long Clawson, Somerby and Thurnby. At Long Clawson the ancient church is dedicated to St. Remigius, and consists of chancel, clerestoried nave, aisles, north and south porches, north chapel, and embattled central tower. Some massive pillars in the transept belonged to its Norman forerunner, but the sturdy tower was added in the 14th century.

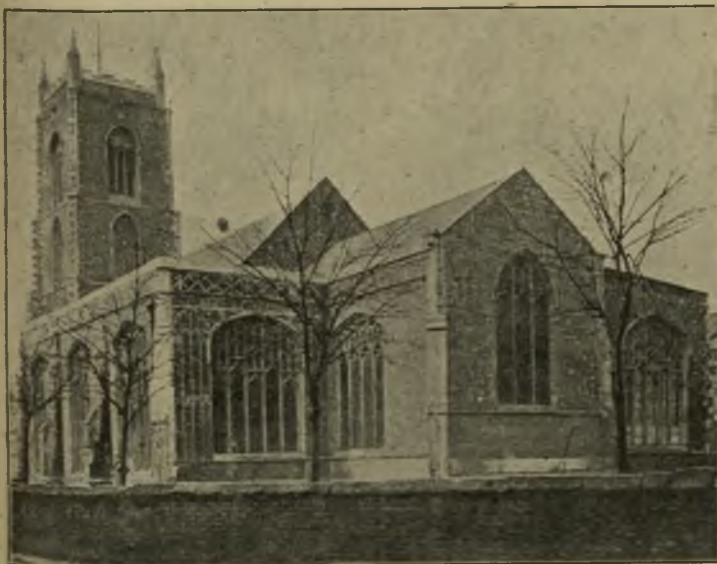
Of the five bells, Nichols, the historian, says, 'The inhabitants have a tradition that one of the Bozons went into France (but whether with Edward III. or Henry V. they know not) and, among other spoils, brought thence four great bells, which he hung up in the church. The present 4th is an ancient one yet called the Bozon's bell. In 1631 the great bell of Grantham being cracked, the Burgesses of Grantham gave the men of Clauston their cracked bell and twenty pounds in money for Clauston great bell which was exactly the same note which they wanted: thus the biggest of Bozon's great bells went to Grantham. With the metal of Grantham cracked bell and the aforesaid £20, the inhabitants of Clauston procured two new bells, being the 1st and 2nd of their present peal, and thus they came to have five instead of four bells.'

With reference to this tradition it may be stated that the founder of the fourth bell was Johannes de Yorke. It is hardly probable that Bozon brought four great bells from France, but not improbable that he brought a quantity of spoil, and from the proceeds of a portion of that paid for four new bells for the church here. As they now stand, the five bells are: Treble and tenor by T. Hedderley, of Nottingham, 1782; 2nd by Hugh Watts, 1631; 3rd, H. Oldfield, 1608; 4th, Johannes de Yorke, c. 1400-1450. Weight of tenor, 17 cwt. 1 qr. 12 lb. They were rehung by J. Taylor and Co., 1890.

These heavy bells are very difficult to handle owing to the long draught of rope. Ringing is done from the ground floor in the centre of the church between chancel, nave and transepts, open on all sides, and without guides to the roof 40ft. above. Only one full peal of 5,040 Doubles has been rung here (on November 12th, 1927) by members of the Framland Society and conducted by the present writer. Before starting this peal I very reluctantly climbed the thin iron ladder, let down for the purpose from the roof to the floor, nowhere near a wall, to take off the inscriptions. The ascent was bad enough, but the descent was even a greater ordeal, happily performed without mishap.

Somerby, All Saints', formerly had three bells, but in 1891 two new ones were added and the old ones recast. The tenor is 11 cwt. 1 qr. 9 lb., and all are by J. Taylor and Co. Here is a tower with spire placed between nave and chancel without transepts. Its style is peculiar, as the tower base is narrower than either the chancel or nave, and forms a sort of corridor between the two. The ringers ring from the ground floor, being thus between the congregation and choir. Several peals of Doubles have been rung here, the first in 1901, conducted by R. H. Bartram, of Melton Mowbray. One peal of Grand-sire Doubles, called by the writer, had each bell in turn

(Continued on next page.)



ST. MICHAEL COSLANY, NORWICH.

This building is the finest example of panelled flintwork in the world.
(To be continued.)

BUXTON, BURBAGE.—On July 7th, 720 Grandsire Doubles: *D. Holmes 1, J. Pulett (conductor) 2, *H. Kirk 3, *J. Bagshaw 4, J. Marriot 5, J. Backhouse 6. * Longest length.

doing the 'whole hunt' with each 120 beginning from and ending with rounds. Only one or two other peals have been so rung, and this method—which is most interesting and somewhat 'tricky'—would prove a suitable addition in towers that have a difficulty in getting beyond the ordinary Grandsire stage.

SOUTH HARTING, SUSSEX.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was extremely interested in Mr. Morris' history of St. Mary's, South Harting, Sussex, in your issue of Friday, June 23rd. Well do I remember going there to try and teach the local band the first rudiments in change ringing.

This was during the time I was located at Bex Mill, Midhurst, 1887-1889, several years before the Rev. A. J. Roberts became Rector. I have quite lost the names of the locals of that time, but well remember ringing in the open church with the long draught of rope to be overcome. As far as I remember the band never got beyond the stage of plain hunting, and by the Rector's remarks to Mr. Morris the team never materialised into a change ringing company for Sunday services.

During my two years at Midhurst I had the good fortune to find a number of enthusiasts, and besides teaching the band officially connected to the Parish Church, I had the good fortune to meet with other gentlemen in the town, who came along and wanted to learn and whom we eventually called 'our amateur team,' which caused a certain amount of enjoyable rivalry, as to which team made the fastest progress.

On January 21st, 1889, myself and five others from the two teams visited Harting and rang in 25½ minutes the first 720 (Bob Minor) on the bells, tenor 12½ cwt.: W. Court 1, G. Williams (conductor) 2, Dr. W. H. George 3, C. Tribe 4, W. Selby 5, J. Lee tenor. No doubt this visit was made to show the local team that change ringing there was quite possible.

After I came across this old record it suddenly dawned on my memory that I had cycled from South Harting to Brighton after a 5,040 on the bells, and, on looking over my old peal books and 'The Bell News,' I find I had cycled from Brighton to a district meeting at Midhurst via Steyning, Storrington and under the north side of the South Downs, 36½ miles, in 3 hours 5 minutes. Amongst the many clergy present at that meeting was the Rev. A. J. Roberts, Rector of Harting, who invited Mr. A. B. Bennett to bring a team over and attempt a peal on the following Sunday afternoon. Mr. Bennett took charge of me for the night, and after ringing for morning service at Midhurst I cycled on to Harting, meeting the five other ringers for lunch on the road.

On arriving at the church we were welcomed by the Rector, who said tea would be ready immediately after the peal. The bells went off into changes at 1.25 p.m., and in 2 hours 56 minutes the first 5,040 on them was an accomplished fact: C. Soane 1, G. Williams (conductor) 2, E. J. Boxall 3, A. B. Bennett 4, T. Stroud 5, J. Lee tenor; the methods being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, London Scholars' Pleasure, Woodbine, Oxford, Kent, Oxford Single and Plain Bob.

Three previous attempts for a peal here had been lost through the long draught of rope. Immediately the bells had ceased the Rector came into the church and congratulated us on our success and escorted us to the Rectory for tea. The Midhurst men drove back in time to ring for evening service, and the writer pedalled the 46 miles to Brighton over the Downs via Chichester, Brighton being reached in just over four hours.

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

1, Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh, Hants.

DEATH OF MR. J. P. HYETT.

The death is announced of Mr. J. P. Hyett, J.P., which took place on June 23rd at his home in Hay, Herefordshire. He was 72 years old.

The funeral at the Parish Church on June 26th was conducted by the Vicar, the lesson was read by the Rev. E. D. Thomas, Vicar of Clifford, and the committal by Canon R. W. Lockyer, Vicar of Glasbury. The bearers were three railwaymen and three ringers, Messrs. W. Beaver, A. E. Jones and D. H. Bennett. Messrs. A. W. Davies, W. H. Symonds and E. W. Suddrick (Hereford Cathedral), C. L. Sadler (Ross) and W. Beaver and A. E. Jones (Clifford) represented the Hereford Guild, Canon R. W. Lockyer (vice-president), Mr. John Jones (Glasbury-on-Wye) and Mr. D. H. Bennett (Bronllys) represented the Swansea and Brecon Guild.

The floral tributes included one from the Hereford Guild, one from St. Peter's, Glasbury, and one from St. Mary's, Clifford.

Mr. Hyett had been a member of the Clifford band for over 35 years. He was also connected with Glasbury-on-Wye. He was a foundation member of the Swansea and Brecon Guild, hon. secretary of the Clifford District of the Hereford Diocesan Guild and of the Northern Branch of the Swansea and Brecon Guild. He represented the Hereford Diocesan Guild on the Central Council and held the office of peal recorder. He had rung 267 peals, of which he conducted 158.

A half-muffled peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung to his memory at St. Mary's, Clifford, on July 2nd.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — Meeting at Bushey, July 15th, 3 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m., 1s. 3d. Names for tea to A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Swaffham on Saturday, July 15th, 2 p.m. Service 4.45. Tea and business meeting 5.15. — A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District. — Summer meeting, Wingham, Saturday, July 15th, 2.30. Service 4.15. Meeting.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Meeting at Hessle, Saturday, July 15th. Bells (6) 2 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Business meeting after tea.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Dis. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

BATH AND WELL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Glaston Deanery.—Meet at Baltonsborough, Saturday, July 15th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Meeting to follow. Own tea arrangements.—W. H. Marsh, 4, Dovecotes, Street, Somerset.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Practice meeting at St. Giles', Reading, Saturday, July 15th. Bells (8) 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Business meeting at Kimpton, July 15th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. It is hoped to arrange tea.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting Kingswinford, 3 p.m., Saturday, July 15th. Tea 5 p.m.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—Annual meeting at St. Mary's, Ulverston, Saturday, July 15th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Biggleswade District.—Meeting at St. Swithin's, Sandy, Saturday, July 15th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5.—E. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Amersham, Saturday, July 15th, 3 p.m. Names for tea by July 10th.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Crewe Branch.—Meeting at Wrenbury (6 bells) Saturday, July 15th, 2.30. Service followed by tea. Names to Mr. R. D. Langford.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—Meeting at Boxley, Saturday, July 22nd. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting. Names to Mr. W. Gosling, Boxley, Maidstone.—C. H. Sone, Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—Meeting at Flixton, Saturday, July 22nd, 3.30 p.m. Cups of tea only, at 5 p.m. Business to follow.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual festival at Oxford, Saturday, July 22nd. Service in Cathedral at 11.30 a.m. Business meeting in Chapter House after service. Lunch in St. Aldate's Rectory Room at 1.30 p.m., tickets 2s. 6d. each. Application for tickets, with remittance, should reach secretary by Saturday, July 15th. Ringing will be announced at meeting.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Cary Deanery.—Meeting at Charlton Mackrell, Saturday, July 22nd. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Number for tea by July 19th.—H. C. Lintern, Hon. Sec., Alhampton, Ditcheat, near Bath.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at Halewood, Saturday, July 22nd, 3 p.m. Service at 5. Business includes election and nomination of officers. Names for tea to W. Robinson, Mercer's Cottages, Halewood.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport Branch.—Meeting at Knutsford, Saturday, July 22nd, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Names to Mr. S. Hough, 12, Hayton Street, Knutsford, by July 18th.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION (Luton District) and HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION (Western District).—Meeting at Dunstable, Saturday, July 22nd, 3 p.m. Tea for those who notify Mr. A. E. Sharman, 199, High Street, Dunstable, by Wednesday, July 19th.—W. Ayre.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Crewkerne Deanery.—Meeting at Chard, Saturday, July 22nd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Notify for tea by Tuesday, July 18th.—J. T. Locke, Hon. Sec., School Street, Drayton, Taunton, Somerset.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Hunts Branch.—Meeting at Great Gransden, Saturday, July 22nd. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 o'clock. Bring food. Tea provided.—H. J. Parker, Dis. Sec., Great Staughton.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kington District.—Meeting at New Radnor, Saturday, July 22nd. Bells (6) 6 till 9. Tea and business 6.30. Names by July 18th.—J. Preece, Dis. Sec., Lea Lodge, Staunton-on-Arrow, Leominster.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch.—Meeting at Hough-on-the-Hill, Saturday, July 22nd. Bells (6) 2 to 9 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting at Vicarage. Will those requiring tea please notify by Wednesday previous Mr. H. Squires, Gelston Grange, Grantham?—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery.—Meeting at Cheddar, Saturday, July 22nd. Bells (8) 6.30 p.m. to 9 p.m.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Practice at St. Michael's, Southampton, July 22nd, 2.30 to 6 p.m. No tea.—G. Pullinger.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Meeting at St. Michael's, Bishopwearmouth, Sunderland, July 22nd, 2.30 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—Frank Ainsley, 30, Aysgarth Avenue, Grangetown, Sunderland.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Isham (6 bells), Saturday, July 22nd. Usual arrangements.—H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell, Kettering.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at Ripley, Saturday, July 22nd. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. A. Hutchison, Market Place, Ripley, by July 20th. Important business.—Wm. Lancaster, 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Quarterly meeting at Stapleford, Saturday, July 29th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Notify for tea by Tuesday, July 25th.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Meeting at Hinckley, Saturday, July 29th, 3.30 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. B. Ridgway, 61, Priesthills Road, Hinckley, by July 27th.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Horwich Parish Church, Saturday, July 29th, 2.30 p.m. Business 6.30 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Kilmersdon, Saturday, July 29th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Names by July 26th to E. W. Nash, The Talbot, Mells.

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No. 1,739. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, JULY 21st, 1944.

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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.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

Whether the Midland Counties Association should adopt the new scheme for dividing itself into diocesan guilds or continue in its present form is a matter for the members to decide without external interference, and we need not doubt that after full consideration and discussion a decision will be reached which will meet the wishes and requirements of those closely concerned. Outsiders, even though they have a nominal status as life members, will be content to watch with sympathy and interest.

But though the Exercise in general is not directly concerned with this question, it cannot look upon it with complete detachment and indifference, for a change which would profoundly affect the organisation and status of one of the principal associations could not fail to have some effect on the others, especially in view of the growing opinion that the Exercise should aim at a reorganisation on a diocesan basis. A fortnight ago we published the details of the draft scheme, and some comment on general lines may not be amiss.

The proposal, we are told, has come from the Leicester members. They feel strongly that the time has arrived when Leicester should have its own diocesan guild, and most people, we think, will agree that they have a strong and almost overwhelming case. The Leicester diocese, which is coterminous with the county, has a compact, homogeneous, and clearly defined area. Its centre, the cathedral city, has two fine modern rings of twelve, an outstanding ring of ten, several rings of eight, and many ringers who are among the most skilful and enthusiastic in the country. The other towers in the diocese are within easy reach of the city. Nowhere in England is there a diocese more fitted than Leicester to be the area of a ringing association. If the Leicester men had decided that they must break away from the old Midland Counties Association and form their own guild, it would have been hard to say that they were not justified.

But, of course, Leicestershire is only part of the area at present covered by the association, and in the remainder the conditions are not so favourable for new guilds. Three dioceses are involved. The area of the Southwell diocese is the same as Nottinghamshire, and the area of the Derby diocese is the same as Derbyshire. Either would be a good district for a ringing association, though not so good as Leicestershire. The present Midland Counties Association also covers that part of Staffordshire which lies round Burton-on-Trent, and that is in the Lichfield diocese.

(Continued on page 302.)

The Lichfield diocese is not like the other three. They are modern and coterminous with counties. Lichfield covers what remains of what was once the Saxon Kingdom of Mercia, and has no town which is its obvious centre. The cathedral has the historical distinction of being the possessor of one of the very earliest rings of ten, most of which still remains in the steeple, but for many years ringing was not encouraged by the cathedral authorities. A Lichfield Diocesan Association might be possible, might even be desirable, but to form it would need the assent and co-operation of more than one society which is independent and distinct from the Midland Counties Association. Burton-on-Trent, which has played such a prominent part in the development of change ringing, is geographically more closely connected with Derby than with Stafford or Shrewsbury and, should the new scheme take effect, might conveniently be associated (temporarily, perhaps) with Derby, though it is not actually within the diocese. The main thing, after all, is to adopt the plan which will work the best.

The weakness of the draft scheme seems to us to be that the proposers, having decided that diocesan guilds are needed, are afraid to face the full consequences. In order (probably) to disarm criticism, they suggest keeping the present Midland Counties Association in being as well as forming the new guilds. That surely would be a mistake. Unless each of the new guilds was completely free and independent, it would not be worth while troubling to form it. It would be better to have the present districts unhampered by diocesan boundaries. And if the new guilds serve the purpose they are intended to, the Midland Counties Association would become worse than useless. It would have no power, it could do no good, it would be no more than a shadow and a rather ridiculous one. No doubt a good deal of sentiment attaches to the old name, but that is of little real consequence. The service the Midland Counties Association has rendered to the Exercise would still be continued, though under other names, and the old name would not be forgotten.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

BOB MAJOR.

496					496				
23456	W	B	R		23456	W	B	R	
52364	—	1	—		23645	—	2	—	
35264	—	—	—		42356	—	1	—	
23564	—	—	—		34256	—	—	—	
23456	—	2	—		23456	—	—	—	
512					512				
23456	W	B	M	R	23456	W	B	M	R
23645	—	2	—		23564	—	1	—	
23564	—	2	—		45236	—	—	—	
45236	—	—	—		45362	—	1	—	
23456	—	—	—		23456	—	—	—	
512					512				
23456	W	B	R		23456	W	B	M	
36245	—	2	—		53462	—	1	—	
24365	—	—	—		45236	—	—	—	
45236	—	2	—		35264	—	1	—	
23456	—	—	—		23456	—	—	—	

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT HUGHENDEN.

The monthly meeting of the East Berks and South Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Hughenden on June 24th. The service, which was choral, was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. S. A. C. Dickens. Mr. T. J. Fowler was in charge of the ringing.

Over fifty members and friends sat down to tea, which was laid out on the hillside, and presided over by the chairman of the branch, the Rev. R. F. A. Routh. Thanks were given to the Vicar, and Amersham was selected as the place of the next meeting.

HANDBELL PEALS.

EDMONTON, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, July 5, 1944, in Two Hours and Six Minutes.

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th the observation).

DENNIS H. LANGDON	...	1-2	ALBERT J. WALLMAN	...	5-6
ERIC A. DENCH	...	3-4	PHILIP COWARD	...	7-8

Conducted by A. J. WALLMAN.

* First peal away from 7-8. † First peal on an inside pair. First peal as conductor. Average age 16½.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, July 13, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes.

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERPILLARS, 5079 CHANGES;

ALBERT J. WALLMAN	...	1-2	MRS. J. THOMAS	...	5-6
JOHN THOMAS	...	3-4	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE	...	7-8
CHARLES W. ROBERTS	...	9-10			

Composed and Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Thursday, July 13, 1944, in Two Hours and Four Minutes.

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

BETTY SPICE	...	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE	...	5-6
JEAN A. SOUTHERST	...	3-4	ALAN WHITE	...	7-8

Composed by H. HUBBARD (C.C.C. No. 48).

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal on an inside pair.

EDMONTON, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, July 14, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes.

IN THE TOWER OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th the observation).

VICTOR WOODARDS	...	1-2	ALBERT J. WALLMAN	...	5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS	...	3-4	PHILIP COWARD	...	7-8

Conducted by A. J. WALLMAN.

Umpire: J. Thomas.

* Age 15.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, July 16, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes.

AT WAYSIDE, 150, NARBOROUGH ROAD SOUTH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERPILLARS, 5065 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

G. STEINMAN MORRIS	...	1-2	ERNEST MORRIS	...	5-6
HAROLD J. POOLE	...	3-4	REV. JOHN P. PELLOE	...	7-8
JOSIAH MORRIS	...	9-10			

Composed by F. PERRINS. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

BOURNEMOUTH, HANTS.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, July 16, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes.

IN 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	PERCY BRAYSHAW	...	7-8

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

* 80th peal. † First peal of Triples.

CLEVEDON, SOMERSET.—On Tuesday, July 11th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: H. W. Knight 1, G. Olliver 2, Miss M. J. F. Richardson (first quarter-peal of Stedman) 3, Lieut. C. Glenn (conductor) 4, L. Pullen 5, Major J. H. B. Hesse 6, D. G. Olift 7, A. H. T. Parker 8.

TEN BELL PEAL.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 15, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 30½ cwt.

REDVERS F. ELKINGTON ... Treble	SHIRLEY BURTON 6
*JILL POOLE 2	SIDNEY O. CHENEY 7
MRS. H. J. POOLE 3	G. STEDMAN MORRIS 8
†JOHN R. SMITH 4	COLIN HARRISON 9
†REV. JOHN P. PELLOE 5	HAROLD J. POOLE Tenor

Composed by J. W. PARKER. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.
* First peal of Royal on tower bells. † First peal of Royal. ‡ First peal of Cambridge Royal.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

SAWLEY, DERBYSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 8, 1944, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 9½ cwt.

*BLANCHE WINFIELD Treble	WILLIAM DAWSON 5
WILLIAM E. SIMPSON 2	GIRLING RIGBY 6
CHARLES HUTCHINSON 3	CHARLES GEARY 7
W. RICHARDSON DRAGE 4	JACK BAILEY Tenor

Composed by G. R. NEWTON. Conducted by JACK BAILEY.
* First peal.

BELGRAVE, LEICESTER.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, July 13, 1944, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

MRS. H. J. POOLE Treble	SIDNEY O. CHENEY 5
REV. JOHN P. PELLOE 2	ERNEST MORRIS 6
G. STEDMAN MORRIS 3	REDVERS F. ELKINGTON 7
HAROLD G. JENNEY 4	HAROLD J. POOLE Tenor

Composed by F. DENCE. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

ANSTLEY, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, July 14, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

MIDDLETON'S.

Tenor 10 cwt.

SHIRLEY BURTON Treble	HAROLD J. POOLE 5
*JILL POOLE 2	REV. JOHN P. PELLOE 6
MRS. H. J. POOLE 3	HERBERT W. PERKINS 7
*JOHN R. SMITH 4	REDVERS F. ELKINGTON Tenor

Conducted by REDVERS F. ELKINGTON.

* First peal of Major.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 15, 1944, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,
AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

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

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

*FREDERICK OLDROYD ... Treble	NORMAN HARDING 5
*GEORGE L. GROVER 2	FRANK H. HICKS 6
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON 3	GEORGE GILBERT 7
ALFRED H. PULLING 4	WILLIAM T. BEESON Tenor

Composed by W. WILSON. Conducted by A. H. PULLING.
* First peal in the method. † 400th peal.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

NEWNHAM, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 8, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and three of Plain Bob. Tenor 14 cwt.

SIDNEY FOSKETT Treble	†PHILIP JONES 4
*JOSEPH LINNITT 2	*RONALD NOON 5
†FRED VICKERS 3	*GEORGE CARE Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE CARE.

* First peal in three methods. † First peal of Minor. First peal on the bells.

HITCHAM, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 8, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Oxford Treble Bob, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob and 720 Single Oxford Bob, rung alternately.

Tenor 6 cwt. 11 lb. in B flat.

*JOYCE HEARN (age 14) ... Treble	FRANK H. HICKS 4
C. ALFRED LEVETT 2	A. JAMES GLASS 5
GEORGE H. GUTTERIDGE ... 3	GEORGE GILBERT Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE GILBERT.

* First attempt for a peal.

SWAVESEY, CAMBS.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 8, 1944, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF BOB DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

*HERBERT W. PRATT ... Treble	*L.A.C. ERIC NOBLES, R.A.F. 3
*LESLIE W. FISHER 2	HERBERT FIELDS 4
†FRANK WARRINGTON Tenor	

Conducted by FRANK WARRINGTON.

* First peal. † First peal of Doubles.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WINGHAM.

A meeting of the Canterbury District of the Kent County Association was held at Wingham on July 15th, and about 55 members and friends attended, representing 12 towers in the district, besides some ringers in H.M. Forces. Service in the church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. E. C. Stanton, who gave an address. A collection for the association's Benevolent Fund amounted to 30s.

Tea at the Bridge Cafe was followed by the business meeting, at which five new members were elected, and it was announced that the annual district meeting would be at Sturry on September 2nd. Votes of thanks were given to the Vicar and to the donor of the tea.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT SWAFFHAM.

A meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held at Swaffham on July 15th, and 18 ringers attended from Norwich, Marham, King's Lynn, Terrington St. John, Wymondham, Shouldham, Swaffham, Yaxham and Mulbarton. Various methods were rung, the Vicar preached at the service, and the following new members were elected: Mr. Bert Gogle, of Yaxham, Mr. W. W. Cousins, of Terrington St. John, and Mr. William G. Cooke, of Hempton. Messrs. C. Ebberson, F. Rise, A. Nurse, A. Bugg, J. Bunn, G. Batterbee, R. Thaxter and R. Burton, of Dersingham, rejoined. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Hethersett on September 30th if possible.

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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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DEATH OF LIEUT. J. H. LEWIS.

Readers of 'The Ringing World' will learn with regret that Lieut. (A) J. H. Lewis, R.N.V.R., son of Mr. E. H. Lewis, the president of the Central Council, has been killed on active service. Deep sympathy with Mr. and Mrs. Lewis will be felt throughout the Exercise.

BOB MAJOR LEAD ENDS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reference to the questions put by Mr. Felstead some few weeks ago, the chief one is the Bob Major lead ends, and, though I make no pretence at being an expert, I will try to answer his query. Just over 30 years ago his questions would have brought a page full of replies. However, the Central Council settled this matter many years ago, and, on the whole, the Exercise has loyally accepted their decision. Now as to why.

(1) The Bob Major lead ends help to prevent the possibility of 8.7's coming at back stroke. This, of course, is an undesirable feature and a sufficient reason in itself.

(2) When the tenors get separated in the ordinary working of the method, the Bob Major lead ends bring them together again and more or less keep them coursing.

There may be, and probably are, other reasons for the desirability of Bob Major lead ends, but I will leave them to abler pens than mine.

'PLAIN RINGER.'

BELFRY PRAYERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In three consecutive issues of 'The Ringing World' I have read of the suggestion, followed by approvals from one or two sources, regarding belfry prayers. The subject to me is of more than passing interest. When once an attached member to a youthful band in a certain Hampshire town, I remember it was customary to have a prayer read before ringing commenced, whether for service, practice or a peal. In those days I thought, but very wrongly so, that it was just a fad by the captain, and, like most of the ringers, immediately forgot about it in the ensuing touch.

I realise now more than ever that it is the finest thing ever introduced into the rules of the belfry, because by those few moments when the prayer is said we are brought to a remembrance of the fundamental service in our action, and that is to ring to the glory of God. Perhaps being in action has brought my views around to face realities in their right perspective. It is a common sight every day to see the pitiable wrecks of what was once the flower of manhood, all caused through selfishness and greed in high places. The only things considered worthy of thought confronting us here are the main issues of life. Surely this can be applied to our ringing, by remembering, not the object of our ambition and selfish greed for cheap popularity, but that it is a service to glorify Him for which reason the bells were made.

The Rev. A. C. F. Davies' suggestion is an excellent one. Could not some form of prayer for use in belfries be adopted as a general rule? I wonder if the Central Council have discussed this small but very important problem?

Corpl. R. V. FULLER, A.D. Corps.
South-East Asia Command.

ALPHABET BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Can any of your historian readers give me any information on 'pre-Reformation Alphabet Bells'?
C. W. BOND.
25, Beechwood Avenue, Darlington, Co. Durham.

RINGING AT EYNSFORD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I thank Mr. Hazelden for his letter and am glad to know I was mistaken in assuming Eynsford had only a stoney hand prior to 1903. I based this assumption on two Sunday morning visits in two successive Lents (when we used not to ring at home) between Mr. Hazelden's visits and the advent of Mr. Brett. On each occasion we only rang call changes.

Mr. Hazelden may be interested to know that T. Brookes, sen., passed away a fortnight ago at the advanced age of 86 years and he rang regularly until three months ago. He was a faithful servant of the Church and died honoured by all.

E. BARNETT.

10, Kings Close, Crayford.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT WOOL.

A meeting of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Wool on Saturday, July 1st, at which about 40 members were present from Dorchester St. Peter, Abbotsbury, Bradford Peverell, East Lulworth, Poole, Stratton, Swanage, Upwey, Wool and Wyke Regis.

Many touches were rung on the bells during the afternoon and evening. Service was conducted by the Rev. A. L. Edwards (Vicar of Wool), the lesson being read by Canon A. W. Markby (chairman of the branch). In his address Mr. Edwards gave an account of the history of the bells of Wool. Tea was served, thanks to the hospitality of a great number of helpers, and, was followed by the business meeting.

The Chairman said that Mr. Godwin felt it necessary to resign through ill-health from the secretaryship, which at the previous meeting he had been asked to undertake jointly with Canon Markby; and Mrs. Godley was elected to carry on as hon. secretary.

The following new members were elected: Mr. James Hutchings (Abbotsbury), Miss Margaret Newbury, Mr. John Bryant and Mr. E. Coombes (Upwey).

Sgt. Tocock, the ringing captain, reported that recently at Abbotsbury a peal had been rung by a band consisting entirely of young members, all of whose first peal it was.

The next branch practice will be held at Abbotsbury on July 15th, and the next meeting at Stratton on August 12th.

JOINT MEETING AT ALDERSHOT.

A joint meeting of the Southern District of the Ladies' Guild and the Farnham District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, held at Aldershot on July 8th, was attended by about 40 ringers from Aldershot, Ash, Bagshot, Biddington, Farnham, Goring-on-Thames, Guildford, Ekington (Derbyshire), Hitchin, Woodford, Eastbourne, London, Seale, Shalford and West Clandon. Among those present were Mrs. B. Bruce, president of the Southern District of the Ladies' Guild, Mr. A. H. Pulling, vice-president of the Guildford Guild, Mr. G. L. Grover, general secretary, and Mr. J. Corbett, general treasurer.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. J. B. Rowsell, who welcomed the visitors and stressed the importance of their work as ringers. Mr. G. Goodwin was at the organ.

Several new members were elected at the business meeting which followed tea, and it was decided to hold monthly combined practices throughout the summer. Votes of thanks were passed, including one to Mr. Dollimore. A variety of methods was rung during the afternoon and evening.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT COPT OAK.

A meeting of the Loughborough District of the Midland Counties Association, held at Copt Oak on July 8th, was attended by members from The Oaks, Ibstock, Kegworth, Loughborough, Shepshed, Thrumpton, Whitwick and Old Woodhouse and the local belfry.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. W. E. Goodman, and tea was at the Vicarage. The Vicar presided at the business meeting. It was decided to hold a joint meeting with the Burton District at Ashby on August 12th, and for the next district meeting to be at Woodhouse Eaves and Old Woodhouse on August 26th. The Rev. W. E. Goodman was elected an hon. member, and Messrs. R. A. Pepper, L. E. Whyles, L. C. Stockwell and F. A. Garrett (Copt Oak) and A. Burnham (unattached), ringing members. Mr. W. Harrod rejoined.

Mr. G. R. Edwards called attention to the number of towers in the district where there is no ringing and asked if anything could be done by the association to improve matters. The secretary undertook to get into touch with the incumbents of the churches concerned and to point out that one of the objects of the association was to provide instructors (if required) to assist in the training of new bands. If nothing could be done at the present time preliminary steps might be taken.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar and Mrs. Goodman and to the organist concluded the business.

During the afternoon and evening a wide variety of Minor and Double methods were rung.

ENGLISH CHURCH ARCHITECTURE.

By MAJOR J. HOWARD FREEBORN, M.A.

Lic. : Royal Institute of British Architects.

Fellow : Chartered Surveyors' Institution.

(Continued from page 297.)

THE CATHEDRALS.



YORK MINSTER.
Perpendicular Gothic.

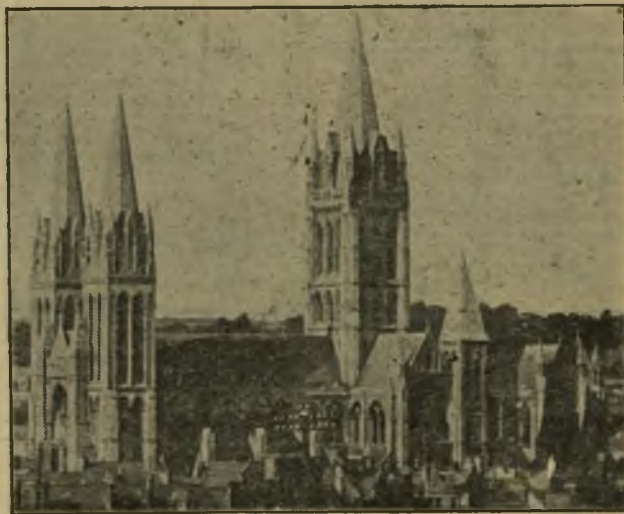
There are 45 cathedrals in England and Wales. Of these twenty-one are of the 'Old Foundation,' that is, consecrated at various times before the Reformation; six are 'New Foundation' monastic churches, constituted cathedrals by Henry VIII.; a further five are monastic churches which became cathedrals in modern times to meet the needs of increased population; one is modern, and ten are parish churches which have been made the cathedrals of new modern dioceses. Two new cathedrals, Liverpool and Guildford, are still in building. All are Norman or Gothic, with but two exceptions, and they constitute a truly amazing series of religious monuments unsurpassed anywhere in the world. With the exception of recent Foundations, they have all been very extensively described and illustrated, and are well known, at least superficially, to a large percentage of English people. I can go no further here than to mention a few typical examples which illustrate the best of each period. I wish I could give some photographs, but for technical and supply reasons connected with paper this is impossible.

There are the mighty Norman naves of Durham, Norwich and Southwell, and that glorious Transitional Quire and magnificent Perpendicular 'Bell Harry' tower at Canterbury. Lincoln, Wells and Salisbury demonstrate the austere purity of Early English naves, and there are the wonderful West Fronts of Wells and Peterborough, and the York transepts, in the same style. The unique Octagon at Ely, the beautiful Angel Quire of Lincoln, the almost feminine grace of the naves of Exeter and

Lichfield and Worcester, and the famous Salisbury spire, enrich the Decorated period.

The Perpendicular is seen at its best in the early work at Gloucester, in the Great East Window and the rich fan-vaulted cloisters; the stately nave of Winchester and the lordly Quire of York. Mediæval vaulting of supreme excellence is exhibited at Norwich and Exeter (XIV. century lierne), and at Oxford, where the XV. century Quire vault is a beautiful and complicated development of the lierne rather than a true Perpendicular form. All the periods of church building are contained within the great length (the longest in England by a few feet) of St. Albans, and exquisite work of First and Third Pointed in Westminster Abbey, which, although it does not rank as a cathedral, is not only the national shrine but one of the very greatest churches.

Of the Parish Church Cathedrals, first-class XV. century work appears at Manchester and the sad ruins of Coventry. No one can visit Liverpool Cathedral without a feeling of wonder at its originality and prodigious size, and of pride in its modern craftsmanship, which



TRURO CATHEDRAL.
Modern Early English Gothic.

equals the best mediæval work, and is a complete answer to the charge that the workmen of to-day are not capable of achievement as excellent as that of the men of old.

And here I shall close these notes on the architecture of our churches. Technical terms abound, I fear, but that is inevitable, and I have tried, both in the context and the glossary, to explain them simply. And I hope that many of my brother-and-sister ringers will find an added interest in their visits to the churches where they ring.

Messrs. B. T. Batsford, the well-known art and architectural publishers, have very kindly lent the illustrations from which the blocks have been made.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

"The Styles of English Architecture," Part I., by Arthur Stratton (Batsford), a small, inexpensive, and up-to-date handbook, for the beginner, well illustrated.

"Guide to English Gothic Architecture," by S. Gardner (C.U. Press), a rather larger book with excellent sketches.

(Continued on next page.)

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

ST. IVES, HUNTS.—On Wednesday, June 21st, 720 Bob Minor: H. Pratt 1, E. J. Coe 2, P. S. Skipworth 3, F. Warrington (conductor) 4, L. W. Fisher 5, J. Perkins 6.

PRIORS MARSTON, WARWICKSHIRE.—On Saturday, July 1st, 720 Bob Minor: A. E. Bristow 1, Mrs. E. S. Powell 2, Rev. E. S. Powell 3, G. H. Hancock 4, F. Hancock 5, W. A. Stote (conductor) 6. **COALBROOKDALE.**—On Sunday, July 2nd, on handbells, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles, 10½ different 120's: Walter Lago 1-2, William Saunders (conductor) 3-4, John W. Humphries 5-6.

BECKINGTON, DERBYSHIRE.—On Saturday, July 1st, 1,472 Spliced Plain and Little Bob Major: S. Scattergood 1, G. G. Graham (conductor) 2, P. J. Jervis 3, Mrs. J. E. Turley 4, J. H. Smithson 5, L. Bacon 6, W. Allwood 7, D. Smith 8. A farewell to P. J. Jervis.

BISHOP'S HATFIELD, HERTS.—On Sunday, July 2nd, 432 Stedman Triples: J. T. Lock 1, A. W. Coles (conductor) 2, D. Ellingham 3, S. Cull 4, W. T. Holmes 5, H. Nobbs 6, A. R. Lawrence 7, A. Lawrence 8.

RUSHMERE, SUFFOLK.—On Monday, July 3rd, 720 Bob Minor: John F. Jennings (first 720) 1, Cedric Curson 2, James W. Jennings (conductor) 3, Miss Grace M. Jennings 4, Frank E. Wiseman 5, Peter Carter 6.

WILTON, NEAR SALISBURY.—On Sunday, July 9th, for the christening of Raymond Haines, son of the local captain, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles (eight callings): *O. F. Haines 1, E. G. Caple 2, F. W. Romaine (conductor) 3, W. A. Theobald 4, L. Harris 5, *G. T. Hibberd 6. First quarter-peal on the bells. *First quarter-peal.

BROMLEY COMMON, KENT.—At St. Luke's, on Sunday, July 9th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. Lyddiard 1, J. Lyddiard (conductor) 2, Miss H. Oakshott 3, G. F. James 4, C. Cullen 5, G. H. Kite 6, I. Emery 7, E. Moulder 8.

TWINEHAM.—On Sunday, July 9th, 720 Grandsire Doubles: Miss S. Wickens 1, R. Boxall 2, G. Packham, sen. 3, C. Wickens (conductor) 4, G. Packham, jun. 5.

BANBURY, OXON.—On Sunday, July 9th, 720 Bob Minor: R. Cave 1, W. Watson 2, J. Walton 3, F. Selwyn 4, T. Impey 5, H. Impey (conductor) 6. First 720 by all the band except ringer of 3rd.

PORTSMOUTH.—At the Cathedral, on Sunday, July 9th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: L. H. Page 1, *J. H. Hunt 2, *T. Page 3, *P. Page 4, H. Nobes 5, W. Tate 6, F. W. Burnett 7, W. Sealife 8. *First quarter-peal.

NOTTINGHAM.—On Sunday, July 9th, at St. Paul's, Daybrook, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. Bradley 1, Mrs. R. A. Ward 2, P. E. Ball 3, A. W. Hartland 4, R. A. Ward 5, H. Paling 6, T. Groombridge, jun. (conductor) 7, W. Perkins 8.

OUCKFIELD, SUSSEX.—On July 9th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: E. Quikenden 1, G. W. Cecil (conductor) 2, H. E. Lilley (first quarter-peal in the method) 3, J. Mitchell 4, T. G. Fox 5, J. W. Jeffery 6, G. A. Lewry 7, A. E. Mitchell 8.

SCULTHORPE, TAKENHAM.—On Sunday, July 9th, 720 Bob Minor: W. G. Cooke (first 720) 1, Miss J. R. Cooke 2, G. Dye 3, R. Lingwood 4, E. C. Cooke 5, G. A. Cooke (conductor) 6.

LEISTON, SUFFOLK.—On Sunday, July 9th, 1,068 Oxford Treble Bob Major: C. Whiting 1, Mrs. J. E. Bailey 2, F. Youngman 3, H. J. Button 4, E. S. Bailey 5, J. G. Rumsey 6, L. P. Bailey 7, J. M. Bailey (conductor) 8.

NORTON-IN-THE-MOORS.—On Sunday, July 9th, 720 Hanley Double Surprise Minor: J. Jolley 1, C. S. Ryles 2, J. E. Wheelton 3, W. C. Lawrence 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6. Rung half-muffled for the Rector, the Rev. J. G. Hamlet.

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS, HUNTS.—On Sunday, July 9th, 600 Bob Doubles: H. Pratt 1, L. W. Fisher 2, F. Warrington (conductor) 3, G. L. Perkins 4, J. Perkins 5.

SUNDERLAND.—On Sunday, July 9th, at St. Ignatius', 1,260 Stedman Triples: F. Ainsley 1, G. S. Taylor 2, R. Bell 3, W. Oxley 4, R. Walker 5, J. W. Parker 6, R. L. Patterson 7, G. Harvey 8. Rung for the visit of the Bishop of New Guinea, formerly Vicar of the parish.

ALLESLEY, COVENTRY.—On Sunday, July 9th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: C. H. Aylett 1, H. G. Summers 2, H. Webb 3, J. W. Taylor 4, J. W. T. Taylor (conductor) 5, G. Gardner 6.

ENGLISH CHURCH ARCHITECTURE.

(Continued from previous page.)

"A.B.C. of Gothic Architecture," by J. H. Parker (Parker and Co.), out of print but to be had in the libraries; the standard pocket-book, profusely illustrated.

"The English Parish Church," by Dr. J. C. Cox (Batsford), the standard work on the subject (out of print).

"Parish Churches of England," by Cox and Ford (Batsford), a rewriting of the previous work.

"English Gothic Churches," by Budden (Batsford).

"The Greater English Church," by Batsford and Fry (Batsford), an attractive modern book.

"Cathedrals of England," by Batsford and Fry (Batsford), well written and up-to-date criticism.

"The Cathedrals of England and Wales," by T. F. Bumpus (Werner Laurie, Ltd.), a convenient pocket-book covering 39 cathedrals.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—Meeting at Boxley, Saturday, July 22nd. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting. Names to Mr. W. Gosling, Boxley, Maidstone.—C. H. Sone, Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual festival at Oxford, Saturday, July 22nd. Service in Cathedral at 11.30 a.m. Business meeting in Chapter House after service. Lunch in St. Aldate's Rectory Room at 1.30 p.m. Ringing will be announced at meeting.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport Branch.—Meeting at Knutsford, Saturday, July 22nd, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION (Luton District) and **HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION** (Western District).—Meeting at Dunstable, Saturday, July 22nd, 3 p.m.—W. Ayre.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Crewkerne Deanery.—Meeting at Chard, Saturday, July 22nd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow.—J. T. Locke, Hon. Sec., School Street, Drayton, Taunton, Somerset.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch.—Meeting at Hough-on-the-Hill, Saturday, July 22nd. Bells (6) 2 to 9 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting at Vicarage.—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at Ripley, Saturday, July 22nd. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Important business.—Wm. Lancaster, 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Peterborough Branch.—Meeting at Glington, Saturday, July 22nd. Service 4.30 p.m. Own tea arrangements.—W. H. Waldron, Hon. Sec., 137, Scotney Street, Peterborough.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Meeting at Bury St. Edmunds, July 22nd, at 3 p.m. Ringing at Norman tower and St. Mary's.—H. G. Herbert, Hon. Sec., 61, Acton Lane, Sudbury.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Practice meeting at Fareham, Saturday, July 22nd, 4 to 8 p.m.—R. J. Stone, Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Quarterly meeting at Stapleford, Saturday, July 29th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Notify for tea by Tuesday, July 25th.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Kilmersdon, Saturday, July 29th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Names by July 26th to E. W. Nash, The Talbot, Mells.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Meeting at Hinckley, Saturday, July 29th, 3.30 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. B. Ridgway, 61, Priest-hills Road, Hinckley, by July 27th.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—Meeting at Rochester, Saturday, July 29th. Cathedral bells 3 to 4 and 7 to 9. Tea at City Cafe 4.45. Frindsbury bells will also be available. Names for tea by 26th to G. H. Spice, Hon. Sec., 35, Woodstock Road, Sittingbourne.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Goosnargh, Saturday, July 29th, 2.30. Bring food.—F. Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—Meeting at Walgrave, July 29th. Service 4.15 p.m. Bring food.—R. S. Cowley, 83, Beech Avenue, Northampton.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellingborough Branch.—Meeting at Ecton, Saturday, July 29th. Service 4.30. Bring food; cups of tea provided. Names to A. Bigley, Hon. Branch Sec., 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City and Rural Branches.—Joint meeting at Henbury, Saturday, July 29th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Advise for tea.—R. C. Gifford, Branch Sec., The Bungalow, Stanshaws Drive, Yate, near Bristol.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Pentre, Rhondda Valley, Saturday, July 29th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 3.45. Business meeting 4.30.—J. W. Jones, Hon. Sec., 94, Alteryn View, Newport, Mon.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Meeting at Bishop's Stortford, Saturday, July 29th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business 5 p.m. Names for tea by July 25th.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Bridgwater Branch.—Meeting at Cannington, Saturday, July 29th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Names by July 25th.—C. Evans, Hon. Sec., 17, Wellington Road, Bridgwater.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wirral Branch.—Meeting at Bromborough (8 bells), Saturdays, July 29th. Service 5 p.m. Cups of tea only. Business meeting to follow.—Harry Brocklebank, Branch Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—Meeting at Mortimer, Saturday, July 29th, 2.30 p.m., at St. Mary's (8) and St. John's (6). Service at St. Mary's 4 p.m., followed by tea at the Vicarage. Names by July 26th.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec., 401, London Road, Reading.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Meeting at Dartford, Saturday, July 29th, 3 p.m. Service 4.45 p.m. Names by July 26th, to A. G. Hill, 53, Hergist Road, Erith, Kent.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Gloucester Branch.—Meeting at Brockworth, Saturday, July 29th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. (free). Card for tea by July 25th.—W. H. Harris, Branch Sec., 4, G.W.R. Terrace, Lydney Dock, Lydney.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chester Branch.—Meeting at Farndon, Saturday, July 29th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Names for tea to Mr. A. E. Richards, Farndon, before July 27th.—J. W. Clarke, Branch Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Practice meeting, Saturday, July 29th, Easebourne (6) 3 to 5 p.m., Midhurst (6) 6-8. Next meeting, Steyning, provisional date, August 26th.—L. Stilwell, Pikeholme, Pulborough.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—Practice meeting, Ringmer, Saturday, July 29th, 2.30. Tea provided.—Mrs. E. L. Hairs, The Oaks, Theobald's Road, Burgess Hill.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Drighlington, Saturday, July 29th, 3 p.m. Business meeting in tower 7 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. S. Barron, 40, West Street, Drighlington, by July 26th.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Saturday, July 29th, 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Thorne, Saturday, July 29th, 3 p.m. Names by July 27th who will require tea.—W. E. Lloyd, Sec., 3, Cranbrook Road, Doncaster.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Tanfield, Saturday, July 29th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—J. A. Brown, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Finchdale Terrace, Chester-le-Street.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—Meeting at Weedon (6 bells), Saturday, July 29th. Bring own food.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Marden, Saturday, August 5th. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by business. Half travelling expenses up to 2s. paid.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

SILVER WEDDING.

COCKEY—BRUCE.—On July 22nd, 1919, at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Inverness, by the Rt. Rev. A. J. MacLean, D.D., Bishop of Moray, James Edward Lewis, younger son of the late George Cockey and of Lois Cockey, sometime of Prospect House, Frome, Somerset, to Annie Gordon, eldest daughter of Hector and Margaret Bruce, of Queensgate, Inverness. Present address, 1, Listoke Edgehill Road, Ealing, W.13.

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BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WESTONING.

In spite of a small attendance, an enjoyable meeting of the Bedfordshire Association was held at Westoning on July 1st. Ringers were present from Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard, Maulden, Bromham and Tempsford, and a variety of methods, including Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Double Oxford Bob, Double Court, Cambridge, London and York Surprise Minor were rung during the afternoon and evening. Tea, kindly provided by the Vicar and friends, was followed by a short business meeting, at which Toddington was selected as the next place of meeting.

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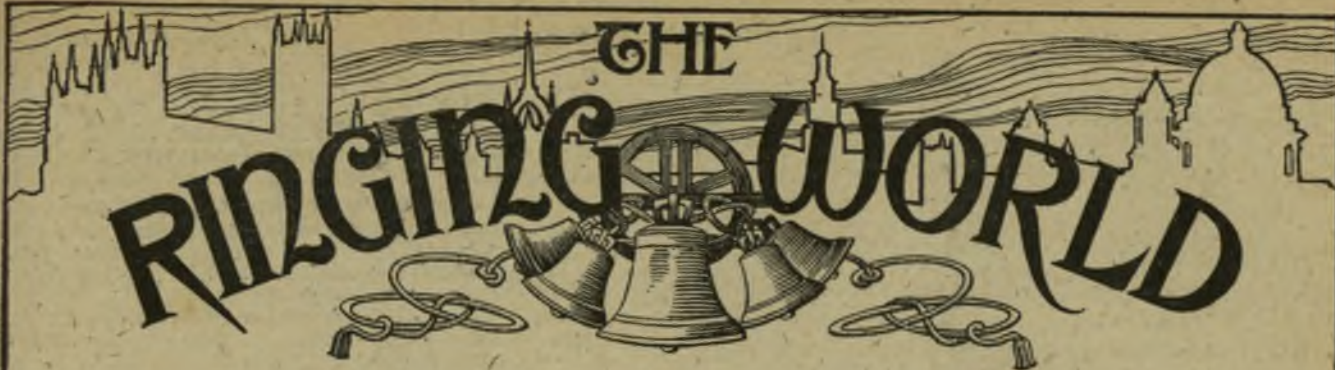
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THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

No. 1,740. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, JULY 28th, 1944.

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NEW METHODS.

One of the most striking things in the history of the Exercise during the last half century is the great increase in the number of methods practised. Fifty years ago, for the generality of bands, there were but four methods, Grandsire, Plain Bob, Treble Bob and Stedman, and it was unusual for any one band to ring all four. One or two of the most skilful companies were ringing Double Norwich and the three standard Surprise Major methods, but they were quite out of the reach of average bands, and ten years earlier were almost unknown. To-day more men ring Cambridge Major than rang Stedman Triples in 1890, and before the war it was seldom a week went by without a peal in some new method being scored.

All this is to the good, for progress in method ringing is one of the surest signs of general progress in the art of change ringing. As we look back through the years we find that when men were striving after new methods there were life and general improvement; but when they were content to ring the same thing month in and month out, year in and year out, there was not much enthusiasm, often stagnation, and not seldom actual decline.

But though there has been this great increase in the number of methods in use it is remarkable how one-sided and partial it has been. The number of Major methods has multiplied fiftyfold; the number of Triples has actually declined. Minor methods have been increased enormously, but Cater methods are what they were. Not only so, but the great increase in Major methods has been confined almost entirely to those which are entitled to be called Surprise. Why should this be so?

The obvious answer will be that ringers practise what they find most interesting and neglect what they find to be not so good, but that answer will not do. Whole classes of methods are neglected, not because they have been proved inferior, but because they have never been tried. The real reason is that men are deceived by the glamour that attaches to names, and especially to the title 'Surprise.'

Now it is true that Major ringing does supply some of the best opportunities of getting those things which make ringing attractive both to practise and to listen

(Continued on page 310.)

to, and a very large number of the best eight-bell methods are included in the Surprise group. No one can say that it was a mistake to develop the Surprise Major class. The error was, and is, in thinking that it is the only good one and that the methods outside it are necessarily inferior. What we need are greater knowledge and wider vision. We must get rid of the idea that the word 'Surprise' means anything, and try to judge methods on their real merits.

When things have returned to normal and the Exercise has settled down once more to peace conditions, we may expect a renewed interest by the best bands in new methods. They will do well if they remember one or two things. One is that, though the Surprise Methods class has not been in any way exhausted, it has been exploited so much that a good deal of its novelty has gone. Another is that for ten and twelve bells Surprise methods are as a class unsuitable. And a third is that for a skilful and ambitious band Cater methods offer a splendid opportunity. It certainly is surprising that so little advance has been made in nine-bell ringing. It cannot be that ringers dislike the covering tenor, for Stedman is the method most practised in a ten-bell tower and shows no sign of losing its popularity, while the superior music of Grandsire Caters is acknowledged by all. It is simply that it never occurs to ringers that there may be Cater methods worth their attention far more than Cambridge Royal, which is well enough in its way, but falls far short of other methods on both nine and ten bells.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

SOUTH WIGSTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, July 17, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

ERNEST MORRIS Treble	† GEORGE DEACON 5
JOSIAH MORRIS 2	ERNEST J. JELLEY 6
J. LESLIE WILLARS 3	CHARLES MARSHALL 7
* REV. P. J. BOULSOVER 4	FREDERICK FORD Tenor

Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.

* First peal on eight tower bells. † First peal.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(OXFORD SOCIETY.)

On Tuesday, July 18, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EBBE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 4½ cwt.

* ALAN WHITE Treble	WILLIAM C. PORTER 5
WILLIAM H. B. WILKINS 2	REV. JOHN P. PELLOE 6
MISS MARIE R. CROSS 3	JOHN E. SPICE 7
MISS BETTY SPICE 4	WALTER F. JUDGE Tenor

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method as conductor.

SIX BELL PEALS.

TROWELL, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 15, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

In five methods—Cambridge Surprise, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Bob and Plain Bob.

CECIL W. BAKER Treble	GIRLING RIGBY 4
* ALBERT HARTLAND 2	HERBERT TURNER 5
W. RICHARDSON DRAGE 3	PHILIP L. PARROTT Tenor

Conducted by P. L. PARROTT.

* First peal in five methods. First peal as conductor.

LYONSHALL, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 15, 1944,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 40 six-scores (10 callings) and one Pitman's 240. Tenor 12 cwt.

STANLEY JONES Treble	TREVOR JONES 4
MRS. CHANDLER 2	LESLIE EVANS 5
DAVID H. BENNETT 3	ROBERT FLETCHER Tenor

Conducted by TREVOR JONES.

Rung muffled for Petty Officer H. Chandler, R.N., killed on active service.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, July 20, 1944, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes.

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

* DENNIS H. LANGDON ... 1-2	MRS. J. THOMAS 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS 7-8

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS

* First peal of Major on 1-2.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, July 23, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5079 CHANGES;

CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 1-2	MRS. J. THOMAS 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE 7-8

DENNIS H. LANGDON 9-10

Composed and Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

BROUGHTON ASTLEY, LEICESTERSHIRE

Broughton Astley bells have the reputation of being the heaviest five in Leicestershire, tenor 18 cwt. 12 lb. The old bell frame fills the great sturdy tower, but now its underbeams are attacked by the death-watch beetle, and it is necessary to restore the whole structure. A scheme has been launched to have a new frame for at least six bells, and with this additional bell some £600 will be needed to put the tower and everything in good order. All the bells were cast by Hugh Watts, of Leicester, in 1637 except the 4th, which was recast by J. Taylor and Co. in 1892. The first full peal here was rung on February 6th, 1915, conducted by the late A. B. Aldham, since when other 5,040's have been rung.

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No. 1. 720		No. 2. 720	
23456		23456	
42356	5	56423	3
42563	1	34562	4
54263	5	53462	5
25463	5	45362	5
25634	1	45623	1
62534	5	64523	5
56234	5	42356	2
S 43256	3	S 43256	5
No. 3. 720		No. 4. 720	
23456		23456	
23564	1	35642	2
64523	3	54263	2
64235	1	46325	2
35264	3	62534	2
35642	1	56234	5
42635	3	56342	1
42356	1	42356	3
56342	3	42563	1
56423	1	63542	3
45623	5	63425	1
52364	2	25463	3
26435	2	25634	1
63542	2	34625	3
S 43256	2	S 43256	1

Each once repeated.

No. 1. Call a bob at the end of the plain course. Call a bob at the next lead end when the Sixth is dodging in 5-6 up (Wrong) and call two more bobs Wrong. At these three bobs the Fifth will make the bob, run down, and run up; and the last bob will bring the tenors together again. At the next lead end call a bob which the Sixth will make, and then call that bell down and then up. The first of these two the Fifth will make, and the tenors will be brought together. When they dodge together behind there is a plain lead, but the Before is called, and when they dodge together the next time there is a Single.

No. 2. Call the tenors Before and then the Sixth three times Wrong. The Fifth will make the bob, run down, and run up. After the third Wrong the tenors will be together again. Call the Sixth to make the bob and then to run down. The latter bob the Fifth will make. Call a bob when 5-6 dodge together behind and at the next course end a Single.

No. 3. Call the Fifth to make the bob twice. Then the Second. Then the Sixth. Then the Third. Every second bob brings the bells back into the plain course. Call the Fourth to make the bob, but not the second time, for that would bring the bells round. Instead let 34256 come up at a plain lead. Run a full course from the last bob and call the Sixth to make the bob. After that there is a call at every alternate lead. The last (when 5-6 are at home) is a Single.

No. 4 is the reverse of No. 3.

In each half of all these 720's, one 5-6 comes up plain, one bobbed, and one singled.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT RIPLEY.**

A meeting of the Derby District of the Midland Counties Association, held at Ripley on July 22nd, was attended by about 40 members from Ashby, Chesterfield, Sheffield, Derby (Cathedral, St. Luke's, St. Andrew's, St. Peter's), Spondon, Alvaston, Belper, Daybrook and Nottingham (St. Peter's). Among the visitors was Mr. Jack Hobbs, president of the East Derbyshire Association.

The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Double Norwich Court Bob, Duffield and Cambridge Surprise Major.

Thirty-six sat down to tea, provided by Mr. Alex Hutchison, one of the local band. Mr. H. Fletcher took the chair at the business meeting, at which it was decided to hold the next meeting at Ockbrook on August 26th. A discussion on the proposed alteration in the constitution of the association showed that elderly members were decidedly against it, but Mr. Thomas Groombridge, the secretary of the Nottingham District, said that in his district the members appeared to favour it as it would give them a better opportunity of organising the North Notts area.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Hutchison, to the Vicar and to the local band.

MAJOR J. H. FREEBORN'S ARTICLES.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—May I be allowed a word or two of thanks to Major J. Howard Freeborn for his monograph on English church architecture, and to you, sir, for publishing it? It was most interesting and illuminating. I should like to suggest—now it is 'in type,' that it be reproduced in booklet form. It should make about 16 pp. demy 8vo., and would be most useful to ringers, and indeed the public generally.

CHARLES J. SEDGLEY.

ALPHABET BELLS.

A correspondent asked last week what alphabet bells are. This is what Thomas North, the antiquarian, has to say.

'Upon several of the ancient and many of the more modern bells in this country are portions of the Alphabet. It has been suggested that the founders, being desirous not to offend by placing ancient precatory or devotional, and therefore often unwelcome, inscriptions upon their bells, and yet too illiterate to suggest new ones, adopted this plan to escape the difficulty. By it they ornamented their bells with a goodly show of Gothic capitals which could give offence to no one. This may have been the case with the later bells, but the use of the alphabet surely had another origin on the more ancient ones. We find the alphabet, or portions of it, on encaustic tiles on the floors of churches. It appeared on the top of a Norman font discovered at Severn Stoke in Warwickshire. In the Pontificale Romanum the Bishop is directed in the dedication of a church to write, in the form of a cross, two alphabets, one in Greek and the other in Latin, first from east to west and then from north to south. There was clearly some symbolic meaning in the alphabet. Some writers on the subject say the letters represented the beginning and rudiments of sound learning, and the simple and pure truths of the Gospel.'

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**SHIELD CONTEST.**

The annual shield contest of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Hoylandswaine on July 8th. It was the fifteenth in the series and the first since 1939.

Owing to travelling difficulties the test was reduced to 360 changes, three leads being allowed as a preliminary practice. Mr. J. R. Brearley, of Bolsterstone, was the judge and Mr. R. Ford the marker.

The draw was as follows: 1 Liversedge, 2 Friezland, 3 Meltham, 4 Holmfirth, 5 Shelley, 6 Cawthorne, 7 Sandal, 8 Silkstone. Darfield withdrew as the time would not have allowed some of the band to catch the last bus home.

The result of the ringing was: Liversedge, faults 100, penalties 0, total 100; Friezland, 144, 0, 144; Meltham, 118, 5, 123; Holmfirth, 50, 5, 55; Shelley, 75, 0, 75; Cawthorne, 41, 0, 41; Sandal, 94, 0, 94; Silkstone, 45, 10, 55.

Cawthorne were declared the winners and will hold the shield for twelve months.

The Vicar, the Rev. H. L. Pratt, presented the shield and welcomed the ringers. He said he was glad to have the contest at Hoylandswaine, and praised the work done by the hon. secretary, Mr. D. Smith, in making the arrangements.

Mr. Brierley, the judge, said that on the whole the striking was very good and he had been impressed by the standard of the ringing.

Thanks were given to the Vicar and the ladies who provided the tea.

The next meeting will be at Felkirk on August 12th.

Nearly eighty ringers and friends sat down to tea.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT HESSLE.**

The summer meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at Hessele on July 15th, and was attended by about 30 ringers from Beverley (The Minster and St. Mary's), Eastington, Howden, Hull (Holy Trinity and St. Mary's), Kirk Ella, Market Weighton, Patrington, Penwortham, Selby Abbey, Ulceby and the local belfry. Service, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. H. W. Beck, was followed by tea, provided by the local ringers, in the British Restaurant.

The Vicar presided at the business meeting, and the secretary read a letter from Mr. F. Cryer, the vice-president, resigning the position, which he has held for over 20 years. This was accepted with regret and a resolution was passed expressing the hope that he would soon be restored to health and be able to attend many more meetings. Mr. Cryer is 85 years of age and has been a ringer over 70 years. Mr. A. H. Fox was elected to the vacant office. St. Mary's, Beverley, was selected as the place of meeting in September.

Four new members were elected: Messrs. F. C. Lister and P. Speck, of Hessele, F. Braithwaite, of St. Mary's, Beverley, and T. Robinson, of Patrington.

A collection for the Association's Bell Repair Fund realised £1 6s.

DEATH OF MR. CLIFFORD ROBINSON.

The death is announced of Mr. Clifford Robinson, of Cawthorne, which took place on July 14th at the Beckett Hospital, Barnsley. He was 61 years of age.

The funeral was on July 17th at Cawthorne. It was conducted by the Vicar of St. Peter's, Barnsley, and was choral. Ringers were present from Cawthorne, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Rotherham, Sandal, Silkstone and Shelley. The tower bells were rung fully muffled before and after the service, and handbells were rung at the graveside by Messrs. E. Brookes, S. Briggs and D. Smith. Among the floral tributes was one from the Barnsley and District Society.

Mr. Robinson was a member of the Yorkshire Association and the Barnsley and District Society. He had rung 22 peals, mostly on six bells in a great variety of Minor methods. His ringing activities were shared by the towers of Cawthorne and Silkstone. He did much to teach the band at the latter steeples.

SEVEN BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 291.)

III. DOUBLE COURT BOB TRIPLES.

1234567	Continued.
2143657	3572416
2416375	5374261
4261357	3547621
4623175	3456712
6432715	4365172
4637251	3461527
6473521	4316257
6745312	4132675
7654132	1423657
6751423	1246375
7615243	2165735
7162534	2617453
1726543	6271435
1275634	6724153
	7642513
2157364	6745231
2513746	7654321
5231764	etc.
5327146	

Next to Grandsire, Oxford Bob and Court Bob are the simplest Triples methods, and to any keen band which takes some interest in its ringing they should not present any difficulty whatever. The general work is very similar to that of Grandsire, although, of course, it has its special features; the bob making is the same in all three methods; in all three the place making and dodging are at handstroke; and below the treble there is nothing but plain hunting. We now come to some methods where the work, although by no means difficult, is rather more complex, for some of it is below the treble and some of it is above the treble; some is done at handstroke and some is done at backstroke. The first of these methods is Double Court Bob.

Double Court was extended to seven bells by William Shipway more than one hundred and twenty years ago and has never been lost sight of, but it shared the neglect which most seven-bell methods have suffered from, and it was left to Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner to call the first peal of it no longer ago than 1935.

Before studying the method, write out a full course and draw a line along the path of the treble, another along the path of the second, and another along the path of the third. In pricking, four deviations must be made from the transposing of first the bells in 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6, and then (in the next change) the bells in 2-3, 4-5 and 6-7. In the third change of every lead the bells in 1-2, 3-4 and 6-7 must be transposed. In the sixth change of every lead the bells in 1-2, 4-5 and 6-7 must be transposed. In the tenth change the bells in 1-2, 4-5 and 6-7 must be transposed.

In the thirteenth change the bells in 1-2, 3-4 and 6-7 must be transposed.

Double Court Minor is familiar to many ringers, and the knowledge will be very useful in ringing Double Court Triples, for the rules of the two are the same with one important adaptation. In Double Court Minor you always dodge in 1-2 and 5-6 before and after leading and lying, except the treble intervenes. When you are turned from the front or from behind by the treble you

make places, and afterwards turn the treble. Except when place making, you always pass from front to back, or back to front, by plain hunting, and there is no dodging in 3-4.

In Double Court Triples you always dodge in 1-2 and 6-7 before and after leading and lying except when the treble, or the bell-in-the-hunt, intervenes. When you are turned from the front or from behind by the treble you make places and afterwards turn the bell-in-the-hunt. Except when place making, you always pass from front to back, or back to front, by plain hunting, and there is no dodging in 3-4 or (except at a bob) in 4-5.

The dodging in 1-2 and the place making below the treble are at backstroke. The dodging in 6-7 and the place making above the treble are at handstroke.

Now turn to the full course you have written out and follow the path of the third. This is the bell that has been turned from the lead by the treble. It hunts up, makes Fifths place at handstroke over the treble and begins to hunt down. It passes the treble and the bell-in-the-hunt, and immediately makes Thirds place at backstroke. It then hunts up to the back, passing the treble in 5-6, turns the bell-in-the-hunt from behind, and lies a whole pull without previously dodging.

The bell then dodges in 6-7 down at handstroke, hunts straight down and does Treble Bob work on the front—a dodge in 1-2 down, a whole pull on the lead, and a dodge in 1-2 up, all at backstroke.

It hunts up, passing the treble in 2-3. It dodges in 6-7 up (handstroke), lies a whole pull behind and is turned by the treble.

It then hunts down, without a dodge, in 6-7 down, and makes Thirds place at backstroke. It passes the treble and the bell-in-the-hunt, makes Fifths place at handstroke, and goes to the lead, passing the treble in 2-3 and turning the bell-in-the-hunt.

A dodge in 1-2 up is followed by a run-through to the back, full Treble Bob work (at handstroke) in 6-7, and a run-through to the front. The bell dodges in 1-2 down, leads full, is turned by the treble, and is ready to begin the work of the plain course over again.

The bob in Double Court Triples is made as in Single Court Triples. It is the Grandsire Bob but without double dodging.

7615243
7162534
1765243
1672534
6127354

The lead-ends of the method are the same as those of Oxford Bob Triples, and as the bobs are made in the same way all touches and peals of the one are suitable for the other. We need say no more about calling Double Court than we said about Oxford Bob on July 7th. The ringer, however, must know how the bobs affect him.

If you are the bell Before (that is, if you are about to make Fifths and Thirds), if you are about to dodge in 6-7 down after having passed the treble in 5-6 up; or if you are about to do full Treble Bob work behind, the bob will not interfere with you. But if you have just finished full Treble Bob work on the front you will make Thirds place and go into the hunt. If you are making places from the back (Thirds and Fifths) you make a single dodge in 4-5 up instead of Fifths place, dodge in 6-7 up, lie a whole pull, the treble turns you, and you

begin the place making over again. If you are in the hunt, you make a single dodge in 4-5 down, turn the new bell-in-the-hunt from the lead, dodge in 1-2 up, and go to full Treble Bob work behind.

The lead ends of Double Court Bob Triples are the same as those of Oxford Bob Triples and the bobs are made by the same bells; consequently all compositions of the one will be true for the other, and the touches we gave in our issue of July 7th will serve for Double Court.

Oxford Bob and Double Court Bob are, with Grand-sire, the best of the Triples methods with a bell-in-the-hunt, and each is fully worth ringing for its own sake. There is another reason why Double Court should be practised, and that is, because it is a convenient stepping stone to the best of all nine bell methods—Double Norwich Court Bob Caters. Double Court Triples bears to Double Norwich Caters the same relation that Double Court Minor does to Double Norwich Major. In Double Court Triples you have in simplified form the characteristic features of Double Norwich Caters—the handstroke work above the treble and the backstroke work below; and the need for dealing with the treble and the bell-in-the-hunt in the same way as the single treble is dealt with in the even bell methods.

If desired the Double Norwich Cater bob may be used in Triples and the conditions would be exactly reproduced.

1234567	Bob	2463175
		4236715
2143657		2437651
2416375		4273561
4261357		

RINGING TWO TOWER BELLS.

A correspondent asks us whether one man has been known to ring two church bells at the same time, one in each hand. His friends, he says, do not believe it.

It has been done many times to touches and several men have rung two church bells to a peal. James W. Washbrook was the first to accomplish the feat, which he repeated several times. James E. Groves rang 3-4 to Grandsire Triples in 1904 at St. Luke's, Wolverhampton; Mr. W. H. Lawrence rang 1-2 to 5,280 Minor in 1907, and the same pair to a peal in seven methods in 1910; Mr. Edwin Hime rang 2-3 to 5,040 Bob Minor in 1926; Mr. John Thomas has rung two church bells to a peal of Double Norwich Major.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ROTHWELL.

The summer meeting of the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association was held at Rothwell on July 8th and was attended by about 30 members from a fairly representative area. Ringing was practised in a variety of methods.

Amongst the visitors were Mr. H. S. Morley, secretary of the Eastern Division, Mr. G. R. Newton, of Liverpool, Mr. C. W. Woolley, of Bushey, and members of the Durham Association.

Tea was served in the Parochial Hall, and the business meeting was presided over by the vice-president, Mr. P. J. Johnson. Apologies for absence were received from Canon Marshall, H. Armitage, F. Hodgson and W. Barton.

The collection to Belfry Repairs Fund realised 12s. 1d. The next meeting will be held at Heptonstall in September.

DEATH OF MR. SAMUEL MOTTERSHEAD.

The death is announced of Mr. Samuel Mottershead, an old member of the band at Bowdon, Cheshire. He was in his 65th year.

The funeral was at Bowdon Parish Church, and after the interment handbells were rung at the graveside by Messrs. D. Vincent, B. Thorpe, J. Worth and A. Barnes. Before the service the tower bells were rung muffled and afterwards a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples was rung by A. Barnes (Reddish) treble, B. Thorpe (Ashton-under-Lyne) 2, J. Worth (Macclesfield) 3, W. H. Shuker (Fallowfield) 4, W. W. Wolstencroft (Ashton-under-Lyne, St. Peter's) 5, A. J. Brown (Bowdon) 6, D. Vincent (conductor) (Hale) 7, S. Hough (Knutsford) tenor. At the completion the bells were ceased and Mr. Mottershead's age struck on the tenor.

Among the floral tributes was one from the Bowdon ringers.

John Taylor & Co.

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The official Journal of the Central Council of
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Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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For the present the available supplies of Central Council publica-
tions are exhausted and it will not be possible to renew them for a
few weeks. Notice will be given as soon as the Hon. Librarian has a
fresh stock, and until then no orders should be sent to him.

The peal at South Wigston on July 17th was rung to mark the birth
of a daughter to the Rev. and Mrs. P. J. Boulsover. It was also a
tribute to L.-Bdr. Sibley Bingley, R.A., of the local band, who was
mentioned in despatches for gallant and distinguished service in Sicily.

THE LATE MR. TOM BOOKER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very sorry to read of the death of Mr. Tom Booker,
of Eynsford. It recalls a rather amusing episode there in July, 1939,
after an unsuccessful attempt for the first peal of Gonville Bob Major.
We had retired to The Five Bells to discuss the failure, and found Mr.
Booker there. Though then 81, he was in high spirits and sang one
song which involved something in the nature of a dance and the
brandishing of a stick at frequent intervals. After this I said to
him, 'Did you hear anything of the ringing?' He was, however, a
trifle deaf and must have thought my question more in keeping with
the surroundings, for he replied, 'No thanks, I've got a pint on the
windowsill.' After the initial shock we hardly knew how to stop
laughing, but fortunately Mr. Booker did not inquire further into the
matter.

He was a well-known character in the district, and the following
tribute was paid to him by the Editor of 'The Kentish Times':—

'We cannot but see in the passing of Mr. Tom Booker, of Eynsford,
a symbol of the decease of an epoch. In these times when invidious
distinctions are apt to be drawn between "employers" and "em-
ployed," his record of 76 years of service with the Hart Dyke family
may evoke little response on the part of many, yet there may be some
in whom that happy partnership may create a nostalgia, bespeaking
a phenomenon which is rapidly passing from the earth. Those who
knew Tom Booker were unanimous in declaring that a happier man
would be hard to find; and such a spirit of contentment is surely the
prize most to be desired in this life. . . . Tom Booker represented
the eternal dignity of the common man, and despite what artificial
barriers may have been created, in those things which are really
important he was called upon to bow the knee to no man, but only
to the One to whom at all times he paid reverence.'

E. A. BARNETT.

THE LATE MR. J. P. HYETT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I feel I must write a short tribute to the late J. P. Hyett,
the passing of a great man so far as his abilities allowed and a great
pioneer of Doubles. His opportunities to learn change ringing came
late in life, but he persevered and rang a number of peals. I first
came in contact with him in 1919 and continued his friendship until
1939. He rang his first peals of Minor, Triples and Major with me.

During the 15 years of my Mastership of the Hereford Guild I fre-
quently relied upon him for help and information. As secretary of the
Clifford District he must have cycled thousands of miles for ringing in
a remote part of the county.

CHARLES EDWARDS.

44, Beeston Avenue, Woodlands Park, Altrincham, Cheshire.

THE J. D. & C. M. 'CAMPANALOGIA.'

(Continued from page 292.)

Referring to raising and ceasing in peal, the authors say it was not esteemed to be one of the easiest parts of the art, 'and we could wish with all our hearts that it was more practised by the ancient and experienced ringers, being very melodious and worthy any man's pains to learn.' That is copied from Stedman with the directions how to raise, for by 1702 the London ringers had ceased to practise it.

Plain changes, too, had long since been abandoned by the more expert bands, certainly in London, and probably elsewhere, though it is likely that the degenerate form we now know as stoney was already common. In Stedman's time, say J. D. and C.M., 'they were then most of all practised, but now this, as well as all other arts, is by age and time improved, and instead of plain changes there are double, triple and quadruple changes rung, which are far more ingenious and pleasant. However, in many parts of England plain changes are still in use, and therefore we have briefly said something in relation thereto that we may please (if we can) every person. But 'tis our request and desire to all that are practised in plain changes to suspend the practice thereof and betake themselves to the practice of double and triple changes, for the attaining whereof we recommend them to the perusal and study of this book, which consists of several peals which for their excellency have remained in use and practice ever since they were made; as also of several new peals composed as well by ourselves as Mr. John Patrick, who with great care and pains has exercised his ingenuity to the great improvement of this art.'

'These Plain or Single Changes are so old that they are scarce practised anywhere, because by ingenious and skilful practitioners this art is made more melodious and easy by double and triple changes, and therefore we shall forbear to make a long discourse upon what is not needful or requisite, but shall only set down two or three peals of Plain Changes for the satisfaction of some particular persons.'

A six-score of Plain Changes follows, and then: 'It may perhaps be wondered at by some why we have not set down more large and methodical rules and instructions for ringing Plain Changes, but, if duly considered we think (with submission) 'tis not the least necessary, not only because (as we have said before) they are almost out of practice everywhere, but also because Cross Peals are more easy and melodious; therefore we hope we shall be excused by the ingenious and knowing reader for the omission that we have made, being as we conceive requisite and assured that were he or any other (whose genius leads them to the practice of music) to buy a collection of songs or tunes, that he would sooner chuse and have those that were lately composed than those that had been composed many years.'

In 1702 the greater part of ringing was still upon five and six bells; necessarily, because full octaves were rare. But all over the country, in villages as well as in towns, peals of eight began to be put up, either as complete new rings or by the addition of trebles to rings of six. In London, seven-bell ringing was almost entirely Grandsire Triples, and those bands, like the London Scholars and the College Youths, which were able to practise at St. Sepulchre's were ringing Grandsire Caters. But Royal was unknown and there was little Major. 'Changes

upon eight bells,' say J. D. and C. M., 'are seldom or never rung unless it be a five, six or seven-bell peal is rung thereon. A five-bell peal that is rung upon eight is by laying three of the eight bells behind. And the most musical to lie behind is 218, 148, 418, 248, 468, 348, 648, 548, 864, 241, 321, and 135 to be laid behind and first and third to dodge throughout the peal, and also 184 to be laid behind and to go the Sixes at half-pulls. The most musical to be laid behind in a six-bell peal are 48, 68, 18 or 41, and the peal to be rung on the six foremost bells and the seventh and eighth to dodge.'

'There are a great number of several peals to be pricked upon eight bells, but our design being not to stuff this book with what is altogether unpractised, we shall therefore forbear to set down any further examples of what is not in the least at this time nor ever was in practice and which will only waste both paper and time.'

Much of this was suggested by Stedman's 'Campanalogia,' and it is clear that there had been little or no development in eight-bell ringing between 1677 and 1702. The cause is probably to be found in the peculiarities of the construction of Plain Changes and the tenacity with which the Exercise clung to the old customs and ideas. When changes were first invented upon three and four bells, men quickly found out the convenience of using the treble as the whole hunt. When five and six-bell ringing was practised, the same bell was obviously the most suitable for the same purpose, and quite naturally, when half-hunts and quarter-hunts were needed, the next smallest were chosen. Thus in Roane's first 720 of Bob Minor the treble is the whole hunt, the second is the half-hunt, and the fourth is the quarter-hunt. Duckworth pointed out that this was merely a matter of choice, and that any other bell could be either the whole, half or quarter-hunt, yet it is probable that in early days the 720 was generally rung with those bells as hunts, in the same way that nowadays it is generally rung with 1,6,5 as hunts.

When ringing on the higher numbers was introduced, the same ideas were retained, with the result that in Triples Major and Caters the big bells were very much mixed up, and anything like good or regular music was a matter of chance. On seven and nine bells the covering tenor largely redeemed the situation, but on eight the defect was glaring. It was not until ringers discovered the merit of keeping 7-8 together that Major ringing became popular, and that was not until the eighteenth century was some years old. Benjamin Annable had the credit for making this discovery, and he certainly did more than anyone else to popularise Bob Major, but before he was a ringer, or at any rate before he had joined the College Youths, Robert Baldwin had composed a peal of Treble Bob Major and the Union Scholars had rung it.

It is clear, however, that the great majority of the ringing in eight-bell towers in the early years of the eighteenth century was Grandsire Triples, certainly so in London and probably so in the country. This fact has a good deal of bearing on the question as to when the first five-thousands were rung.

(To be continued.)

SWINDON.—On July 16th, at Christ Church, 1,263 Stedman Caters: H. Bishop 1, R. G. Townsend 2, G. W. Townsend 3, W. W. T. Daniell 4, W. B. Kynaston 5, W. Carter (first quarter in the method) 6, C. J. Gardiner (conductor) 7, S. Palmer 8, T. Townsend 9, W. A. Bullock 10.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 298.)

St. Luke's Church, Thurnby, was entirely rebuilt in 1873 by H. L. Powys-Keck on the site of an ancient church. It is in the Norman and Early English style, with embattled central tower. To reach the ringing room one ascends a spiral stairway in the transept, from whence a short walk over the leads takes one to the tower. Of the five bells, treble and tenor are by J. Taylor and Co., 1872 and 1885 respectively; 2nd by Joseph Eayre, 1765; 3rd by Edward Arnold, 1794; 5th by Hugh Watts, 1631. In 1926 the frame was overhauled and bells rehung on ball bearings. The tenor is 12 cwt. 3 qr. 12 lb. Only one peal of 5,040 has been rung here (February 26th, 1921), called by the writer.

St. Margaret's Church, Ditchling, Sussex, has a central tower, 13½ ft. by 15½ ft., which is contemporary with the chancel, viz., c. 1260-70. It rises to the height of the nave roof and is finished with a pyramidal roof. The tower arches are obtuse-pointed to east and west, equilateral to north and south; of two orders and supported with capitals and bases to each order. The tower shows more of the original flint facing than any other part of the church. In the spire are modern louvres to east and west. There is a ring of eight bells. Originally five by Lester and Pack, 1766, they were increased to six about 1880. In 1914 two trebles were added by Gillett and Johnston, and these are in an iron frame above the old six, in their original oak frame. The tenor is about 8 cwt.

St. Nicholas', Charlwood, Surrey, has a central tower 16 ft. 8 in. north to south, by 15 ft. east to west. The plan is of much interest, preserving the aisleless nave and the tower of a church of 1100 A.D., the tower having been set between the chancel and nave with the same internal width as the former, but being externally wider owing to the greater thickness of the walls. In the 14th century a south aisle was added to the nave, and the chancel lengthened. Later, the present chancel was added, and the old chancel is now used as a vestry. The tower stair is a modern one of wood enclosed in the north-west corner, accessible only by an external doorway. There is a ring of six, tenor approximately 16 cwt. The treble and 2nd were by Thos. Janaway, 1764; 3rd, 4th and tenor by William Eldridge, dated respectively 1697, 1668, 1662; 5th by Thos. Mears, 1835. In 1925, Messrs. Mears and Stainbank recast the treble, 2nd and 4th, retuned others, and rehung in the old frame, which was strengthened.

St. Michael and All Angels', Lambourn, Berks, central tower is 16½ ft. square. The tower and nave belong to a cruciform building of c. 1180, the transepts and chancel of which were rebuilt and extended in the 13th century. Above the roof, the tower is of two principal storeys, the lower 12th century stage, which is plain and massive, is of mingled flint and stone rubble with dressed quoins, contrasting with the wrought stone walls and more elaborate detail of the later bell chamber. The lower stage is divided into three by string courses, but is without buttresses or windows except for a small round-headed opening on the east side. The bell chamber windows are of three transomed cinquefoiled lights with four-centred heads and vertical tracery. The but-

tresses are taken above the parapet as octagonal turrets with embattled parapets and finials.

There is a ring of eight bells, tenor 23 cwt. in E flat. The treble and 5th were cast by James Wells, of Aldbourne, in 1804, the latter being recast by J. Warner and Sons in 1892. The 2nd is by Henry Bagley, 1742. The 4th, 7th and tenor form part of the unidentified Bolter-Purdue group dated 1637. A full account of the bells and their history is given in Mr. Sharpe's new series on the bells of this county, in which he gives the following episode connected with the ringers of this tower:—

'No one cared more for manly sports than he did—(Rev. Robert Milman, Vicar, 1851)—but he was deeply convinced of the abuses of the turf, and having racing stables in his parish knew only too well to what evils it led. On one occasion, soon after he had come to the parish, when he had refused permission for the church bells to be rung in honour of the victory of a Lambourn horse, the ringers obtained access to the tower and, locking themselves in, rang a peal. Mr. Milman could not restrain his indignation; he summoned the ringers before the magistrates, and on the following Sunday preached so vehemently upon the abuse of the turf that no one ventured to trifle with him again.'

Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, St. Mary's Church is cruciform. The church was begun in 1140, and finished 40 years later, except the porches, which were added in the 14th and 15th centuries. The central tower, 16 ft. square, is of three stages, with a parapet and tall leaded spire, possibly of the 13th century. On each side of the ground stage are stilted semi-circular arches, the west one being enriched with zigzag ornament on the side facing the nave. There is a ring of eight bells, tenor 19 cwt. The two trebles and tenor, by Lester and Pack, 1758 and 1767 respectively; 3rd by Chandler, 1688; 4th by Robert Oldfield, 1633; 5th, John Dyer, c. 1590; 6th by Robert Mot, 1604; 7th, Robert Oldfield, 1617. In 1552 there were here 'v Belles in the Steple: ij handbelles.'

Great Berkhamstead Church, Herts, St. Peter's, is a large cruciform church dating from pre-Conquest times. Early in the 13th century the church apparently consisted of chancel, central tower, transepts and an aisleless nave. Of this building, the chancel and lower stage of the tower remain. The plan of the church is interesting on account of the unusual length of the nave, which is nearly five times its breadth. The central tower is 17 ft. by 16 ft., and of three stages, with embattled parapet and small leaded spire. The walls are five feet thick. The names of the builders, John and Alyce Phyllypp, were recorded on a stone below the south window of the third stage, but it is now too much decayed to be legible. There is a ring of eight, all by Thomas Mears, of London and Gloucester, 1838, tenor approximately 19 cwt. Chauncy, writing of the bells in 1700, says, 'a ring of five bells not very tuneable.' As early as 1510, one Edward-de-la-Hay, by his will dated May 20th that year, gave among many other gifts 'to the reparation of the bells' 13s. 4d. In 1552, the Church of 'Barkh'mstede Peter' possessed 'iiijor Belles in the Steple, a Saunce Bell, another Saunce Bell, ij handbelles, too Sacringe Belles.'

The Church of St. George, Heaviley, Stockport, Lancs, was begun in 1893, the foundation stone being laid on June 17th of that year by Lord Egerton, of Tatton. It is one of the finest churches in the North of

England, and possesses a cathedral-like appearance. It was designed by Messrs. Paley, Austin and Paley, of Lancaster, in the Transition form of Decorated and Perpendicular style of architecture, and will seat 1,040 persons. It is 180ft. long, 75ft. across the aisles, and the nave is 51ft. high to the wall plate, and aisles 31ft. Its magnificent central tower, with pinnacles and flying buttresses, is topped by a fine spire reaching to a height of 230ft., a height only exceeded by a very few in the North of England. It contains a ring of 10 bells, tenor 29 cwt. 3 qr. 12 lb., all by Mears and Stainbank, 1896. Access to the belfry is similar to that at St. Mary's, Nottingham, spiral stair up end of transept, but the passage to the tower in this case is covered.

At St. Lawrence's Church, Rowington, Warwickshire, is a ring of five in a minor key, where the ropes come down in the pews from its central tower. They are also 'anti-clockwise.' The treble hangs over the others slantwise in position, and is a recast by Carr, of Smethwick, 1887, of the former bell of 1633, by Hugh Watts, of Leicester, who cast the 2nd, 4th and tenor. The 3rd is by Newcombe, 1609, and tenor weighs 6 cwt. 1 qr. 6 lb. Granted to the Abbey of Reading in the reign of Henry I., this church remained the property of that house until the Dissolution. It is, perhaps, unique in its arrangement, possibly from its original design as a cruciform building being interrupted. The tower rises out of the nave at its eastern end, and beyond which the nave seems to reappear at a lesser width, and a shallow transept is on the south side of the tower. The character of many portions of the church has so little definition as to render their assignment to any particular style or age a matter of difficulty.

The small village of Glaston, Rutland, has a 12th century church, which was altered and extended in the two succeeding centuries. It has a central tower (without transepts), surmounted by a short broach spire. There is a ring of six bells, tenor approximately 8 cwt., and these from being three were made five in 1931, and later increased to six by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. The tenor, dated 1598, bears an inscription in very fine lettering, with the shield used by Francis Watts and the decorative cross used by the Newcombes. Both these founders had their foundries at Leicester, and this bell may have been cast by them working in partnership as they occasionally did. At one time a saucer-shaped clock bell hung outside the south light of the spire, and as the clock dial is dated 1739, that is probably the date of this bell. Eayre, of Kettering, made bells of this shape. This is now in the rectory garden, inverted and used as a flower pot. Glaston bells are rung from the ground floor between nave and chancel, and the writer had the pleasure of conducting the first peal of Minor (in five methods) on them on October 10th, 1937. During the peal the church door was left open. Several visitors came in but did not disturb the ringers.

The Church of St. Faith, Overbury, Worcestershire, has a central tower, 12ft. by 13½ft., between the nave and chancel, without transepts. The nave is of 12th century date, and a tower appears to have been built on the site of the present one and at the same time. A groined stone value spans the lower storey, while the room above is lighted by single square-headed lights in the north and south walls. The third or bell chamber has a square window in each wall, filled with small and

elaborate tracery in stone. At the angles are diagonal buttresses. Grotesque winged gargoyles project at the four corners of the moulded parapet. Lower down the south-west buttress is a curious carved reptile. The tower is of rubble, ashlar faced outside. It contains a ring of six bells, tenor approximately 12 cwt. The treble was added in 1903 by J. Taylor and Co., and its inscription includes a chronogram composed by the late Mr. H. B. Walters, the well-known bell historian. The 2nd and tenor are by Purdue, of Bristol, dated 1641; the 3rd is by Newcombe, of Leicester (undated); 4th by Hendley, of Gloucester, also undated; 5th by A. Rudhall, 1719.

The Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin, Ripple, Worcestershire, has a central tower, 15½ft. by 16ft. The whole structure, which is built of limestone with stone slabbed roofs, is of the original date, c. 1195-1200, and is a good example of a complete transition church. In 1713 the top of the tower, whose spire had been struck by lightning on December 18th, 1583, was taken down and rebuilt to a greater height, minus the spire. In 1797 it was again repaired and raised, the uppermost stage being now of the latter date. This central tower rests on massive piers. Its upper stages, accessible by a ladder from the north transept, have been altered in level, probably when the vaulting was removed, and the heavy floor corbels, and the stepped splay of the original windows of the first stage—now blocked—are visible internally. There is a ring of six bells, all cast at Gloucester by John Rudhall in 1808. In the Commissioners' return of 1552, Ripple had 'iiij bells in the steeple j lyche bell ij sacryng bells.'

(To be continued.)

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES

EAST ILSLEY, BERKSHIRE.—On Sunday, June 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *Miss June East 1, William Hibbert 2, Mrs. C. J. Hibbert 3, Mrs. A. Williams 4, C. J. Hibbert (conductor) 5, Mark Rosier 6, E. T. Sneller 7, *F. Carter 8. *First quarter-peal. — On Sunday, July 2nd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss June East 1, W. Hibbert 2, Mrs. C. J. Hibbert 3, Mrs. A. Williams 4, R. W. Warwick 5, F. Sgt. Harry Smith 6, O. J. Hibbert (conductor) 7, F. Carter 8.

PETERBOROUGH.—On June 29th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. Rose (conductor) 1, W. Cross 2, *C. Woods 3, *W. Alderman 4, W. Waldron 5, H. Goakes 6, H. Beechy 7, *E. Warner 8. *First quarter-peal.

GROBY, NEAR LEICESTER.—On Monday, July 3rd, 720 Grandsire Doubles: W. Geary 1, Derek Dodson 2, S. Gardner 3, V. Geary 4, R. F. Elkington (conductor) 5, Dennis Dodson 6. Rung half-muffled for Mrs. Dodson, mother of the ringers of the 2nd and tenor, who was buried on this day in the churchyard.

DARLINGTON.—On Sunday, July 9th, at the Church of the Holy Trinity, 720 York Surprise Minor. On Sunday, July 16th, 576 Cambridge Surprise Minor and 720 Beverley Surprise Minor: R. Bushy, R. Jeff, W. Oliver, G. W. Park, W. N. Park, R. Park, J. T. Titt.

HUGGLESCOTE.—On July 10th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: G. Hadfield 1, G. Walker 2, H. O. Over 3, J. Cadle 4, J. H. Dean (conductor) 5, E. J. Tovell 6, H. Powdrill 7, T. Aldread 8.

FARNHAM, SURREY.—On Tuesday, July 11th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *William Taylor 1, George Carter 2, *Dennis Evans 3, William Viggers 4, Richard Hasted 5, Thomas Upshall 6, Harold Hobden (conductor) 7, Frank C. W. Knight 8. *First quarter-peal.

KERESLEY, COVENTRY.—On Saturday, July 15th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: S. J. Oughton 1, C. H. Webb (conductor) 2, J. W. Taylor 3, A. Bristow (conductor) 4, H. Folwell 5. Rung for the wedding of the daughter of Mr. T. Hastings, a local ringer, and the silver wedding of the ringer of the fourth.

BARWELL, LEICESTERSHIRE.—On Sunday, July 16th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: E. Chesterton 1, W. Newton 2, A. Pegg 3, M. Swinfield (conductor) 4, R. C. Belton 5, F. Deacon 6, K. Deacon 7, J. Needham 8.

NORTON-IN-THE-MOORS.—On Sunday, July 16th, 720 Wells Surprise Minor: O. Williams 1, S. B. Bailey 2, J. E. Wheeldon 3, W. C. Lawrence 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6.

DARLEY DALE, DERBYSHIRE.—On Sunday, July 16th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: E. Paulson 1, G. H. Paulson (conductor) 2, Sgt.-Major W. Tyler 3, H. Gregory 4, B. Allsop 5, Rev. P. J. Boulsover 6, Tpr. V. Bottomley 7, R. Allsop 8.

THE BELLS OF EDMONTON.

An inventory of the goods and ornaments possessed by the church of All Saints, Edmonton, in the reign of King Edward the Sixth, survives, but it is defective and contains no mention of any bells; and the first account of the bells in the steeple that I have is in 1788, when on May 8th the present ring was opened by a band of the Cumberland Youths with a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major. It was composed and conducted by John Reeves, who had recently left the 'ancient' Society of College Youths owing to the quarrels which had led to the break up of that company, and who was now for a time the conductor of the rival society.

Four days after Reeves' peal the junior Society of Cumberland Youths rang a peal of Grandsire Triples, and two months later the College Youths rang 5,440 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major.

During the next twenty years the Cumberlands rang several peals in the tower, one or two of more than ordinary interest. In 1795 they scored 10,080 Bob Major, and in 1800, 10,112 Oxford Treble Bob Major. The latter was at the time the longest composed or rung in the method, and the peal book describes it as 'unrivalled in the annals of Campanistanean fame.' It was composed and conducted by George Gross. The figures are lost; but, though we have not much evidence of how far Gross was a safe and competent composer, we may assume that it was true, for Shipway mentions it and says Gross composed another 10,994 changes. There was a curious legend published by a contemporary newspaper that in a previous attempt for this peal, towards the end Gross got his foot entangled in the rope and, being carried up to the ceiling, fell and broke his collar bone. It can hardly be correct, for he was peal ringing a week or two after the accident was supposed to have happened.

In 1795 the society rang 5120 changes of Cumberland Treble Bob Major which there is every reason to believe was one of the earliest peals of Kent Treble Bob.

On September 17th, 1798, George Gross called 5,011 changes of Grandsire Triples, 'being the first rung without a single.' The figures are lost, but we can have a good idea of what was rung. If in the first half of Holt's ten-part peal a certain bob is omitted, the bells are put into the second half, which can be rung in its entirety; but at the conclusion the starting point in the first half cannot be regained. That means you can produce the 5,040 rows of Grandsire Triples by common bobs only, but not in round block form. Some of the early composers tried to get over the difficulty by using a special call or an irregular start. Stephen Hall, of Kidderminster, produced a 5,012 in this way, and it is given in Shipway's book. John Noonan brought it to London. It contains a special single in which the bells in seconds, thirds, fourths, and sevenths, lie still, and which does not alter the nature (odd or even) of the rows. Gross left that out and evidently adopted an irregular going off or coming round lead. It is perhaps

significant that though Shipway included Hill's 5,012 in his book, he left out Gross' 5,011.

One more performance at Edmonton deserves mention, not for any intrinsic merits it possessed, but because it was rung by the St. James' Youths. They were not the same company as the St. James' Society, which was not established until thirty years later, but in a sense they were its ancestors. John Hints was already connected with the belfry of St. James, Clerkenwell, and there he got around him a number of young ringers, some of them his pupils. The tower was a regular meeting place of the old Society of Cumberland Youths, and in addition there was this young band who held independent practices and were sometimes joined by members of the leading societies whose love of ringing was great enough to make them break the traditional rule which forbade the members of one company to ring or associate with the members of another.

Edmonton has played a leading part in the story of ringing during the last half century. Mr. James Parker migrated there from Crawley and more than one of the band went with him. A fine company was formed which rang many peals, and the high standard has since been maintained by Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Fletcher and Mr. John Thomas. At the present time there is a young band which looks like equalling the achievements of their predecessors.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

SANDY.—On Sunday, July 16th, 720 Bob Minor: P. Enderby 1, Cpl. J. Stubbs 2, C. H. Harding 3, C. Ball 4, R. J. Houghton 5, L.A.C. F. W. Budgen (conductor) 6.

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.—On Monday, July 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: B. Cornell 1, S. H. Symonds (conductor) 2, M. T. Symonds 3, W. Fayers 4, F. Boreham 5, W. R. J. Poulson 6, F. F. Mortlock 7, L. Offord 8. Rung fully muffled for Mr. C. Jarvis, for several years a ringer at Lavenham.

GREAT STAUGHTON, HUNTS.—On July 19th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: N. D. Smith 1, Cpl. Stubbs 2, L.A.C. Budgen 3, F. W. Lack 4, C. H. Harding (conductor) 5, B. F. Sims 6.

SLOUGH.—On Sunday, July 23rd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Harding, sen. (first quarter-peal) 1, G. H. Gutteridge 2, Capt. H. W. Rogers 3, F. V. Sinkins 4, F. W. Goodfellow 5, E. L. Hudson 6, N. V. Harding (conductor) 7, E. H. Preston 8.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.—On St. Peter's Day, 1,260 Bob Doubles: *Mary Pemberton 1, *Joyce Hearn 2, *Freda Murkitt 3, *Jean Broomfield 4, G. Gilbert 5, T. J. Fowler 6. *First quarter-peal.

HOBART, TASMANIA.

Among the bequests made by the late Mrs. Lucy Macfarlane, of New Town, Hobart, was one of £25 to the bellringers of Holy Trinity Church, and in her will she asked that a 'joyful peal' should be rung on Trinity bells as soon as possible after her death, which occurred on March 29th. The Rector of Holy Trinity (the Rev. F. J. McCabe) has stated that arrangements have been made to fulfil Mrs. Macfarlane's wish.

DEATH OF PETTY OFFICER H. CHANDLER.

The peal of Doubles at Lyonshall, Herefordshire, on July 15th, was rung muffled to the memory of P.O. H. Chandler, who lost his life on active service. He was born at Lyonshall and served for 18 years in the Navy. He was a member of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, the Devon Guild and the Hereford Diocesan Guild. He served for a time on the committee of the last-named association, and in 1933 he presented a shield to the Kingston and Clifford districts, which was competed for annually until 1939.

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NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Quarterly meeting at Stapleford, Saturday, July 29th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—Meeting at Rochester, Saturday, July 29th. Cathedral bells 3 to 4 and 7 to 9. Tea at City Cafe 4.45. Frindsbury bells will also be available.—G. H. Spice, Hon. Sec., 35, Woodstock Road, Sittingbourne.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellingborough Branch.—Meeting at Ecton, Saturday, July 29th. Service 4.30. Bring food; cups of tea provided. Names to A. Bigley, Hon. Branch Sec., 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Pentre, Rhondda Valley, Saturday, July 29th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 3.45. Business meeting 4.30.—J. W. Jones, Hon. Sec., 94, Alteryg View, Newport, Mon.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Meeting at Bishop's Stortford, Saturday, July 29th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business 5 p.m.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—Meeting at Mortimer, Saturday, July 29th, 2.30 p.m., at St. Mary's (8) and St. John's (6). Service at St. Mary's 4 p.m., followed by tea at the Vicarage.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec., 401, London Road, Reading.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Meeting at Dartford, Saturday, July 29th, 3 p.m. Service 4.45 p.m.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—Practice meeting, Ringmer, Saturday, July 29th, 2.30. Tea provided.—Mrs. E. L. Hairs, The Oaks, Theobald's Road, Burgess Hill.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Saturday, July 29th, 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Marden, Saturday, August 5th. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by business. Train leaves Tonbridge 2.15 p.m. Half travelling expenses up to 2s. paid.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Whalley, Saturday, Aug. 5th, 2.30 p.m. Business at 6 p.m. Bring food.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Bolsover, Saturday, Aug. 5th. Names for tea to A. B. Cooper, Wickstead, Rectory Road, Duckmanton, near Chesterfield.—G. G. Graham, 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—Meeting at Sutterton, Saturday, Aug. 5th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Names for tea by Tuesday, Aug. 1st.—W. E. Clarke, 99, Norfolk Street, Boston.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Annual meeting at Rochdale Parish Church on Saturday, Aug. 5th. Own tea arrangements.—I. Kay, Sec.

EAST RETFORD, NOTTS.—Meeting on Aug. 7th (Bank Holiday). Bells (10) 2 o'clock. Cafe close to church.—O. Street, 61, Cobwell Road, Retford.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Meeting at Horsham, Monday, Aug. 7th, 3 p.m. Tea can be obtained in town (no arrangements). Business meeting in belfry.—O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN and WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILDS.—Combined meeting, East Tytherley, on Aug. 7th. Bells from 11 a.m. Service 4.30. Cups of tea at 5 p.m. Bring food and sugar. Lockerley (6), Broughton (6) available afternoon and evening.—F. W. Romaine, G. Pullinger.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northwich Branch.—Meeting at Great Budworth, Saturday, Aug. 12th. Names for tea to Mr. J. Holden, Belmont Smithy, Warrington Road, Great Budworth, by Aug. 10th.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Shrewsbury, Saturday, Aug. 12th. Ringing at St. Mary's (10) 3-4, followed by service. Tea at Ward's Cafe 5 p.m. Ringing at St. Chad's (12) 6 p.m.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of the hon. secretary of the Ladies' Guild, Mrs. G. W. Fletcher, is now 3a, King's Road, Bramhope, near Leeds, Yorks.

BIRTHS.

MAYER.—On Wednesday, July 12th, at the Brae-side Nursing Home, Lincoln, to Dorothy (née Vessey), wife of Kenneth W. Mayer, the gift of a daughter.

WIGG.—To Florence, wife of the Rev. Elliot Wigg, on July 16th, at the Royal Bucks Hospital, a son (Nicholas).

MARRIAGE.

LATHBURY—SHORTER.—At St. Mary's, Walton-on-Thames, on Thursday, June 29th, Violet Emily, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Shorter, 15, Russell Road, Walton-on-Thames, to Reginald Leslie Gough, eldest son of Dr. C. J. and Mrs. Lathbury, Dunstable, Beds.

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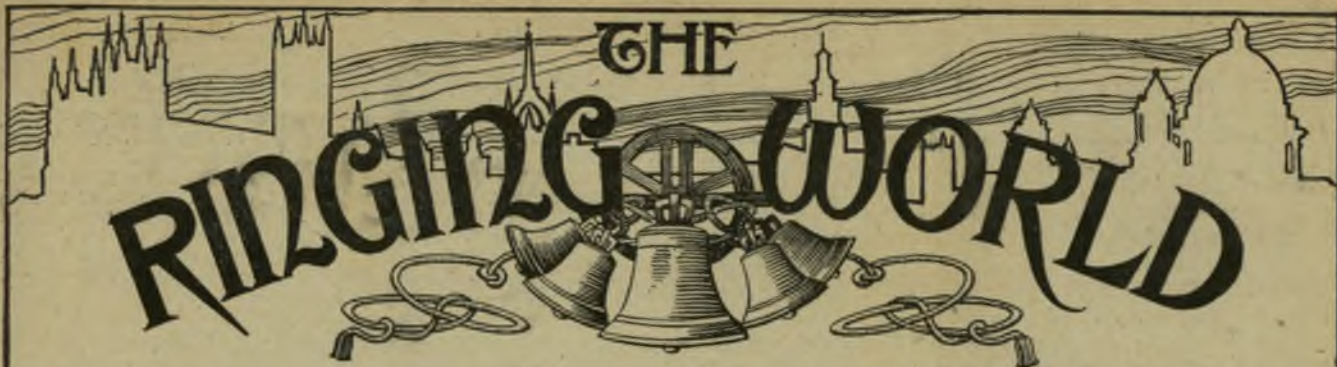
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RECONSTRUCTION.

Although the war is not yet over, responsible persons are already making plans and drawing up schemes for the rebuilding of our towns and cities damaged by enemy action. Elaborate schemes have been published for reconstruction in London, Liverpool and other provincial towns, and, but recently, for the City of London. All this is necessary, for directly peace comes there will be an urgent desire to resume those activities which the war interrupted, and unless authority has a definite plan ready, rebuilding will be begun on the old sites and the opportunity of creating better and more convenient towns will be lost. That was what happened to London in 1666. The Great Fire had laid waste the largest part of the City, the chance was offered to rebuild on a better plan and in a finer style, and the man of genius was there to prepare the plan. But authority was slow to act; before anything was decided the rebuilding was begun on the old lines, and the opportunity was lost. It is hoped that the mistake will not be repeated.

This is a matter which concerns everyone, for architecture is the one art which directly concerns everybody. The average man may be completely indifferent to styles and fashions in literature, and music, and painting; he cannot escape the influence of the street he lives in, the shop or the factory he works in, or the buildings he passes every day.

We, as ringers, have a further interest in restoration plans, for the art we practise is closely connected with architecture and indeed cannot exist without it. However fine a ring of bells, however skilful a band of ringers, there can be no ringing unless the tower they are associated with is a suitable one. Several hundred towers and spires will have to be rebuilt or repaired, and not one of them will be fit to hold a ringing peal of bells unless the architects who are responsible for the work know something of the problems that are involved and take care to find the correct solutions.

In the past it has been far too often the case that the last thing architects (even the most eminent) considered about church towers was that they should be capable of holding ringing peals of bells. Outside appearance was the first thing thought of and often it was the only thing. To it was sacrificed not only the necessary and right sort of strength of fabric, but the convenience of the ringers, the musical effect of the bells, and the space necessary to hang them properly. Thus

(Continued on page 322.)

there are throughout the country many tall slender towers and spires unbuttressed and almost detached from the church building in order to give an illusion of great height; towers with windows to the bell chambers so large and so badly placed that the bells can hardly fail to be a nuisance to the people in the vicinity of the church; towers where the belfry is cramped and ill-lighted and cluttered up with clock cases; towers where the noise of the bells in the belfry is overpowering and comfort in ringing an impossibility.

There is no need for these things. When the towers of our ancient parish churches were built they were intended first of all to carry bells, and when that condition had been fulfilled, men were able to make them beautiful as well. It could be so to-day, but unfortunately bells are seldom thought of until after the church is built. Architects do not take them into consideration, and like most other professional men, are not inclined to pay any attention to the opinions of outsiders. The men who could and do speak with authority on the subject, and who would be listened to, are the bell founders, but they have no chance of making their voices heard until after the tower is finished and the mischief done.

It is hard to say what remedy can be had. There may come a time when architects look on a steeple as a place for holding bells which can be made an ornament, and not merely an ornament in which by luck bells may sometimes be hung. But that time does not seem very near.

Meanwhile, any member of the Exercise who has any influence at all should do what he can to ensure that the work done in connection with repaired and rebuilt towers should be as suitable as possible. Any competent architect, when once he recognises the necessity, would have no difficulty in arranging for the bricking up of unduly large sound windows, the provision of deadening floors, the proper lighting of the belfry, and similar things. Carried out as part of the restoration work they would add little to the cost, but if left until afterwards they would quite likely make demands on the financial resources of the parish which would be difficult and perhaps impossible to meet.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT KNUTSFORD.

The Stockport and Bowdon Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild held its summer meeting at Knutsford on July 22nd. Service was conducted by the Vicar, who in his address gave the history of the ring of six bells, which had been doing service for over 200 years.

Mrs. Beeston occupied the chair at the meeting. She said that the bells recalled many memories of her husband, the late Rev. A. T. Beeston, who loved the bells and the work of the Guild. She was pleased to see so many young ringers present and she appealed to them to persevere in the work they had undertaken, a great and useful service to the Church and something which would be a pleasure to themselves.

Staley was selected as the place for the next meeting on September 9th, and an additional meeting was fixed to be held jointly with the Macclesfield branch at Macclesfield on October 14th.

Votes of condolence were passed with the relatives of the late Samuel Mottershead, of Bowdon, and with the relatives of the late Lieut. J. H. Lewis.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the Vicar and wardens, the organist, the local ringers and the ladies who had provided the tea.

The hon. secretary, moving a vote of thanks to the chairman, referred to her long association with the branch as an hon. member and to the work of her late husband. He made the branch what it is to-day, and those who had the privilege of knowing him and working with him were ever inspired by his example.

Over 70 members and friends were present and visitors came from the Macclesfield, Northwich, Crewe and Grappenhall branches. Another visitor was Mr. J. Wheadon, of Dartford, Kent.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

HITCHIN.—On Sunday, July 16th, 1,008 Stedman Triples: C. V. Hare 1, T. R. Scott 2, R. Davidson 3, W. E. Symonds 4, H. Else 5, E. Winters 6, L. Fidler (conductor) 7, A. E. Symonds 8.

READING.—On Sunday, July 22nd, at St. Lawrence's, 1,269 Grand-sire Caters: R. T. Hibbert (conductor) 1, Mrs. D. Catherall 2, Miss P. Hart 3, A. D. Cullum 4, Mrs. P. Lewington 5, G. Foxell 6, H. Smith 7, C. Pullen 8, E. Humphrey 9, E. G. Foster 10.

FULMER, BUCKS.—On July 23rd, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: G. E. Swift 1, A. C. Levett 2, G. H. Gutteridge 3, N. V. Harding 4, F. H. Hicks 5, W. L. Gutteridge (conductor) 6.

AUGHTON, LANCASHIRE.—On Sunday, July 23rd, 720 Bob Minor, 6-8 covering: J. Marsh 1, S. Flint 2, J. Taylor 3, R. Kirby 4, R. Critchley 5, R. Moorcroft 6, A. Mawdsley (conductor) 7, C. Ackers 8.

BLACK NOTLEY, ESSEX.—On Sunday, July 23rd, 720 Bob Doubles: Rev. J. R. Southam 1, S. Bones 2, Pte. E. Elliot (Harlow) 3, D. Talbot 4, H. A. Pratt (conductor) 5.

RUSHMERE, SUFFOLK.—On Sunday, July 23rd, 720 Bob Doubles: Michael Woodward 1, Miss Grace Jennings 2, John Jennings 3, James Jennings (conductor) 4, Frank Wiseman 5.

NORTON-IN-THE-MOORS.—On Sunday, July 23rd, for morning service, 720 Hanley Double Surprise Minor: S. B. Bailey 1, S. Ryles 2, J. E. Wheeldon 3, W. C. Lawrence 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6.—For evening service, 720 Durham Surprise Minor: J. Ryles 1, S. B. Bailey (first 720 Durham) 2, J. E. Wheeldon 3, W. C. Lawrence 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6.

APPLETON, BERKSHIRE.—On Sunday, July 23rd, 1,260 Grand-sire Triples rung half-muffled: E. Drewitt (first quarter-peal) 1, A. Cornish (first quarter-peal inside) 2, F. Messenger 3, H. White 4, H. White 5, R. White 6, C. G. Calcutt (first quarter-peal as conductor) 7, C. White 8.

EGHAM, SURREY.—On Sunday, July 23rd, 1,260 Grand-sire Triples: W. Parker 1, W. Shepherd 2, B. J. Hessey 3, J. Crocker 4, R. J. Andrews 5, E. Morey (conductor) 6, W. Peck 7, J. Greenough 8.

STAINES.—On Sunday, July 30th, at St. Peter's, 1,260 Grand-sire Triples: W. Parker 1, B. J. Hessey 2, W. Peck 3, W. Shepherd 4, R. J. Andrews 5, J. Crocker 6, E. Morey (conductor) 7, E. W. Ryder 8.

HALFOSWEN.—On Tuesday, July 25th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: H. Shilcock 1, G. H. Williams 2, A. Greenhall 3, W. H. Webb 4, L. Clissett 5, J. H. Cox 6, T. Greenhall (conductor) 7, A. H. Harris 8. Rung for the wedding of N. E. Saunders, a local ringer now in the Royal Navy, and Miss Joan Hunter, of Bournemouth.

GREAT GRANDPEN, HUNTS.—On Thursday, July 27th, 720 Bob Minor: F. Britten 1, S. Stubbings 2, H. Mason 3, H. Inskip 4, Cpl. Stubbs 5, F. W. Budgen (conductor) 6.

TROWBRIDGE, WILTS.—On Sunday, July 30th, 1,257 Stedman Caters: *Mrs. F. A. Penn 1, W. Loud 2, J. Francis 3, C. Butcher 4, R. Amor 5, W. B. Baxter 6, *F. A. Penn 7, *E. Parker 8, G. H. Harding (conductor) 9, S. Francis 10. *First quarter-peal of Caters in the method.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

ANNUAL FESTIVAL.

The annual festival of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Oxford on July 22nd. Preceded by three courses of Stedman Cinques, service in the Cathedral was conducted by the Rev. C. E. Wigg, Deputy Master, the preacher being the Rev. W. E. McFarlane, Vicar of Blewbury.

As the Master was delayed by transport difficulties, Mr. Wigg took the chair at the business meeting, and when Canon Coleridge did arrive he asked his deputy to carry on until the end. All the officers were re-elected and were thanked for their services. It was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Oxford, and to publish an abridged report for 1944.

Mr. Wigg congratulated Canon Coleridge on the completion of his fiftieth year as Vicar of Crowthorne, and the meeting enthusiastically supported him. Canon Coleridge thanked the members for their kind wishes.

Capt. Poyntz spoke of the untiring energy of the Master and asked that the appreciation of the Guild should be shown by being entered on the minutes of the meeting.

One hundred and thirty members sat down to lunch in St. Aldate's Rectory Room.

The Oxford Guild had made excellent arrangements for ringing, and during the afternoon and evening eleven of the college and city towers were open, always with someone in attendance. The ringing was in many methods from rounds to Stedman Cinques and Bristol Surprise Major.

SUFFOLK GUILD.

MEETING AT BURY ST. EDMUNDS.

A meeting of the Suffolk Guild, held at Bury St. Edmunds on July 22nd, was attended by ringers from Lavenham, Great Barton, Waldingfield, Chevington, Chelmsford, Long Melford, Halstead, Newton, Cambridge, Horringer, Sudbury, Barringham and the local company. Various Minor, Major, Cater and Royal methods were rung on the fine rings of ten at the Norman tower, and eight at St. Mary's. Mr. R. Rippingale, of Wickham St. Paul, was made a life member.

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, July 22, 1944, in Three Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL, ASTON.**A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;**

Tenor 25 cwt.

FRED PRICE Treble	WILLIAM PITTIGREW ... 7
RICHARD C. INGRAM ... 2	*WILLIAM BEST 8
ERNEST T. ALLAWAY ... 3	FREDERICK W. RISHWORTH 9
A. PADDON SMITH ... 4	NELSON ELLIOTT, R.A.F. 10
FRANK E. PERVIN ... 5	ALBERT WALKER 11
GEORGE F. SWANN ... 6	WILLIAM T. FROGGATT ... Tenor

Composed by J. CARTER.

Conducted by FRANK E. PERVIN.

* First peal of Stedman Cinques. Rung for the 70th birthday of Mr. F. W. Rishworth.

TEN BELL PEAL.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 29, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-DIVINE,**A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor 21 cwt.

MISS VALHALLA HILL... .. Treble	HAROLD J. POOLE 6
WALTER F. JUDGE 2	SIDNEY O. CHENEY 7
SHIRLEY BURTON... .. 3	REDVERS F. ELKINGTON ... 8
HARRY WAYNE 4	MAJOR J. H. FREEBORN ... 9
JOHN R. SMITH 5	ERNEST MORRIS Tenor

Composed by H. W. WILDE.

Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.

A birthday compliment to the conductor.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

NORTH WINGFIELD, DERBYSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 22, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor 18 cwt.

*ERNEST PAULSON Treble	STANLEY SLANEY... .. 5
WALTER ALLWOOD 2	G. GORDON GRAHAM 6
WILLIAM H. WAIN 3	HERBERT E. TAYLOR 7
VERNON BOTTOMLEY ... 4	JOHN E. TURLEY Tenor

Composed by BENJAMIN ANNABLE.

Conducted by JOHN E. TURLEY

* First peal.

PINCHBECK, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 29, 1944, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;**

Tenor 18 cwt. 9 lb.

JOHN CURRY Treble	JOHN G. AMES 5
STANLEY E. BENNETT ... 2	HAROLD BARSLEY 6
WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON 3	ARTHUR J. FARR 7
*HORACE BENNETT 4	RUPERT RICHARDSON ... Tenor

Composed by STEPHEN H. WOOD.

Conducted by R. RICHARDSON.

* First peal of Major. Rung for the wedding of Cyril R. Burrell, a ringer of the above church, and Miss Mavis L. Dowse, of Radcliff-on-Trent, who were married at Radcliff-on-Trent on the same date.

STRATTON ST. MARGARET, WILTS.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 29, 1944, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th the observation).

Tenor 8 cwt. 1 qr. 17 lb.

CHARLES J. GARDNER ... Treble	*WILLIAM A. T. CARTER ... 5
*THOMAS COLLINGWORTH 2	†A. GEORGE WELLS 6
*F. JOHN DANIELL ... 3	W. BERTRAM KYNASTON... 6
WALTER H. TRUEMAN ... 4	*WILLIAM M. GREENAWAY Tenor

Conducted by W. B. KYNASTON.

* First peal of Triples. † First peal. ‡ First peal of Grandsire Triples. Rung for the tenor man's 72nd birthday.

SKIPTON, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 29, 1944, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,**A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;**

Tenor 22 cwt. 1 qr. 7 lb. in E flat.

*ERNEST RAYNER Treble	PERCY J. JOHNSON 5
ERNEST H. SIMPSON... .. 2	ALFRED SMITH 6
WILLIAM BARTON 3	CAPTAIN J. L. WRIGHT ... 7
LESLIE W. G. MORRIS ... 4	FRED HODGSON Tenor

Composed by J. W. PARKER.

Conducted by LESLIE W. G. MORRIS

* First peal of Surprise. Rung for the diamond wedding of Mr. and Mrs. W. Billows, of Skipton. Mr. Billows has been a ringer for upwards of 60 years, and a member of the Yorkshire Association since 1887. The first peal in the method on the bells.

DODDERHILL, DROITWICH, WORCESTERSHIRE
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.On Saturday, July 29, 1944, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE,**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

PARKER'S TWELVE PART (7th observation)

Tenor 18½ cwt.

ARTHUR G. THOMAS ... Treble	WALTER H. RAXTER... .. 5
CHARLES R. SMITH 2	THOMAS H. YOUNG 6
ALLEN MORGAN 3	REGINALD WOODYATT ... 7
GEORGE E. LARGE 4	*ALFRED SPARKES Tenor

Conducted by WALTER H. RAXTER.

* First peal on eight bells.

SIX BELL PEALS.

MAULDEN, BEDFORDSHIRE.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being one 720 of Oxford Bob, and two each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob and two of Plain Bob. Tenor 10½ cwt.

*C. HENRY HARDING... .. Treble	REGINALD J. HOUGHTON 4
†MISS PATRICIA GILBERT ... 2	†LEONARD BOWLER 5
HERBERT L. HARLOW ... 3	ANDREW C. SINFIELD ... Treble

Conducted by C. H. HARDING.

* 60th peal. † First peal of Minor. The ringer of the tenor has now completed the circle in the tower.

ALVASTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 29, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL-AND-ALL-ANGELS,**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Seven 720's called differently.

Tenor 18 cwt.

JACK BAILEY... .. Treble	CHARLES HAYCOCK 4
WILLIAM LANCASTER ... 2	ARTHUR OVERTON 5
JACK W. GLUE 3	ALFRED MOULD Tenor

Conducted by ALFRED MOULD.

Rung for the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the bells. First peal as conductor.

HANDBELL PEALS.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 22, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-One Minutes,
AT GLYN GARTHE.**A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

DEXTER'S VARIATION.

Tenor size 13 in E.

MISS JILL POOLE 1-2	RUPERT RICHARDSON 5-6
HAROLD J. POOLE 3-4	MRS. H. J. POOLE 7-8

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Rung for the christening of Patricia Mary Wayman, granddaughter of the ringer of 5-6.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, July 25, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,
AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;**

*DENNIS H. LANGDON ... 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4	ERIC A. DENCH 7-8
†PHILLIP COWARD 9-10	

Composed by F. G. MAY.

Conducted by J. THOMAS.

* First peal of Caters away from 9-10. † First peal of Caters.

HENRY THOMAS ELLACOMBE.

Into the story of the Exercise there come the names of several men who, although not ringers themselves, have by their work and activities done much good for ringers, and influenced the development of the art of change ringing. William H. Thompson is an example, and Dr. J. J. Raven and Henry B. Walters, and (perhaps the most eminent of all) Henry Thomas Ellacombe.

Ellacombe is to-day probably best known among ringers in connection with the familiar chiming apparatus which he invented and which bears his name, but that was a comparatively small achievement. Strictly speaking it is not correct to say he was not a ringer, but he did not progress beyond Grandsire Doubles, and he took no interest in, and had no knowledge of composition and the science of ringing. His work was done as a bell antiquarian, and as a leader in that belfry reform movement of which so much was heard sixty or eighty years ago, and which (mainly on account of its success) is now almost forgotten. He was a pioneer in much that he did, and during many years was for the general public the leading authority on everything connected with bells. We cannot understand the Exercise of the last century and the conditions out of which our present Exercise has directly come, unless we know something of Ellacombe, his work, his writings, and his opinions.

Henry Thomas Ellacombe was born in 1790 in the parish of Alphington, near Exeter, where his father, William Ellicombe, was rector. He was educated at Oxford and in 1812 graduated B.A. from Oriel College, where his name is entered with the same spelling as his father's—Ellicombe. At first he intended to become an engineer and studied under Brunel, the famous engineer at Chatham dockyard; but in 1816 he took orders and a curacy at Cricklade, proceeding M.A. at the same time. From 1817 to 1835 he was curate at Bitton, near Bristol, and in the latter year he was appointed vicar. He was very active in his parochial duties, and not only restored Bitton Parish Church, but built three other churches to serve the district over which he had charge. In a testimonial presented to him the churchwardens said he had provided church accommodation for 2,285 worshippers and school accommodation for 820 children. In 1850 he was presented with the rectory of Clyst St. George, and was succeeded at Bitton by his son, Canon Ellacombe.

Clyst St. George is a parish on the rising ground west of the Exe valley and behind the small port of Topsham. It contains the church, two or three gentlemen's mansions, the rectory, and some scattered houses. Here Ellacombe lived until his death in 1885, and here he made his influence so much felt that the memory of him survived to recent times.

The rectory which he largely rebuilt is a mansion with nearly twenty bedrooms and stands in a large and beautiful garden, with coachhouse and stabling for several horses, orchards and kitchen gardens. The church, which is only a few yards from the rectory, occupies, with its churchyard, a corner of the rectory grounds. The whole is eloquent of the social position the rector held in the parish, for Ellacombe was a fine example of a type of parson which has long since passed away—scholarly, cultured, well-to-do, hardworking in the duties of his parish, caring for his people, but essentially of

the gentry class, and sharing its habits, opinions and prejudices. We shall need to remember this when we come to what he has to say about the ringers of his time. There is, or recently was, in the church vestry a portrait of him in his old age. It shows a short, thickset man with a long white beard and bowed with age. He usually carried about the parish a long shepherd's crook, which not only symbolised his office, but was used on children and even on adults much in the same way a shepherd would have used it on his sheep.

Ellacombe thoroughly restored the church, almost entirely rebuilding it, except for the tower. Its decorations, painted windows, and mosaics are evidence of the loving care he bestowed on it, though it does not altogether agree with modern taste. When he went to the parish there were three ancient bells. He added two trebles and a tenor, the last paid for by subscriptions in the parish in memory of the Prince Consort. During an early air raid in the present war the church was set on fire by incendiaries and badly damaged.

Ellacombe enjoyed a great reputation in his own time, and here is a contemporary description of him written by Thomas Mozley, a member of a famous clerical family, fellow of Oriel in the early days of the Oxford Movement, and brother-in-law of John Henry Newman, who died a cardinal of the Roman Church. Mozley was afterwards Rector of Plymtree in Devonshire. He published his 'Reminiscences' in 1882. It is one of the authorities for the Oxford University men of the early and middle part of the last century.

'Very early did I hear of Henry Thomas Ellacombe. Happy were they that knew him, or had talked with him, or even seen him. Yet I am ashamed to say I did meet him once in Oriel common room and failed to retain an image which was not eclipsed by the name. Ellacombe survives, and is of about the Provost's standing, ninety-three, or thereabouts. He is of that fortunate race—"sons of the gods" they may be truly called—that care for everybody and everything. There is no wealth like sympathy, for it is inexhaustible. I had heard of Ellacombe's addiction to church bells, to plants and flowers, to armorial bearings and genealogies, but when I went into Devonshire I might say that not half had been reported to me.

'His magnificent quarto on the bells of Devonshire gives the size, tone, quality, date, and legend of every church bell in the county with full particulars of their condition and surroundings. The first thing that strikes the reader is the evidently strong attachment of the people to their bells, and the lead bells have taken in church restoration. Long before Simeon was skeletonising our sermons, churchwardens were recasting our bells, and doing it very well too. They made mistakes and they dealt rather recklessly with the church towers. When they had not room for a larger peal, or even one more bell, they thought nothing of scooping out a wagon-load of masonry. What was worse, when the cage would oscillate so much as to disturb the ringing they drove in big wedges between it and the walls, thereby communicating the oscillation to the walls and in many cases cracking them from top to bottom.

'Ellacombe went about suitably apparelled and with proper tools and materials, running up every tower in Devonshire. He did not think it always necessary to

ask the parson's leave, but when the parson heard his bells tinkling, clanging and jangling, he knew somebody must be at them, and rushed out to see who or what it was. He found an extraordinary figure, who might have stepped out of a scene of German diablerie, ascertaining the key note of the bells or taking a tracing of the legend, or a cast of the devices. One clergyman exorcised Ellacombe at once, and his church is conspicuous by its absence from the book.

'After a very kind invitation and some unsuccessful attempts at last an appointment was made, and we drove to spend a day at Clyst St. George. There had now for ten years been an interesting link between us. The Clyst, which gives its name to a dozen villages or hamlets, rises in my parish and reaches salt water in Ellacombe's. The tide there works its way up the water-courses to within a few hundred yards of the parsonage. There are ships and shipbuilding at Topsham a mile off.

'Clyst St. George is the ancient birthplace of the Gibbs family, so renowned for its munificent doings at Keble College and elsewhere. The church is handsome, and has been as much restored and decorated as it is possible for a church to be, by Ellacombe's taste, and chiefly by his means. The painted windows, the heraldic ornaments, the mosaics on the font and on the walls, are beyond me altogether. I will freely confess that, earthworm as I am, I should appreciate better the contents of the parsonage. Every wall of every room or passage, upstairs as well as downstairs, we found covered with engravings, portraits and caricatures of the great turning-points of history at which Ellacombe was born. But you might pass to and fro between church and parsonage, for they were close together, hardly a fence be-

tween them, and the church, I think, was very likely open from sunrise to sunset. Heraldry, I may observe, is no trifle in Devonshire, where a single name and coat may ramify into some dozen differences. At least a dozen of my labourers could have shown good coats of arms.

'Ellacombe's garden was, or rather has been, one of the wonders of the county. He was his own gardener, employing only labourers. But his staff was now low, and there had been a long drought. He had a record of 5,000 different plants and flowers grown with success. They had come from all parts of the world, and here had been the first introduction of many to English society. The old gentleman talked to me more of people than of flowers, or church ornaments, or church bells; for he was as full of men as of anything.

'Ellacombe is a very short man, very much bowed with age, with a white beard reaching half way to the ground, a beaming countenance, a pair of bright eyes, and a good clear ringing voice.

'One could not be in Ellacombe's company five minutes without learning something worth knowing, and in a distinct and positive form. What a loss it is that there are not the men to rescue these accumulations of knowledge before they sink into the grave where all things are forgotten. But the aged only speak as one memory raises another and you may not catch the fish you have baited your hook for.'

(To be continued.)

ACTON.—On Sunday, July 30th, 720 Bob Minor: Jeffery Birt (first 720) 1, E. C. S. Turner (conductor) 2, J. A. Trollope 3, J. E. L. Cockey 4, A. Jones 5, A. Harding 6.

John Taylor & Co.

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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official journal of the Central Council of
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Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
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THE SABBATH BELLS.

The cheerful Sabbath bells, wherever heard
Strike pleasant on the sense, most like the voice
Of one, who from the far off hills proclaims
Tidings of good to Zion: chiefly when
Their piercing tones fall sudden on the ear
Of the contemplant, solitary man
Whom thoughts abstruse or high have chanced to lure
Far from the walks of men, revolving oft
And yet again hard matter which eludes
And baffles his pursuit—thought—sick and tired
Of controversy, where no end appears
No clue to his research, the lonely man
Half wishes for society again.
Him, thus engaged, the Sabbath bells salute
Sudden! his heart awakes, his ears drink in
The cheering music; his relenting soul
Yearns after all the joys of social life
And softens with the love of human kind.

—Charles Lamb.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT NETTLEHAM.

On July 22nd, ringers from the towers of the Cathedral, St. Giles' and St. Peter-at-Gowts', Lincoln, and from Blankney, Saxilby and Scothern met at All Saints', Nettleham.

The visitors were entertained to tea in the Institute, and votes of thanks were given to the Vicar (the Rev. H. Cotton Smith) and to the local ringers' wives for the tea. Handbells were rung in eight and ten bell methods, and on the tower bells during the afternoon and evening Grandsire, Plain Bob, Single Court, Oxford Bob, St. Clement's, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Cambridge Surprise and Stedman. With the exception of Stedman, all the touches included at least one member of the local band. Mr. Stokes (Blankney) acted as Ringing Master until the arrival of the Guild Branch Master, Mr. J. A. Freeman.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Eastern District of the Durham and Newcastle Association was held at St. Michael's, Bishopwearmouth, Sunderland, and ringers attended from Chester-le-Street, Houghton-le-Spring, Newcastle (Cathedral), South Shields, Sunderland (St. Ignatius'), Whickham, West Hartlepool (St. Oswald's) and the home tower.

The methods rung varied from Minor to Triples and Surprise Major interspersed with handbell ringing.

Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. J. F. Richardson. Mr. Bevin was at the organ. Special prayers were offered for the late Donald May, a ringer at St. Michael's, Bishopwearmouth, who was killed whilst cycling on July 17th.

At the business meeting, with Mr. R. L. Patterson, vice-president, in the chair, it was decided to hold the next meeting at Gateshead, St. Mary's, on August 19th, and to combine with the Western District in a meeting at Chester-le-Street on September 2nd.

THE J. D. & C. M. 'CAMPANALOGIA.'

(Continued from page 315.)

J.D. and C.M. give touches of Grandsire Triples of various lengths up to a half-peal, and then say, 'Now, having gone through the several peals or divisions of this peal, what remains thereof, is to show the method for the whole, which is 5,040; but in regard that there is no certain method known whereby this peal (as to truth) can be rung, and that the number of changes contained therein being so many that they require so long a time as four hours to perform them in, which being not only very tedious but likewise tiresome for any person to ring a bell so long, we shall therefore for these reasons, suspend what may be expected in reference to this matter, save only add for the satisfaction of those who are desirous to adventure upon so great an undertaking, that the only way that hath been practised is by making of a double change at the end of the half, wherein the bells in second and third places (when the treble leads) must lie still, according to the same method and rule as the singles in Grandsire upon five bells, then by observing the same method for the bells as is before shown, will double the peal to 5,040 changes.'

This seems to show that 5,040 changes had been rung before 1702; once at least, probably more than once. There is evidence that the College Youths rang a peal of Bob Triples at St. Sepulchre's in 1690, and if either just before or just after 1700 that society had rung a peal of Grandsire Triples, we should have expected that the men who preserved the list of members from the very beginning would also have preserved the record of such a performance; but that is no reason why other bands may not have rung five-thousands. The Exercise has agreed to recognise the 5,040 of Grandsire Bob Triples rung at Norwich in 1715 as the first true peal, and the 5,040 of Grandsire Caters at St. Bride's as the first true peal in London, but that earlier five-thousands were rung is certain.

The still existing board which records the Norwich performance says that it was 'the 3d whole peal that they (the Norwich Scholars) have rung, but the first whole peal that ever was rung to the truth by any ringers whatsoever'; and the board in the same belfry which records the peal of Grandsire Triples rung in 1718 says, 'the extent of this peal being 5,040 have oftentimes been rung with changes alike, but the first time that ever it was rung true was in three hours and a half without any changes alike, or a bell out of course, by these men whose names are underwritten.'

A very great interest was taken in ringing by Norwich people; they seem to have been well acquainted with what ringers were doing in other parts of England, and we may take the statement that five thousand and forty changes had oftentimes been rung as literally true and not as mere rhetoric.

It is evident that Doleman knew that the five-thousand obtained by doubling his half peal would not be true, but his comments on it are so worded that his readers would not necessarily read it so; and it is more than likely that most of the early peals were this composition. It is noticeable that in many of the early records the expression 'whole' peal is used, and when it is used it is pretty certain that the reference is to this false peal.

Here, too, we may find the explanation of the statement in the 'Clavis' that the peals rung in the method before the time of Holt were false. 'Not but they had a peal, to be sure, which they rang, but what credit or satisfaction can arise from repeatedly practising a false peal when so many true ones present themselves in other methods?'

It is interesting to notice that John Patrick, who assisted the authors of the 'Campanalogia,' in his copy of the work now in the British Museum, made a note referring to the 5,040—'This is a composition that's wrong. The first half may do.'

It seems likely that the first five-thousand was rung before the seventeenth century ended, but where and when can never be known. The first true peals accomplished were almost certainly those generally accepted as such by the Exercise.

By the time the J.D. and C.M. 'Campanalogia' was published most of the technical terms used in practical ringing were known. They were originally ordinary English words adopted almost unconsciously because their meaning in ringing was almost the same as in ordinary life. Only gradually they became technical terms, and consequently they were for long used rather loosely, though the context in which they appeared always saved them from ambiguity. The most striking example of this is the word 'change.' In ordinary English the word then meant (as it still means) the alteration from one thing or condition to another, and in a secondary sense it also meant the result produced by that alteration. Both meanings were adopted by ringers. The movement between two or more bells which altered their position was a change, and early writers, especially Duckworth and Stedman, continually use the word in that sense. But it also meant the order of the bells produced by the movement and in the course of time this meaning became much the more prominent.

A third meaning, and perhaps the original, was the reversal in position of one pair of bells, and as an extension of this meaning we have single changes, double changes, triple changes and the rest. The earlier meaning became obsolete, but in the 1702 'Campanalogia' we are told that in Oxford Treble Bob Minor 'every time the half hunt makes a change next the whole hunt a bob must be made.'

The word 'course' originally meant the work or path of a bell in the sense that we talk of the course of a river. Thus Duckworth says that in new Doubles the whole hunt has 'a perfect course in hunting up and down'; in Paradox each of the other bells has the same course as the whole hunt until the whole hunt leads'; and similarly elsewhere J.D. and C.M. continually speak of the 'course of the peals' meaning the general rules for ringing them. They say that in Oxford Treble Bob Minor 'a constant dodging course is assigned to the treble,' and they talk about the course of a bobbed touch of Plain Bob. They did, however, perhaps more than any others to fix the modern meaning of the term. For instance, they describe the plain course of Grandsire Triples as the 'ordinary' course of the method. Stedman wrote that in The Wild Goose Chase 'the first five bells go a perfect hunting course,' and, though the idea in his mind was not quite the modern one, in effect it was the same.

(To be continued.)

SEVEN BELL METHODS.**DOUBLE OXFORD AND ST. CLEMENT'S.**

(Continued from page 313.)

Double Oxford Bob.	St. Clement's Bob.
1234567	1234567
2135476	2135476
2314567	2314567
3241576	3241657
3425167	3426175
4352617	4362715
3456271	3467251
4365721	4376521
3456712	3475612
4365172	4357162
3461527	3451726
4316257	4315276
4132675	4132567
1423657	1423657
1246375	1246375
2143657	2143657
2416375	2416375
4261357	4261735
4623175	4627153
6432715	6472513
4637251	4675231
6473521	6457321
etc.	etc.

Some years ago there was an opinion widely held in the Exercise that only those seven bell methods were fit to ring in which the plain course is constructed throughout of triple changes. On seven bells you must have one place made in every change, the whole pulls at the lead and behind counting as places. 'Less than this is not possible, more is not necessary.'

There is something to be said for this opinion (otherwise, of course, it would not have been held); but when it was stiffened into a general rule (as by many persons it was) it had the result of narrowing the number of permissible seven bell methods to within very small limits. All would be excluded that did not closely conform to the pattern of Stedman, or the pattern of Grandsire with its bell-in-the-hunt. A seven bell method with a fixed treble and six working bells of the style of Plain Bob, or Double Norwich, or Double Oxford Major, with their fixed trebles and seven working bells, would not be possible. Methods with a 3-lead course, in which half of the working bells did one work in the plain course and half another, would be possible; but the men who urged the necessity for continuous triple changes would have recoiled from such methods with contempt and something like disgust. It is true that the so-called bob-and-single peals of Grandsire Triples are really peals of such a method, and it is true that in early days one or two others were rung; but the truth was disguised by a pretence that what is really the plain lead is a bobbed lead and what is a bobbed lead is the plain lead.

This restriction of seven bell methods by rule did not in actual fact do much harm; for when the rule was made very few ringers gave a thought to any Triples methods other than Stedman, Grandsire and Plain Bob, and fewer still had any wish or intention to practise any. When the need and desire for expansion came it was to Major men turned.

When we apply this rule of unbroken succession of the nature of the rows and add to it two other rules (both of which are generally accepted as necessary in the Exercise), we find the number of possible Triples methods with a plain hunting treble is eleven. One of the two rules mentioned insists on what is called symmetry in the construction of the lead, and the other insists in what are called Bob Major lead-ends.

Of the eleven methods Grandsire is the simplest and the foundation. It has two close variations. One is Reverse Grandsire, in which, instead of Thirds place being made by the bell which the treble turns from the lead, Fifths place is made by the bell the treble turns from behind; the other is Double Grandsire, in which both places are made. During the eighteenth century both Reverse and Double Grandsire had some measure of popularity among the most skilful companies, but neither is likely to appeal much to a modern band except as a novelty or curiosity.

Of the other eight methods, Oxford Bob and Double Court are probably the most useful; but one of the reasons for these articles is to point out to ringers that if the matter is approached in the right way by any band of good average ability, there is no reason why the whole group should not be available for their use. The methods should not be treated as separate, but as more or less variations of each other, and knowledge and practice of one should be used as a stepping-stone to the next.

The two methods we come to now are scarcely inferior in any way to those we have mentioned. Double Oxford Bob Triples is full of interesting work, and it is rather surprising that its merits have been so much overlooked. Although as old as Shipway's time, it was not until the year 1908 that Mr. Edwin H. Lewis called the first peal of it, and few, if any, have been rung since.

Double Oxford Bob Triples can be rung by the same rules as Double Oxford Bob Minor, care being taken to treat the treble and the bell-in-the-hunt together as the equivalent in the former to the treble in the latter. And to remember that on seven bells all place making and dodging above the treble is done at handstroke, and all place making and dodging below the treble at backstroke.

Turn to the plain course and follow the path of the Third. It has just been turned from the lead by the treble and makes Thirds place over the treble and the bell-in-the-hunt. It leads and does a 3-pull dodge in 1-2 up. It then passes the treble in 2-3, dodges in 4-5 up, makes Fifths (handstroke) over the treble, passes the treble and bell-in-the-hunt, makes Thirds and dodges in 3-4 up (backstroke) and goes to a 3-pull dodge in 6-7 up. When it has lain its whole pull behind, the treble turns it, and the bell makes Fifths place (backstroke) below the treble and the bell-in-the-hunt. This completes half the work of the course.

The second half is similar to the first half, except that it is done from the back instead of from the front. A whole pull behind is followed by a 3-pull dodge in 6-7 down. After passing the treble in 5-6 the bell dodges in 3-4 and makes Thirds place (backstroke). It passes the treble and the bell-in-the-hunt makes Fifths place and dodges in 4-5 down (handstroke). It then goes to the lead, does a 3-pull dodge in 1-2 down, leads a whole pull, is turned by the treble and is ready to begin the work of the plain course over again.

As in all these methods, the Grandsire bob is used in Double Oxford Bob.

4316257
4132675
1436257
1342675
3146257

There is double dodging as in Grandsire and Oxford Bob, but only three bells actually do anything different from what they would have done at a plain lead. The bell which has just done a 3-pull dodge in 1-2 up makes Thirds place and goes into the hunt. The bell which was place making from the back and has just made Thirds, instead of making Fifths double dodges in 4-5, and begins the place making over again. The old bell-in-the-hunt double dodges in 4-5 down and goes to full work on the front.

St. Clement's Bob Triples is a method of which the rules can be learnt in a few minutes. The Grandsire Thirds place is made at the lead end and the two bells left on the lead by the treble and the bell-in-the-hunt dodge together (a 3-pull dodge) until the treble returns. Every bell that hunts from the back makes Thirds place (backstroke) and hunts up again except when the treble is below it. At the lead end the Grandsire dodges are made

The work of a plain course is as follows. Make Thirds over treble and bell-in-the-hunt, lead, and do a 3-pull dodge in 1-2 up; pass treble in 2-3, dodge in 4-5 up, lie behind, make Thirds place (backstroke), dodge in 6-7 up, and make Thirds place. This is half the work of the course. The second half is the same, but in reverse order. Dodge in 6-7 down, make Thirds place and dodge in 4-5 down; pass the treble in 3-4, go to the front, do a 3-pull dodge in 1-2 down, the treble turns you, and you are ready to begin the work of the plain course over again.

Notice that the sequence of the dodging positions is 4-5 up, 6-7 up, 6-7 down, and 4-5 down. This is the reverse order to that of Grandsire.

The bob is the Grandsire bob and is quite easy to make because the Grandsire conditions are almost exactly reproduced.

4315276
4132567
1435276
1342567
3145276
3412567

There is, however, this distinction. Instead of, as in Grandsire, the bob putting you on one lead further than you would otherwise have been, it puts you back to where you were at the last lead end.

In Double Oxford Bob the calling positions when the Seventh is the observation are the same as those in Oxford Bob. The Wrong comes at the first lead-end. The Before comes at the third lead-end. The In at the fourth, and the Right or Home at the fifth.

In St. Clement's Bob the Before is the only calling position at which the bob does not affect the observation bell. This comes at the third lead-end. A bob at the first lead-end is a Right. At the second lead-end, a Wrong. At the fourth the Seventh is called In. And at the fifth a Middle is brought up. So far as the observation bell is concerned every bob except the Before lengthens the course one lead.

ST. MARY'S, ISLINGTON.

The Edwardian inventories of the ancient Parish Church of St. Mary, Islington, have not survived, but in the eighteenth century there was a ring of six bells in the steeple. Here in 1734 Laughton and the Rambling Ringers rang a funeral peal for William Ibbott—two Grandsires and 720 Plain Bob. It was the earliest muffled ringing of which there is any record, although the custom was already an established one.

In 1751 the church had become much dilapidated, and it was decided to pull it down and build a new one. The tower of flint and rubble proved stronger than was at first thought, and for a time resisted all attempts at destruction. Gunpowder was tried unsuccessfully, for it had to be used sparingly. In the end the building was shored up with timber, the foundations undermined, and the wooden supports burnt with fire.

The foundation stone of the new church was laid on August 21st, 1751, and the building was finished and opened for public worship on May 26th, 1754.

In 1774 the ring of six bells was recast and made into eight at the Whitechapel Foundry. The Cumberland Youths rang the opening peal, one of Bob Major, on January 7th, 1775, and next day the College Youths rang one of Oxford Treble Bob. Nothing is said about a ringing contest, but probably there was something of the sort with a set of gold-laced hats and a dinner for the winners. A week later the Cumberlands rang another peal of Oxford Treble Bob, three leads longer than their rivals.

In 1776 the College Youths rang Double Bob and the London Youths Grandsire Triples, and in 1777 the College Youths rang Bob Major. After that the Cumberlands gained the almost exclusive use of the belfry, which for many years was one of their strongholds. The longest peals on the bells were 6,208 Oxford Treble Bob Major in 1821 and 6,128 Grandsire Major in 1802. The most interesting peal was one of Imperial Place Major in 1802. The method was produced by William Shipway. All the bells plain hunt except that immediately before and after passing the treble a place is made. There is no dodging.

During the air raids three years ago, St. Mary's was set on fire and completely destroyed. The steeple still stands, and so far as we know the bells are undamaged, but whether it will be possible to ring them again is very doubtful.

TRURO DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

Considering the difficulties of travelling, there was a good attendance of members at a business meeting of the Truro Diocesan Association, held at Kenwyn Vicarage on July 22nd. It was the first business meeting of the Guild since 1939 and 14 towers were represented.

Canon Windsor was elected president in the place of the late Dr. Symons and the following as vice-presidents: The two Archdeacons, Canon Mills, Canon Jennings, the Rev. R. Hocking, the Rev. A. S. Roberts, Col. Jerram, Messrs. W. H. Southard and W. Wood: Ringing Master, Mr. W. H. Southard. The officers appointed were: Assistant Ringing Master, Mr. W. S. Garland; secretary, the Rev. W. H. R. Trehella; and peal secretary, Mr. C. E. Lanxon.

Canon Jennings spoke of what Dr. Symons had done for ringing and said it was mainly due to him that the Guild existed to-day. Mr. Southard suggested that a memorial to him might be placed in the Cathedral after the war.

It was proposed by the Ringing Master and seconded by the secretary that a letter of sympathy be sent to Col. Jerram on the loss of his elder son.

Mr. J. C. Britton invited the Guild to hold a ringing afternoon at Tuckingmill in the early autumn in connection with the centenary of the church.

Tea was provided by members of the Cathedral and Kenwyn congregations, and afterwards ringing took place in the two towers, consisting of Grandsire Triples and Doubles, call changes and rounds.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

(Continued from page 317.)

By ERNEST MORRIS.

Burford is a quaint old-world town, with more relics of the past than any other in Oxfordshire. Its history begins far back in Saxon times, when a synod to fix the date of Easter was held here in 685, and attended by Ethelred, King of Mercia, and Archbishop Theobald. In Edward I.'s reign, Burford was one of the four Oxford boroughs which returned members to Parliament in 1306. Though Parliament only sat for one day, Burford may be said to have had a member for one day only. The magnificent church lies lowest of all the town buildings, with the river Winrush flowing quite close to the north wall. In size, fineness of detail and irregularity of shape, the church is only second to Dorchester Abbey. Of the original Norman work, there only remains the west door and the central tower, which rests on four massive piers and has a lantern surrounded by good though simple arcades. The whole church seems to have been altered into the Early English style, and a second wholesale alteration transformed it in Perpendicular times.

The tower well illustrates both changes. When the upper storey and the graceful spire (Perpendicular) were set upon the Norman tower, the Early English arches which had been cut to lead to the transepts were blocked by lower Perpendicular arches which act as buttresses. The tower parapet has carved panels above grotesque faces with pinnacles at three sides and a little battlemented tower at the fourth. The north transept is called the 'Bellfounder's Aisle,' after Edward Neale, bellfounder, who lies buried here with his wife, Elizabeth. A curious inscription to the latter reads:—

'Here May I Rest Vnder this Tombe
Not to be Moved til the day of Doome
Vnlese my Husband Who did Mee Wed
Doth Lye with Mee when he is dead.'

Of the eight bells in the tower (tenor 18 cwt.) four bear the name of Henry Neale, 1635. Others are by Matthew Bagley, 1771, and H. Bond and Son, 1868 and 1885.

Bampton, St. Mary-the-Virgin, also in Oxfordshire, has a cruciform church with massive central tower rising 170ft. It is Norman at base, Early English above, and with 13th century spire, which has four dormer windows round it, and at each corner a clustered pillar on which a draped figure of a saint stands in place of pinnacles. Above the chancel arch a pointed arch has been inserted to take part of the weight of the tower. The church is one of the grandest in the county and full of beautiful objects. The rude chancel arch shows herringbone work and may possibly be as early as Saxon. The lowest storey of the tower is plain Norman, with a good interior arcade, one window of which opens into the north transept. The tower piers, however, on which it rests have been changed to Transitional, with pointed arches and billet moulding. Finally, the belfry storey is Early English. There are eight bells and a 'ting-tang.' The 5th, 6th and tenor (25 cwt.) are dated 1629. The others are by Mears and Stainbank, 1865, 1903 and 1906.

The beautiful cruciform Early English church of Bishops Canning, Wiltshire, one of the most interesting in that county, has a central tower of two stages, topped with a fine octagonal spire. It contains a ring of eight bells, tenor 19½ cwt., which originally was probably the earliest ring of eight of which there is record since the

Reformation. These bells were cast by John Wallis during the incumbency of the Rev. George Ferebe (1602), who was Vicar 1593-1613.

Aubrey, in 'Natural History of Wilts,' says, 'Mr. Ferraby, the minister of Bishops Canning, was an ingenious man and an excellent musician. When King James was in these parts, Mr. Ferraby entertained His Majesty with bucoliques of his own making. Whilst His Majesty was thus diverted, the eight bells (of which he was the cause) did ring, and the organ was played on for State. This parish in those days would have challenged all England for musique, football and ringing.' Since those days several of the bells have been recast—the tenor in 1897 by Mears and Stainbank, the 7th and 4th in 1840 by T. Mears, jun., the treble by J. Taylor and Co., 1912. There is also a Sanctus by James Burrough, 1738.

Long Crendon, Bucks, Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is cruciform, with a central tower of the 13th century. This is 17ft. square and supported on four arches, part of the ground stage rising above the roofs of the other parts of the church. It is almost entirely faced with 16th century ashlar, but some of the old wall remains. The two upper stages are built of roughly squared rubble, the embattled parapet is much restored, and at the north-west angle is the stair turret, the ground stage of which is rectangular and upper stage octagonal. In each wall of the second stage is a window of two cinquefoiled lights under a triangular head, and in each wall of the third stage are two windows each of 16th century date.

The tower contains a ring of eight (tenor 19 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lb.), and a Sanctus of 1719. All the eight are by Lester and Pack in 1768, and bear these founders' typical couplets for inscriptions. They are hung anti-clockwise, and John Baker, mentioned on the second bell thus:—

'Although but small, our tones are good,
John Baker Blacksmith for us stood,'

was churchwarden when these bells were cast, and gave the ironwork in connection with their hanging. In 1552 Crendon had 'fower gret bells, a Sancte bell, a hand bell, two sacring bells.'

St. Andrew's, Boreham, Essex, has a central tower containing a ring of eight, tenor 13 cwt. 19 lb. The dressings of the church are of 12th century work and largely of Roman brick; the roofs are tiled except the north aisle, which is of lead. Chancel, nave and central tower were built in 11th or first half of the 12th century. Upper part of tower added or rebuilt probably c. 1200. The church is interesting for its plan, and for the exceptional height of its west tower-arch, with flanking altar recesses. The tower is 17ft. square and of three stages with embattled parapet, with 17th century brick quoins to the merlons and a moulded brick coping. It is surmounted by a pyramidal tiled roof. In both north and south walls is a late 11th century or early 12th century round-headed window, built partly of Roman bricks. In the south-west angle is an internally projecting stair turret.

Of the bells, the 3rd and tenor are by William Whitmore and John Hodson in partnership, 1653, 4th by T. Lester, 1746, 5th by Miles Grave, 1626, 6th by Thomas Gardiner, of Sudbury, 1759, 7th by James Bartlet, 1688. The old six were rehung by Mears in 1878, but in 1913 two trebles were added, 6th and 7th recast, and all rehung by John Warner and Sons.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Marden, Saturday, August 5th. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by business. Train leaves Tonbridge 2.15 p.m. Half travelling expenses up to 2s. paid.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Meeting at Horsham, Monday, Aug. 7th, 3 p.m. Tea can be obtained in town (no arrangements). Business meeting in belfry. — O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN and WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILDS.—Combined meeting, East Tytherley, on Aug. 7th. Bells from 11 a.m. Service 4.30. Cups of tea at 5 p.m. Bring food and sugar. Lockerley (6), Broughton (6) available afternoon and evening.—F. W. Romaine, G. Pullinger.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Meeting, Ufford, Bank Holiday (Aug. 7th). Bells (8) 2 p.m. Tea, 1s. 6d., 4.30 p.m. Send names.—Chas. E. Fisher, Centre Villa, Ufford, nr. Woodbridge, Suffolk.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Saturday, Aug. 12th, 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Shrewsbury, Saturday, Aug. 12th. Ringing at St. Mary's (10) 3-4, followed by service. Tea at Ward's Cafe 5 p.m. Ringing at St. Chad's (12) 6 p.m.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—Monthly practice meeting at Shiplake on Saturday, Aug. 12th. Bells (8) from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, 401, London Road, Reading.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—Meeting at Sutterton, Saturday, Aug. 12th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by Tuesday, Aug. 8th. — W. E. Clarke, 99, Norfolk Street, Boston, Lincs.

BARNLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Felkirk, Saturday, Aug. 12th, 2.30. Names for tea before Aug. 9th.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch.—Meeting at Newchurch, Saturday, Aug. 12th, 3 p.m. Business 6 p.m., in tower. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—H. Parkinson, Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at Knebworth, Saturday, Aug. 12th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. A. G. Crane, Parame, London Road, Knebworth, by Aug. 10th.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough and Burton Districts.—Meeting at Ashby-de-la-Zouch Parish Church on Saturday, Aug. 12th, 3 p.m. Tea 4.30. Names to E. W. Beadsmoore, Packington Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Burton-on-Trent, by Thursday, Aug. 10th.—A. E. Rowley and J. W. Cotton, Hon. Secs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan and Liverpool Branches.—Joint meeting at Rainford, Saturday, Aug. 12th, 2.30 p.m. Tea, free. Names to Mr. S. Cadwallender, 51, Church Road, Rainford, nr. St. Helens, by Wednesday.—S. Forshaw, G. R. Newton, Branch Secs.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Portsmouth District. — Quarterly meeting at Alverstoke, Gosport, Saturday, Aug. 12th, 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea at 4.30. Names by Tuesday, Aug. 8th.—R. J. Stone, 16, Penhale Road, Fratton, Portsmouth.

HUGHENDEN, BUCKS.—Church fete, Saturday, Aug. 12th. Bells available evening.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Ashby Folville on Aug. 12th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided. Business in belfry.—R. Barrow, 10, East Road, Birstall.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—Meeting at Northill on Saturday, Aug. 12th, 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Meeting at Market Bosworth, Saturday, Aug. 12th, 3.30 to 5 p.m., and at Desford from 7 p.m. onwards. Bring own food. It may be possible to provide cups of tea.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Scuth and West District. — Meeting at Harmondsworth (bus from Hounslow West), Saturday, Aug. 12th, 3 p.m. It is hoped to provide cups of tea in the Vicarage Hall.—J. E. Lewis Cockey. Per. 5320.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Next meeting at Berkswell, near Coventry, Saturday, Aug. 19th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m., at The Cafe, Berkswell.—D. E. Beamish, 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting at Balcombe, Aug. 19th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Tea for those who advise Mr. A. Lake, 4, Barnfield Cottages, Balcombe, Haywards Heath, by Aug. 16th.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of the hon. secretary of the Ladies' Guild, Mrs. G. W. Fletcher, is now 3a, King's Road, Bramhope, near Leeds, Yorks.

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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.

ROPESIGHT.

The advertisement on another page which announces a war time reprint of Jasper Snowdon's 'Ropesight' is a good sign, for it is evidence that an elementary text book on change ringing of proved value is being widely circulated among the many young recruits that are coming into the Exercise. Once, and not so long ago, a major problem was the absence of recruits and the seeming hopelessness of seeking for them; now the problem is rather how best to deal with the many that are coming. In training ringers, as in all other similar things, nothing can fully take the place of the competent teacher, and the beginner is fortunate who comes under the influence of someone that not only knows himself what should be taught, but also how to impart his knowledge. Really good teachers, however, are rare. Fortunately, there is no lack of men who are willing to devote their time and patience and enthusiasm to the training of beginners. They do a vast amount of good, and without them the Exercise could not exist. But their knowledge of the things really essential is not always equal to their zeal, and their efforts need to be supplemented by other things. Here it is that the use of text books comes in, and here it is that the value of 'Ropesight' has been so greatly shown.

'Ropesight' was first published in the year 1879, and now, 65 years later, what is substantially the same book is being reprinted and for the ninth time. How many copies have been sold altogether we do not know, but the number must be greater than twenty thousand. It is a striking testimony to the popularity of the book and to its value, but it also raises another question. Good and useful as a text book on any subject may be when it is written, there is always the tendency for it to become out of date and obsolete. New ideas and new ways of expressing old ideas are continually arising, and the teacher must develop his methods to embrace them. It is so in all living subjects, and it is so in change ringing. Two years after the publication of 'Ropesight' its author, Jasper Snowdon, issued another text book, 'Standard Methods,' which in popularity and usefulness has more than equalled the earlier book. But here is a distinction. While 'Ropesight' is to-day what it was when it first left its author's hands, 'Standard Methods' has been so altered in later editions and by other authors that it is now an almost completely new book in which advantage has been taken of all the

(Continued on page 334.)

developments and improvements in the art up to the present time. Must we conclude that 'Ropesight' is out-of-date for lack of a similar revision?

Now it is true that 'Ropesight' does, on the face of it, bear unmistakable marks of the time it was written in, and the opinions and standards which were then current. If its author were living to-day he would not use exactly the same illustrations, nor would he express himself exactly as he did then, and we are betraying no confidence when we say that the question has been considered carefully whether the time had not come to rewrite the book entirely, and to give new illustrations and new instructions. It has been considered and the decision was that it is not necessary since the book answers the purpose for which it was intended as well now as it has ever done.

The things in which 'Ropesight' may fairly be said to be out of date are the inclusion of Plain Bob Triples as a standard method and the selection given of peals of Bob Major. The practice of Bob Triples has been condemned by a resolution of the Central Council and the method has fallen into disuse. The pages which treat of it in 'Ropesight' are now superfluous, but they can scarcely harm anyone. The peals of Bob Major given by Jasper Snowdon are largely five-part and three-part in-course compositions which no one rings to-day, but they are of great value to those who are interested in composition, and conductors need have no difficulty in finding all the peals they want for calling elsewhere.

On the other hand, since the book deals with the most elementary part of the art, in its essentials it is not in any way out-of-date or obsolete, and whatever limitations Jasper Snowdon may have had as a writer, he had the great gift of being able to put himself into complete sympathy with his readers, which is the first essential of a good teacher.

Had the book been rewritten it could not have been published at the present time except at too great a price. As it is, the cost of paper and printing make an extra charge a necessity. But ringers will not mind that, and will gratefully acknowledge the debt they owe to Miss Snowdon for keeping in circulation a book which has proved so useful to the Exercise.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

CAMBRIDGE AND SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR.

1,024					1,024				
23456	B	M	W	R	23456	B	M	W	R
35264	1				23564	1			
63254					52364				
42356					35264				
34256					63254				
23456					23456				
1,024					1,024				
23456	B	M	W		23456	B	M	W	
35264	1				52436				
63254					34625				
52436					23645				
35426					42635				
23456					23456	1			

RECONSTRUCTION.

To the Editor.

Sir,—With reference to your leader of August 4th, so far as the Church of England is concerned, most if not all of the dioceses have 'Bishop's Advisory Committees.' Every application for a faculty for alteration or repair to the fabric of a church goes before this committee, which is composed, in the main, of people who are knowledgeable, if not experts. Mr. Ernest Morris has recently been appointed to the Leicester Diocesan Committee; so ringing problems in church towers will be in safe hands in this diocese. A. M. SAMSON.

St. Peter's Vicarage, Loughborough, Leics.

EIGHT BELL PEAL.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, August 7, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-One Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Dexter's Variation.

Tenor 23 cwt., 3 qr., 9 lb. in D.

FREDERICK OLDROYD ... Treble	WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... 5
GEORGE L. GROVER ... 2	C. ERNEST SMITH ... 6
ALFRED H. PULLING ... 3	GEORGE W. STEERE ... 7
CLARENCE H. DOBBIE ... 4	† FRANK C. W. KNIGHT ... Tenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

* First peal in the method. † First peal.

SIX BELL PEALS.

KEMPSEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor 19½ cwt.

* FRANK SALTER ... Treble	CHARLES J. CANN ... 4
† FRANCIS J. CUBBERLEY ... 2	ERNEST F. CUBBERLEY ... 5
HAROLD WILLET ... 3	ARTHUR I. BLIZZARD ... Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES J. CANN.

* First peal. † First peal of Doubles. Rung for the 65th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Rea.

WEST DEEPING, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Double Court, London, York and Cambridge Surprise, Plain Bob, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 10 cwt.

WILLIAM NEAL ... Treble	SIDNEY G. SMITH ... 4
CHARLES WOODS ... 2	HORACE M. DAY ... 5
WILLIAM H. WALDRON ... 3	WILLIAM OLDMAN ... Tenor

Conducted by H. M. DAY

HANDBELL PEALS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Thursday, July 27, 1944, in Two Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE INORGANIC CHEMISTRY LABORATORY, SOUTH PARKS ROAD.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

* JEAN A. SOUTHERST ... 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6
* † SHEILA M. MCKAY ... 3-4	BETTY SPICE ... 7-8

Composed by J. WILDE.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Treble Bob. † First peal on an inside pair.

ACCRINGTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, July 30, 1944, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT NEWSTEAD, WILLOWS LANE,

A PEAL OF BOB DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two extents, four callings. Tenor size 8 in C.

* K. HINDLE ... 1-2	R. LEIGH ... 3-4
* L. WALSH ... 5-6	

Conducted by R. LEIGH.

Witness: C. JOHNSON

* First peal. First peal for the Accrington Grammar School Society.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, August 3, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAXIMUS, 5016 CHANGES;

ERIC A. DENCH ... 1-2	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7-8
MRS. J. THOMAS ... 3-4	WILLIAM L. B. LEES ... 9-10
JOHN THOMAS ... 5-6	DENNIS H. LANGDON ... 11-12

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS.

Conducted by J. THOMAS.

SEVEN BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 329.)

There still remain three seven-bell methods to be considered—College, Hereward Bob and London Bob. None is quite the quality which would entitle it to be chosen for regular practice, but any one of them could easily be rung by a competent band that has made itself familiar with the other methods we have dealt with. The point we want to stress is that if the whole group is studied as a whole and in the right way, there is no reason why any one of the eleven methods should not be rung when desired.

College Triples.

1234567	continued.
2143657	7251364
2416375	7523146
4261735	5732416
4627153	7534261
6472513	5743621
4675231	7546312
6457321	5764132
4653712	7561423
6435172	5716243
4631527	5172634
6413257	1527364
6142375	1253746
1624735	2135476
1267453	2314567
	3241657
2176543	3426175
2715634	etc.

College Triples is simply St. Clement's Bob without the Grandsire Thirds place and its attendant dodging. The two bells left on the front dodge together (a 3-pull dodge) until the treble returns. Every bell, after hunting down from the back, makes Thirds place and hunts up again, unless the treble is below it. All the dodging and all the place making are at backstroke.

In detail the work of a single bell is as follows (we follow the path of the Third in the plain course). After having been turned from the front by the treble, the bell hunts straight up behind and lies a whole pull. It is again turned by the treble, hunts down, and makes Thirds place. It hunts up, lies behind, hunts down and makes a second Thirds place. On its way up it passes the treble in 5-6 and turns the bell-in-the-hunt from behind. It then hunts straight through to the front, passing the treble in 2-3, leads full, does a 3-pull dodge in 1-2 up, lies behind and again makes Thirds place. After a whole pull behind it hunts down, passing the treble in 3-4 and does a 3-pull dodge in 1-2 down. It then leads full, the treble turns it, and it is ready to begin the work of the plain course over again. The work takes many words to describe, but once the general plan of the method is grasped it can be taken in at a glance.

The bob, like that of every one of the methods in the group, is the Grandsire bob; but (as in Court and Double Court) with single dodging. It will present no difficulty whatever to the band that has already rung Grandsire, and St. Clement's, and Double Court.

A bob at the first lead end of the course will produce the Wrong. At the second lead end the Seventh is called into the hunt. A bob at the third lead end brings

up the course end (the Right). At the fourth lead end the Seventh is Before. And a bob at the fifth lead end produces the Middle.

Hereward Bob.	London Bob.
1234567	1234567
2135476	2143657
2314567	2416375
3241576	4261357
3425167	4623175
4352617	6432715
3456271	4637251
4365721	6473521
4637512	4637512
6473152	6473152
4671325	4671325
6417235	6417235
6142753	6142753
1624735	1624735
1267453	1267453
2164735	2176543
2617453	2715634
6271435	7251643
6724153	7526134
7642513	5762314
6745231	7563241
etc.	etc.

Hereward Bob is the same as Double Court, but with the Grandsire Thirds place added; and is the same as Double Oxford Bob, but with the Fifths place (made by the bell which is turned from behind by the treble) omitted.

London Bob is the reverse of Hereward Bob. It is the same as Double Oxford Bob with the Grandsire Thirds place omitted.

Hereward Bob is the same as Double Oxford above the treble, and the same as Double Court below the treble.

London Bob is the same as Double Court above the treble, and the same as Double Oxford below the treble.

A competent band, that knows Double Court and Double Oxford and realises these things, will have no difficulty in ringing Hereward Bob and London Bob without much study.

(To be continued.)

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT PENTRE.**

A meeting of the Llandaff and Monmouth Association was held at Pentre, Rhondda Valley, on July 29th, when a fair number of ringers mustered from the two dioceses. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. D. Spencer Jones, and the Rev. T. J. Prichard gave the address. Tea, provided by the local ringers, was served in the Church Hall.

At the business meeting the Vicar presided and welcomed the visitors. Mr. Stitch explained why the Central Council meeting, which had been arranged to be held in London on Whit Monday, was postponed. Various matters were discussed and a number of new members were elected. The next meeting will be held at Usk.

BURBAGE, LEICESTER.—On Sunday, July 16th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Jack Veasey 1, Frank Measures 2, Edward Clough 3, William Aldridge 4, William A. Wood 5, Cyril Ison 6, Frank Trotman (conductor) 7, Norman Iliffe 8.

SUTTON-ON-TRENT, NOTTS.—On Wednesday, August 2nd, 720 Bob Minor, with 7-8 covering: Miss K. Burchall 1, Rev. C. J. Sturton 2, N. Moxon 3, Miss G. Burchall (conductor) 4, *W. O. Saunders 5, *D. Cheverton 6, F. Foster 7, R. Sleep 8. *First 720 in the method. Rung for the 84th birthday of Mr. N. Moxon.

SEFTON, LANCS.—On Sunday, July 30th, 720 Bob Minor: W. Thorley 1, S. Flint 2, J. Prescott 3, A. Williams 4, J. Lunham 5, R. Guy (conductor) 6.

various forms of Doubles used in the early peals of Stedman Triples, all irregular goings-off such as were often employed in Grandsire Caters and Cinques, and home-comings as in Lockwood's 9,120 of Treble Bob Major.

The J.D. and C.M. 'Campanalogia' was financially a success, the issue was quickly sold out and three years later Sawbridge published a second edition. The first edition is now very rare. The second edition is an exact copy of the first except for the title page, mistakes and printer's errors being copied. The title page reads as follows:—'The Second Edition. Corrected. London. Printed for G.S. and sold by Henry Green at the Sun and Bible on London Bridge, 1705.' The usual custom of the time was for authors to sell the copyright of their books outright, and it is not likely that J.D. or C.M. had any interest in this or any of the three other editions which subsequently appeared.

'The Third Edition. Corrected. London. Printed for A. Bettesworth and C. Hitch at the Red Lion in Paternoster Row MDCC XXXIII.' This is merely a reprint of the second edition; but, owing to the spacing of the letterpress, it contains one leaf more. Concerning this edition Thomas Hearne wrote in his Diary under the date Tuesday, July 9th, 1734: 'Anno 1733 came out in London a little book in 12's, being the third edition of Campanalogia or the Art of Ringing. One Annables is now putting out a new edition of the same book which 'tis said will be the best of its kind that ever yet was printed on that subject. The said Annables is one of the London ringers that rung at Oxford at Whitsuntide in 1733. He rang the 9th, and is judged to understand ringing as well as, if not better, than any man in the world.'

Annable's edition did not appear, but one of the drafts he made of it is now in the British Museum. So far as seven-bell ringing and that on the higher numbers are concerned, there is an immense advance on the earlier book; but Annable did not understand five-bell composition as Stedman did, nor six-bell composition as Doleman and Patrick did, nor is there any reason to suppose that he had the literary skill necessary to write the letterpress. The existing manuscript was a preliminary to another book which has disappeared and may have been the finished work as handed to the publisher; but, if so, some hitch occurred, and it was not until twenty years later, three years before he died, that the next 'Campanalogia' appeared.

'The Fourth Edition. Corrected. London: Printed for C. Hitch and L. Hawes in Pater-noster-Row; and J. Hodges, near London Bridge, MDCC LIII.' This contains twelve pages more than the third edition and some attempt is made to bring it up to date. The first part of the book is reproduced unaltered, but the remarks about the whole peal of Grandsire Triples are dropped. Several touches of Plain Bob and College Single Triples are given and Annable's peals in the two methods, as well as Robert Baldwin's method and peal of Union Triples. On eight bells the methods are Bob Major, with touches up to 1,680 changes, and Annable's three-part peal; Treble Bob Eight, commonly called Union Bob, with the original 5,120; Bob Major Double with a brief note that peals of Plain Bob Major will apply; and College Single. The old crude peals of Grandsire Caters are reproduced unaltered and ten bell ringing is dismissed in a short paragraph.

There certainly was some improvement, but when we consider that by the time the edition appeared the work as composer and ringer of both Benjamin Annable and John Holt was virtually completed, that peals of Royal, Cinques and Maximus had been accomplished, and fifteen thousand changes had been rung on eight bells—we can hardly praise the man (whoever he was) who acted as editor.

'The fifth edition. Corrected by J. Monk. Printed for L. Hawes, W. Clarke and R. Collins; and S. Crowder in Paternoster Row MDCCCLXVI.' This is a reprint of the fourth edition, but College Exercise Major and Cambridge Surprise Major are added. The latter, however, is Annable's defective extension of the six-bell method, in which the only places made in the second section are firsts and seconds. Concerning it Monk wrote, 'The ingenious performer, having rung the foregoing peals, will need no other directions for ringing the following intricate peal than to carefully peruse it as it is pricked down, and he will be the best judge which method to take in order to ring it.' Joseph Monk was, during many years, one of the foremost members of the London Exercise, and had as good an opportunity as anyone of knowing the state and progress of change ringing at the time. It is probable, however, that he had not a free hand and was employed by the publishers merely to supply a few new items to give the book an appearance of being up-to-date which was not really warranted.

The five editions of the 'Campanalogia' were widely dispersed among the ringers of England and supplied the standard text book for many years even after the appearance of the 'Clavis' had rendered obsolete almost everything in them beyond six-bell methods. It must, however, be remembered that eight-bell towers were still rare and five-bell ringing was much more widely practised than it is now. The number of copies still existing is considerable. Many are in private hands and the ringing libraries are generally well supplied. The British Museum owns a perfect copy of each of the first four editions, including the copy of the first edition which belonged to John Patrick, who assisted the authors, and which contains his marginal notes. The Cambridge University Library also has a copy of the first edition. This came from William Carter Pearson's collection.

In 1887 'The Bell News' published a reprint of the last edition. (Concluded.)

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HINCKLEY.

A meeting of the Hinckley District of the Midland Counties Association, held at Hinckley on July 29th, was attended by about 50 members, friends and ringers from H.M. Forces. Touches in various methods were rung on the tower bells during the afternoon and evening.

Tea was followed by the business meeting, at which Mr. H. Bird (chairman) presided. A discussion took place on the suggested scheme for the decentralisation of the association, some members speaking in favour and some against. On one point all agreed; no alteration should take place until the members at present in H.M. Forces are able to have their say in the matter.

It was decided to hold a meeting at Market Bosworth and Deasford on August 12th, at Broughton Astley on August 26th, and at Barwell on September 9th.

Thanks were given to the Rector and the local ringers.

HARSTON, CAMBS.—On Saturday, July 29th, 720 Bob Minor: *M. R. D. Harford 1, J. Green 2, *S. E. Darmon 3, G. Easy 4, G. Dodds 5, C. W. Cook (conductor) 6. *First 720. Also 720 Oxford Bob Minor: J. Green 1, B. Dean 2, C. W. Cook (conductor) 3, *G. Easy 4, *G. Dodds 5, A. Hurst 6. *First 720 in the method.

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF MINOR METHODS.

By BRIAN D. PRICE.
THE ICOSAHEDRON.

The icosahedron is a geometrical solid, with 20 faces, each an equilateral triangle, grouped in fives around the vertices. It has 20 faces, 12 vertices and 30 edges. For change-ringing purposes it is identical with the dodecahedron that Thompson used, faces of one corresponding to vertices of the other. The icosahedron is easier to make and use.

THE REPRESENTATION.

The even permutations of five figures can be placed symmetrically on the icosahedron. There are 60 such, and each face has 3, one in each corner. The reason why this can be done is interesting but advanced mathematically, and we must take its truth for granted. An illustration will make the word 'symmetrical' clear. If we have two pairs of permutations with the same transposition in each pair, then each pair is situated with the same relation of position between its members. Thus, any fixed transposition when written as an arrow on the icosahedron from the permutation to its resultant will give the same sort of arrow on the figure whatever permutation with which we commence. There is, however, more than one such representation, for if we start with any one and replace each permutation by another, got by the same transposition for each of the 60, then each of the resulting permutations must be all different also, and will moreover have the same symmetrical property. We may speak of this process as a modulation from one representation to another.

GRAPHICAL USE.

We think of each permutation as an even (positive or in-course) lead end (hereafter abbreviated to L). Thus, for any Minor method, all 60 even L's are placed on the solid. Take any L, and transpose it according to a resulting plain lead, say L'. Then, L to L' involves the same change of position whatever L we start with. Join up all the L's by a red arrow to its resulting L'. We have now 12 red circles, each being a P-block of (usually) 5 L's. We here meet a marvellous property of the representation.

Any 5 L's connected by the cycle of a 5-fold transposition lie at the corners of a pentagon, and have 5-fold symmetry about an axis of the solid through 2 opposite vertices. These 6 axes are the only axes of 5-fold symmetry possessed by the solid. Thus our P-blocks will lie in 6 pairs, each pair around one of the 6 axes.

Any 3-fold transposition exhibits 3-fold symmetry about an axis through the centres of a pair of opposite faces. There are 10 such axes. Now any 3-fold transposition between even L's must have 2 figures at rest, and the other 3 rotation cyclically. Another marvellous property of our representation is revealed; for any 3-fold transposition which exhibits symmetry about the same 3-fold axis has the same pair of figures lying still. We may, in fact, name this axis by the pair. We may further christen each face thus—examine the 3 leads on any face, and christen that face by the two figures which remain in their places, and in the order they occur; thus, say the 3 and 4 axis will be through faces 34 and 43. We have thus also a symmetrical representation of the 20 pairs out of 5 figures. Two faces ab and cd will be next door if the permutation abcd is even.

Now, do the same for the operation of Bob—join every L by a green arrow to the L resulting from it by a Bob. We will now have either 20 B-groups about each face, and being symmetrical in pairs about the 10 axes of 3-fold symmetry, in the case of Bob being 3-fold (e.g. Bob Minor); or else 12 B-groups one around each corner, and in pairs about the 6 axes of 5-fold symmetry, if the operation of Bob is 5-fold (e.g. in Cambridge Surprise Minor). We thus have complete symmetry.

FALSE L's.

Any Minor method has in general one false L to each L, being the first Treble Lead at the end of the Lead. Write out two leads joined by a plain, (i.e. no Bob), underline the two false leads, and turn the whole upside down. We now have two leads joined by a plain, but with the former false leads as leads, and the leads as false leads: if we write the false lead end of L as T(L) then we may say,

if L gives L' by plain (or bob)

then T(L') gives T(L) by plain (or bob).

This means that if we have any true touch, by turning it upside down we have another true touch, with the same changes, with the former leadends as false leadends, and vice versa, and moreover with the reverse calling.

All this gives us a useful tip. When we represent a method it is convenient to place each L and T(L) diametrically opposite each other (i.e. on opposite faces, opposite corners). If now we choose a touch, and trace it on the diagram we drew, following red arrows for plains and green ones for bobs, we will have a graphical route, including as railway stations as L's, and moreover on the opposite side of the solid there will now be in latent existence an *image route* being the touch got by turning the existing one upside down, and so called by me because it has the reverse calling, and is consequently a mirror image of the former one. If we have a 360 of minor plain method (i.e. all the even L's joined by bobs) or a 720 of Minor Treble Bob, we will

have 30 leads in a touch, and also an image route of the other 30 L's being a mirror image of the former route, and the two together using every available L. (Thompson's Q-set rule tells us, of course, that we can only have an even number of routes which together use up all L's.)

Q-SETS.

Minor Q-sets have in general 3 members. For a bob usually leaves 2 bells alone, and thus the transposition between members is 3-fold. Thus, each Q-set belongs to a face, the 20 Q-sets coming in pairs on the 10 axes of 3-fold symmetry. Now, provided that the L and T(L) are opposite, as mentioned above, a pair of Q-sets on one of the axes will contain in one a set of L's and in the other the corresponding T(L)'s. Thus a simple condition for the search for true blocks of 30 L's complete with image route is that Q-sets are bobbed in pairs on the 10 axes of symmetry. It is not true to assume without investigation that any touch may be got in this way, but certainly every touch with 30 true leads is, and moreover any touch produced in this way must be true, for the T(L) of any L and the L itself belong to different routes which are mutual images. In fact, arbitrary bobbing of these pairs of Q-sets produces an even number of round blocks which fall into pairs, each pair being the mutual relation route and image route. In our systematic search in a given method for true routes of 30 leads (i.e. 720's of Treble Bob or 360's of plain, to be joined by 2 singles) we may use only a table of representative groups of Q-set pairs, including every possible pair configuration. The number of these is not large, in fact is 44 (I believe), many of which are obviously fruitless.

NUMBER PAIRS BOBBED

	None bobbed	Total
0.	One pair bobbed	1
1.	23 45 or 23 36	1
2.	64 52 65 or 64 52 43 or 64 52 26	2
3.	52 65 26 or 52 65 54	5
4.	23 24 25 26 or 23 24 53 54 or 23 45 42 56 or 23 45 42 62 or 23 45 56 62	8
5a.	63 34 42 25 56 or 63 25 34 56 35 or 63 34 25 56 64 or 63 25 34 56 23 or 63 25 34 23 35	5
		22

The other classes, 5b, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, are obtained by bobbing instead of plaining and vice versa, classes 5a, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0. That is, 44 in all. To use this table, start off with 23456 (for if we have two true routes of 30 each, 23456 is bound to be in one), and, starting from this, we continue to write out a touch as directed by the particular set in the table we are testing. For the method we choose, we examine the three generating L's of a Q-set, e.g., in Bob Minor, 23456, 35426, 52436, and notice where the two recurring figures are. These—here 4 and 6—will be the name of the axis of symmetry that this Q-set and its opposite number are situated on. Hence when we come to a lead with the 3rd and 5th numbers as members of a pair we have to bob, we bob the next lead. Example on right, where the Q-sets 52, 65, 54 are to be bobbed. Thus if 2 and 5, or 5 and 6, or 4 and 5 occur in the 3rd and 5th positions, we bob the next lead. This leads us to a 360, in fact the 'old Chestnut' calling, wrong right wrong 3 times, which is even mentioned in the first edition of Stedman's 'Tintinnalogia'. Of course, if our touch ends short of 30 leads, then the particular Q-set arrangement we are testing does not bear the fruit of two true 360's. We have only to test the 44 configurations to get all the possible 360's without singles, or in the case of Treble Bob Methods, all possible 720's. Do not forget that each fruitful arrangement gives two fruit, with mutually reverse calling. Of course, with different methods, the position of the critical figures (here 3rd and 5th) may be different, but the 44 arrangements are always valid for 3-fold Q-sets (in Cambridge it is 1st and 3rd).

65 AT BACKSTROKE.

We distinguish all L's giving rise to 65 at backstroke, by e.g. red circles around the L's, and when we have a desired touch we try to fit it in on the solid so that the 65's are not used.

Practical details.—Which of the possible modulations we use depends on three factors, placed here in relative order of importance:—

1. L and T(L) diametrically opposite.
2. P-groups kept neatly one around each vertex, occupying the five corners immediately around.
3. Corresponding to the 4 possible ways of placing 5 members of a P-group around a vertex, with condition 1 this determines the geographical meaning of the Bob transposition. The one is selected which gives the neatest figure, and consequently in appealing to the eye is the clearest to use.

BLETCHLEY, BUCKS.—On Sunday, July 30th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *W. R. Loveridge 1, A. Crane 2, W. Fay 3, *W. Daniells 4, H. Sear (conductor) 5, F. Sear 6, W. Sear 7, H. Pearson 8. *First quarter-peal.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Saturday, Aug. 12th, 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—Monthly practice meeting at Shiplake on Saturday, Aug. 12th. Bells (8) from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, 401, London Road, Reading.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—Meeting at Sutterton, Saturday, Aug. 12th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m.—W. E. Clarke, 99, Norfolk Street, Boston, Lincs.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at Knebworth, Saturday, Aug. 12th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough and Burton Districts.—Meeting at Ashby-de-la-Zouch Parish Church on Saturday, Aug. 12th, 3 p.m. Tea 4.30.—A. E. Rowley and J. W. Cotton, Hon. Secs.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Portsmouth District.—Quarterly meeting at Alverstoke, Gosport, Saturday, Aug. 12th, 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea at 4.30.—R. J. Stone, 16, Penhale Road, Fratton, Portsmouth.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Ashby Folville on Aug. 12th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided. Business in belfry.—R. Barrow, 10, East Road, Birstall.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Meeting at Market Bosworth, Saturday, Aug. 12th, 3.30 to 5 p.m., and at Desford from 7 p.m. onwards. Bring own food. It may be possible to provide cups of tea.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Scuth and West District.—Meeting at Harmondsworth (bus from Hounslow West), Saturday, Aug. 12th, 3 p.m. It is hoped to provide cups of tea in the Vicarage Hall.—J. E. Lewis Cockey. Per. 5320.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—Practice meeting at Broughton-in-Furness (8 bells) on Saturday, Aug. 12th, 2.30 p.m.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Flamstead, Saturday, Aug. 12th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Usual arrangements.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Next meeting at Berkswell, near Coventry, Saturday, Aug. 19th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m., at The Cafe, Berkswell.—D. E. Beamish, 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting at Balcombe, Aug. 19th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Tea for those who advise Mr. A. Lake, 4, Barnfield Cottages, Balcombe, Haywards Heath, by Aug. 16th.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Heath, Saturday, Aug. 19th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names to Mr. T. Jennings, 14, Cambridge Crescent, Bramley Vale, Chesterfield, by Aug. 16th.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting at Northaw, Aug. 19th, 3 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Meeting at Gateshead St. Mary's, Saturday, Aug. 19th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—Frank Ainsley, 30, Aysgarth Avenue, Grange, Sunderland.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—Meeting at St. Mary's, Prestwich, Saturday, Aug. 19th, 3.30 p.m.—Frank Reynolds, 180, St. Ann's Road, Prestwich.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—Meeting at Portbury, Saturday, Aug. 19th, 4.30 p.m.—Percy G. Yeo, Long Ashton.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Cheddleton (6 bells), Saturday, Aug. 19th. Names to Mr. H. Sutton, 22, The Avenue, Cheddleton, Leek, Staffs, by Aug. 15th.—Andrew Thompson.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—Meeting at the Parish Church, Sutton Coldfield, on Saturday, Aug. 19th, 3.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names to Mr. W. Anker, 4, Florence Avenue, Florence Road, Sutton Coldfield, by Aug. 16th.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—Meeting at East Coker, Aug. 26th. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Notify early for tea.—F. Farrant, Martock.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT ROCHESTER.**

A meeting of the Rochester District of the Kent County Association, held at Rochester on July 29th, was attended by nearly sixty members and friends.

The ten bells of the Cathedral were rung for an hour before evening-song, which was attended by the majority of the ringers. Tea, provided by the association, was in the City Cafe, and among those present were the Dean of Rochester, the Archdeacon and the Vicar of Gillingham.

The Dean presided at the business meeting. Mr. W. Spice, sen., and Mr. E. A. G. Allen, district representatives, and Mr. G. H. Spice, hon. district secretary, were re-elected, and eleven new members, including seven from Minster, Sheppey, were elected.

It was decided to hold the next district meeting at Rainham in the late autumn.

After the meeting, bells of the Cathedral, Frindsbury and Rainham were available. The methods included Grandsire and Stedman Caters, Kent Treble Bob Royal, Cambridge Surprise Major and rounds.

A large number of young and keen recruits were present, for most of whom it was their first meeting.

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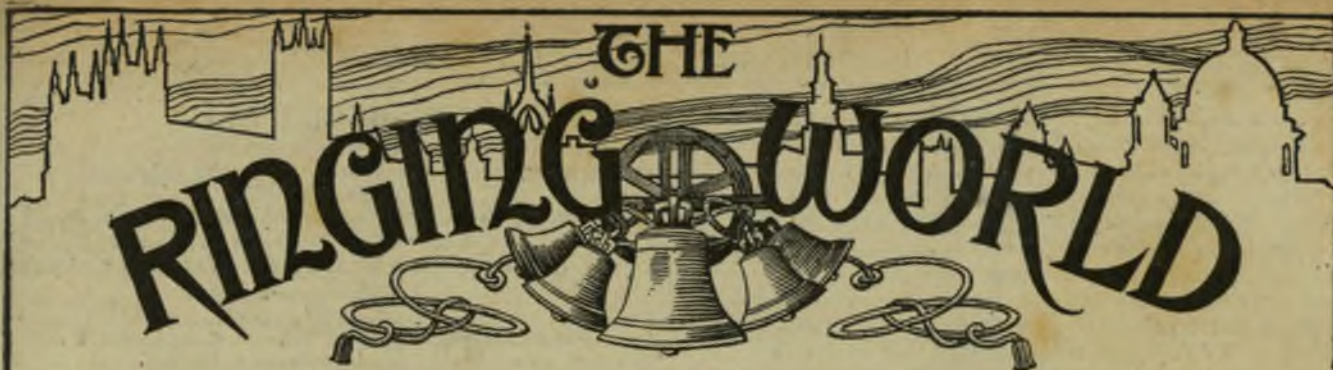
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THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

No. 1,743. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18th, 1944.

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

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PRINCIPAL BELLFOUNDERS

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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 PAST.

When recently a correspondent in one of the leading daily newspapers wrote that 'we should acknowledge our debt to the past, and then shut the door on it,' he was saying what perhaps the majority of men are inclined to think, especially in times like this, though they seldom put their thoughts into such clear and unmistakable words as he did. The past is dead and done with; for good and for evil it is finished; its record has been written once and for all, and is unalterable; 'nor all thy piety nor wit can lure it back to cancel half a line, nor all thy tears blot out a word of it.' The present is ours, and, if we will, the future. Let us then, 'forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before,' pay attention to what we still can do and leave alone what we and others have already done.

There is sound advice and sound sense here, and in the spirit which informs these opinions lies in no small measure the hope for the individual, for the nation, and for humanity itself. But a truth, however great, seldom stands by itself, and not seldom, when isolated and pushed beyond its proper limits, ceases to be a real truth. However much we may try to 'shut the door' on the past, it still remains that we are what we are because of the past, and we run great risks of disappointment and failure if we neglect the lessons it has to teach us, nor can those lessons be learnt without long and careful study. Wisdom, indeed, is nothing else than understanding the lessons of the past and being able to apply them to present circumstances.

These thoughts are vital in the present critical times, but what, our readers may ask, have they to do with our particular subject of church bellringing? Surely, men may think, it savours somewhat of the grandiloquent to bring into connection with our small and limited activities in the belfry, thoughts which are appropriate to the world crisis.

Now it is true that change ringing and even the general use of bells is hardly a ripple on the broad sea of national life, and for many ringers is no more than a small part of their interests and activities; but it is also true that great truths are just as applicable to small things as they are to great things. It is a feature of the Exercise that it reproduces on its small scale the general characteristics of the nation at large, and has been influenced, and developed, and controlled, by the same

(Continued on page 342.)

forces working in much the same way. And, after all, bellringing is something more than just a means of calling people to church or a fascinating art and pastime. It has its roots deep down in the history, and life, and being of the people. The Exercise, no less than the nation and the Church, has come to a turning point in its history. It has great opportunities before it, and it can only make the best of them if those who are its leaders and who most influence its members know something of its past and the lessons it has to teach.

This must be the justification (if any justification is needed) for the prominence we have given in these pages to the stories of the men who were concerned with bells and bellringing in the years gone by. We might plead that during these five years of war, when there has been so little of the news which ordinarily fills a ringing journal, we have been glad to avail ourselves of anything which might interest our readers; but we put the case much higher than that. We believe that the study of the history of the Exercise is not only interesting in itself but is of real value in solving the problems and carrying on the activities of the present. We are now trying to describe something of a man who at one time had a great influence on the status of ringers and their relations with the Church and public. When we come to study what Thomas Henry Ellacombe said and wrote about the ringers of his own time, and when we bring it into conjunction with the full story of ringers and ringing, we shall know a very great deal more about the things which really do concern the life of the Exercise and its well-being.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, August 8, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes.

At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

ERIC A. DENCH 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
ALBERT J. WALLMAN 3-4	*BRYAN F. SIMS 7-8

Composed by I. J. ATTWATER. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First handbell peal.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, August 10, 1944, in Three Hours and Four Minutes.

At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5010 CHANGES;

ALBERT J. WALLMAN 1-2	CHARLES W. ROBERTS 7-8
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	ERIC A. DENCH 9-10
MRS. J. THOMAS 5-6	DENNIS H. LANGDON 11-12

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

First peal of Stedman Cinques in hand by all except the conductor.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 12, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes.

At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5093 CHANGES;

ERIC A. DENCH 1-2	MRS. J. THOMAS 5-6
ALBERT J. WALLMAN 3-4	JOHN THOMAS 7-8
PHILIP COWARD 9-10	

Composed by J. D. JOHNSON. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

A birthday peal for the ringer of 5-6.

BEKESBOURNE, KENT. — On Thursday, August 10th, 720 Bob Minor: T. Robinson 1, Harrison Smith 2, T. E. Ellender 3, J. Walters 4, H. J. Saunders 5, C. Turner (conductor) 6.

TEN BELL PEALS.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, August 5, 1944, in Three Hours and Thirty-Two Minutes.

At THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PHILIP,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 31 cwt.

ERNEST. T. ALLAWAY Treble	THOMAS H. REEVES 6
GEORGE E. FEARN 2	WILLIAM C. DOWDING 7
HENRY H. FEARN 3	FRANK E. PERVIN 8
J. FRANK SMALLWOOD 4	ALBERT DISERENS 9
ALBERT WALKER 5	WILFRED WILLIAMS Tenor

Composed by WILLIAM PYE.

Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

First peal of Cambridge Royal in the tower.

STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 7, 1944, in Three Hours and Thirty Minutes.

At THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5079 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lb.

SYDNEY TAYLOR Treble	DONALD G. CLIFT 6
GEORGE OLLIVER 2	JOHN E. SPICE 7
JOHN AUSTIN 3	NEIL ALLNATT 8
WILFRED WILLIAMS 4	CHARLES W. MARTIN 9
WALTER YEEND 5	ALBERT DISERENS Tenor

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.

BRADFORD, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 12, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes.

At THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor 25½ cwt. in D.

FRED HODGSON Treble	ERNEST RAYNOR 6
WILLIAM H. SENIOR 2	WILLIAM AMBLER 7
*LESLIE W. G. MORRIS 3	WILLIAM BARTON 8
J. WILLIAM CUNDALL 4	ERNEST H. SIMPSON 9
*GEORGE ROBINSON 5	FREDERICK SEAGER Tenor

Composed by G. R. NEWTON. Conducted by LESLIE W. G. MORRIS.

* 60th peal together. Rung half-muffled for Mr. Arthur Gill, of the Bradford Cathedral company.

CLAINES, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 12, 1944, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes.

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

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

*ALLEN WHITE Treble	JOHN E. SPICE 6
MISS MARIE R. CROSS 2	§E. S. JOHN HATCHER 7
†MISS BETTY SPICE 3	||REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE 8
‡WILLIAM L. B. LEASE 4	REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG 9
‡VERNON J. BENNING 5	REV. A. G. G. THURLOW Tenor

Composed by F. DENCH.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal on ten bells. † First peal on ten tower bells. ‡ First peal on tower bells. § First peal. || First peal of Caters on tower bells. First peal on ten tower bells as conductor. The first peal on ten tower bells and the first of Caters for the association.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 5, 1944, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes.

At THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 18½ cwt.

MAJOR J. H. FREEBORN Treble	RONALD H. BULLEN 5
MISS VALHALLA HILL 2	WILLIAM C. PORTER 6
REV. JOHN P. PELLOE 3	WALTER F. JUDGE 7
CHARLES J. GARDNER 4	PHILIP A. CORBY Tenor

Composed by J. W. PARKER.

Conducted by P. A. CORBY.

HALLOW, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, August 6, 1944, in Three Hours and One Minute,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PHILIP AND JAMES,

A PEAL OF OXFORD BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S SIX-PART (C.C.C. No. 13).

Tenor 21½ cwt.

WILLIAM RANFORD Treble	*THOS. GROOMERIDGE, JUN. ... 5
GEORGE E. LARGE 2	REGINALD WOODYATT ... 6
ALLEN MORGAN 3	*GEORGE AMBLER 7
ERNEST F. CUBBERLY 4	CHRIS. F. BLISSETT Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

* First peal in the method.

LITTLEPORT, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.
THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 7, 1944, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 18½ cwt.

PHILIP A. CORBY Treble	CHARLES J. GARDNER 5
*MISS VALHALLA HILL 2	RONALD H. BULLEN 6
REV. JOHN P. FELLOE 3	WALTER F. JUDGE 7
WILLIAM C. PORTER 4	MAJOR J. H. FREEBORN Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOKE.

Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

* First peal in the method.

HANBURY, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, August 8, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th the observation).

Tenor 12 cwt. 1 qr. 15 lb. in G.

JAMES WOODYATT Treble	RALPH W. SAYERS 5
GEORGE E. LARGE 2	ERNEST F. CUBBERLY 6
ALLEN MORGAN 3	SIDNEY T. HOLT 7
WILLIAM RANFORD 4	CHRIS. F. BLISSETT Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, August 10, 1944, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIAL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

(On the 'Stelfox' eight)

*RICHARD GRANT Treble	REDVERS F. ELKINGTON ... 5
*MISS JILL POOLE 2	SIDNEY O. CHENEY 6
HAROLD J. POOLE 3	*ARTHUR DEBENHAM 7
*JOHN R. SMITH 4	ERNEST MORRIS Tenor

Composed and Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* First peal in the method. A birthday compliment to Miss Margaret L. Morris.

ILKESTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, August 10, 1944, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 17 cwt. 9 lb.

CECIL W. BAKER Treble	EDWARD C. GOBEY 5
CHARLES HUTCHINSON 2	R. ALAN HICKTON 6
WILLIAM T. KING 3	WILLIAM DAWSON 7
GIRLING RIGBY 4	EDWARD F. GOBEY Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

Conducted by WILLIAM DAWSON.

First peal as conductor. A birthday compliment to Mr. E. C. GobeY.

FARNHAM, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 12, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

DEXTER'S VARIATION.

Tenor 21 cwt. in E flat.

GEORGE UPSHALL Treble	WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... 5
GEORGE L. GROVER 2	ERNEST J. MUNDAY 6
FREDERICK OLDROYD 3	ALFRED H. PULLING 7
ERNEST J. AYLIFFE 4	FRANK C. W. KNIGHT Tenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 12, 1944, in Three Hours and One Minute,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

PRITCHARD'S FOUR-PART.

Tenor 16 cwt.

*JEAN BROOMFIELD (age 14) Treble	C. ALFRED LEVETT 5
WILLIAM HIBBERT 2	H. WILLIAM BARRETT ... 6
JOHN M. GAYFORD 3	FRANK H. HICES 7
GEORGE H. GUTTERIDGE ... 4	GEORGE GILBERT Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE GILBERT.

* First attempt for a peal.

SEELY OAK, BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, August 12, 1944, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

*JOHN N. LINDON Treble	JAMES F. HARVEY 5
HENRY H. FEARN 2	WILLIAM C. DOWDING ... 6
*JOHN PINFOLD 3	GEORGE E. FEARN 7
*RICHARD J. B. HADDEN ... 4	WILLIAM B. CARTWRIGHT ... Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by WILLIAM B. CARTWRIGHT

* First peal in the method.

SIX BELL PEALS.

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS, DORSET.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, August 2, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being six 120's each of St. Simon's, Reverse Canterbury, St. Dunstan's, London Singles, Antelope, Plain Bob and Grandsire. Tenor 7½ cwt.

*MRS. G. WAREHAM Treble	WILLIAM C. SHUTE 4
*MISS PEGGY MARSH 2	*HAROLD E. WHITE 5
*LIONEL H. PINK 3	*GEORGE WAREHAM Tenor

Conducted by HAROLD E. WHITE.

* First peal in seven methods.

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS, DORSET.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, August 7, 1944, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

Tenor 7½ cwt.

*MRS. G. WAREHAM Treble	*DR. A. M. CUNNINGHAM ... 4
*REGINALD RING 2	WILLIAM C. SHUTE 5
LIONEL H. PINK 3	HAROLD E. WHITE Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM C. SHUTE.

* First peal of Minor. Rung half-muffled for the Rev. J. A. R. Swaby, Rector of St. Mary's from 1917 to 1939.

BARROW-ON-HUMBER, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, August 11, 1944, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

Tenor 18 cwt. in E.

*WILLIAM HOWSON Treble	W. MARTIN WALKER 4
NOLAN GOLDEN 2	ARTHUR CROWDER 5
*GEORGE F. BURTON 3	GEORGE DOBBS Tenor

Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

* First attempt for a peal. The ringers of second and third are in the R.A.F. and from Norwich and Desborough respectively.

WHICKHAM, CO. DURHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 12, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three 720's of Oxford Bob and four of Plain Bob. Tenor 8 cwt.

*SIDNEY BUCKTON Treble	*STANLEY PROUD 4
*STEPHEN THOMPSON, JUN. 2	*JOHN JACKSON 5
*ERNEST CAIRNS 3	STEPHEN THOMPSON Tenor

Conducted by STEPHEN THOMPSON.

* First peal.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to:—

The Editor,

'The Ringing World,'

c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
Guildford, Surrey.

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Cheques and remittances should be made payable to 'The Ringing World.'

The name of the ringer of the fourth in the peal of Doubles at Kempsey is Charles J. Camm, not Charles J. Cann as printed last week. Correspondents are asked to write their reports clearly and in the standard form adopted in our columns.

Mr. Frederick Oldroyd was the member of the band who rang his first peal of Stedman at Guildford on August 7th.

The Rev. E. S. Powell, Vicar of Staverton and Master of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, has been appointed Rural Dean of Daventry.

DEATH OF TWO CHELTENHAM RINGERS.

Two Cheltenham ringers have recently passed away. Mr. Charles Moulder, who was a member of the five-bell band at St. Mark's, was buried on August 5th. He was 87 years of age. The bells were rung half-muffled in the evening.

Police-Sergt. E. A. Aston was a member of the company at the Parish Church. The funeral was on August 8th and the bells were rung half-muffled before and after the service. The interment was at Prestbury Churchyard. Six members of the Gloucestershire Constabulary acted as bearers.

DEATH OF PETER A. BLAMEY, R.A.F.

The funeral took place on August 5th at St. Peter's Church, Burnham, Bucks, of Peter A. Blamey, who had died on the previous Tuesday at Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, following an operation.

He learned to handle a bell in 1935 at the age of 15 and rang his first peal on October 19th, 1936. In all he took part in 15 peals, the last in March, 1940, when he was engaged in boy's service in the R.A.F. He was away in the Middle East for three years. His peals were: Minor, three methods 1, four methods 1, seven methods 3; Grandsire Triples 1, Bob Major 4, St. Clement's College Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 2, Oxford Treble Bob Major 2. Eight were rung for the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths and seven for the Oxford Diocesan Guild. Six were by all-Burnham bands.

The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. J. Wildman; the body was carried to its last resting place by brother airmen, and the girl ringers of Burnham rang rounds and Queens on handbells at the graveside, and the whole pull and stand and touches on the tower bells. Among the numerous floral tributes was one from the ringers of the St. Peter's Society, Burnham.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT DRIFHLINGTON.

A meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society, held at Drifhlington on July 29th, was attended by members from Armley, Batley, Birstall, Drifhlington, Guiseley, Headingley St. Chad, Idle, Leeds Parish Church, Liversedge, Wakefield and ringing friends from Handsworth, Messrs. Brothwell and Turley.

After tea the business meeting was held in the belfry, Mr. W. H. Senior presiding. Thanks were given to the Vicar and churchwardens and to Mr. Barrow; and the next meeting was fixed for Calverley on August 26th.

A suggestion was made that an additional meeting should be held at Ilkley, but it was decided that owing to present circumstances it had better be postponed until happier times.

THE MONTH'S PEALS

During the month of July, 47 peals were rung, 31 of them on tower bells and 16 on handbells.

The tower bell peals consisted of Grandsire Doubles 3, Triples 3; Plain Bob Doubles 1, Minor 3, Major 5; Kent Treble Bob Major 1; Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Major 1; Stedman Triples 1, Cinques 1; Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1; Cambridge Surprise Major 1; Royal 1; Superlative Surprise Major 1; London Surprise Major 1; Spliced Cambridge, Superlative, Bristol and London Surprise Major 1; Minor, four methods 2, five methods 1, seven methods 1; Doubles, seven methods 1.

The handbell peals consisted of Grandsire Doubles 1, Triples 4, Caters 1; Bob Doubles 1, Major 3; Kent Treble Bob Major 1; Stedman Triples 1, Caters 3, Cinques 1.

The number of peals in January was 50, in February 34, in March 37, in April 48, in May 41, and in June 34; making a total for the year (so far) of 291.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I notice in your report of the Derby District meeting at Ripley on July 22nd that I am reported as saying that we (the Nottingham District) favoured a separate Guild to allow us to organise the North Notts area. To a certain extent this is so, but it is such a highly condensed statement of my remarks that it may easily convey a false impression to those who did not hear actually what was said. I reported that our members appeared to favour the idea of a separate Guild, and were of the opinion that it would stimulate closer co-operation with the North Notts Association, and so create a more efficient organisation for the diocese (or county), a much different aim to that which your report suggests.

I am doubly anxious for this point to be made clear, as I have heard several questions put as to how the possible splitting up of the Midland Counties Association would affect other societies in the area. Surely, especially in our present state when many towers are minus half their company, co-operation is the key to the restoration of the art to its pre-war standing, and that is solely what I am advocating for the Notts district.

Nottingham.

T. GROOMBRIDGE, Jun.

ST. CLEMENT'S BOB TRIPLES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Some years ago I rang in a peal and sent the report to 'The Ringing World' as 'St. Clement's Triples.' It was published as 'St. Clement's Bob Triples.' In this week's issue I see the same method is called 'St. Clement's Bob Triples.' This appears to me to be incorrect, as it is not an extension of St. Clement's Bob Minor with seconds place and blows behind at the treble lead. If the method with thirds place is correctly called St. Clement's Bob Triples, what is the name of it when rung with seconds place?

Also could you include in the article on seven-bell ringing a chapter on what can be done in splicing various seven-bell methods? Can an extent be obtained? And, if so, would you publish the figures?

C. A. LEVETT.

Feranda, Bath Road, Taplow, Bucks.

(Reference to this letter will be found in an article on page 346.)

RECONSTRUCTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to your excellent leader on this subject and the power of the architects, I deplore the note of despair in your remark, 'It is hard to say what remedy can be had.' Your arguments from the ringers' point of view are weighty and there is no reason why the ringer should not be as powerful as the architect.

Ringers form part of the organisation of every large parish and of the Church as a whole. They are treated with respect and their advice listened to through the mouthpiece of their experienced captain or foreman.

The Diocesan Ringing Master is a power. He is usually on the Advisory Committee and is consulted by the dignitaries of the Church on belfry matters.

The Central Council of Church Bellringers has a tremendous influence on all matters connected with church bells.

The clergyman holds the key of the situation on everything to do with his church. He it is who raises the money for bells and belfry whereby the architect is paid. Thousands of clergy are ringers or take a deep interest in ringing. Every incumbent is proud of his bells and ringers and here is an infallible remedy against mistakes in tower and belfry construction.

The bishops also are a strong buttress for the ringers and their point of view. I have read most excellent episcopal addresses to large bodies of ringers. Their sympathy, I feel sure, will always outweigh the vagaries of an architect.

The diocesan architect is always a reasonable and approachable man and is one of us. To get him to see the ringers' difficulties is a strong remedy.

We must not get faint-hearted with such forces at our disposal.

Washfield Rectory, Tiverton.

J. M. TURNER.

THOMAS HENRY ELLACOMBE.

(Continued from page 325.)

Ellacombe was the earliest of that group of men who surveyed the church bells of England, county by county, and published records of their inscriptions, dates and founders in the books that most ringers are familiar with. There were, of course, other and much greater antiquarians before him, some of whom gave accounts of particular bells among the things they noticed; but he was the first to treat of bells systematically as a subject complete in itself. What directed his attention to this subject we are not told, nor how early his interest was aroused; but we may conclude it arose from the nature of the man and the particular time and circumstances in which he lived. He was clearly one of those men to whom things of the past appeal because they do belong to the past, and altogether apart from any utility they may have or any light they may throw on modern life and conduct. His early years were spent at a time when a great change was coming over the opinions of men. The eighteenth century had passed and with it most of its ideals and standards. The poetry and novels of Walter Scott were one of many things which were turning some men's minds towards the Middle Ages and its romance, and chivalry, and religious faith; while at the same time others were looking to the future and working for parliamentary and social reform. Great changes in Church and State were approaching. When Ellacombe was at Oxford, Oriel was the chief centre of the intellectual life of the University. It was not until after his time that the Oxford Movement began, for John Keble was not elected a fellow of the college until shortly before he went down, and E. B. Pusey and John Henry Newman not until some years later. Ellacombe had no part in the Oxford Movement, but that it influenced him and altered his whole outlook on Church matters is certain. He would have agreed that the best remedy for the evils of his days was a return to the faith and order which existed before the Reformation, and his natural instincts as an antiquarian and his instincts as a churchman led him to value and take an interest in those things which had survived from the Middle Ages. Such a man could not have been unsusceptible to the sound of church bells, 'that peculiar creation of mediæval age, which falls on the ear like an echo of a vanished world.'

The picture Ellacombe and those who thought like him drew of the faith and order of the Middle Ages was a rather vague and idealised one and did not accurately represent the facts, but it was vivid enough and real enough to supply the explanation of much that he said and wrote.

But Ellacombe was not merely an antiquarian. He was eminently a practical man of action, and he came to the subject on which he was to be the great authority first of all as a country parson who had to deal with ringers. It was the ringers of his parish (and elsewhere) and their conduct that first engaged his attention, and then the ringing they did. Change ringing had not much

interest for him, nor quality of striking, nor those things that ringers set store by. What he was concerned with was the reasons for ringing, the occasions on which it should be practised, and generally those questions which brought the ringers and the parson into contact. Of this we shall have something to say later.

It is impossible to say conclusively, but it is not unlikely that it was the three ancient bells he found at Clyst St. George which definitely interested him in the archæology of Devon bells, and induced him to undertake his great task of making a survey of all the towers in the county. It was a stupendous undertaking, for the county is one of the largest in England, and at that time he had no means of reaching the different churches other than by driving there in his own carriage. It took him long to accomplish, but he did accomplish it, visiting every tower and taking the inscriptions and particulars of every ring of bells, except two, to which for some reasons he was denied access.

Ellacombe ultimately published the results of his labours in his 'Church Bells of Devon,' which appeared in 1872, but long before that he was widely known as the great authority on bells through his writings in 'Notes and Queries' and 'The Ecclesiologist,' by his sermons, and by his tract on belfry reform which he called 'Practical Remarks on Belfries and Ringers.' The first book on the archæology of bells was C. W. Lukis' 'Church Bells,' which was an incomplete survey of Wiltshire with some remarks on bells, bell founders and bellringers generally. It appeared in 1857, and was followed by Dr. A. D. Tyssen's 'Sussex Church Bells' in 1864, and Dr. J. J. Raven's 'Church Bells of Cambridgeshire' in 1869. Earlier still in 1847 Dr. Alfred Gatty, a voluminous writer on church matters, had published a little book called 'The Bell, its origin, history, and uses,' which was intended for popular reading.

Meanwhile, the survey of the Devonshire bells absorbed only a part of Ellacombe's energies. Besides his splendid garden, which he worked in with his own hands, and his church rebuilding, heraldry occupied his attention, and he made a study of the very early 'crotals' and handbells, which had been dug up in various parts of the country or in other ways come to light in recent years. A good collection of these handbells made by him is shown at the South Kensington Museum. He also searched ancient documents, whenever he got the chance, to discover any references to bells and their uses in early times, either in England or abroad. In 1865 he wrote and published 'History and Antiquities of Clyst St. George,' an account of the church and of the great houses in the parish and the families that lived in them. In 1881 he published a history of Bitton parish.

(To be continued.)

FELTHAM, MIDDLESEX. — On July 15th, 720 London Surprise Minor: G. Goodman 1, R. E. Price 2, M. A. Beauchamp 3, W. Sparrow 4, W. Barnett 5, G. W. Morris 6. First 720 in method by all. Bobs called by T. Price, who did not ring. — On July 22nd, 720 Bob Minor: P. Beauchamp (age 13) 1, F. C. Price (age 10) 2, T. Price (conductor) 3, W. Sparrow 4, W. Barrett 5, R. E. Price (age 12) 6.

CHURCH & TURRET CLOCKS - NEW INSTALLATIONS, REPAIRS MAINTENANCE

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SEVEN BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 335.)

Before we leave the subject of seven-bell ringing it may be worth while to consider whether there are not any useful methods of Triples other than those we have dealt with. At first sight it would seem very unlikely that, apart from Stedman, we should be confined to a small group of no more than eleven methods, all with a bell-in-the-hunt; and especially so when we remember the great number available on six and eight bells.

The first thing which naturally suggests itself is to copy the plan which is so useful in Minor and Major, and construct our method with a plain hunting treble, using all the other bells as 'working' bells; in other words to do away with the bell-in-the-hunt. Will such a plan work and give us anything worth having?

In theory it will, and there is no reason why a Plain method which will extend from six bells to eight should not also appear on seven. But as soon as we prick any particular example we can see how great are the difficulties and disadvantages when the number of the working bells is even. Plain Bob can be rung on any number of bells, odd or even, from four upwards. All the bells plain hunt except when the treble leads full; then Seconds place is made and the bells above take one step backwards before resuming the plain hunting. When there is an odd number of working bells one of them makes the Seconds place and the others dodge in pairs; but when there is an even number of working bells, one of them will make Seconds place and the others will dodge in pairs as far as they are able, but one must be left over to lie still by itself. The result is the four blows behind, which are generally condemned as objectionable. Yet we should remember that these four blows are really three places (each a part of plain hunting) which have to be made consecutively. There is nothing really foreign to the method in them; they are an unfortunate result of having an even number of working bells.

When we try to adapt other methods to seven bells in a similar way we get a similar result. Here, for instance, is Double Court extended from six bells to seven and eight:—

123456	1234567	12345678
214365	2143657	21436587
241356	2413567	24135678
423165	4231657	42316587
243615	2436175	24361857
426351	4263715	42638175

The real reason why so many good seven-bell methods have a bell-in-the-hunt is not because the bell-in-the-hunt is in itself a particularly attractive feature, but because it is the easiest and most obvious way of avoiding an even number of working bells. If we desire to extend a Minor methods to seven bells, we can set about the job in one of two ways; we can add to the number of the working bells, or we can give a treble a companion, and except for the bobs treat the two as if they were equal and, indeed, as if they were one. Either plan of extension is theoretically a sound one, but the first gives results which in practical ringing are so unsatisfactory that the Exercise, ever since the time of William Shipway, has decided to use the second almost exclusively. Grand-sire Triples, which is Bob Minor with a bell-in-the-hunt added, retains the name which it has borne for two and a half centuries, and when we talk of Bob Triples we mean the version which has six working bells, but they

are the exception which proves the rule. Oxford Bob Triples is Oxford Bob Minor with a bell-in-the-hunt, Court Bob Triples is Court Bob Minor with a bell-in-the-hunt, and so on.

But a correspondent, whose letter appears on another page, suggests that St. Clement's Bob should also be an exception. He hints that the name really belongs to the version with six working bells, and that the following is the correct extension:—

123456	1234567
214365	2143657
241635	2416375
426153	4261735
246513	2467153
425631	4276513
245361	2475631
423516	4257361
243156	2453716
421365	4235176
412635	2431567
146253	4213657
	4126375
142635	1462735

1426375

Now there is no doubt whatever that this is a perfectly correct extension, and if it were not for the four blows behind the method would be fully worth ringing. But the method we printed on August 4th is equally a correct extension; it is in possession of the name, and is free from any blemish such as its rival suffers from. We doubt if anyone will want to ring the version with the six working bells and its four blows behind; but if there be any such, the name difficulty could be got over by calling the method St. Simon's Triples, the title under which Benjamin Annable and the College Youths rang the first peal of it at St. Bride's in 1732. It is the same as the five-bell method which appears in many ringing books as St. Simon's Doubles.

(To be continued.)

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting at Balcombe, Aug. 19th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD, COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — St. Albans District. — Meeting at Northaw, Aug. 19th, 3 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided. — R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Hunts Branch. —Meeting at St. Ives, Saturday, Aug. 19th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. No tea arrangements. Cafe in the town.—H. J. Parker, Dis. Sec., Great Staughton.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—Meeting at the Parish Church, Sutton Coldfield, on Saturday, Aug. 19th, 3.30. Tea 5 p.m.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Saturday, Aug. 26th, 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, 1 Eversfield Road, Reigate.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—Meeting at East Coker, Aug. 26th. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Notify early for tea.—F. Farrant, Martock.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Steyning, August 26th, 3 p.m. Service 4.45. Business meeting in belfry. Send names for tea.—L. Stilwell, Pikeholme, Pulborough.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—Meeting at Maidwell, Saturday, Aug. 26th. (Train to Lamport from Castle station, 1.20 p.m., buses crowded.) Tea provided.—R. S. Cowley, 83, Beech Avenue, Northampton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at Ockbrook, Saturday, Aug. 26th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—Meeting at Old Woodhouse, Saturday, Aug. 26th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea 5 p.m. Bring food.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Rural Branch.—Meeting at Winterbourne, Saturday, Aug. 26th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Advise for tea.—R. C. Gifford, Bungalow, Stanshawes Drive, Yate, Bristol.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Adwick-le-Street, Saturday, Aug. 26th, 3 p.m. Names by Aug. 22nd. Buses every 10 minutes from Doncaster.—W. E. Lloyd, Hon. Sec., 3, Cranbrook Road, Doncaster.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde and Preston Branches.—Meeting at Kirkham, Saturday, Aug. 26th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food.—J. H. Foster and F. Rigby, Branch Secs.

RINGERS' GATHERING AT OUNDLE, Aug. 26th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea. Names by Aug. 22nd to George W. Jeffs, 4, Highfield Road, Thrapston, Kettering.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting Halesowen, Saturday, Aug. 26th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Davenport Branch.—Meeting at Whilton (6 bells), Saturday, Aug. 26th. Bring food.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Davenport, Northants.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Farnham Royal, Saturday, Aug. 26th, 3 p.m. Names for tea before Aug. 21st.—A. D. Baker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery.—Meeting at Brent Knoll, Saturday, Aug. 26th. Bells (6) 6.30 p.m.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wirral Branch.—Meeting at Bidston (6 bells), Saturday, Aug. 26th, 3 p.m. Bring food; cup of tea provided.—Harry S. Brocklebank, Hon. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Calverley, Saturday, Aug. 26th, 3 p.m. Names to Mr. S. Keighley, 6, Salisbury Street, Calverley, near Leeds, by Aug. 24th. Business after tea.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Salisbury Branch.—Meeting at Downton, Saturday, Aug. 26th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business 5 p.m. Names before July 21st.—F. W. Romaine, 41, Green Croft Street, Salisbury.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Ripple, Saturday, Aug. 26th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea and business.—E. F. Cubberley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District.—Meeting at Ashford, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by Aug. 28th to P. Page, 110, Canterbury Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Eastern and Western Districts.—Joint meeting at Chester-le-Street, Saturday, Sept. 2nd. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—J. A. Brown, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Finchdale Terrace, Chester-le-Street.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Meeting at Beverley, Saturday, Sept. 2nd. Bells at the Minster and St. Mary's 3 o'clock. Service in St. Mary's 4.30. Tea in Mayor's Parlour, Guildhall. Names by Aug. 30th to Mr. G. Braithwaite, 26, Albert Terrace, Beverley, East Yorks.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—Annual meeting, Sturry, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 2.30. Service 4. Tea and meeting after. Names to H. R. French, Lamorbey, School Hill, Sturry, Canterbury, by Aug. 29th. Nominations to me by Aug. 29th.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Wel-lingore (6 bells), Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Meat tea 1s. 6d., 4.30. Names for tea to me at School House, Barnby-in-the-Willows, Newark, Notts, by Aug. 30th.—K. W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Special meeting at Wollaton, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by important business. Names for tea by Tuesday, Aug. 29th.—T. Groombridge, jun., Dis. Sec., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

NATIONAL GUILD OF POLICE RINGERS.—Meeting at Manchester, Saturday, Sept. 9th. Assemble Town Hall belfry 12 noon. Luncheon, Piccadilly Restaurant, Tib Street (Market Street end) 1 p.m., 3s. 6d. Ringing, Town Hall (12) 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Tea, Piccadilly Restaurant, 6 p.m., 2s. 6d. Social evening. Names at once to Mr. F. R. Williams, 35, Boardman Road, Higher Crumpsall, Manchester: none accepted after Monday, Sept. 4th.—Inspector H. J. Poole, Hon. Sec.

BIRTH.

JOHNS.—On Sunday, July 30th, at Gainsborough Nursing Home, to Phyllis (née Baker), wife of Donald E. Johns, a son (Barry Edmond).

WANTED.

A SET OF 8 HANDBELLS, any condition if in tune. State price.—Geo. E. Symonds, 57, Mornington Avenue, Ipswich, Suffolk.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 25th, 1944.

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FIVE BELL RINGING.

In these days, when so many ringers are absent on national service and other duties are urgent, it not unfrequently happens that a band meets short and no more than four or five turn up for the service ringing in an eight bell tower. What is the best to be done? Many will consider that there is nothing else but to accept the circumstances with resignation and to go home; five bell ringing, they think, is not worth the trouble of raising the bells, and four bell ringing is out of the question.

We suggest that this opinion is a mistaken one. Five bell ringing has not a lot to offer the average ringer, and Grandsire Doubles (especially when it is rung with a covering tenor) can soon become pretty tame stuff; but the interest that change ringing has to give depends entirely on what the ringer is looking for and expecting. If he wants just that particular sort of interest a method like Double Norwich supplies, he will find five bell ringing a disappointment; but five bell ringing has its own attractions. It supplies, for instance, the very best opportunities for a man with a first class ear to study the finer points of good striking, and it gives a man a much better chance to show whether he can control and handle a bell properly, than Major or Triples can ever do. The same applies equally to four bell ringing. It takes a really good ringer to turn in a fairly heavy tenor to Doubles or Singles accurately and without undue effort, and there is plenty of satisfaction to be got out of doing it. We are speaking, of course, of the rare occasions on which five bell ringing is all that is possible in an eight bell tower.

You will generally find that the average eight bell band, for all that they are inclined to look on Doubles as something rather beneath their notice, will not ring it very well. They are nearly always too fast, and this is particularly the case, when (as so many men do) they judge their striking by a visual interval between their pull and that of the man in front of them. Five bell ringing should never be hurried.

When we turn to the purpose for which, after all, the bells are really rung, especially on Sundays, and consider the outside effect, we must recognise the undoubted fact that five bells properly rung make just as great an appeal to the general public as a full light octave. It was the threes and fives, and sixes, of the village steeples far more than the heavy eights, and tens, and twelves of the big churches, which captured the hearts and voiced

(Continued on page 350.)

the sentiments of the people of this country. The music of a heavy ring of eight or ten is grand and impressive, but there is a charm about the music of a five, and especially of a minor five, which seems to belong to the very soul of England and in some indefinite and mysterious way links the present to all the good that has come down from the past.

When an eight bell band is reduced to ringing five bells, and especially when the tenor is a heavy one, the best thing is to ring the minor five with the seventh as tenor. Some ringers may not care for the music at first, but it has a haunting and plaintive melody which grows on a sensitive ear.

Grandsire Doubles is no doubt apt to be tame to an experienced band, even if they are reduced to practising it only occasionally, and even Stedman Doubles suggests an unfavourable comparison with Stedman Triples. Ringers desire something which affords more variety and novelty than these two can give, but they can hardly be expected to learn out of the way Doubles methods on the bare chance that they may one day meet short. Yet there are some methods they could attempt without any more knowledge than they already possess, and which would supply quite enough novelty to make the attempt thoroughly interesting.

The most obvious and simplest is to ring Stedman and Grandsire spliced. The plain course of Stedman is rung and just as the treble is going in quick the method is altered to Grandsire (the actual changes are for the moment the same in both methods); a single is called, and the second half of the six-score rung as Grandsire.

A much more difficult task is to ring a six-score of Reverse Stedman, using exactly the same rules as in ordinary Stedman, but working from the back instead of from the front. The double dodging will be in 1-2 at backstroke and the slow work behind. There are not many bands who could ring a 120 of this straight away without making a mistake.

Another variation is Orpheus, Fabian Stedman's first draft of his Principle, in which there is five-pull dodging in 4-5 and the quick and slow works are rung in whole pulls.

There is a lot more to be said about five bell ringing, but we have hinted at enough to show that an eight bell band which is temporarily or occasionally reduced to Doubles need not lose interest, but can find enough to engage their full attention until happier and more settled times make the occurrence of meeting short a thing of the past.

LUTON, BEDS.—On Wednesday, August 16th, 504 Grandsire Triples: A. Davis 1, A. King (conductor) 2, J. Herbert 3, D. Newman 4, A. Rushton 5, R. Kendall 6, A. Smith 7, C. Rush-ton 8.

WEEKLEY, NORTHANTS.—On August 14th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: R. F. Turner 1, *Miss B. Hill 2, R. W. Lawrence 3, C. W. Bird 4, H. Baxter 5, R. G. Black (conductor) 6. *First 720 in the method.

SEDBERGH.—On Sunday, August 13th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: J. Oughton (first in the method) 1, Mrs. Blamire 2, T. Sisson 3, J. W. Pennington 4, E. Pennington 5, G. F. Woodhouse (conductor) 6.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

BROWNEIDGE.—On Sunday, July 30th, at St. Mary's R.C., 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: B. A. Knights 1, C. Hardacre 2, T. Harrison 3, H. Hardacre 4, J. Jackson 5, F. McCarthy (conductor) 6, W. Sharples 7, J. Gartside 8.

ERDINGTON, BIRMINGHAM.—On Wednesday, August 2nd, 960 Grandsire Doubles: John W. Conduct 1, William J. Meers (conductor) 2, George F. Garrison 3, Frederick S. Sanders 4, Leonard W. Conduct 5, William T. Shelton and John Gilson tenor. Rung half-muffled for Mr. Harry E. Platt, for 30 years organist and choirmaster at the church.

AMERSHAM, BUCKS.—On Sunday, August 6th, for evening service, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: C. J. Chalwin 1, E. C. Ayres 2, L. Haddon 3, W. Holmes 4, W. Edwards 5, W. E. Redrup (conductor) 6.

HILLINGDON.—On Sunday, August 6th, at St. Andrew's, 1,260 Stedman Triples: T. Bannister 1, G. H. Gutteridge 2, P. E. Jones 3, E. Hancox 4, F. Blondell 5, F. W. Goodfellow 6, F. Corke (conductor) 7, S. Humphreys 8.

SUTTON-IN-THE-ISLE, CAMBS.—On Sunday, August 6th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: R. Knight 1, Miss V. Hill 2, W. F. Judge 3, C. J. Gardner 4, W. C. Porter 5, P. A. Corby (conductor) 6.

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS, HUNTS.—On Sunday, August 6th, 720 Bob Minor: H. W. Pratt 1, L. W. Fisher 2, L.A.C. M. Ginn 3, F. Warrington (conductor) 4, G. L. Perkins 5, J. Perkins 6.

ST. IVES, HUNTS.—On Sunday, August 6th, 600 Bob Doubles: J. Stocker 1, M. Ginn 2, H. W. Pratt 3, L. W. Fisher 4, F. Warrington (conductor) 5; 1,264 Bob Major: H. W. Pratt 1, G. L. Perkins 2, L. W. Fisher (first quarter-peak of Major) 3, A. W. T. Ginn 4, A. J. Ginn 5, L.A.C. M. Ginn 6, J. Perkins 7, F. Warrington (conductor) 8.

STAVERTON.—On Sunday, August 6th, 720 Bob Minor: *Miss P. Jackson 1, D. C. B. Birkinshaw 2, Miss M. Clarke 3, *H. Haynes 4, Rev. E. S. Powell (conductor) 5, Mrs. Powell 6. *First 720.

LEISTON, SUFFOLK.—On Sunday, August 6th, 840 Stedman Triples: C. Whiting 1, Mrs. J. E. Bailey 2, J. M. Bailey 3, L. P. Bailey 4, E. S. Bailey 5, J. G. Rumsey 6, J. E. Bailey (conductor) 7, A. Tomblin 8; 576 Bob Major: F. Youngman 1, Mrs. J. E. Bailey 2, J. G. Rumsey 3, J. Whiting 4, J. M. Bailey (conductor) 5, G. Greenacre 6, E. S. Bailey 7, J. E. Bailey 8.

BROMHAM, BEDS.—On Monday, August 7th, 720 College Exercise Minor: R. Chapman 1, F. W. Budgen 2, R. J. Houghton 3, C. H. Harding 4, R. Brockett 5, L. Bowler (conductor) 6; 720 Plain Bob Minor: C. H. Harding 1, R. Brockett 2, F. W. Budgen 3, L. Bowler 4, R. Chapman 5, B. F. Sims (conductor) 6.

PETWORTH, SUSSEX.—On Monday, August 7th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: C. S. Greenfield 1, P. Blackman (first quarter-peak) 2, Mrs. F. Bowden 3, F. Bowden 4, A. E. Holden 5, L. Stilwell (conductor) 6, A. C. Greenfield 7, H. J. Doick 8.

BURTON-ON-STATHER, Lincs.—On Sunday, August 6th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: B. Gillatt 1, F. Jeffery, R.A.F. 2, Mrs. J. Bray 3, A. Tomlinson 4, J. Bray (conductor) 5, W. B. Bray 6, G. W. Moody 7, Peter Barnes 8.

HUGGLESCOTE.—On Sunday, August 6th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: G. Hadfield 1, J. H. Dean 2, G. Walker 3, H. O. Over 4, H. Moulton (conductor) 5, E. J. Tovell 6, H. Powdrill 7, T. Aldread 8.

STALYBRIDGE, CHESHIRE.—On Friday, August 11th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Simister 1, S. Fielding 2, A. Hodgson 3, Rev. F. F. Rigby (conductor) 4, W. Hawke 5, G. Gill 6, A. Roberts 7, V. Turner 8.

CAMBRIDGE.—On Thursday, August 10th, at the R.C. Church of Our Lady, 720 Bob Minor: Mrs. V. Lathbury 1, R. Raynor 2, G. Dods 3, H. Martin 4, R. Lathbury 5, J. W. Ward (conductor) 6.

SALISBURY.—At St. Martin's on Sunday, August 6th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Mrs. E. J. Maidment 1, E. J. Maidment 2, J. W. Faithful 3, L. Harris 4, F. W. Romaine 5, Cpl. R. Faithful, R.A.F. 6, R. W. Rex (conductor) 7, H. A. Roles 8.

DOVER, KENT.—On Wednesday, August 9th, 504 Grandsire Triples: Mrs. H. George 1, T. Robinson 2, H. J. Saunders 3, C. George 4, W. Rawson, R.N. 5, C. Turner 6, Bernard Smith 7, R. Iredale 8.

STAVERTON.—On Sunday, August 13th, 720 Bob Minor: Miss J. Turner (first 720) 1, Miss M. Clarke 2, D. C. B. Birkinshaw 3, Rev. E. S. Powell 4, R. G. Bell (conductor) 5, Mrs. Powell 6.

BEXLEY, KENT.—On Saturday, August 12th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Beaumont 1, J. E. Bailey 2, R. Wake 3, A. Hall 4, H. Summerhayes 5, A. Ball 6, N. Chaddock (conductor) 7, F. Mitchell 8. Rung for the wedding of Mr. Kenneth Medhurst, one of the local band.

KINGSTHORPE, NORTHAMPTON.—On Sunday, August 13th, 720 Bob Minor: D. Wright (first 720) 1, John Fitzhugh 2, John Dunkley 3, William Hammons 4, George Parker 5, Joseph W. L. Linnitt 6. First 720 as conductor.

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TWELVE BELL PEAL.

TEWKESBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 19, 1944, in Three Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes,

AT THE ABBEY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor 22 cwt.

JOHN E. SPICE Treble	† WALTER C. ROSE 7
GEOFFREY J. LEWIS 2	CHARLES W. MARTIN 8
BETTY SPICE 3	JOSEPH D. JOHNSON 9
WILFRED WILLIAMS 4	REV. C. ELIOT WIGG 10
MARIE R. CROSS 5	GEOFFREY J. HEMMING 11
REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE 6	REV. A. G. THURLOW ... Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.

* First peal of Stedman Cinques. † First peal on twelve bells.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

CHESTER-LE-STREET, CO. DURHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 12, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY AND ST. CUTHBERT,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt.

* WILLIAM F. SHERATON ... Treble	FRANK AINSLEY 5
WILLIAM ARMOUR 2	ROBERT L. PATTERSON 6
* ROBERT BELL 3	JAMES C. E. SIMPSON 7
* JOHN A. BROWN 4	* DENIS A. BAYLES ... Tenor

Composed by J. W. PARKER. Conducted by D. A. BAYLES.

* First peal of Double Norwich. Rung for the wedding of Miss E. Bertie, one of the local ringers, to Mr. J. Wintrip.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 19, 1944, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

DEXTER'S VARIATION.

Tenor 21½ cwt.

WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... Treble	CHAS. F. ANDREWS R.A.M.C. 5
GEORGE L. GROVER 2	RONALD J. C. HAGLEY 6
ALFRED H. PULLING 3	WILLIAM T. BEESON 7
CLARENCE H. DOBBIE 4	FRANK C. W. KNIGHT ... Tenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

CHORLEY, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 19, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE R.C. CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt. in E.

B. A. KNIGHTS Treble	WILLIAM SHARPLES 5
* C. HARDACRE 2	WILLIAM LANCASTER 6
JOHN JACKSON 3	FRANCIS MCCARTHY 7
† H. HARDACRE 4	JOHN H. GARTSIDE ... Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by FRANCIS MCCARTHY

* First peal in method. † First in method inside. First as conductor.

SIX BELL PEAL.

POULTON-LE-FYLDE, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, August 16, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CHAD,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

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

Tenor 9 cwt.

* ROBERT E. SMITH ... Treble	CPL. WM. PROCTOR, R.A.F. 4
† STEPHEN LAWRENSEN ... 2	† RALPH TAYLOR 5
ARTHUR TOMLINSON ... 3	SGT. R. J. WILSON, R.A.F. Tenor

Conducted by SERGT. R. J. WILSON.

* First peal. † First peal in three methods. First peal as conductor.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, August 13, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-One Minutes,

AT 202, FOSSE ROAD SOUTH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

GEO. STEDMAN MORRIS ... 1-2	ERNEST MORRIS 5-6
HAROLD J. POOLE 3-4	* MRS. C. W. POWELL 7-8

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Umpire: John R. Smith.

* First peal of Major.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, August 16, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5120 CHANGES;

* ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE 7-8
* ERIC A. DENCH 9-10	

Composed by J. PIGGOIT.

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First peal of Kent Royal.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, August 17, 1944, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th the observation).

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	ERIC A. DENCH 5-6
ALBERT J. WALLMAN 3-4	PHILIP J. COWARD 7-8

Conducted by A. J. WALLMAN.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT MARDEN.

A meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association, held at Marden on August 5th, was attended by over 30 members from Sundridge, Ashford, Erith, Croydon, Leigh, Shipbourne, Linton, Hawk-hurst, East Peckham, Maidstone, Tunstall, Benenden, Aylesford, Tunbridge Wells and the local tower. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. W. Finch, and cups of tea were provided by the local secretary, Mr. F. Mitchell.

Mrs. Richardson, of Sundridge, presided at the business meeting, at which eight new members were elected, and it was decided to hold a combined meeting at Tonbridge in September with the East Grinstead and District Guild. The annual meeting of the district will be held at Tonbridge in October.

The ringing during the afternoon and evening ranged from rounds to Cambridge Surprise Major.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

A meeting of the Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, held at Walgrave on July 29th, was attended by less than the average number of members. Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. T. Seggar, who afterwards provided light refreshments and presided at the business meeting. Thanks to him for his welcome and hospitality were expressed by Mr. W. Rogers. Ringing took place before and after the service and business.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.

MEETING AT ALVERSTOKE.

A meeting of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, held at Alverstoke on August 12th, was attended by members from Bishop's Waltham, Portsmouth (Cathedral and St. Mary's), Titchfield, Fareham and Southampton, North Stoneham, Beddington and the local belfry. The Rector conducted service and presided at the tea and meeting. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Hambledon on September 16th, and a special silver jubilee meeting at Alverstoke on November 11th. The ringing included rounds, Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, and Double Norwich Court Bob, and Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major.

DUSTON, NORTHANTS.—720 Bob Minor: Edie Robinson (first 720) 1, William Hammons 2, Joseph Linnitt 3, John Fitzhugh 4, Geoffrey Gayton (first 720 inside) 5, George Care (conductor) 6; also 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: Edie Robinson (first 720 Treble Bob) 1, George Care 2, Joseph Linnitt 3, William Hammons 4, Geoffrey Gayton (first 720) 5, John Fitzhugh (first 720 as conductor) 6.

THOMAS HENRY ELLACOMBE.

(Continued from page 345.)

Ellacombe's interest in the archæology of bells was by no means confined to his own county of Devon. He carried on a very extensive correspondence with parsons and other people all over the country, asking for particulars and inscriptions, and gathering together a mass of information and rubbings, much of which was of great value to later investigators. The British Museum has two large volumes containing the letters he received, and two more large boxes filled with the rubbings of bells from different parts of the country. I have not inspected these latter, for though the museum authorities placed them freely at my disposal, it is no light job to undertake the inspection of hundreds of rolls of thin strips of paper; and, in the absence of anything like a catalogue, I cannot say how far they would throw light on the history and style of bells, which, through recasting or otherwise, have disappeared during these last fifty years.

As the result of his correspondence, Ellacombe was able in 1875 to publish an account of the "Church Bells of Somerset." He says that he addressed more than a thousand letters and circulars to parsons and churchwardens before he gathered together the necessary information. To aid his correspondents he wrote and published a short pamphlet giving instructions for taking rubbings of the inscriptions on bells, which, of course, would serve equally well for copying memorial brasses and any other ancient inscriptions. He warned his readers that he could not be held personally responsible for the accuracy of all the information since he had not personally examined the bells, as was the case in Devonshire, where 'I have with my own hands and my own eyes examined and copied every bell excepting Sheepstor and Heanton Punchardon.' As a result 'The Church Bells of Somerset' is not, I believe, considered by later authorities as a very reliable or accurate work.

In the same way that he collected the information about the Somerset bells, Ellacombe dealt with those of Gloucestershire, and he published the result in 1881. As a survey it is rather incomplete and scanty in some respects. Henry B. Walters published some account of the bells and bellfounders of the county in 1912, 1921 and 1926, and there is still room for a complete work on the Gloucestershire bells when the right man is ready to undertake it.

But it would not be fair or correct to judge Ellacombe's work by his two books on Somerset and Gloucestershire. They served a most useful purpose by reminding a small but influential section of the general public that in the bells the Church and the country had a most valuable and interesting possession which, year by year, through neglect and misuse, was becoming steadily less. What did the more good was the personal letters to parsons and churchwardens, repeated many times in some instances until they were almost forced to visit their belfries and see for themselves in what state their bells were. Without this importunity there were many, perhaps the majority, of the parsons who would not have gone through the steeple doors of their churches once during the whole of their incumbencies.

The general state of the belfries throughout the country we may judge from what Ellacombe said of the Devon bells and steeples in 1866. 'Appurtenances are in a great state of decay; sixty bells cracked or broken; wheels and other gear of many all gone to rack and dan-

gerous to handle; stairs and bell chambers so filled up by the industry of jackdaws that it was with difficulty an ascent or descent could be made.' William C. Lukis, fourteen years earlier, had said a similar thing about the towers of Wiltshire—'I have been frequently much pained by observing the shameful state of filth and neglect of many bell-lofts. Generally speaking, the dark winding stone staircases (when they have any) leading to them are dirty, worn, and difficult to tread, and you have to cork-screw your way up with very careful step; and when you have secured your footing, and are beginning to congratulate yourself on having passed every obstacle, you suddenly come upon a huge heap of sticks, straw, feathers, bits of cloth, and other rubbish, the patient and laborious work of the indefatigable jackdaws. When the towers have no stone staircases the bells have to be reached by a succession of crazy ladders, planted on equally crazy floors. How very shameful that any part of God's house should be so neglected! Why should towers be so desecrated? Are they not as much a portion of the church as any other part? Why should they be left to the sole occupation of unclean birds and profane and irreverent ringers? Why, the very jackdaws, starlings, and owls used to stare at me and linger among the bells before they took flight, wondering perhaps what kind of evil bird I was, and with what possible object I had intruded unbidden into the territory to which generations of parishioners had given them a prescriptive right.'

When I first knew country bell towers, a quarter of a century after Ellacombe spoke, things had begun to amend, but there was more than enough of the old conditions still remaining to show amply that these pictures were not in any way overdrawn.

We may wonder why such a state was ever tolerated in any one parish, and still more why it was general throughout the country. The truth is it had been going on for many years, probably for centuries. The sound of the bells was a familiar and intimate part of the life of the people, but the bells themselves were remote and inaccessible. The clergy, as a body, did not consider that either the bells or the ringers were their immediate concern, and the churchwardens, who had the responsibility, were content if they left things at the end of their year of office no worse than they found them at the beginning. The few visitors who, greatly daring, climbed now and then to the top of the steeple, treated it as a romantic adventure and looked on the filth and decay as a pleasing accompaniment of a picturesque antiquity. Some of the bell lovers and antiquarians were not free from this feeling. H. R. Haweis could be quite poetical about the bats and the birds and the rats in the belfries of Belgium, but was repelled by the efficient iron frames at Westminster and Cologne, and even so late a writer as Henry B. Walters confessed that 'the transformed and up-to-date appearance of the modern belfry with its mechanical improvements does not tempt the antiquary whatever the ringers' view of it may be.'

But Ellacombe had no sentimental liking for picturesque decay. He was an antiquarian, but he was much more than that; he was a man of action and a priest of a living Church. Though he published many books he was not essentially a literary man. His influence was spread mainly by correspondence, by personal contact, and by word of mouth. His reputation did not depend on his books, but his books were read and treated

as authorities because of his reputation. It is significant that almost every one of his books, even those on the bells of Devon, Somerset and Gloucestershire, was, in the first instance, an address to some learned society.

We have here the reason for what would otherwise be difficult to explain. In his lifetime, and afterwards, he was generally acknowledged as the greatest of all bell antiquaries, and all the other workers in the same field treated him with the utmost respect and deference. A modern reader who studied the early books on bells would not be likely to agree in the slightest with that opinion. John L'Estrange's book on the Norfolk bells, Dr. J. J. Raven's book on the Suffolk bells, and Dr. A. D. Tyssen's book on the Sussex bells are all vastly superior, not merely to Ellacombe's books on Somerset and Gloucestershire, but also to his *magnum opus*, 'The Bells of Devon.' But these men's interest in bells and that of their successors, Thomas North, J. C. L. Stahl Schmidt, A. H. Cocks, H. B. Walters and the others, was confined to archæology; Ellacombe took an interest in everything connected with bells.

An excellent example of the practical and common-sense attitude Ellacombe took up with regard to bells is shown by the crusade he started against the custom of 'clocking,' which he called 'a lazy trick of the sexton's to facilitate his work of tolling; the rope is hitched round the flight of the clapper, and so it is pulled athwart against the side of the bell, whereas the bell should be pulled till it meets the clapper.' He published a list of bells, mostly tenors, so cracked in London within a space of about thirty years, and a 'fearful list' it certainly is. It includes the tenors at Cornhill, Spitalfields, St. Magnus', St. Sépulchre's, Shoreditch (twice), St. George's-in-the-East, Islington, Lambeth, Greenwich,

and West Ham; and the 10th and 11th at Southwark. There could be no stronger evidence of the danger of clocking, and Ellacombe was performing a public service when he published it, yet it is pretty certain that he did not understand the real factors of the problem. Clocking, in itself, is not dangerous, and its use in early times was necessary and inevitable. It was customary in those days, and until comparatively recent times, to toll for deaths and funerals. With a light or medium weight bell a knell can be swung chimed, but it is usually very difficult when the bell weighs more than about 13 or 14 cwt., and quite impossible in the case of all the heavy tenors given in Ellacombe's list. If they were to be used for knells they must be clocked, for there was no other way, and actually all over the country the tenors were so used, week by week, not only by 'lazy' sextons, but by everyone whose duty called him to do it.

There was little or no ringing for Sunday services, and the chiming, which was usual, would not have been possible if the heavier bells had not been clocked.

If the clapper is pulled on to the bell and is allowed to fall back again immediately the blow is struck, no harm can be done, and this is what happens when the bells are chimed in rounds, for the clapper must be allowed to swing back for the next blow. It was in knells that the danger lay, for the rate of a knell was usually one blow every minute, and so there was a tendency to pull the clapper on to the bell and to hold it there for a little space which, by stopping the vibration, wrought the mischief. This might easily happen when, as was often the case, a boy was employed to toll the knell. Cracked bells are rare in these days and the chief reason is that the tolling of knells on heavy bells is almost an obsolete custom.

(To be continued.)

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The official journal of the Central Council of
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Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER;
Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
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The peal of Stedman Triples rung at Guildford on August 19th
was the two-hundredth in the method by Mr. A. H. Pulling on
tower bells as conductor.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR.	
720	720
23456	23456
35642 4	64235 2
63542 1	35264 3
25634 2	23564 1
34625 3	64523 3
63425 1	35642 2
25463 3	63542 1
34256 2	63425 5
34562 5	46325 1
53462 1	53462 2
36245 4	36245 4
52364 2	23645 1
35264 1	23456 5
P.L. 23456 1	

JOINT MEETING AT EAST TYTHERLEY.

A combined meeting of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild and the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, held at East Tytherley on August Bank Holiday, was attended by some 60 ringers from towers as far apart as Bournemouth, Wimborne, Salisbury and Basingstoke, and visitors from Beddington, Newbury and Erith.

East Tytherley is very isolated in West Hampshire in beautiful woodland country, and the ban on motor transport made the meeting an entirely cyclist one.

Ringings on the fine ring of eight by Taylors commenced at 11 a.m. and ranged from rounds and call changes to London Surprise Major. The rings of six at Broughton and Lockerley were also visited.

A short service was held, at which the Vicar of Tytherley officiated and the Rev. F. S. H. Marle was at the organ. A collection, taken for the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society, amounted to £2 1s.

After tea Mr. G. Williams spoke for the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild, and Mr. Martin Stewart replied for the Salisbury Guild.

HANDBELL RINGING AT LICHFIELD.

Handbell ringing at St. Chad's School, Lichfield (Lichfield Cathedral Choir School), has progressed steadily during the past year, and although results have not been startling, several boys can ring Grandshire Triples and Bob Major. During the service on August Bank Holiday Monday afternoon at the Cathedral, rounds and changes on ten bells were rung by five robed choristers standing in the choir. Those who took part were Frederick A. Farrow, Richard H. Lloyd, Colin Smith, John G. Knaggs and Robert G. Matthews.

'THE BRIDES OF ENDERBY.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On more than one occasion of late years a reference to the above has appeared in your columns, and a desire expressed for further knowledge upon what it was that Miss Jean Ingelow had in mind when writing her famous poem, 'The High Tide on the Coast of Lincolnshire.'

It will be remembered by readers that, when in 1571 the sea-dyke was broken down and the Fens flooded, the Mayor enjoins the ringers of Boston to 'Play uppe "The Brides of Enderby,"' this, apparently, being the recognised form of alarm for the countryside. The reference being so circumstantial, it had been deemed, until a few years ago, just a borrowed stave from some old folk-song. And, indeed, it would have been an extremely happy footnote to a lovely poem.

We are now indebted to Mr. Rimmington Wells for the restatement of the actual facts. Writing to the 'Sunday Times' of July 23rd, in answer to an enquiry as to the above, he states that, 'There is no tune of this name in existence.' He goes on to describe how in 1865 he Mayor and townsfolk set up a new set of chimes, and that everyone was desirous that 'Enderby' should be amongst the tunes provided: 'Miss Jean Ingelow was asked to supply the score of the tune, but she replied that "there was no foundation in fact for her poetic fancy." Nothing daunted, the promoters of the scheme asked Mrs. C. A. Barnard ("Claribel"), who was living at that time at Louth, in the county, to compose a tune to be entitled "The Brides of Enderby," but she refused.'

Mr. Wells goes on to state that, as a lad in Boston, he was told by a contemporary that when local talent did provide such a tune for the chimes, it had to be removed as thoroughly unsuitable for such an alarm and totally unworthy of Jean Ingelow's wonderful poem.

So there were no 'Brides of Mavis Enderby.' This, I am sure, we all regret; there is, however, an Enderby in Leicester, and a ringing friend, who was sufficiently interested to pay it a visit, tells me that it has three bells. A sad but beautiful set of verses has linked this tower with Boston's famous 'Stump.'

I will only add that, like Dorothy Sayers, Jean Ingelow must have had a flair for bells, as is shown in the following verses from her 'Songs of Seven.'

'SONGS OF SEVEN' (2nd part).

SEVEN TIMES TWO—Romance.

You bells in the steeple, ring, ring out your changes,
How many soever they be,
And let the brown meadow-lark's note as he ranges
Come over, come over to me.

Yet bird's clearest carol by fall or by swelling
No magical sense conveys,
And bells have forgotten their old art of telling
The fortune of future days.

'Turn again, turn again,' once they rang cheerily,
While a boy listened alone;
Made his heart yearn again, musing so wearily
All by himself on a stone.

The above excerpt is lyrical and sweet, and someone has said, 'The saddest songs are sweetest.' Ingelow's 'High Tide' is of similar mettle, and arrestingly tragic. It first appeared in her second book of 'Poems' (1863) and attained instant success.

Miss Jean Ingelow was born at Boston, Lincs, her father being a banker of that town. She spent most of her life at Kensington, where she died in 1897, aged 67 years (also given as 77). In addition to her gifts as a poetess, Miss Jean Ingelow was for many years a well-known writer and novelist, and one of her tales, 'Off the Skellings,' has been deemed a very fine work.

I trust that the foregoing remarks may be of interest to your readers. E. ALEX YOUNG.

Italian Villa, Elstree Hill, Bromley, Kent.

A LETTER FROM JOHANNESBURG.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On July 17th we did a bit of handbell ringing which may be of sufficient interest to publish. We rang 108 Plain Bob Minor (two bobbed leads and one plain, twice repeated), the band being Mrs. C. Chambers 1-2, C. Chambers 3-4, and F/O J. E. Allen (conductor) 5-6.

F/O Allen is stationed at Gwelo, S. Rhodesia. It is a pity he isn't nearer Johannesburg, as I think if we could meet regularly we could make rapid progress on handbells. The above ringing was done on a surprise visit, prior to which we had not seen F/O Allen for nearly 12 months.

I have at present two handbell bands each meeting once a week (all single-handed ringing). The one band practises Bob Minor, the other Grandsire Triples. Later I hope to tell of progress made. At present I can record the enthusiasm and regular attendance of the members of each band, which things are, I think, vital for attaining success.

I very much appreciate the articles on Early English architecture.

CYRIL CHAMBERS.

16, Merlin Street, Kensington, Johannesburg.

MINOR COMPOSITION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have discovered some facts about Minor methods which may not be known to all of your readers, and therefore may be of interest to some ringers.

In relation to composition of touches, the usual Minor methods, i.e., with bob lead-ends, 4th place bobs, fall into four classes:—

Plain class, including Plain Bob, Westminster, York Surprise, Carlisle Surprise, Chester Surprise, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob.

London class, including London Surprise, Canterbury Pleasure, Kentish Delight, St. Clement's, Double Oxford, Old Oxford T.B., College Bob IV., Southwark T.B.

Cambridge class, including Double Bob, Tulip T.B., Cambridge Surprise, Beverley Surprise, College Single Reverse.

Double Court class, including Double Court, College Exercise, Canterbury Surprise.

Touches without singles may be used at random within each class—for instance, the well-known 720 of Kent is merely the 'old chestnut' calling of Bob Minor—Wrong, Right, Wrong three times. In such a case as this, where a plain and Treble Bob or Surprise method belong to the same class, a 720 of the Treble Bob method gives a 360 of the Plain method without singles, and vice versa, although a transposition to eliminate '65 at backstroke will probably be necessary.

I have found a systematic method of discovering all possible 360's of Plain, or 720's of Treble Bob, methods in each group, and depending on the fact that Q-sets must be bobbed in pairs to produce such compositions. Let the reader consider such a composition in any method. It contains 30 lead-ends, all mutually true. Now write out the composition change by change backwards. We have still a true touch, for all the changes are different, and moreover the 30 new lead-ends, which were the old treble handstroke leads, are entirely different. The calling of the new touch is the reverse of the old one. An examination of the Q-sets involved will show that any bob in the original touch belonging, say, to Q-set No. 1, gives rise in the new touch to a bob belonging to Q-set No. 2, and any bob belonging to one of these gives rise to a bob in the other. Thus Q-sets 1 and 2 must both be bobbed, or both left plain, to produce such touches. Incidentally, the total number of 60 lead-ends we now have constitute all the 60 in-course lead-ends that can exist.

Since, for each of the above classes, there are only 10 such pairs of Q-sets, the number of distinct ways of bobbing them is small, and must give rise to all possible touches without singles. An interesting result is touches in a particular method, with a certain number of leads stipulated, are not always possible to construct. Another interesting result follows; arbitrary bobbing of Q-set pairs, though not necessarily giving two round blocks of 30 leads each, gives an even number of round blocks, which split off into pairs, each pair having mutually reverse calling, and related as our two touches were above. Thus, taking one from each pair at random, gives us a number of round blocks that are mutually true, and giving the possibility of uniting them with singles. With Treble Bob methods, however, where singles are not usually used, the only thing to do is to seek to get two blocks of 30 each; if this were not possible, the method under consideration should not have appeared on the market.

BRIAN D. PRICE.

The Post Office, Ebbw Vale, Mon.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT STAPLEFORD.

A meeting of the Nottingham District of the Midland Counties Association, held at Stapleford on July 29th, was attended by members from Beeston, Bulwell, Daybrook, Greasley, Holmepierpoint, Ilkeston, Nottingham (St. Mary's and St. Peter's), Sawley, Derby, Leicester and Thrumpton. Thirty-five sat down to tea, and Mr. J. A. Barratt presided over the business meeting which followed. Eight new members were elected, six of them lads from Greasley, pupils of Mr. W. Ratcliffe.

Mr. Thomas Groombridge, the hon. secretary, asked the meeting to give careful consideration to the questions of monthly meetings during the coming winter, as they were not a success from the point of numbers during the last winter. It was decided to hold a quarterly meeting at Sawley in November and to leave the secretary to arrange meetings for practice where convenient and desirable. The methods rung ranged from rounds to Cambridge Surprise Minor.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ROCHDALE.

The annual meeting of the Rochdale Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at St. Chad's, Rochdale, on August 5th.

The business meeting was held in the belfry, the president, Mr. W. Crabtree, being in the chair. The hon. secretary, Mr. Ivan Kay, in his report, said that ten meetings had been held during the previous twelve months with an average attendance of 18 members. The financial position was not quite satisfactory, as only 53 had paid their subscriptions, as against 115 in 1940. Twenty-two members were in H.M. Forces.

Mr. Crabtree was re-elected president for two years, and the next meeting was fixed for St. Thomas', Moorside, on September 16th.

The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Plain and Kent Treble Bob Major.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 330.)

St. Andrew's, Great Hampton, Worcs, is a building all of one date, c. 1400. The tower is between nave and chancel, and all are of good solid work with large and simple details. The roofs are covered with stone slates. The tower is narrower than the nave, whose north and south walls enclose it, forming bays on each side, covered internally with pointed barrel vaults and externally with flat pitched roofs of stone slabs. The tower is of three stages with unusually large angle dressings. It has an embattled parapet with pinnacles and gargoyles at the angles. The four belfry windows are of two trefoiled lights. The lowest stage of the tower has a ribbed vault with a bellway in the crown of the vault, and opens to the nave and chancel with massive pointed arches. Originally four bells by William Bagley, 1702, these were recast and increased to six by Carr, of Smethwick, in the coronation year of King Edward VII. and Queen Alexandra, 1902.

Castor, Northants, Parish Church has the unusual name of St. Kyneburga. Here a religious house was founded in the 7th century, and the site of the present church, within the lines of a walled Roman camp, is very possibly that of the early monastery, but no part of the present building is older than the first quarter of the 12th century. Apart from its historical associations, and beauty of its architecture, the church is valuable as a dated example, for there is the double witness of records and the still extant dedication inscription that it was consecrated in 1124.

The central tower stands on four moulded semi-circular arches. The vault inserted in this stage has diagonal and ridge ribs, and a central bell-way, and springs from quarter-round shafts in the internal angles. The second stage of the tower is plain except for round-headed openings which formerly gave access to the space over the ceilings of the church. The third stage has on each face three semi-circular arches, the middle one being larger than the others. The fourth stage is more elaborate, with five round-headed arches on each face, the three middle ones of each side being pierced as belfry windows. Above this stage the stone spire springs from an open trefoiled parapet, with unfinished pinnacles at the angles, and is an irregular octagon in plan, the cardinal faces being wider than the others. There are six bells, all by Henry Bagley in 1700, and these were rehung in 1900.

Orlingbury, in the same county, has a cruciform church (St. Mary-the-Virgin), with a lofty central tower with pierced open parapet, and crocketed pinnacles. These latter are exceptionally high and said to be among the highest on any tower in England. The present church is modern, having been built on the site of the old church in 1841. In 1843, Thomas Mears supplied a ring of five bells with tenor 12 cwt. 1 qr. 21 lb. In 1919, as a thank-offering for peace after the last Great War, all were recast by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, and rehung in an iron frame.

The central tower of St. Michael's, Houghton-le-Spring, Durham, has, like many other similar towers, no direct ascent to the ringing chamber and belfry. It is thus described: 'A short flight of stone steps leads to a small square stone platform. From this, entry is made to a spiral staircase, which is situate in the angle formed by

the north and east wings of the church. This stairway is very steep and narrow, consisting of some 35 steps. These steps appear to be of some age, being very much worn. The staircase terminates with a door opening directly on to the chancel roof, which at this point is fairly narrow. A wooden cat-ladder with a hand-rail is laid up the roof, giving access from the spiral stairway to the ringing room, which is entered through a door let into the north-east corner of the tower. The ringing chamber is fairly lofty, and a wooden staircase leads up to a trapdoor, through which one enters the clock room, and a further wooden ladder leads up to the bells. These are a ring of eight. The old six, dated 1826, were retuned, two trebles added in 1928 by Gillett and Johnston and all rehung in an H iron frame.

Great Tey, Essex, St. Barnabas' central tower, built early in the 12th century, is a remarkable example of the period. It is 18ft. by 17½ft., and of four stages divided externally by projecting courses of Roman brick, and is entirely of c. 1100, except the north and south arches and embattled parapet. The circular north-west stair turret rises above the parapet, but the lower part is now blocked. The second stage has in the east wall externally two round-headed recesses or panels of Roman brick. The north and south walls have each two groups, each of three similar recesses, forming a wall arcade. The third stage has in each wall round-headed windows built partly of stone and partly of Roman brick. The bell chamber has in each wall three windows. There is a ring of eight bells, tenor 15 cwt. The treble and 2nd by John Darbie, 1682, third by same, 1671, 4th, 5th and 6th by J. Briant, 1794, 7th and tenor by Miles Graye, 1626 and 1629. They were rehung in 1896, while in 1928 the treble and tenor were recast, and all rehung on ball bearings by Gillett and Johnston.

Pleshey, Holy Trinity, also in Essex, was almost entirely rebuilt in 1868, but the arches of its central tower are of c. 1400. The church is of note for its cruciform plan, its connection with the college of nine priests founded by Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester in 1393, its bells of that date, and the remains of important altar tombs. The central tower is 12ft. by 20ft., and has a modern eastern arch, but others are as stated. c. 1400. There are five bells, the 2nd and 4th being by William Dawe, the treble by Miles Graye, 1662, 3rd is dated 1752, the tenor, 11 cwt. 3 qr. 25 lb., by Warner, 1854. In 1546, Henry VIII. granted to John Gate 'the whole College of Placy, alias Plecy . . . with the bells, etc., belonging to the same . . . but the parishioners purchased it, with the Steeple and Bells, that they might not be destitute of a place of Worship.'

Felmersham, Beds, St. Mary-the-Virgin, has a central tower, 16ft. by 17ft. This building is a most beautiful piece of work of quite unusual scale and richness for a country church, begun about 1220 and carried through to completion in some 20 years. The tower rises in three stages above the roofs, the lowest being short, with two lancets in each side except the east. The second stage, which was the top in the 13th century, has on the east and west an arcade of three bays, the middle being round-headed and enclosing a two-light opening. On the north and south there are two arches in place of the middle bay, enclosing two lancets. The top stage was added in the 15th century, over which is an embattled parapet and south-east turret. Before this stage was added it

would seem as if the tower had, or was intended to have, a broach spire. There is a very heavy ring of five, tenor 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt., treble by Hugh Watts, 1634, 2nd and 4th by Newcombe, 1617, 3rd and tenor by Eayre, of St. Neots, 1766.

Thurleigh, in the same county, Parish Church of St. Peter, is a fine ancient building with central tower of Norman date, containing a ring of six, tenor 16 cwt. Originally five, a treble was added by J. Taylor and Co. in 1897, in commemoration of Queen Victoria's Jubilee. The oldest part of this church is the tower, 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ ft. by 15ft., c. 1130, which seems to have stood then as now, between nave and chancel, but there are no other remains of a church of that date. The lower part of the tower has a round-headed south doorway, with a tympanum sculpture portraying the Fall. In the north wall is a low 14th century arch, now blocked, which must have opened to a now destroyed building. The tower ends in a short leaded spire.

Bletsoe, also in Bedfordshire, St. Mary-the-Virgin has a central tower, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft. by 13ft. 8in. The church has been very largely restored both in the 19th and present centuries. It is of a curiously irregular plan, and, although showing no details older than the 14th century, is probably of considerably earlier origin. The central tower was restored in the middle of the 19th century, when the new and unsightly parapet was put on. In each face there are two trefoiled lights side by side, and there are old gargoyles at each angle. There are six bells, five by R. Taylor, 1766, and treble by J. Taylor and Co., 1900, added by the surviving children and families of Eleanor, widow of Sir Andrew Beauchamp, 14th Baron St. John. The tenor is 13 cwt.

Northampton, St. Giles', appears to have been originally a cruciform building without aisles, erected at the beginning of the 12th century, but has undergone a series of changes which renders it difficult to trace its history. It presents remnants of various styles from Norman downwards, rebuilt, it is supposed, in 1613. It has an embattled central tower with a low stair turret on the north-east and pinnacles with vanes at the angles. It is 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft. by 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft. Of the 12th century church little remains but the lower part of the tower. The projecting staircase turret, entrance to which is from the transept, appears to have been added later after the completion of the cross plan, and may have at first been intended to be external. A large part of the north and almost all the west side of the tower fell in 1613, and at the rebuilding the new work was bonded into the old masonry. The bell chamber is lighted by double two-light pointed windows on each side. There is a string course at sill level and another some five feet below where the walls are slightly gathered in. Before 1783 there were six bells. In that year these were recast and made eight by E. Arnold, who placed the somewhat unusual inscription on the 7th (now 9th):—

'The joys of peace our infant voice proclaim
With Holland, France, America and Spain.'

In 1895, two trebles were added by J. Taylor and Co. and all rehung in an iron frame. Tenor 25 cwt. in D.

Northampton, St. Edmund's, which parish was formed in 1846, and church erected in 1850, and since enlarged, is a cruciform structure of local stone in Early English style with central tower. It contains eight bells pre-

sented by William Thomas, Esq., in 1884. They were cast by J. Taylor and Co., with 18 cwt. tenor.

In this rather long series of articles on central towers, details have been given of a large number of examples of all types and sizes. This, although fairly comprehensive, does not cover a tithe of the scores of such towers scattered throughout the country. One could go on indefinitely with this absorbing study, and possibly at a later date I will continue with further examples. The beauty of such study of the towers of our parish churches lies in their infinite variety, no two being exactly alike, and the differing features in every style of architecture, covering all periods. In this series so far given, I have quoted cases of quaint and curious belfries and unusual approaches to the ringing chambers, and now I propose—with the Editor's kind permission—to continue by giving some further examples of quaint towers and belfries.

SEVEN BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 346.)

It is a recognised rule in the Exercise that all methods with a fixed treble must have the same lead-ends in the plain course as Plain Bob, though they need not come in the same order. How this rule came to be adopted, and what are the reasons for it, do not at the moment concern us. The result of it is that the handstroke and backstroke changes at the lead-ends of the plain course of any and every method are definitely those which are produced by a Hunting Course on the working bells. For six, seven and eight bells they are:—

23456	234567	2345678
32546	325476	3254768
35264	352746	3527486
53624	537264	5372846
56342	573624	5738264
65432	756342	7583624
64523	765432	7856342
46253	674523	8765432
42635	647253	8674523
24365	462735	6847253
23456	426375	6482735
	243657	4628375
	234567	4263857
		2436587
		2345678

Now, at first sight, all three appear to be exactly the same, except for the number of the bells, and what we find true of one we should expect to find true of all three and of the similar sets of lead-ends on all other numbers of bells. However, when we examine them just a little closer we find an important difference. With the six-bell group and the eight-bell group no matter which lead-end we take first, all the others will follow cyclically. If our first lead-end is 56342, the others will be 42635, 35264, 64523 and 23456. If it is 64523, the others will be 35264, 42635, 56342 and 23456. So with the rest, and so with all the lead-ends in the eight-bell group.

But when we turn to the seven-bell group we find that 426375 is the only one which, in addition to 352746, will give us a six-lead course. If our first lead-end is 573624, the second will be 647253, and the third will be 23456. Our course will have only three leads instead of six, the required number. If the first lead-end is 647253, the second will be 573624, and again we shall have no more than three leads. If 765432 comes as the first lead-end, the case is still worse, for rounds will come up at the second lead-end. Here, obviously, is one reason for the dearth of seven-bell methods.

Why should this difference be? Well, it depends on the 'nature' of the changes, and how the odd and even rows follow each other. The first group is produced by plain hunting on five bells, and all the changes are double changes; consequently all the rows are even. One row there is, 65432, which would give only a single repetition, but that comes as a handstroke row. The third group is produced by plain hunting on seven bells, and all the changes are triple changes; consequently all the handstrokes are odd and all the backstrokes are even.

But in the second group the rows are produced first by a triple change and then by a double change, and so alternately throughout; consequently we get two odd rows for the handstroke and backstroke changes at the first lead-end; then two even rows for the handstroke and backstroke at the second lead-end; and so on. The lead-ends must be alternately odd and even, and since there are only three odd lead-ends to pick from and one of them, 765432, is clearly inadmissible (for it will give only a single repetition), we are restricted to either of 352746 and 426375 as the first lead-end.

Another thing follows. In a regular succession of triple changes, such as we get in Grandsire, Oxford Bob, Double Court and most of the seven-bell methods we are familiar with, all the backstrokes are even and we can never get an odd backstroke unless we use some special device such as a Single. But in these methods with six working bells we must have an odd backstroke row at the first lead-end. We cannot construct the method by an unbroken succession of triple changes, and somewhere in every lead we must have three places made in the same change (whole pulls before and behind count as places). We can only make this double (as distinct from triple) change in one of two positions—either when the treble is making its whole pull on the front, or when it is lying its whole pull behind. If we made it when the treble was hunting up, we should have to make another similar one when it was hunting down, in order to preserve the symmetry of the lead; and we must preserve the symmetry of the lead, not merely to conform to academic rule, but because unless we do we shall not be able to produce true extents. If we make three places in one change twice within the lead, one will neutralise the other and so do us no good. In our seven-bell method with six working bells we can have either Firsts and Seconds, Firsts and Fourths, Firsts and Sixths, Thirds and

Fourth, Thirds and Sixths, or Fifth and Sixths, when the treble is lying behind; or Seconds and Sevenths when the treble is leading. One of these pairs of places we must have in addition to the treble's whole pull, but if we make places when the treble is lying behind we may make none when it is leading; and if we make places when it is leading, we may make none when it is lying.

Now both Firsts place made when the treble is lying behind, and Sevenths place when the treble is leading, will cause a bell to lie for four blows in one position unless we introduce a place into the preceding change and the following change. That means we must have in the method both handstroke and backstroke places and dodging, which in turn mean that the work must be more or less complex. If we wish for a fairly simple method with all backstroke work, a plain hunting treble and six working bells will give us nothing better than Bob Triples and the St. Simon's Triples we printed last week.

But if we are ready for a method which will make as many demands on our skill as at least the simpler Surprise Major methods, there are several at our disposal, although the choice is not an extensive one. We give two, one of them (notwithstanding its name) a very old method which was rung to peals in the 18th century:—

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
3157264	4123657
3512746	4216375
5321476	2461357
3524167	4263175
5342617	2436715
3546271	4263751
5364721	4627351

(To be continued.)

WANTED.

HANDBELLS.—Urgently wanted, 6, 8 or 10 handbells; any condition; good price offered. — Rector, Ockley, Dorking.

WANTED. — A set of eight handbells for newly formed band. — Write, Rev. J. A. Briggs, Emmanuel Vicarage, Everton Road, Liverpool 6.

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The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Saturday, Aug. 26th, 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, 1 Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Steyning, August 26th, 3 p.m. Service 4.45. Business meeting in belfry. — L. Stilwell, Pikeholme, Pulborough.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at Ockbrook, Saturday, Aug. 26th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting Halesowen, Saturday, Aug. 26th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Farnham Royal, Saturday, Aug. 26th, 3 p.m.—A. D. Baker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Ripple, Saturday, Aug. 26th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea and business.—E. F. Cubberley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Meeting at Broughton Astley, Saturday, Aug. 26th, at 6 p.m. Meeting at Barwell on Sept. 9th at 3.30. Tea at 5 p.m. Names to Mr. R. Belton, Westgate, Barwell, near Hinckley, by Sept. 9th. — W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District.—Meeting at Ashford, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by Aug. 28th to P. Page, 110, Canterbury Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Eastern and Western Districts.—Joint meeting at Chester-le-Street, Saturday, Sept. 2nd. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—J. A. Brown, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Finchdale Terrace, Chester-le-Street.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Meeting at Beverley, Saturday, Sept. 2nd. Bells at the Minster and St. Mary's 3 o'clock. Service in St. Mary's 4.30. Tea in Mayor's Parlour, Guildhall. Names by Aug. 30th to Mr. G. Braithwaite, 26, Albert Terrace, Beverley, East Yorks.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—Annual meeting, Sturry, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 2.30. Service 4. Tea and meeting after. Names to H. R. French, Lamorbey, School Hill, Sturry, Canterbury, by Aug. 29th. Nominations to me by Aug. 29th.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Wel-lingore (6 bells), Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Meat tea 1s. 6d., 4.30. Names for tea to me at School House, Barnby-in-the-Willows, Newark, Notts, by Aug. 30th.—K. W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Special meeting at Wollaton, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by important business. Names for tea by Tuesday, Aug. 29th.—T. Groombridge, jun., Dis. Sec., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Winchester District.—Practice meeting at New Alresford on Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. No tea.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—Meeting at Trowbridge, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5. Names before Wednesday, Aug. 30th.—W. C. West, Hon. Sec., 584, Semington Road, Melksham. Phone 297.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Stony Stratford, Saturday, Sept. 2nd. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. Names by Aug. 28th.—R. H. Howson, 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—Meeting at Beedon, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names to Mr. Tom Curtis, Worlds End, Beedon, Berks, by Tuesday, Aug. 29th.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Church Kirk, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 2.30 p.m. Business 6 p.m. — Charles W. Blakey, Branch Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—West Norfolk Branch.—Meeting at Grimston, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. Bring food and drink. — W. J. Eldred, Branch Sec., 4, Wellington Street, King's Lynn.

NATIONAL GUILD OF POLICE RINGERS.—Meeting at Manchester, Saturday, Sept. 9th. Assemble Town Hall belfry 12 noon. Luncheon, Piccadilly Restaurant, Tib Street (Market Street end) 1 p.m., 3s. 6d. Ringing, Town Hall (12) 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Tea, Piccadilly Restaurant, 6 p.m., 2s. 6d. Social evening. Names at once to Mr. F. R. Williams, 35, Boardman Road, Higher Crumpsall, Manchester: none accepted after Monday, Sept. 4th.—Inspector H. J. Poole, Hon. Sec.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—Meeting at Long Ashton, Saturday, Sept. 9th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names by Sept. 6th.—N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Weston, Bath.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—Aylesbeare Deanery Branch.—Meeting at Whimble, Saturday, Sept. 9th. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Names by Sept. 1st to Brian Pidgeon, High Street, East Budleigh.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—General meeting, Acton, Sept. 16th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. — C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—General meeting, Tadcaster, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 2 p.m. Committee 3 p.m. in Boys' Sunday School. Service 4 p.m. Tea and business in Boys' Sunday School 5 p.m. Names to Mr. J. Harrison, Lyneside, Stutton Road, Tadcaster, by Sept. 13th.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

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THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

No. 1,745. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st, 1944.

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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.

TECHNICAL TERMS.

One of the questions which is frequently discussed among ringers is the correctness of the technical terms and expressions used either in explanation of the theory and science of change ringing or in actual practice in the belfry. To many men some of these terms seem wrong and misleading, and from time to time someone will suggest an alteration.

We have an example of this in a letter just received from a man well known in the Exercise, who objects to the use of the words 'up' and 'down' when applied to hunting. Why up and down? he asks, and others have asked the same question before him. The treble, they say, is the highest note in the peal, and therefore it surely is absurd to talk of it occupying the lowest position in rounds. It is a nice point upon which we do not venture to give judgment.

Perhaps some readers may think that discussions on such subjects as this are only the splitting of straws and a waste of time, but that is a wrong view to take. Technical terms we must have, and it is most essential that they should mean what they say and should convey a definite idea from the man who uses them to the man who hears them. It was the recognition of this need which made Sir Arthur Heywood and the early Central Council anxious to publish an official glossary of ringing terms, and led Henry Earle Bulwer to devote much time and ability to its preparation. The book, when it appeared, was quite an excellent one, but it did not have the effect its sponsors anticipated, because they (like most people) overlooked one important truth about words. People as a rule think (if they think about the matter at all) that every word has its own proper meaning, and to find out what it is all that is necessary is to turn to a dictionary or glossary. That is not so. Every word has, of course, a general meaning, else it would not be a word but only an inarticulate sound. It is the way in which it is used that gives it its precise meaning and enables it to convey a distinct idea from one man to another.

It does not matter very much whether the terms we use in the belfry or in explanation of the science of change ringing are etymologically correct, or in accordance with their ordinary dictionary definitions. It does matter whether they express a definite idea and convey it distinctly and unambiguously from the mind of the speaker to the mind of the hearer. And whether they can do that depends, in no small degree, on how they are used and how they are heard.

(Continued on page 362.)

How we got our ringing terms was in some measure explained in a recent article on an early text book, the J. D. and C. M. 'Campanalogia.' They were ordinary English words in everyday use taken to express new ideas in connection with a new science and art, and they did express them because the men who used the words had a clear idea of what they wanted to convey, and made sure that their hearers understood it. As the art and science grew and developed, it was inevitable that the meanings attached to the terms and expressions should develop too, and if, in course of time, these words lost sight of their origin and their meaning in ordinary language, that was no matter, for it is essential that a technical term, when used as a technical term, should have no other meaning than what belongs to its own art or science.

The Exercise has reason to congratulate itself that it has been able to acquire a vocabulary of plain and simple technical terms which are quite adequate to express fully not only what goes on in the belfry, but also the most abstruse points in the science of composition. We have been more fortunate than some other people and have been spared the necessity for long exotic words of Greek or Latin origin. Ringers, for instance, are not responsible for such things as 'campanology' and 'campanile.' They can get on very well with 'bellringing' and 'bell tower.'

Our technical terms are quite adequate, not only for ordinary use in the belfry, but in explanation of any point that may arise in connection with the art or the science, whether it be elementary or advanced, provided the speaker and the hearer do their part and use them as they should be used.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION

MEETING AT HARMONDSWORTH.

A meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association, held at Harmondsworth on August 12th, was attended by over 40 members and friends, who came from Bishopsgate (St. Botolph's), Cranford, Croydon (St. John's), Ealing (St. Mary's, Christ Church and St. Stephen's), Feltham, Great Barford, Beds, Harmondsworth, Hillingdon (St. Andrew's and St. John's), Isleworth, Kensington (St. Mary Abbot's), Madeley, Staffs, Pinner, Ruislip, Stanmore, Staines (St. Peter's), Uxbridge and Westminster (St. Stephen's). The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Cambridge and London Surprise Minor and rounds. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. R. Ross. The death was announced of Mr. W. J. W. Davey, of Hillingdon, killed in action in Normandy. Messrs. Albert Round and Peter Newton, of Harmondsworth, and P. J. Woodger, of Cranford, were elected members.

The secretary announced that in connection with the 700th anniversary of the founding of St. Mary's, Acton, the Rector had invited the association's co-operation, and a general meeting of the association had been arranged for September 16th. It was decided to hold the next district meeting at St. John's, Hillingdon, on October 7th.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT STRATTON.

A quarterly meeting of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Stratton on August 12th, towers represented being Dorchester St. Peter's, Maiden Newton, Bradford Peverell, Stratton, Fordington St. George, Wyke Regis, Upwey, Frampton, Wool and Sydling.

At the service the address was given by the Rector, the Rev. A. F. Godley, and Canon A. Wilkinson Markby read the lesson. Mr. J. E. Brown was at the organ.

Tea was served on the rectory lawns. At the business meeting the chairman, Canon A. W. Markby, referred to the illness of Mr. J. T. Godwin and wished him a speedy recovery.

Several new members were elected, and Upwey was selected as the place of a meeting on September 9th.

During the afternoon and evening there was ringing at Stratton, Bradford Peverell and Frampton, and changes and hymn tunes on handbells.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN AUSTIN

We much regret to say that last Monday we received a telegram announcing the death of Mr. John Austin, of Gloucester. He had been active until the end and no later than August 7th rang the third to a peal of Stedman Caters at Stroud.

Mr. Austin, who was in his 81st year, was born at Burton-on-Trent on November 19th, 1863, and at the age of 20 was invited to take up ringing at Winshill, near his home. He soon became very interested in the art, and later made the acquaintance of John Jaggar, who was doing a lot of useful work among young ringers. On December 5th, 1885, Mr. Jaggar conducted Mr. Austin's first peal—Grandsire Triples at St. Paul's, Burton, and, soon afterwards, Mr. Austin joined the St. Paul's company.

It was at the time the Burton men were beginning to make history and to break new ground in Surprise ringing. So quickly did Mr. Austin develop as a ringer that in May, 1886, he took part in the first



MR. JOHN AUSTIN.

peal of New Cumberland Surprise, and quickly followed this with peals of Stedman, Treble Bob, Superlative, Cambridge, and London. On November 8th, 1888, he rang in the 6,720 of London Surprise at Burton, conducted by Mr. Joseph Griffin. At that time it was the record length in the method. In this same year, too, Mr. Austin rang his first peal as conductor, calling Holt's Original.

In November, 1890, Mr. Austin went to live in Gloucester and joined the band at St. Michael's, which included the brothers Henry Law and E. Bankes James. They were at the time practising Double Norwich Major, and on Christmas morning rang the first peal of it for the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.

In 1893 Mr. Austin conducted the first peals of Superlative Surprise, Double Oxford Bob Major and Grandsire Cinques for the association, and, in the following year, the first peals of Cambridge Surprise Major and Double

Norwich Court Bob Caters. In the Diamond Jubilee year, 1897, came the first peals of Bob Royal, Bob Maximus, Gloucester Surprise Major and Kent Treble Bob Maximus. The Double Norwich Caters and the Gloucester Surprise Major were the first accomplished by any band.

It was this band which really gave the first impetus to Surprise Royal ringing. On January 21st, 1898, Mr. Austin called a peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal at Cheltenham. At the time it was believed to be the first ever rung, but later it was discovered that 80 years or so before a peal had been rung in Yorkshire. But the Cheltenham peal was the start of modern Surprise Royal ringing.

Afterwards Cambridge Surprise Maximus was practised, and, we believe, Mr. Austin was the first ever to call a bob in Surprise Maximus. On three occasions the band met for a peal at Cirencester, and at the last attempt rang nearly two courses.

The year 1898 was a very successful one, for it saw the first peals on the augmented ring of ten at St. Michael's and a peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal at Hereford Cathedral, the latter a formidable task, for ringing takes place among the great old timber beams amid deafening noise.

St. Michael's Juniors later fell on quiet days, and the band became much depleted, but Mr. Austin kept up his peal ringing activities. Altogether he rang about 550 peals, of which he conducted over 300.

He was Master of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association from 1916 to 1918, and served for a number of years as Gloucester branch secretary of the association. He represented the association on the Central Council from 1908 to 1920, and from 1932 until his death.

MARHAM, NORFOLK.—On Sunday, August 13th, 720 Bob Minor: V. Bowen 1, F. Price 2, F. Matthews jun. 3, E. Barker 4, A. Mason (conductor) 5, R. Price 6.—On Sunday, August 20th, 720 Bob Minor: V. Bowen 1, W. Buckenham 2, H. Porter 3, F. Matthews, sen. 4, R. Price (first 720 as conductor) 5, E. Barker 6.

BURBAGE, BUXTON.—1,260 Grandsire Doubles: *D. Holmes 1, J. Puppelt (conductor) 2, *H. Kirk 3, *J. Bagshaw 4, J. Marriot 5, *I. Smith 6. *First quarter-peal.

TEN BELL PEAL.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, August 24, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes.

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt. in D.

PERCY L. HARRISON Treble	HAROLD G. JENNEY 6
ALFRED H. PULLING 2	SIDNEY O. CHENEY 7
MRS. H. J. POOLE 3	WILLIAM J. ROOT 8
HARRY WAYNE 4	ERNEST MORRIS 9
SHIRLEY BURTON 5	HAROLD J. POOLE... .. Tenor

Composed by W. PYE.

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Rung for the liberation of Paris.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

LEOKHAMPTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 19, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt.

JOAN HOULDSWORTH Treble	† E. S. JOHN HATCHER... .. 5
MARGARET D. TELFORD 2	REV. A. G. G. THURLOW 6
* ALAN WHITE 3	JOHN E. SPICE 7
† VERNON J. BENNING... .. 4	REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG Tenor

Composed by W. SOTTENSTALL.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Treble Bob on an inside bell. † First peal of Treble Bob. The first peal of Treble Bob on tower bells for the association.

HALLOW, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, August 20, 1944, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PHILIP AND JAMES,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5086 CHANGES;

MIDDLETON'S.

Tenor 21½ cwt.

VERNON J. BENNING .. Treble	JOHN E. SPICE 5
* † BETTY SPICE 2	REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE 6
MARIE R. CROSS 3	REV. A. G. G. THURLOW 7
* ALAN WHITE 4	REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG Tenor

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Surprise. † 50th peal. The first peal of Surprise as conductor and for the association.

WESTHOUGHTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, August 25, 1944, in Three Hours.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 13½ cwt.

EVEREST FORD Treble	* BRYAN STAVELEY 5
ALBERT GREENHALGH... .. 2	PETER CROOK 6
LAURENCE WOOD... .. 3	THOMAS W. SMITH 7
HARRY S. COOPER 4	RICHARD W. MOSLEY Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS W. SMITH.

* First peal. First peal in the method as conductor. Rung for the 74th anniversary of the consecration of the church. A birthday compliment to the ringer of the 5th.

BUCKLAND, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 26, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes.

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

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

CECIL G. CALUXTY Treble	† WILLIAM C. PORTER... .. 5
* NEIL ALLNATT 2	REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG 6
EDWIN A. BARNETT 3	W. BERTRAM KYNASTON 7
CHARLES J. GARDNER 4	WALTER F. JUDGE Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW. Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

* First peal in the method. † First peal in the method away from the treble. The conductor's 250th tower bell peal.

SIX BELL PEALS.

HALLATON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, August 17, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 12 six-scores Plain Bob and 30 six-scores Grandsire.

Tenor 11½ cwt.

RONALD RUSSELL Treble	* WILLIAM R. HAMMONS 4
PERCY AMOS 2	A. NORMAN GEARY 5
J. GEOFFREY GEARY 3	JOSEPH NORTON Tenor

Conducted by J. GEOFFREY GEARY.

* First peal.

SAPCOTE, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 19, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and three of Plain Bob called differently. Tenor 10 cwt.

* MISS MADGE GREWCOCK ... Treble	WILLIAM A. WOOD 4
CHARLES W. BROWN... .. 2	EDGAR VALLENCE 5
† CYRIL ISON... .. 3	† FRANK TROTMAN Tenor

Conducted by FRANK TROTMAN.

* First peal. † First peal in three methods.

GREAT WELDON, NORTHANTS.

On Saturday, August 19, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being eight six-scores Canterbury Pleasure, eight six-scores Plain Bob and 26 six-scores Grandsire. Tenor 11½ cwt.

JOSEPH J. BAILEY Treble	WILLIAM R. HAMMONS 4
PERCY AMOS... .. 2	RONALD RUSSELL 5
J. GEOFFREY GEARY 3	ERIC W. CHAMBERS Tenor

Conducted by J. GEOFFREY GEARY.

STAUNTON-ON-ARROW, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, August 22, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being five 120's of Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, thirty-five of Grandsire (10 callings) and one 240 of Lindoff's arrangement.

Tenor 6 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb.

JOHN D. ROCK Treble	LAURENCE T. MAINWARING 4
RONALD H. MEWIES... .. 2	LESLIE EVANS 5
* FREDERICK R. HARRIS ... 3	E. PETER ROCK Tenor

Conducted by LESLIE EVANS.

* First peal inside. Rung for the liberation of Paris.

MILTON REGIS, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, August 23, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and three of Plain Bob. Tenor 10 cwt. 3 qr. 13 lb.

JOHN E. SPICE Treble	JAMES S. WEBB 4
BETTY SPICE... .. 2	WALTER H. DOBBIE 5
ARTHUR S. BOAR... .. 3	GEORGE KENWARD Tenor

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

The conductor's 50th peal on tower bells and 100th as conductor. Rung for the liberation of Paris.

BINFIELD, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 26, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Single Oxford, Kent Treble Bob and Oxford Treble Bob and 720 of Plain Bob. Tenor 10 cwt. in G.

CECIL W. BAILEY Treble	ARTHUR J. N. RANCE 4
A. JOHN RANCE 2	FRANK H. HICKS... .. 5
C. ALFRED LEVETT 3	GEORGE GILBERT... .. Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE GILBERT.

Rung for the birth of a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. A. J. N. Rance.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official Journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to:—

The Editor,

'The Ringing World,'

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Cheques and remittances should be made payable to 'The Ringing World.'

DEATH OF MR. W. H. FUSSELL.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. William H. Fussell, who passed away last Tuesday morning. The funeral is this afternoon at Farnham Royal at 2.30 p.m.

'FIVE-BELL RINGING.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I very much appreciated your leader in this week's issue. One gets far better striking in Minor and Doubles.

A few Sundays ago I visited a tower in the Home Counties. I was told that ringing would start at 10.15. I arrived at that time—three of us, 10.25 five ringers, 10.30 six ringers, but still no move was made to raise the bells; 10.40 the eighth one arrived and by the time the bells were raised it was 10.45. That tower did not see me any more. All the ringing towers round here are more enthusiastic. The first one to arrive starts to raise the bells. Then a few rounds perhaps only on four, and as soon as there are five it is Doubles. Then some Major. Sometimes there is only about five minutes of eight bell ringing. At one tower with a 23 cwt. tenor there is generally a touch of Doubles on the back five till the rest arrive, and very impressive it is.

This is the spirit we want; we go to ring the bells for service, and it is up to us to ring for the full allotted time, whether it is rounds on four or five or Surprise Major.

Wadhurst.

CHARLES A. BASSETT.

'THE BRIDES OF ENDERBY.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. E. Alex. Young is wrong in stating that at Enderby, near Leicester, there are but three bells. For many years there were five, and the old Leicester ringers' book says: 'June 24th, 1868. On Wednesday was rung at the opening of five bells at Enderby (cast by Mr. John Taylor, of Loughborough) several grandsires by the following ringers from Leicester, viz.: Stephen Cooper treble, Alfred Millis 2, Thomas Langham 3, Arthur Brown 4, Edward Biggs (conductor) tenor. They were a very difficult set to handle owing to clock works and cross supports just over the ringers' heads, causing the ropes to catch or rebound in any but the right direction. In 1928 they were all recast and augmented to eight with a tenor 11 cwt. 2 qr. 15 lb. by J. Taylor and Co., being rededicated on the anniversary of the opening of the old five—June 24th. The first peal on the new bells was 5,040 Grandsire Triples on July 14th, 1928, conducted by the writer, since when many more peals in all standard and some Surprise methods have been rung.

Leicester.

ERNEST MORRIS.

Dear Sir,—My recent letter followed a discussion at a College Youth meeting. At to-day's, I find, per my ringing friend, that there are four Enderbys—the one in Leicester, to which I referred, and three in Lincolnshire itself. The latter are loosely strung together and one of the parishes is that of the Mavis Enderby quoted by Jean Ingelow. They each have a ring of three bells, whilst Leicester's Enderby has eight, by Taylors.

Bromley.

E. ALEX. YOUNG.

THOMAS HENRY ELLACOMBE.

(Continued from page 353.)

Ellacombe was a diligent collector of all kinds of information relating to bells and their uses, and he printed the material he had got together in appendices to his three principal books, of which they form a very large proportion. For the most part this material consists of transcripts of old documents and extracts from books and journals. For many readers, these appendices are the most interesting pages in the books, and as they made available a mass of information which before had been practically inaccessible, they proved a rich mine from which later writers on bells could dig information on subjects not covered by their own investigations. In this way Ellacombe contributed very largely to other and later men's work. It cannot, however, be said that he made the best use of the material himself. He was content generally to print it as he found it, and leave to his readers to make of it what they could. He was an enthusiastic and painstaking collector of historical data, but he lacked the historical imagination necessary to see the truth behind the material he had brought to light.

Like many other men of his class, he looked back to the Middle Ages as a period of faith and order in the Church, and he saw the profanation and secularisation of bells of his own time in sharp contrast to their religious and sacred uses in the old times. As perhaps the majority of men do, he saw the past through a mist of idealism and judged bygone bells and ringers by those in his own and his neighbours' parishes. The result was that he was too harsh in his opinions of the customs and men of his time and too lenient to those of old. This bias influenced his whole outlook, and is shown continually in the letters he wrote to 'Church Bells,' 'Notes and Queries,' and elsewhere. He, and others likeminded with him, were quite properly vigorously protesting against the ringing of church bells for profane and unworthy purposes, and by contrast would not admit there was any such secular uses in old times. Bells, so he maintained, were originally sacred objects, consecrated and set apart for religious uses; they were rung from the floor of the church, not by laymen, who were not considered worthy of doing so, but by clerks in minor orders, wearing their proper vestments. It was after the Reformation, when Church discipline was much relaxed and the ringers were no longer in minor orders, that evils crept in, the singers were expelled from the chancel to galleries at the west end, and the ringers from the church floor to the belfries above, with what results all his readers knew only too well. No doubt he could have found justification for these views in the wording of some of the evidence he printed, but he might have read a very different (and much more probable) story if he had looked closer into the document on which, as it seems, he largely relied—the original manuscript, which states the duties of the deacons of Coventry, a document of which I gave a full description some months ago in 'The Ringing World.'

It was the same prejudice which led Ellacombe to give the account of the origin of the morning and evening bells and of other local uses (common in his time) which was generally adopted by writers and still is often quoted as a proven fact. These bells, he said, were originally rung for the Angelus, and as they proved useful in marking the time of the day they were continued after the Reformation as secular bells. 'Somebody,' he wrote in

'Church Bells' in 1872, 'asks about bells at strange hours of the day and called by strange names. They are all lingering relics of the Angelus or Ave bell, which, prior to the Reformation, was rung in every parish morning, noon and night when practicable in memory of our Saviour becoming man for us and for our salvation, and of the 'morrow' Mass bell. The people had been so long accustomed to their sound, and they became so useful for social purposes, that they were in many cases continued after the Reformation, when they were given new names which would not savour of the ancient religious meaning. The early single bells on Sunday mornings are to be accounted for in the same way.'

In 1865 Ellacombe, in his 'History of Clyst,' wrote, 'where there are more than three bells it will be found that they have been added since the Reformation. It has occurred to me that the number was so ordered in accordance with a practice of the early church that at morning, noon, and evening the Angelus bell, as it is called, should peal forth from every steeple and bell turret in the Kingdom. The triple peal throughout the day might have induced a bell of different note to be sounded. Though its origin is forgotten, the bell is still rung at these hours in some parishes serving to call the labourer to and from his work is really a relict of the Angelus.'

These opinions are plausible, but there is ample evidence that the morning, noon and evening bells were secular in their origin and had no connection with the Angelus. The ringing of a bell for the Angelus was in fact not a custom in this country before the Reformation, though at times some of the bishops granted indulgences to such as should say so many Aves and Pater Nosters when they heard curfew rung, and in some dioceses an Ave bell was rung after the morning service on Sundays. It is not fair, however, to judge Ellacombe hardly in this matter. He was a pioneer and bound to make mistakes, and much of the evidence upon which a sound opinion can be based was probably not at his disposal.

In comparison with the round ringers of the West, Ellacombe looked somewhat favourably on change ringers, especially those of the College Youths whom he met occasionally and, of course, under the most favourable circumstances, but he evidently bracketed change ringing with the Reformation as the two influences which changed the old religious uses of bells and introduced the secularisation which had such disastrous results in his own time. 'Cathedral churches,' he wrote, 'were not allowed to possess more than five or seven bells, and often they were not placed together for simultaneous use. Collegiate and parish churches were not allowed more than three besides the Sanctus bell. Under the old system bells were few and heavy. They continued so until the Reformation, soon after which the art of change ringing completely overturned the existing order of things.' 'Change ringing led to a complete revolution in the art of the bell founder; from, say, 1637 most of the heavy peals of three and four and five were reduced in weight and multiplied in number.' It was for the sake of change ringing that bells were cast shorter in length.

These opinions have been repeated many times and by responsible authors, but they are pure conjecture, and have no foundation in facts. Change ringing certainly did not influence the way in which bells were cast, nor is there any reason to suppose that it led to the recasting

of heavy bells. What did happen was that some time about the middle of the fifteenth century it became the custom to ring bells 'in peal,' and for that purpose bells were cast in a 'tunable' ring. Ringing in the restricted sense of swinging bells high enough to clapper fully on both sides and striking them in ordered rounds was a distinctively English invention. It dates from more than a century before the Reformation, and was definitely a custom introduced and fostered by laymen. It was the ordinary lay folk of England, not the clergy, who provided the bells of the parish churches, who controlled their uses, and who rang them. No doubt the clerks and 'deacons' who were entrusted with their care and everyday use were in minor orders, but they were the predecessors and exact equivalents of the later parish clerks and sextons, and as little, or as much, belonged to the clergy. They received their instructions from the churchwardens and the parish vestry, who maintained the bells and exercised full control over their use. Change ringing was a later development of the ringing which had long before become a prominent feature of the life of the people, not only religious but social and sporting. Ringing generally, and change ringing in particular, did lead to a great increase in the number of bells in a peal, but in most cases it took the form of adding two bells to a ring of three or a treble to a ring of six. There was a good deal of recasting, but it was done for the same reason that bells are recast to-day, namely, to improve the peal. It is rather futile to lament the loss of fifteenth and sixteenth century bells recast in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, for they had not then acquired the glamour of old age, and if they were bad there was no more reason why they should not have been recast than there is now why a bad eighteenth or nineteenth century bell should not be recast. Some few poor and unwieldy rings were no doubt recast into lighter and better rings, as at Lichfield Cathedral in the seventeenth century and Stepney in the early nineteenth, but it would not be true to say it was done for the sake of change ringing, and where change ringing most flourished the tendency was to have not only more bells, but heavier ones.

(To be continued.)

THE LIBERATION OF PARIS.

On August 23rd, by request of the Lord Mayor of London, the bells of St. Paul's Cathedral were rung to celebrate the liberation of Paris from German control, which had lasted for four years. The ringing consisted of three courses of Stedman Cinques and the band was E. G. Fenn treble, J. F. Smallwood 2, H. Langdon (conductor) 3, W. H. Pasmore 4, R. W. Green 5, H. Hoskins 6, H. Belcher 7, H. G. Miles 8, R. F. Deal 9, J. Bullock 10, A. B. Peck 11, J. Rumley and T. Langdon tenor.

Later in the day five courses of Stedman Triples were rung at Westminster Abbey by H. R. Newton treble, W. H. Pasmore 2, T. Langdon 3, H. G. Miles 4, A. B. Peck 5, H. J. Pitstow (conductor) 6, H. Langdon 7, J. Rumley tenor.

Notice of the ringing was given on the wireless and the daily papers, and the majority of the latter reported it the next day.

DEATH OF THE REV. N. C. WOODS.

The death occurred on August 9th of the Rev. Norman Charles Woods, who until 1944 was the chairman of the Winchester Branch of the Winchester Diocesan Guild. He was a life member of the Guild, and in 1939, when he left Winchester, the branch persuaded him to retain office until a successor was found. He was a very popular chairman and took the keenest interest in all the activities of the Guild in general, and of his own branch in particular.

The funeral was at Edgbaston on August 12th.

SWINDON.—On Sunday, August 13th, at Christ Church, 1,260 Boh Royal: C. J. Gardiner (conductor) 1, F. J. Daniell 2, T. Cullingworth 3, E. J. Berry 4, G. W. Townsend 5, H. Bishop 6, T. Townsend 7, A. G. Wells 8, S. Palmer 9, J. H. Shepherd 10.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I think you will agree that the proposers of the decentralisation of the Midland Counties Association are very lax in supplying details of the great advantages to be expected from their proposals. There is only one conclusion from their silence, there are none.

I appeal to all members, that unless there are some decided advantages which cannot be obtained within the framework of the Midland Counties Association, to have nothing whatever to do with the proposed decentralisation.

As an alternative, I would suggest that the association delete 'for the Dioceses of Derby, Leicester, Lichfield and Southwell,' and make it open to the Midland Counties, including Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, Lincolnshire and Rutland. This would eliminate any restrictive boundaries which diocesan guilds create and which are unable to cater for towers situate on the boundaries of adjoining dioceses. Any tower would then have the option of deciding which district association could best cater for them, whereas with diocesan guilds they would be restricted.

If any of the existing districts feel they are restricted in developing any section of their territory, then the remedy is obviously for the districts to be re-formed, subject, of course, to the consent of the towers affected.

But apart from decentralisation altogether, surely the first consideration is the rehabilitation of ringing as a whole, and this can better be done by an organisation of over 60 years' standing than by an untried experiment, which gives members of the Forces engaged in more important matters no say in the matter.

These men will be in the majority as office holders in the future, one has only to consider one's own district to see how many ex-Service men are doing excellent service in the cause of ringing, to realise what a disservice would be done them by deciding on such a matter as decentralisation in their absence.

WILLIAM LANCASTER, Hon. Sec., Derby District, M.C.A.
83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH.**

A joint meeting of the Burton and Loughborough Districts of the Midland Counties Association was held at Ashby on August 12th, at which members attended from Ashby, Appleby, Measham, Netherseal, Overseal and Ticknall (Burton District), and Hugglescote, Ibstock, Oaks in Charnwood, Shepshed and Whitwick (Loughborough District). Mr. J. Pagett, of Derby, Mr. G. H. Straw, of Leicester, and Mr. Thomas Chapman, of Worcester, were also present.

Twenty-seven members were present at tea, which was provided by the Vicar, Canon H. D. Hanford, and Mr. E. W. Beadsmore.

Meetings were arranged for the Burton District at Repton in September and Appleby in October, and for the Burton District at Old Woodhouse on August 26th. A discussion on the proposed division of the association followed the lines of earlier discussions and nothing was added to clarify the position.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.**MEETING AT THORVERTON.**

A meeting of the Exeter Branch of the Devonshire Guild, held at Thorverton on August 19th, was attended by members from Brampford Speke, Heavitree, Honiton Clyst, Kenn, Exeter (St. Thomas'), Silverton, Thorverton and other bands. Service was conducted by the Rev. F. R. Moses (Vicar) and Prebendary E. V. Cox (president of the Guild).

After tea Mr. F. J. Ryall presided at the business meeting. The next meeting was fixed for December 2nd at St. Thomas', Exeter, and one new member (Miss June Hosgood) was elected. The president gave reasons for not holding the annual meeting of the Guild on August 7th.

The chairman welcomed friends from other guilds and branches and proposed votes of thanks to the Vicar, to Mrs. Edworthy and the ladies who provided tea. Before and after the service rounds and courses of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major were rung.

THE UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.

Some twenty members of the Universities' Association recently enjoyed a week's ringing in the Worcester district, the local arrangements being in the hands of the Rev. A. C. F. Davies, Minor Canon of Worcester Cathedral and clerical secretary of the Worcestershire and Districts Association.

The object was not to attempt a lot of peals, but to provide the beginners, who made up a large proportion of the party, with opportunities for practice. About thirty towers were visited (cycles being the main means of transport), and the ringing ranged from rounds and Grandsire Triples to Spliced Surprise Major and Cambridge Royal. Four peal attempts were made and three were successful—Grandsire Caters, Kent Treble Bob Major and Cambridge Major. There were a good number of 'firsts' in these peals. In the peal of Grandsire Caters six universities were represented in the band—Oxford, Cambridge, London, Reading, Bristol and Birmingham.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District.

—Meeting at Ashford, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—

Meeting at Beverley, Saturday, Sept. 2nd. Bells at the Minster and St. Mary's 3 o'clock. Service in St. Mary's 4.30. Tea in Mayor's Parlour, Guildhall.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—

Annual meeting, Sturry, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 2.30. Service 4. Tea and meeting after.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Wel-

lingore (6 bells), Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Meat tea 1s. 6d., 4.30.—K. W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks

Branch.—Meeting at Stony Stratford, Saturday, Sept. 2nd. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting.—R. H. Howson, 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.

—Meeting at Beedon, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—West

Norfolk Branch.—Meeting at Grimston, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. Bring food and drink.—W. J. Eldred, Branch Sec., 4, Wellington Street, King's Lynn.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade

District.—Meeting at Southill on Saturday, Sept. 2nd. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

Meeting at Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Saturday, Sept. 9th, 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, 1 Eversfield Road, Reigate.

NATIONAL GUILD OF POLICE RINGERS.—Meeting

at Manchester, Saturday, Sept. 9th. Assemble Town Hall belfry 12 noon. Luncheon, Piccadilly Restaurant, Tib Street (Market Street end) 1 p.m., 3s. 6d. Ringing, Town Hall (12) 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Tea, Piccadilly Restaurant, 6 p.m., 2s. 6d. Social evening. Names at once to Mr. F. R. Williams, 35, Boardman Road, Higher Crumpsall, Manchester: none accepted after Monday, Sept. 4th.—Inspector H. J. Poole, Hon. Sec.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—Meeting at

Long Ashton, Saturday, Sept. 9th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names by Sept. 6th.—N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Weston, Bath.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western

District.—Meeting at Great Gaddesden, Saturday, Sept. 9th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Usual arrangements. Names by Wednesday previous.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch.—Meeting at Rawtenstall (8 bells), Saturday, Sept. 9th, 3 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—H. Parkinson, Branch Sec.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—Aylesbeare Deanery Branch.—Meeting at Whimple, Saturday, Sept. 9th. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Usk (Mon.), Saturday, Sept. 9th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Business meeting follows.—J. W. Jones, Hon. Sec., 94, Altery View, Newport, Mon.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—Practice meeting, St. John's, Silverdale, near Carnforth, Saturday, Sept. 9th, 2.30 p.m.—N. M. Newby, Branch Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Meeting at South Marston on Sept. 9th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Joint meeting with the Barnsley and District Society at Rawmarsh, near Rotherham, on Saturday, Sept. 9th. Tea details in Barnsley Society's notice.—G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Central Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Stone, Saturday, Sept. 9th. Bells (6) 2.45 p.m. Service 4 p.m. No tea.—E. F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., Horn Street, Winslow.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at Hitchin, Sept. 9th, 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. Names by Thursday, Sept. 7th, to A. E. Symonds, The Cottage, Windmill Hill, Hitchin.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Gloucester Branch.—Meeting at Sandhurst (8 bells), Saturday, Sept. 9th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea (free) 5.15. Names to W. H. Harris, Branch Sec., 4, G.W.R. Terrace, Lydney Dock, Lydney, Glos., before Sept. 5th.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Combined meeting with the Kent County Association at Tonbridge on Saturday, Sept. 9th, 3 p.m. Names for tea by Sept. 6th to Mr. J. Medhurst, 251, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport and Bowdon Branch.—Meeting at Stalybridge (St. Paul's), Saturday, Sept. 9th. Notify Mr. S. Hodgson, 111, Spring Bank Street, Stalybridge, by Tuesday, Sept. 5th.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Joint meeting with Sheffield District, Rawmarsh, Sept. 9th, 2.30. Names to Mr. F. C. Wilson, 131, Wheatcroft Road, Sandhills, Rawmarsh, near Rotherham, by Sept. 6th.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at Farnworth, nr. Widnes, on Saturday, Sept. 9th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 o'clock. Names to Mr. J. A. Calland, 35, Allerton Road, Widnes, before Sept. 6th.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—General meeting, Acton, Sept. 16th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—General meeting, Tadcaster, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 2 p.m. Committee 3 p.m. in Boys' Sunday School. Service 4 p.m. Tea and business in Boys' Sunday School 5 p.m. Names to Mr. J. Harrison, Lyneside, Stutton Road, Tadcaster, by Sept. 13th.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Bulkington (6 bells), Saturday, Sept. 16th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., 1s. each. Bring sugar.—D. E. Beamish, 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Upham, near Southampton, Sept. 16th, 2.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names by Sept. 13th.—G. Pullinger, 17, Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-East Division.—Meeting at Mistley, Saturday, September 16th, 2 p.m. Bring food and a pinch of tea.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., Park Farm Cottages, Shimpling, Bury St. Edmunds.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—Half-yearly meeting at Wasingborough, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Business meeting later. Bring tea.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

WANTED.

HANDBELLS.—Urgently wanted, 6, 8 or 10 handbells; any condition; good price offered.—Rector, Ockley, Dorking.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT KNEBWORTH.

A meeting of the Northern District of the Hertford County Association was held at Knebworth on August 12th, at which members were present from Hitchin, Stevenage, Baldock, Hatfield, Welwyn Garden City, North Mimms, Southgate, St. Albans, Clifton, Melbourne and the local belfry. The methods rung during the afternoon and evening ranged from Grandsire Triples to Cambridge Surprise Major. Service was conducted by the Rev. L. Denton-Sayers, and 36 members sat down to tea provided by the local band in the Lytton Hall. The Rector took the chair at the business meeting and Hitchin was selected as the place of the next meeting to be held on September 9th. Thanks were given to the Rector, to Messrs. G. Crane and J. Ferris and the ladies who provided the tea.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT FELKIRK.

The following towers were represented at a meeting of the Barnsley and District Society, held at Felkirk on August 12th: Cawthorne, Darfield, Earlsheaton, Handsworth, Monk Bretton, Sandal, Shelley, South Kirkby, Wath-on-Deane and the local belfry. Tea in the old school-room was followed by the business meeting, at which the vice-president, Mr. J. W. Moxon, of Sandal, took the chair. Two new members were elected, Messrs. C. Kirk and E. Awthorne, both of Monk Bretton.

An invitation of the Sheffield and District Society to hold a joint meeting at Rawmarsh on September 9th was accepted.

GRAPPENHALL, CHESHIRE.—On August 16th, 720 Bob Minor: N. Smith 1, Mrs. S. Hough (first 720) 2, J. Breeze 3, S. Hough, jun. 4, J. Ashcroft (conductor) 5, C. Raddon 6.

ASHFORD, KENT.—On August 19th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: F. Huckstepp (first quarter-peal of Stedman) 1, A. E. Clemence 2, H. C. Castle 3, G. Swaffer 4, W. A. Oldfield 5, T. Keeley 6, C. W. Everett (conductor) 7, D. Godden 8. Rung for the wedding of Flight-Sergt T. Cullingworth and Miss L. Wickens.

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- 'STANDARD METHODS,' tenth edition; a new book; Letterpress, 2/-; Diagrams, 2/-.
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- '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, 128 pages.

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No. 1,746. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th, 1944.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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PUBLICITY.

Ever since nearly two years ago we rang for the victory of El Alamein, church bells have been treated by the newspapers as good copy, and there have been frequent references to ringing, not only in local papers, but in the great London dailies. Of this there was a notable example recently when the ringing at St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey was not only announced beforehand but was extensively reported afterwards. All this is a good thing and very satisfactory up to a point. It is well that the public should be reminded of what they owe to the bells, and it is well that a general atmosphere should be created favourable to ringing. There was a time not so long ago when the general impression was that Englishmen as a whole were quite indifferent to the bells and would just as soon have them silenced altogether as rung occasionally; and while that impression existed it was easy for the small number who dislike bells to make it appear that they were more numerous and important than they really are. Now we know that Englishmen are not indifferent to the sound of bells and would certainly never allow them to be completely silenced. It is a good thing when from time to time the reports in the daily papers give fresh evidence that it is so.

But there is another side to the question. Publicity in the form of the announcement of ringing and the reporting of it afterwards in the way it was done by some papers like 'The Times' and 'The Daily Telegraph' can do nothing but good, but that sort of sober reporting does not suit some journals. What they want, and what they send their reporters out to get, is something which will make up a paragraph to catch the eyes of their readers. Whether it is strictly correct does not matter so very much, and that it is trivial and unimportant matters nothing at all so long as it reads all right in type. Perhaps it really does not matter, for the man who reads that sort of paragraph usually has forgotten all about it before he gets to the bottom of the page.

This stressing of trivial and unimportant things in connection with ringing can easily create a false impression, though we do not suppose that the people who read it have much influence that counts, and, as we hinted above, the reports of the best papers leave nothing to be desired; but it is natural that ringers, and especially those most concerned, should be dissatisfied and irritated. At a recent meeting of the Society of College Youths

(Continued on page 370.)

strong opinions were expressed on the matter, and it was suggested that something ought to be done to stop what was felt to be rather a nuisance. Certainly if information is to be given to the press it is better that it should be given by a responsible person rather than by someone who may be only a casual visitor, but the fact remains that some reporters are looking for a certain type of copy and they will get it, or make it up, whatever they are told. It is their job.

A certain amount of the right sort of publicity is a good thing for the Exercise, and to get it we must put up with a good deal of the wrong sort.

TWELVE BELL PEALS.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 26, 1944, in Three Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5010 CHANGES;

Tenor 33 cwt.

ALFRED H. PULLING Treble	HAROLD J. POOLE 7
JOHN R. SMITH 2	EDWIN CATTELL 8
SHIRLEY BURTON 3	FREDERICK E. WILSON 9
HARRY WAYNE 4	REDVERS E. ELKINGTON 10
SIDNEY O. CHENEY 5	G. STEDMAN MORRIS 11
JOSIAH MORRIS 6	ERNEST MORRIS Tenor

Composed by F. H. DEXTER. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

CHELTEMHAM, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, September 2, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 23½ cwt.

SYDNEY TAYLOR Treble	WALTER C. ROSE 7
WALTER F. JUDGE 2	CHARLES W. MARTIN 8
JOSEPH D. JOHNSON 3	WILLIAM C. PORTER 9
JOHN E. SPICE 4	ARTHUR H. REED 10
GEOFFREY J. HEMMING 5	WILFRED WILLIAMS 11
GEOFFREY J. LEWIS 6	REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG ... Tenor

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.

* First peal of Cinques.

TEN BELL PEAL.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 28, 1944, in Three Hours and Thirty Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5103 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt. in E.

HAROLD J. POOLE Treble	HERBERT W. PERKINS 6
*PETER J. STANFORTH 2	WILLIAM J. ROOT 7
JILL POOLE 3	RICHARD GRANT 8
ALFRED H. PULLING 4	FREDERICK E. WILSON 9
JOHN R. SMITH 5	ERNEST MORRIS Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHT.

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

* First peal of Caters.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WIGSTON MAGNA, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, August 25, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt. in E.

HARRY WAYNE Treble	SHIRLEY BURTON 5
G. STEDMAN MORRIS 2	SIDNEY O. CHENEY 6
HAROLD G. JENNEY 3	ERNEST MORRIS 7
ALFRED H. PULLING 4	HAROLD J. POOLE Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

A birthday compliment to Mr. Rupert Richardson.

CANTERBURY, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 26, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN, HACKINGTON,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 11 cwt.

BERTRAM J. LUCK Treble	H. RICHARD FRENCH 5
*BETTY SPICE 2	GEORGE H. SPICE 6
†DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON 3	GEORGE KENWARD 7
JOHN W. UNWIN 4	*JOHN E. SPICE Tenor

Composed by G. HAWKINS (C.C.C. No. 31).

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* 50th peal together. † First peal on tower bells. Rung for the liberation of Paris.

CONISBOROUGH, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 26, 1944, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt. 2 qr. 20 lb.

*JACK G. BROTHWELL ... Treble	JOHN H. BROTHWELL 5
*MILTON C. FOWLER 2	HARRY MORGAN 6
*†ARNOLD HILL 3	†HAROLD WAGSTAFF 7
†J. EDWARD CAWSE 4	*JOHN E. TURLEY Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by J. EDWARD CAWSE.

* First peal in the method. † 50th peal together. ‡ First peal of Surprise.

DEBENHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, August 26, 1944, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 21½ cwt.

WILLOUGHBY E. MAULDEN Treble	JOHN H. HALL 5
WILLIAM J. GROOM 2	†JAMES WARDLEY 6
*CHARLES W. BEECROFT 3	CECIL W. PIPE 7
ALFRED WATSON 4	HARRY HALL Tenor

Composed by J. E. BURTON.

* First peal. † First peal of Major.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 26, 1944, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, EDMONTON,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 17½ cwt.

MRS. J. THOMAS Treble	*VICTOR R. WOODARDS 5
JOHN THOMAS 2	*DENNIS H. LANGDON 6
*PHILIP J. COWARD 3	*ALBERT J. WALLMAN 7
*ERIC A. DENCH 4	*W. DOUGLAS SMITH Tenor

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First peal of Major on tower bells.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Monday, August 28, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

AT BISHOP RYDER'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 13 cwt. in F sharp.

HENRY H. FEARN Treble	JOHN PINFOLD 5
*JOHN N. LINDON 2	DANIEL D. COOPER 6
WILLIAM B. CARTWRIGHT 3	GEORGE E. FEARN 7
LEONARD TUFFREY 4	WILLIAM T. FROGGATT ... Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM B. CARTWRIGHT.

* First peal in the method.

SKIPTON, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, September 2, 1944, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 22 cwt.

SAM LONGBOTTOM Treble	WILLIAM BARTON 5
FRED HODGSON 2	LESLIE W. G. MORRIS 6
ERNEST H. SIMPSON 3	ERNEST C. S. TURNER 7
GEORGE ROBINSON 4	PHILIP A. CORBY Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW.

Conducted by E. C. S. TURNER.

EDGBASTON, BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, September 2, 1944, in Three Hours,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th the observation).

Tenor 10 cwt. 14 lb. in A flat.

RICHARD J. B. HADDEN ... Treble	CHARLES WILLIAMS 5
JOHN PINFOLD 2	JAMES F. HARVEY 6
GEORGE H. WILLIAMS ... 3	THEODORE RUSSELL 7
DANIEL T. MATKIN 4	WILLIAM T. FROGGATT ... Tenor

Conducted by DANIEL T. MATKIN.

First peal in the method on the bells.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

STANTON HARCOURT, OXON.

On Sunday, August 27, 1944, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores of Reverse Canterbury, Plain Bob, April Day and Grandsire. Tenor 12 cwt.

*MISS L. PIMM Treble	T. BOND 4
H. FLOYD 2	*A. CORNISH 5
*J. LEE 3	E. DRUEIT Tenor

Conducted by H. FLOYD.

* First peal.

MARTIN, HANTS.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, September 2, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents. Tenor 8½ cwt.

*WILLIAM A. THEOBALD ... Treble	LEONARD HARRIS 4
JAMES E. FIGGURES 2	WILLIAM C. SHUTE 5
LIONEL H. PINK 3	WILLIAM E. CHEATER ... Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM C. SHUTE.

* First peal in the method. First peal on the bells.

TWINEHAM, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, September 2, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one Morris' 240 and forty six-scores, ten callings. Tenor 7 cwt.

*STELLA M. WICKENS (aged 13 years) Treble	†CECIL LONGHERST 3
*BASIL WHITE 2	CHARLES H. WICKENS 4
	FREDERICK F. GODSMARK ... Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES H. WICKENS.

* First peal. † First peal of Grandsire Doubles. First peal as conductor.

HALSALL, LANCS.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, September 2, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. CUTHBERT,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three 720's of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and one of Plain Bob. Tenor 10 cwt.

HENRY SERJEANT, JUN. ... Treble	HENRY SERJEANT, SEN. ... 4
NORMAN HEAPS 2	ARTHUR MAWDESLEY 5
JOHN LUNHAM 3	JOSEPH RIDYARD Tenor

Conducted by JOSEPH RIDYARD.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, August 24, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,

At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

ALBERT J. WALLMAN 1-2	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4	ERIC A. DENCH 7-8

DENNIS H. LANGDON 9-10

Composed by H. J. TUCKER. Conducted by W. L. B. LEESE.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, August 27, 1944, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAXIMUS, 5016 CHANGES;

*JILL POOLE 1-2	HAROLD J. POOLE 7-8
ALFRED H. PULLING 3-4	ERNEST MORRIS 9-10
G. STEDMAN MORRIS 5-6	FREDERICK E. WILSON 11-12

Composed by C. CHARGE. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Umpire: John R. Smith.

* First peal of Maximus.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, August 27, 1944, in Three Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF PLAIN BOB FOURTEEN IN, 5096 CHANGES;

ALBERT J. WALLMAN 1-2	CHARLES W. ROBERTS 7-8
MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE 9-10
JOHN THOMAS 5-6	ERIC A. DENCH 11-12

DENNIS H. LANGDON 13-14

Composed and Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

The first peal rung on 14 bells.

HEREFORD.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, August 29, 1944, in One Hour and Forty-Nine Minutes,

At THE CLOSE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

*JOHN N. HARTSHORNE ... 1-2	†WILFRED F. MORETON ... 3-4
	*MICHAEL P. MORETON ... 5-6

Conducted by WILFRED F. MORETON.

* First attempt for a peal, † First peal of Doubles on handbells. First handbell peal as conductor. M. P. Moreton is 12 years old.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, August 29, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

IN THE CATHEDRAL BELFRY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor size 19 in F.

JILL POOLE 1-2	ERNEST MORRIS 7-8
ALFRED H. PULLING 3-4	HAROLD J. POOLE 9-10
PERCY L. HARRISON 5-6	JOSIAH MORRIS 11-12

Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, August 29, 1944, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5017 CHANGES;

ALBERT J. WALLMAN 1-2	CHARLES W. ROBERTS 7-8
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	ERIC A. DENCH 9-10
MRS. J. THOMAS 5-6	DENNIS H. LANGDON 11-12

Composed and Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, August 30, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

WILLIAM L. B. LEESE 1-2	ERIC J. WALLMAN 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4	ERIC A. DENCH 7-8
	CHARLES W. ROBERTS 9-10

Composed by S. MARSH. Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, September 2, 1944, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5098 CHANGES;

ALBERT J. WALLMAN 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4	*DENNIS H. LANGDON 7-8

Composed by J. PLATT.

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First peal of Kent.

HENRY THOMAS ELLACOMBE.

(Continued from page 365.)

Ellacombe collected and printed as much as he could find about the history of change ringing, and it largely formed the basis of what other writers had to say on the subject; but at the time probably less was known about early ringers and ringing than at any other period in the history of the Exercise, and Ellacombe was not in a position to make any researches himself. He printed a fairly long account of the London societies, but it was only a more or less curtailed transcript of the account written by Edward John Osborn and included in the manuscripts given by his widow to the British Museum. Osborn was a painstaking and accurate collector of historical material, and the modern historian owes more to him than to any other man for what he knows of bygone ringers and ringing; but he himself was no historian, and Ellacombe had not enough personal knowledge of the Exercise and the art to write about them well. He could only say what he had been told; whether his authority was a sound one or not he could not judge. So we get a passage like the following: 'The honour of the invention of change ringing is said to belong to Mr. Annable, who died at an advanced age in 1755. His methods were much improved and enlarged by Mr. Holt and Mr. Fabian Stedman. These with a Mr. Patrick have produced the most celebrated peals.'

Ellacombe knew enough about change ringers to recognise that they must have some intellectual qualities or they could not be change ringers; and enough about change ringing to recognise that it has high claims to rank as an intellectual pursuit, yet he certainly mistrusted it and disliked it, partly because it was distinctively secular, and partly because he felt that in some indefinite way it was responsible for the misuse of bells which was common in his time. 'The evils to be contended with,' he wrote, 'are not of yesterday; but are deeply rooted, having been the growth of years, originating perhaps soon after the superstitious use of bells and the rigid discipline of the Church of Rome ceased: they have since crept in with other abuses and irregularities, which from that time have unhappily prevailed in our Church. Certainly they are as old as the depraved age of Charles the Second. For, whereas before that period half and three-quarter wheels only were in use (as is the case at present in parts of Dorsetshire, Devon, etc.), an improvement in the art of bell hanging was about this time effected by the introduction of round wheels (see "Campanalogia," 1677, page 44), the effect of which was that peals of changes could be rung more regularly and easily, the bells being rendered manageable at every pull. Thus the mysteries of bellringing became a fashion, and so the evil seems to have originated; for the idle, drunken habits of ringers are alluded to in some excellent "advice to a ringer" in a little work published in the year 1684 called the "School of Recreation, or Gentleman's Tutor."'

This passage he gives in full. On the surface it seems very fine and pious, but really it is only humbug. The author was a hack writer who was employed to fill up so many pages on a variety of sports, which included cock fighting and racing. One was ringing, about which he knew nothing, but he got over the difficulty by copying Fabian Stedman and making a pretence to originality by altering and spoiling the wording. The pious advice to ringers was only to fill up space, and was so out of

character with the book that it disappeared in the following editions.

It was this feeling that ringing (as distinct from chiming) was definitely a secular thing which led Ellacombe and his friends to use all their influence to discourage and (as far as they could) forbid Sunday ringing. They fully recognised that the full effect of the bells could only be produced when they were rung, but they maintained it should be reserved for occasions of civic and national rejoicing, weddings and the like; for Sunday services chiming was the correct use. One of the rules he drew up for his own belfry of Bitton said that 'there is to be no ringing on Sundays for any person or thing—excepting for a wedding if there is time before ten o'clock,' and on Easter Day and Whit Sunday before eight o'clock. The Sunday ringing he was so anxious to suppress was not service ringing (except in the North of England that was almost completely unknown), but ringing either in the early morning or after the service. 'It had long been the practice,' he said of Bitton, '(and a very common one it is in country villages) to ring a peal or two on Sunday mornings, sometimes before and sometimes after breakfast; but I observed that the ringers seldom came to church afterwards; and therefore, except on festival days, I at once prohibited all peal ringing at any time before morning service. However delightful and poetical may be the thoughts connected with the cheerful peal on a Sunday morning, I am quite sure that in most cases it will be found that peal ringing on Sundays—morning or evening—leads to the ale-house afterwards. Much evil therefore will be prevented by stopping it altogether.' (By 'peal ringing' Ellacombe did not mean what we mean now, but any ringing as distinct from chiming and tolling.) 'I once received a letter from the son of one of the ringers in which he implored me to use my influence to put a stop to Sunday ringing; recounting in his letter the evils and misery he had witnessed which had resulted from this practice.'

Strange and mistaken as these opinions seem to us now, they were strongly held by all those men who, like Ellacombe, were doing their best to improve the conditions of ringing and ringers. In 1859 Robert Walker, a clergyman, gave a lecture on ringers and ringing at a clerical meeting at Sutton Bonnington, in Nottinghamshire. It was mainly a plea to his fellow-parsons to take a greater interest in their bells and ringers, and it contained this passage: 'Neither should any excuse whatever obtain permission for ringing on a Sunday. I for my part would quite as soon sanction football or cricket in the churchyard on Sunday as ringing properly so called, and I would as soon give up the belfry to prize fighting on a Sunday as prize ringing—at all times indeed most objectionable. 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. Let me therefore implore every clergyman to exercise his authority and put an extinguisher on all Sunday ringing.'

The 'Ecclesiologist,' a Cambridge journal written and read largely by parsons, took the same view. 'We have always considered chiming the bells to be the legitimate way of assembling the congregation to the public worship of the sanctuary, more in harmony with the subdued joyfulness with which we should enter the courts of the Lord than the louder and overpouring sound of bells

in full swing properly suited to times of rejoicing and thanksgiving. And where this latter practice prevails, as it does in the northern and eastern counties, it is generally found that the ringers who have been calling their neighbours to church seldom enter themselves, but walk stealthily away as soon as the time is up for the parson to enter; and he has often the pain of seeing in the distance one or more escaping his observation—it may be in their every-day dirty working dress—retreating like those who feel ashamed of being seen by their more decently attired neighbours. Therefore, if for no other reason, we are opposed to peal-ringing on Sundays as a mode of calling to church, and we advocate chiming in preference.'

'Church Bells,' the first weekly journal to print regular news of ringers' doings, adopted the same attitude, and Canon Woolmer Wigram, the author of an early text book on change ringing, wrote in 1871, 'I stopped Sunday ringing at Pelham tower and have never yet felt able to recommence it.'

It was to enable the bells to be chimed without any difficulty on Sundays that Ellacombe invented the apparatus which bears his name. Here his early training as an engineer stood him in good stead, and he worked out the full details and published them, first in the 'Ecclesiologist' and then in a pamphlet, for the benefit of any who cared to install the apparatus. He made no attempt to gain money by the invention. Later on the bell founders adopted slightly modified and improved models and at present they are a familiar feature in our belfries. Ellacombe made his first apparatus for the six bells at Bitton, and later on one was installed at Clyst St. George. It was not intended to be an antidote to clocking.

(To be continued.)

RICHARD DUCKWORTH.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Here is a copy of some of the things we find about Richard Duckworth in the history of Steeple Aston, Oxon, by the Rev. C. C. Brooks, M.A.: 'Richard Duckworth, B.D., 1679-1706. From Lancashire, admitted 1648, aged 19, B.A. 1660, Fellow 1660, M.A. 1663, B.D. 1661. Another Presbyterian whom the parliamentary visitors fetched from New Inn Hall to put into the fellowship at Brasenose College, from which they had ejected Sixsmeth. If not in orders, he must, like Greenwood, have been ordained after the Restoration, for he became Vice-Principal in 1671 and eight years later succeeded Greenwood as rector here. He left his mark on the place in many ways. His restoration of the chancel has been already mentioned. In 1686 he obtained a faculty to remove the pulpit from the "south side of the church under the arch to the halfe pillar eastwards near to the place where it stood in former times, and that a new one may be provided at the cost of the parish." If this was done he deserves praise for having retained some of the old carving. Further, he gave the silver paten still in use, leaded weights for the clock, a folio Bible, a large Book of Common Prayer and a vellum sheet of benefactions which later has been lost. He loved bells, and this led him to put in a ringing floor to the detriment of the church's beauty from which we still suffer. He also improved the streets and roads, and dug wells, one of which still bears his name.'

Thomas Hearne wrote of him in 1725: 'Mr. Richard Duckworth (who died many years ago) is mentioned as a Writer in the second Ed. of Athenae, Oxon, he being Author of The Tintinologia. For indeed he was a great ringer and had great skill in it. He was rector of Steeple Aston and made the place much better than it had been by recovering and settling many Tithes that were refused in order to wch he went to law with the Parishioners and overthrew them, after which he left the place and became Vice-Principal of Alban Hall under old Dr. Bouchier, but what he did there I know not. This is certain that he had been a schoolmaster also at Steeple Aston, Oxon, and was severe to his scholars, some of wch were Boys of good birth.'

Dr. Houghton, the Bursar of Brasenose, writing to the principal in 1660, describes Duckworth as 'of a sower, harsh disposition and almost intollerable. Nothing, I am told, will please him. He has been a Schoolmaster and then you may conclude him pragmaticall.' Adding that when room is found for a new Lancashire Fellow it will probably be found by displacing Duckworth; 'ye rest of or. Lancast. men being good schollers and of complying natures.'

F. W. PRITCHETT.

Lower Heyford, Oxford.

John Taylor & Co.

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'The Ringing World.'

The general meeting of the Middlesex Association on September
16th at Acton will be held by invitation of the Rector as part of the
celebrations of the 600th anniversary of the foundation of the church.
Mr. J. A. Trollope has been asked to give a talk on 'The Bells of St.
Mary's.'

PLAIN BOB FOURTEEN-IN.

A new record in handbell ringing was set up at Edmonton on
August 27th, when a peal of Plain Bob on 14 bells was rung. Changes
on tower bells are for very obvious reasons restricted to twelve bells,
but on handbells there is no limit except the will and ability of the
ringers. Courses on high numbers in various methods have been rung
several times, but until this latest performance the only peal on more
than twelve bells was one of Stedman on 13 bells by the Birmingham
men in 1922. It is worth noticing that the difference in the times
taken by the two peals was only three minutes.

The Enfield band includes several young ringers who have attained
a high proficiency in a very short space of time. They should go very
far indeed, and Mr. John Thomas, who is the mainstay of the band,
is greatly to be congratulated. It will be seen that peals of Stedman
Cinques and Kent Treble Bob Royal were also rung within three days
of the fourteen-bell peal. Here are the figures of the latter:—

PLAIN BOB FOURTEEN-IN.

By John Thomas.

	5,096.
23456	W M H
46325	S S —
32465	— — —
43265	— — —
42365	— S —
34265	— — —
23465	— — —
24365	— S —
35426	S S —
24356	— — S
32456	— — —
43256	— — —
42356	— S —
34256	— — —
23456	— — —

'THE PAST.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I liked your remarks in the leader of August 18th. They
are very true and should be borne in mind in all our efforts at re-
construction. Perhaps a quotation from a French writer may be apt:
'Souffrir passe, avoir souffert ne passe jamais': (tr.) 'Suffering dis-
appears, but the fact of having suffered remains always with us.'

W. M. K. WARREN.

Binegar Rectory, Gurney Slade, Bath.

THE LATE MR. W. H. FUSSELL.

FUNERAL AT FARNHAM ROYAL.

The funeral of the late Mr. William H. Fussell, whose death we announced last week, was at Farnham Royal on Friday, September 1st. The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. C. K. Warner, and the following ringers were present: W. Henley, M. Shave, T. Birch (Farnham Royal), T. J. Fowler (Cookham), G. Martin (Boyne Hill), F. V. Sinkins (Slough), T. Smith (Windsor), G. Gilbert, B. T. Harrison, Jean Broomfield, Joyce Hearn (Burnham), Mrs. Barker (Stoke Poges), Miss D. R. Fletcher (Beaconsfield), G. H. Gutteridge (Iver) and Major J. H. Freeborn (Amersham). Mr. A. E. Kirk, churchwarden of St. Mary's, Slough, was also present. Before and after the service the bells were rung half-muffled, and at the conclusion the whole pull and stand was rung.

In the evening touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and the whole pull and stand were rung at St. Mary's, Slough.

Mr. William H. Fussell was born on September 16th, 1861, at Upton-cum-Chalvey in South Buckinghamshire, a parish which is now incorporated in the borough of Slough.

While still a schoolboy he made the acquaintance of the ringers at Slough Parish Church, where there were then six bells, and in 1875 he became one of the chimers. Three years later he and his brother were regular members of the band.

The ringing at the time was mostly call-changes, but change ringing was beginning to be practised in the district. The West Middlesex Association was formed in 1874, and from 1879 to 1882 William Baron, a prominent member of the Society of Cumberland Youths, was instructor to the affiliated towers—Hillingdon, Acton, Ealing, Slough and Isleworth. Baron called the association's first peal on August 5th, 1882, Holt's Original at Christ Church, Ealing, in which Mr. Fussell rang the third. Joseph J. Parker, afterwards so well known as a composer of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, rang the second, and it was his first peal.

Mr. Fussell was elected a member of the Society of Cumberland Youths in 1881 and at the time of his death he was almost the oldest member. He was also an original member of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. Since those far off days he had been a prolific peal ringer and was one of the select few who have over a thousand peals to their credit. He is the only man who has rung a peal in every county in England and Wales.

Mr. Fussell distinguished himself by the number of ringing tours he arranged. They included not only the ordinary summer holiday peal ringing tours, but journeys further afield, and the most notable one was the visit to Australia in 1934-5. The party, which consisted of 12 persons, set out from the London Docks on September 14th. On the way out three peals were rung on handbells, five tower-bell peals were rung in Australia, and two in Tasmania. They included the first peals of Royal and Cinques rung outside the British Isles.

On the way back three more handbell peals were rung, but Mr. Fussell and four others went on from Sydney to New Zealand, and returned to England by the Panama Canal.

In 1935 John S. Goldsmith published an account of the tour under the title of 'A Great Adventure.' To this Mr. Fussell contributed a chapter on the New Zealand visit. He was a fairly frequent contributor to 'The Ringing World,' writing on ringing tours and other matters.

Mr. Fussell's 1,000th peal was rung on the day before the Australian tour started. It was one of Superlative Surprise Major at Slough and was conducted by Mr. George Martin, who was going with him to the Antipodes. Messrs. George R. Pre and Frank Bennett were in the band.



MR. W. H. FUSSELL.

STOKE, COVENTRY.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 1,260 Stedman Triples: T. W. Sheppard (first quarter-peal) 1, F. Pervin (conductor) 2, C. Parker 3, R. D. Hayne 4, F. Brassington 5, D. H. Ellender 6, G. Freeman 7, O. Freeman 8.

FUNERAL OF MR. JOHN AUSTIN.

The funeral service of Mr. John Austin was at St. Mary de Crypt Church, Gloucester, and was conducted by the Rev. E. D. S. Camus, assisted by the Rev. C. C. Prichard. The principal mourners were Mr. H. E. Austin (son), Mrs. A. Wright and Miss P. M. Austin (daughters), Miss M. J. Austin (granddaughter), Mr. D. Wright (grandson), and Mrs. H. E. Austin (daughter-in-law).

Among the general congregation were Messrs. H. Newman, Barnwood; W. Jones, Barnwood; S. Romans (Cathedral, chairman Gloucester Branch); T. Newman, St. Mary de Crypt; H. Jones, Barnwood; G. Case, St. Mary de Crypt; W. Cocks, Cathedral; H. Barnett, Cathedral; Edgar Guise, Bristol (secretary, Gloucester and Bristol Association); P. C. Williams, Bristol (treasurer, Gloucester and Bristol Association); W. H. Thomas, Bristol; C. Martin, Cheltenham; W. Yeend, Cheltenham; W. T. Bennett, St. Mary, Cheltenham; W. Dyer, Cheltenham; Mr. Rose, Cheltenham; Messrs. W. Townsend, Cheltenham; W. Harris, Lydney (hon. secretary, Gloucester Branch); A. J. Coldrick, Armley, Leeds; H. W. Bishop, Swindon; W. B. Kynaston, Swindon; J. W. Jones, Newport; G. Condict, W. H. Thomas, Bristol; M. Nash, Frome; J. Clarke, Ross; J. Davies, Lydney; C. J. Gardiner, Swindon; W. Beard, Ruardean; and A. Martin, Hempstead.

The floral tributes included wreaths from Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Romans; the Ancient Society of Crypt Youths; Cathedral Guild; Swindon (Wilts) Parish Church band; the Ruardean band; officers and members, Bristol City Branch, Gloucester and Bristol Association; clergy, churchwardens and ringers, Barnwood Parish Church; Cheltenham Branch; and South Forest Branch.

Before the service the bells were rung half-muffled by ringers from St. Mary's, Cheltenham, assisted by Messrs. E. Guise, of Bristol, and M. Nash, of Frome.

After the service 504 changes were rung by J. W. Jones (Newport) 1, C. Gardner (Swindon) 2, W. B. Kynaston (conductor) (Swindon) 3, P. Williams (Bristol) 4, H. W. Bishop (Swindon) 5, W. H. Harris (Lydney) 6, J. Davis (Lydney) 7, J. G. Jeffreys (Mangotsfield) 8.

The following members of the Ancient Society of Crypt Youths rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1,260 changes: H. E. Austin 1, S. Romans 2, G. Case 3, H. Barnett 4, W. Jones 5, W. Cox 6, T. Newman 7, H. Newman 8; conducted by T. Newman.

Over the open grave at Gloucester Old Cemetery a plain course of Grandsire Triples was rung by Messrs. S. E. Romans, E. Guise, C. Martin and W. B. Kynaston.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In view of the fact that Mr. Lankester sent for publication a copy of my letter to district secretaries, I feel that a reply to his recent letter may be expected from me.

First of all let me say at once I personally have quite an open mind regarding decentralisation. It is entirely a matter for the members, whose intelligence is such that they can and no doubt will think and decide for themselves. I have no intention or desire to introduce propaganda and canvassing or to treat it in any way as though it were a political issue.

As was pointed out in my letter, the proposals were put forward merely as a basis for discussion and consideration in order that a waste of time should be avoided.

There are undoubtedly advantages and disadvantages varying with different districts, and for Mr. Lancaster to say there are no advantages just because no one has told him of any indicates that he is either unwilling or unable to think impartially. His suggestion to include five more counties in the Midland Counties Association I will leave to the better judgment of others.

Members must consider for themselves just how much Mr. Lancaster's appeal to have nothing to do with it is worthy of support.

HAROLD J. POOLE.

The Wayside, 150, Narborough Road South, Leicester.

MR. JOSEPH W. QUARMBY, OF HOBART.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The members of the Australian Tourist Party and ringers in general will be sorry to learn of the death of Mr. Joseph W. Quarmby, captain of the Holy Trinity Church Bellringers, Hobart, Tasmania. He was knocked down by a motor-cyclist as he was stepping from a tram on June 17th and died a few hours later.

It was at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Quarmby that Mr. and Mrs. Sharples stayed while in Hobart, and nothing was too much trouble for Mr. Quarmby to do to further the interests of the visitors. He was a watchmaker and jeweller by trade, and before leaving made and presented to each member of the party a gold tiepin, in the shape of a bell, in commemoration of their visit.

During the visit Mr. Quarmby took part in an attempt for a peal of Stedman Triples at Holy Trinity Church, which unfortunately came to grief after ringing 1 hour and 55 minutes.

Mr. Quarmby was 77 years of age and was born at Yarmouth, England. He went to Australia at the age of 18 and married Miss Sarah E. McWilliams. He has left his wife and eight children (four sons and four daughters), to whom the tourists would like to express their deepest sympathy.

Surfleet.

RUPERT RICHARDSON.

SEVEN BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 358.)

There are in all seventeen seven-bell methods with a plain hunting treble, and six working bells, if we exclude those which have places made adjacent to each other and those in which a bell lies for more than two consecutive blows in any one position, and include only those which have the recognised lead-ends. The best two are those we gave recently—New Bob and Waterloo Reverse Bob. Here are two more:—

St. Edmundsbury Bob. Penning's Bob.

1234567	1234567
2143576	2143576
2415367	2413756
4251376	4231765
2453167	2437156
4235617	2347516
2436571	3245761
4263751	2354671
2467315	3256417
4276135	3526147
2471653	5321674
4217635	3512647
4126753	3152467
1462735	1325476
<hr/>	
1426375	1352746
4162357	3125764
4613275	3215674
6431257	2351647
4632175	3256174
6423715	3526714
4627351	5327641

No method in this group has any claim to become a Standard Method, but if the four examples we have given are examined it will be seen that they have some attractive features and interesting work. New Bob is not particularly difficult; its main features are the same as St. Clement's Bob. The two bells left on the front by the treble dodge together until it returns and parts them. The other bells as they come down from the back make Thirds place and hunt up again unless the treble is below them. In 6-7 there is a Long Work which consists of Sevenths, one blow in Sixths, Sevenths, one blow in Sixths, and a third Sevenths; and to balance this work the bell has, before and after it, to make single blows behind. There are also single blows in Fourths and Fifths, after which the bell reverses its path. For difficulty the method may rank about as high as Stedman.

Waterloo Reverse Bob has four-pull dodging in 6-7; a Front Work which is not unlike part of the Front Work of Bristol Surprise Major; and place making combined with other work which has unusual and interesting features.

St. Edmundsbury Bob has features very similar to these two but in different order and position, and Penning's Bob (of which a peal was rung as far back as 1907) has much place making, some of it in rather novel circumstances.

There is no doubt that a keen and skilful band would find quite as much interest in ringing any one of these methods as in those new Surprise Major methods with all backstroke work which were becoming popular before the war.

In one respect these seven-bell methods with six working bells have an advantage over the pure Triples methods like Oxford Bob, Court Bob, Double Court and even Grandsire. The bobs are the same as in the ordinary Major methods and the same style of calling and conducting will serve. To this there is one exception. When, as in Waterloo Reverse Bob, no place is made at the lead-end, the bob has to be made elsewhere. The normal way of making a bob is either to move a place made when the treble is leading full for two positions, or else to move it as far as it can be moved, except for two positions. In Plain Bob, Double Bob, Cambridge, London and the like, Seconds place is moved to Fourths. In Double Norwich Major Eighths place is moved to Sixths. In Treble Bob Major Eighths place is moved to Fourths. In Treble Bob Royal Tenths place is moved to Fourths. In Bristol Surprise Eighths place is moved to Fourths. And so on. The result is that very similar results are obtained on all numbers and in all methods.

New Bob Triples, St. Edmundsbury Bob, Penning's Bob and most of the seven-bell methods with six working bells fall into line with the even-bell methods. Seconds place is moved to Fourths, and we get the standard bobs at the Wrong, Middle and Home. But in Waterloo Reverse Bob, and some others, there is no place made when the treble is leading full, and therefore none can be moved. We must make a different sort of bob and elsewhere, for if we introduce places into a change where no places are, we shall turn the nature (odd or even) of the rows, and it is an essential feature of a bob that it should not alter the succession of the nature of the rows.

The best position to make the bob in Waterloo Reverse is when the treble is hunting up from Fourths to Fifths. A bob in the first lead would be like this:—

1234567
2135476
2314567
3241576
Bob 3425167
4352617

Instead of the bell which has passed the treble in 3-4 making Thirds place, the bell on the front leads full. The bob is made four changes after the observation bell has fallen into the position from which the bob takes its name. Thus the Seventh is at home in rounds and therefore the bob H or R will be made four changes from the go-off, instead of being left until the end of the plain course comes up.

Ordinary compositions produced by bobs and singles at Wrong, Middle and Right will apply, the lead-ends and course-ends being the same; but one point must be watched. In those methods which have the bobs made when the treble is leading full, it is only necessary to test the handstroke and backstroke rows at the lead-ends, but when the bob is made in the interior of the lead, care must be taken to see that one portion of a natural course is not rung in its direct form and the other portion in its reverse form.

(To be continued.)

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT MAIDWELL.

A meeting of the Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Maidwell on August 26th. Service was conducted by the Rector and was followed by tea at Maidwell Hall, provided by Mrs. Dixon and served by the Hall staff. Mr. P. Jones presided at the business meeting, at which thanks were voted to Mr. Dixon.

THE LIBERTY BELL.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Following your recent article on Paul Revere and early American bell founding, I was particularly interested in an account of the Liberty Bell of America, which I chanced to read in an American magazine out here.

This bell is held as a most holy relic of American history and is to be found in the Independence Hall of Philadelphia, where the Declaration of Independence and the American Constitution were proclaimed. The extent to which America treasures the Liberty Bell and what it stands for is shown by the fact that it is protected day and night by three armed guards. The inscription around the crown is significant, 'Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.'

The idea of the Liberty Bell was first conceived in 1751 by the Assembly of the Colony of Pennsylvania, and a contract for a bell of about 2,000 pounds was given to 'Lister, the most famous bell founder of England.' This Lister as quoted would presumably be Thomas Lester, later of the firm of Lester and Packe, who would be in business about that time. Unfortunately, when the bell was hung in 1752 it cracked at the first stroke of the clapper, but after two or three recastings by American founders (Stow and Pass) a bell of 18½ cwt. resulted. Then for many years it was rung on public occasions in the cause of liberty until, in 1835, when tolling for the death of Chief Justice Marshall, it again became cracked and has remained silent ever since.

As a symbol of that liberty so cherished by our American allies and ourselves, it performs a service still, however, for it has travelled 20,000 miles on exhibition. And so on that great day which we are all waiting for, when the bells of Britain ring in the 'peace that is to be,' perhaps we can associate them with America's silent witness of the endurance of liberty.

KENNETH ARTHUR.

BOSTON BELLS.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—A revival of the story of the enthusiastic efforts of the good people of Boston to put into chill reality the poetic fancy of Jean Ingelow recalls to mind the miserable apparatus for which this significant tune was intended, two variations of the 'air,' it appears, having been composed, a second effort being made, I believe, following the rejection of the local composition.

Here at the summit of the magnificent monument of the 15th century were 36 bells, the lightest weighing but 19lb. and the mighty bourdon less than 3 cwt. They were cast at Louvain by A. L. J. Vanoerschodt, successor to the famous Vandegheyn, in 1867, and at the same time the early 17th century tenor of the ringing peal of eight was recast there. Covering a seventh weighing 16 cwt. with over half a ton of metal, the new tenor was said to be far too powerful for the rest. The mechanism for operating the carillon was made by a firm well known to ringers and was doubtless a sound piece of engineering.

It is difficult to imagine the travesty of sound that clink-clinked from such a freak set-up, and, happily, Bostonians soon tired of the contraption as witness the fact that 'after years of disuse' Messrs. Gillett and Johnston were in 1897 commissioned to recast the three dozen and four bells so that with the eight they might be chimed by machinery.

The present generation has atoned for the indiscretions of their forefathers and Boston folk are, as I discovered yesterday, equally proud of their bells and ringers.

NOLAN GOLDEN.

LEARNERS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Does not the fact that more and more learners are flocking to the belfries prove that the art or exercise has found much more general interest? What are we ringers doing to stimulate it? The general idea for teaching learners is to give them a short pull of only a few minutes' duration during the weekly practice. This in itself is an injustice to the learner and to the Exercise. After a few weeks the learner gets fed up and loses all interest.

Cannot our experienced ringers remember the times when they had to sit quietly on a hard seat in the belfry listening to the ringers quoting the mystic formulae of change ringing, and the dullness of this only broken by a few minutes at a rope and sallie? Now that a greater interest is obvious surely the correct thing to do is to stimulate that interest by giving the greatest encouragement possible. That feeling, 'I am making no progress; what's the use of carrying on?' should not and need not exist if instructors and captains stand by their young pupils.

Could not the Central Council step in here by engaging a staff of experienced ringers to go round to different towers all over the country to give standard instruction to those who wish to learn the art? I do realise that this would be tremendously expensive, but if a person is interested enough to take up ringing, surely he would be willing to pay at least part of his tuition expenses. This, of course, would not cover all the costs, but there are many other ways the money could be raised. I'm sure that if the bells were not banged and clashed, as they are in many cases, a greater appreciation of their music would be shown by 'John Citizen,' and once he finds an interest half the battle is won.

FRANK C. W. KNIGHT.

Broomleaf Road, Farnham.

FALSE COMPOSITIONS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—It has just been pointed out to me by Mr. C. W. Roberts that peal No. 1,682 appearing in the Midland Counties Association Report for 1909 is false. This is 5,093 Grandsire Caters by John Carter and was rung at Aston, July 1st, 1909. Also No. 2,434, which is 5,003 Grandsire Caters by John Carter and appears in 1914 Report. This latter is doubly unfortunate, as it was the veterans' peal by a band all well over 60 years of age, and also was rung at Aston on May 2nd, 1914.

There is also an error in the figures of 5,024 Bob Major by H. W. Wilde under No. 2,380 in 1914 Report. The 20th course in each half should be W M H and not W M H as printed, otherwise the

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composition will be false. Members possessing copies of these two reports should make the necessary corrections in the latter and rule out the two former, thereby eliminating the possibility of these false compositions being rung again.

ERNEST MORRIS, Gen. Hon. Sec., M.C.A.

TECHNICAL TERMS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I have always felt that the terms 'up' and 'down' should be the other way round. In music, when going from a low note to a higher one, one goes 'up' the scale. I think our terms should agree with this. Again, 'above' and 'below' the treble also seem wrong. In the row, for instance, 78561234 I should say that 5 was above the treble and 3 below it. I have always used the terms 'in' and 'out,' which seem to be more consistent, as one talks of running in or out at a bob. In Double Norwich, for instance, two of the calling places are in and out. Then there is the term 'Before.' I don't mind this so much. In Major methods, of course, the tenor could be called 'out,' but 'before' does quite well and is useful in Grandsire.

G. F. WOODHOUSE.

Sedbergh.

Dear Sir,—The terms 'up' and 'down' as used to describe the path of a bell in 'hunting' is a puzzle to many, and you very wisely do not venture to give judgment. It is the musician who seems to be troubled by the contrariness of the ringers' jargon. But the change ringer as a rule does not bother his head about the science and theory of music and tune ringing is anathema to him. He goes by numbers and not by musical notation or alphabetical letters. The top bell is the treble and is always No. 1 no matter how many bells are in the ring. And to count to the tenor whether up to 6 or 8 or 12, etc., is certainly going up and not going down, and to come back to No. 1 is evidently coming down.

Change ringing is not rung by music, and, therefore, the old terms established by long custom should not be altered.

J. M. TURNER, President, N.E. Devon Branch of Ringers. Washfield Rectory, Tiverton, Devon.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT ASHFORD.**

The annual meeting of the Ashford District of the Kent County Association, held at Ashford on September 2nd, was attended by 30 members from Aldington, Brabourne, Benenden, Headcorn, New Romney, Tenterden and the local tower, as well as by Mr. T. E. Sone and Mr. F. S. Macey. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Duncan S. Bowen, and Mr. C. W. Everett presided at the business meeting, at which the district officers were re-elected. Willesborough was chosen as the place of the next meeting. During the afternoon and evening the methods rung were Grandsire, Oxford Bob and Stedman Triples, and Double Norwich, and Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Major.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

A meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society, held at Calverley on August 26th, was attended by members from Armley, Batley, Bradford Cathedral, Calverley, Drighlington, Guiseley, Headingley St. Chad, Idle, Pudsey, Sherburn and Wakefield.

Tea was arranged by the local company under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Keighley, and Mr. Senior presided at the business meeting which followed. Mr. Harry Lofthouse, the secretary, was instructed to write a letter of sympathy to Mr. Strangeway, who was absent through illness, and a vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens was passed. The meeting arranged at Rothwell was transferred to Woodlesford, to be held on September 30th.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT COTTESMORE.**

A meeting of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, held at Cottesmore on August 12th, was attended by members from Empingham, Somerby, Wyomondham, Melton, Oakham, Preston and the local belfry. The Rector gave an address at the service in church and afterwards invited the ringers to tea in the rectory grounds. The president, Canon Law, took the chair at the meeting, at which it was decided to hold the next meeting at Glaston in October.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

BEACONSFIELD, BUCKS.—On Friday, July 21st, 720 Cambridgeshire Surprise Minor: Miss M. Wingrove (first in the method) 1, Miss D. R. Fletcher 2, Rev. R. F. R. Routh 3, R. Buckland 4, W. Lee 5, H. Wingrove (conductor) 6, M. Routh tenor.—On Sunday, July 30th, 720 Beverley Surprise Minor: W. Lee 1, Miss K. E. Fletcher 2, Rev. R. F. R. Routh 3, Miss D. R. Fletcher 4, R. Buckland 5, H. Wingrove (conductor) 6.—On Sunday, July 30th, 1,280 Yorkshire Surprise Major: Miss D. R. Fletcher 1, Miss K. E. Fletcher 2, *A. Levett 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, J. Harrison 5, *F. Hicks 6, *R. Buckland 7, H. Wingrove (conductor) 8. *First quarter in the method.—On Sunday, August 20th, 1,280 Double Norwich Major: Miss J. Pym (first quarter-peal) 1, W. Welling 2, Miss D. R. Fletcher 3, Rev. R. F. R. Routh 4, R. Buckland 5, F. Baldwin 6, J. Harrison 7, H. Wingrove (conductor) 8.

HITCHAM, BUCKS.—On Friday, August 18th, 720 Bob Minor: Jean Broomfield 1, Mary Pemberton 2, Freda Murkitt (first inside) 3, Joyce Hearn 4, F. H. Hicks 5, G. Gilbert 6.

WONSTON, HANTS.—On Sunday, July 23rd, 720 Kent Treble Bob: Mrs. C. H. Kippin 1, Nesta Smith (first 720 Kent T.B. inside) 2, W. Marks 3, R. Smith 4, W. R. Melville 5, C. H. Kippin (conductor) 6.—On Sunday, August 13th, 720 Oxford Treble Bob: Mrs. C. H. Kippin 1, W. Marks 2, Nesta Smith (first 720 Oxford T.B. inside) 3, W. R. Melville 4, R. Smith 5, C. H. Kippin (conductor) 6.

HARLOW COMMON.—On July 30th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: F. Perrin 1, *R. Springham 2, V. Tipton 3, L. Cordell 4, W. Wheeler 5, E. Rochester 6, S. Clark (conductor) 7, B. Copping 8. *First quarter-peal of Stedman.

CREECH SAINT MICHAEL.—On Sunday, August 13th, 1,260 Grandshire Doubles: Miss Freda Poole 1, W. H. Poole (conductor) 2, C. H. Floyd 3, W. Priddle 4, H. Phillips 5, J. Holly (first quarter-peal) 6.

HINDLEY.—On Saturday, August 19th, 1,008 Bob Major: *W. Smalley 1, *H. S. Cooper 2, *L. Wood 3, E. Ford 4, G. Greenhalgh 5, *R. Barnes 6, J. Halsall 7, T. W. Smith (conductor) 8. *First quarter-peal in the method.

NORTHAMPTON.—On Saturday, August 19th, at St. Edmund's, 1,260 Grandshire Triples: *Edie Robinson 1, *John Fitzhugh 2, *Philip Jones 3, *George Care 4, *Geoffrey Gayton 5, Bertie Soden 6, *Ronald Noon (conductor) 7, *Joseph Linnitt 8. *First quarter-peal of Triples. †First quarter of Grandshire.

ALVERSTOKE.—On Sunday, August 20th, 1,260 Grandshire Triples: Miss E. Landon 1, J. W. Meade 2, S. E. Cook 3, J. H. Hunt 4, E. Jurd (first quarter-peal) 5, F. Barron 6, F. W. Burnett (conductor) 7, L. Houghton 8.

BATH.—On Sunday, August 20th, at the Abbey Church, 1,259 Grandshire Caters: *A. Beverstock 1, *Mrs. Evans 2, W. J. Prescott 3, G. Hawkins 4, *H. Andrews 5, E. King 6, J. Hallett 7, T. F. King (conductor) 8, S. Woodburn 9, H. Merrett and *W. Barber 10. *First quarter-peal in the method.

QUEENSBURY, BRADFORD.—On Sunday, August 20th, 1,280 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: E. Whiteley 1, P. Birkett 2, C. Ellison 3, H. Pearce 4, V. Bottomley 5, A. Pickles 6, William Ambler 7, S. Longbottom (conductor) 8. Also 1,024 Bob Major: H. Pearce 1, P. Birkett 2, D. Taylor 3, C. Ellison 4, E. Whiteley 5, A. Pickles 6, William Ambler (conductor) 7, S. Longbottom 8.

OXFORD.—On Sunday, August 20th, at Great St. Mary's, 1,260 Grandshire Triples: R. Stewart 1, Mrs. V. Lathbury 2, R. Dennis 3, E. Hibbins 4, F. Warrington 5, H. Martin 6, J. Quinney (conductor) 7, R. Rayner 8.

SHARNFORD, LEICESTER.—On Sunday, August 20th, 1,260 Bob Minor: *Miss Madge Grewcock 1, †Frank Trotman (conductor) 2, *Percy Ison 3, Cyril Ison 4, Harry Wood 5, James Wood 6. *First quarter-peal. †First quarter-peal of Bob Minor.

DENVER, NORFOLK.—On Sunday, August 20th, 720 Bob Minor: F. Price 1, E. Barker 2, H. Porter 3, E. Martin 4, W. Buckenham (conductor) 5, R. Price 6.

ST. IVES, HUNTS.—On Sunday, August 20th, 720 Bob Minor: J. P. Stocker 1, F. Warrington (conductor) 2, L. W. Fisher 3, L.A.C. E. Nobles 4, A. J. Ginn 5, J. Perkins 6.—On Wednesday, August 23rd, 720 Bob Minor: H. W. Pratt 1, M. R. D. Harford (first 720 on tower bells) 2, F. Warrington (conductor) 3, L. W. Fisher 4, G. Dodds 5, J. Perkins 6.

IPSWICH.—On August 21st at St. Clement's, 720 Bob Minor: John Jennings 1, James Jennings 2, F. E. Wiseman 3, R. W. M. Clouston 4, Fred Bowell (conductor) 5, John F. Tillett 6.

LICHFIELD.—On August 21st at St. Michael's, 720 Bob Minor: F. Hayle 1, A. Rackham 2, F. Reeve 3, N. Elliott 4, A. Bowler 5, G. E. Oliver (conductor) 6.

BOLTON.—On Wednesday, August 23rd, at Holy Trinity, 1,260 Grandshire Triples: Edward B. Webster 1, Mrs. G. Annie Paine 2, Mrs. Mary Kenyon 3, Everest Ford 4, James W. Kay 5, John F. Wood 6, Peter Crook, sen. (conductor) 7, Owen Olive 8. Rung for the liberation of Paris.

ANSTEY, NEAR LEICESTER.—On Wednesday, August 23rd, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: Terry Gardner 1, J. R. Smith 2, Derek Dodson 3, P. J. Staniforth 4, R. F. Elkington 5, Dennis Dodson (conductor) 6. First 720 in the method by all.

LAUNTON, OXON.—On August 24th, 720 Stedman Doubles: F. Sharpe 1, H. Hatfield 2, E. Smith 3, H. Gregory 4, E. Ladd 5, H. Austin 6. Rung for the liberation of Paris.

BUXTON.—At St. Peter's, Fairfield, on August 25th, 1,260 Grandshire Doubles: Mrs. White (longest length) 1, J. Puplett (conductor) 2, J. Bagshaw 3, E. Ellinson 4, J. Marriot 5, J. Smith 6.

WENTWORTH, YORKSHIRE.—On Thursday, August 25th, 720 Bob Minor: T. Nicholls 1, S. Briggs (conductor) 2, Mrs. J. E. Turley 3, A. White 4, G. S. Lee 5, W. Green 6.

BEKESBOURNE, KENT.—On Friday, August 25th, 720 Kent Treble Minor: T. E. Ellender 1, J. Walters 2, C. Turner 3, W. Thompson 4, S. Walters 5, H. R. French (conductor) 6.

BRISTOL.—On Saturday, August 26th, at St. Luke's, Brislington, 1,080 Grandshire Doubles: *Cyril Palmer 1, William Stowell (conductor) 2, *Ronald Porter 3, *John Stallard 4, Harold Bennett 5, Frederick Brine 6. *Longest length.

BEDWORTH, WARWICKSHIRE.—On Saturday, August 26th, at All Saints', a quarter-peal of Grandshire Triples (1,260 changes): J. Castle 1, R. Lydster 2, F. Brassington 3, J. H. W. White (conductor) 4, T. Trevor 5, E. Stone 6, G. Large 7, W. Lowndes 8. First quarter-peal of Grandshire Triples by the ringers of 1, 2, 5 and 8.

CHRISTCHURCH, HANTS.—On Saturday, August 26th, 1,295 Grandshire Caters: G. Preston (conductor) 1, Miss Sparshott 2, J. M. Turner 3, E. Hinton 4, Mrs. Williams 5, R. O. Street 6, E. T. Griffin 7, F. Sparshott 8, G. Scragg 9, H. Gillard 10. Rung for liberation of Paris.

NORBURY.—On Sunday, August 27th, 1,056 Bob Major: Eleanor Humphreys 1, James Fernley (conductor) 2, Mrs. James Fernley 3, Frank Jones 4, Richard E. Jones 5, John W. Hartley 6, Harry Langley 7, William Fernley 8.

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.—On Sunday, August 27th, 720 Plain Bob Minor: *R. B. Pollard 1, *L. R. Trussler 2, G. C. Goodman 3, W. H. Seabrook 4, F. E. Hawthorne (conductor) 5, H. W. Barrett 6. *First 720.

OXFORD.—On Sunday, August 27th, at St. Giles', 1,260 Stedman Triples: Miss M. D. Telford 1, Miss M. Cross 2, Miss V. Hill 3, H. Badder 4, W. F. Judge 5, N. Alinatt 6, W. C. Porter (conductor) 7, G. Caudwell 8. First quarter-peal as conductor.

BRAINTREE, ESSEX.—On Sunday, August 27th, 1,280 Superlative Surprise Major: S. Warne 1, G. Wiffen 2, H. E. Hammond 3, R. Martin 4, F. Claydon 5, R. H. Felton 6, L. W. Wiffen (conductor) 7, A. Wiffen 8.

WORCESTER.—On Sunday, August 27th, at the Cathedral, 1,349 Grandshire Caters: E. Wilson 1, G. Lewis 2, P. Blissett 3, E. Cubberley 4, G. Hinton 5, A. E. Humphries 6, W. Lewis 7, J. J. Jefferies (conductor) 8, G. Ambler 9, F. Fluck 10. Rung for the relief of Paris.

ALDERSHOT.—On Sunday, August 27th, 1,260 Grandshire Triples: *John M. Denyer 1, †Raymond A. Clist 2, Raymond S. Phillpot 3, Dennis Evans 4, Miss Betty Stewart 5, *Gordon C. Briggs 6, William H. Viggers (conductor) 7, Frank C. W. Knight 8. *First quarter-peal in the method. †First quarter-peal.

PORTSMOUTH.—On Sunday, August 27th, 1,260 Grandshire Triples: S. E. Cook 1, J. W. Meade 2, J. D. Harris 3, R. J. Stone 4, W. Tate 5, W. Scaife 6, F. W. Rogers (conductor) 7, S. A. Bamford 8. Rung for the relief of Paris.

MORTON, Lincs.—On Sunday, August 27th, 720 York Surprise Minor: A. I. Holmes 1, W. Holmes 2, G. Booth 3, F. W. French 4, A. Scott 5, J. Machin (conductor) 6.

SYSTON, LEICESTER.—On August 29th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: E. Payne 1, Miss A. Mansfield 2, A. Mansfield 3, H. Humphries 4, L. Whitehead 5, G. Walker (conductor) 6, W. Wright tenor. Rung with tenor covering.

CAMBRIDGE.—On August 31st in Emmanuel College, 720 Bob Minor on handbells: M. R. D. Harford (first 720 on handbells) 1-2, G. Dodds 3-4, R. Lathbury (conductor) 5-6.

LONG ASHTON, SOMERSET.—On August 31st, 1,260 Grandshire Triples: *Miss J. Pym 1, D. G. Clift (conductor) 2, *D. J. Marsh 3, G. Olliver 4, G. Talbot 5, N. H. Coombes 6, W. Claydon (Reigate, Surrey) 7, E. F. Hancock 8. *First quarter-peal in the method.

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NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Saturday, Sept. 9th, 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, 1 Eversfield Road, Reigate.

NATIONAL GUILD OF POLICE RINGERS.—Meeting at Manchester, Saturday, Sept. 9th. Assemble Town Hall belfry 12 noon. Luncheon, Piccadilly Restaurant, Tib Street (Market Street end) 1 p.m., 3s. 6d. Ringing, Town Hall (12) 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Tea, Piccadilly Restaurant, 6 p.m., 2s. 6d. Social evening.—Inspector H. J. Poole, Hon. Sec.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—Meeting at Long Ashton, Saturday, Sept. 9th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Weston, Bath.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—Aylesbeare Deanery Branch.—Meeting at Whimple, Saturday, Sept. 9th. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Usk (Mon.), Saturday, Sept. 9th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Business meeting follows.—J. W. Jones, Hon. Sec., 94, Altery View, Newport, Mon.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at Hitchin, Sept. 9th, 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m.—A. E. Symonds, The Cottage, Windmill Hill, Hitchin.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport and Bowdon Branch.—Meeting at Stalybridge (St. Paul's), Saturday, Sept. 9th.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Meeting at Basingstoke, Saturday, Sept. 9th, 2 p.m. Bells available at both towers. Service 3.45. Tea 4.30.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—General meeting, Acton, Sept. 16th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—General meeting, Tadcaster, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 2 p.m. Committee 3 p.m. in Boys' Sunday School. Service 4 p.m. Tea and business in Boys' Sunday School 5 p.m. Names to Mr. J. Harrison, Lyneside, Stutton Road, Tadcaster, by Sept. 13th.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Bulkington (6 bells), Saturday, Sept. 16th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., 1s. each. Bring sugar.—D. E. Beamish, 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-East Division.—Meeting at Mistley, Saturday, September 16th, 2 p.m. Bring food and a pinch of tea.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., Park Farm Cottages, Shimpling, Bury St. Edmunds.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—Half-yearly meeting at Washingborough, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Business meeting later. Bring tea.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Annual meeting at Clent, 3 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 16th. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and business after.—B. C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—Meeting at Nailsea, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 4 p.m.—Percy G. Yeo, Long Ashton.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Meeting at Holbeach, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 2 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by business. Own arrangements for tea.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec.

EAST MARKHAM.—Practice meeting Saturday, Sept. 16th. Tuxford bells not available. Bring food.—H. Denman, 9, Rockley, Retford, Notts.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at St. Thomas', Moorside, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 2.30. Tea in School at 5 p.m. Names to Ivan Kay, Hon. Sec., 30, Grafton Street, Moorside, Oldham.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Blackwell, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 o'clock. Names to J. W. England, 49, The Common, South Normanton, by Wednesday.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Peter's, Halliwell, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 2.30 p.m. Business 6.30 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 203, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—Practice meeting at Henley, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 6.45 to 9 p.m.—E. G. Foster, 401, London Road, Reading.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wirral Branch.—Meeting at Liscard (8 bells), Saturday, Sept. 16th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—Harry S. Brocklebank, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Asfordby and Kirby Bellars, Sept. 16th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names to Mr. J. H. Cook, New Street, Asfordby, Melton.—H. W. Perkins.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting at Crossens, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names before Wednesday to S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at St. Mary's, Portsmouth, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Names by Tuesday, Sept. 12th.—R. J. Stone, 16, Penhale Road, Fratton, Portsmouth.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Uttoxeter, Saturday, Sept. 23rd (not the 16th as arranged). Names to Mr. E. Roberts, 46, Ashbourne Road, Uttoxeter, Staffs, before Sept. 19th.—Andrew Thompson.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Meeting at Handsworth, Sept. 23rd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Names for tea to Mrs. J. E. Turley, 365, Main Road, Sheffield 9, by 21st.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Heptonstall, Saturday, Sept. 23rd, 2 p.m. Tea 2s. 9d. Apply W. Southwell, 16, Longfield, Heptonstall, before Sept. 18th.—Wm. Ambler, Hon. Dis. Sec.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Fletcher is now The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

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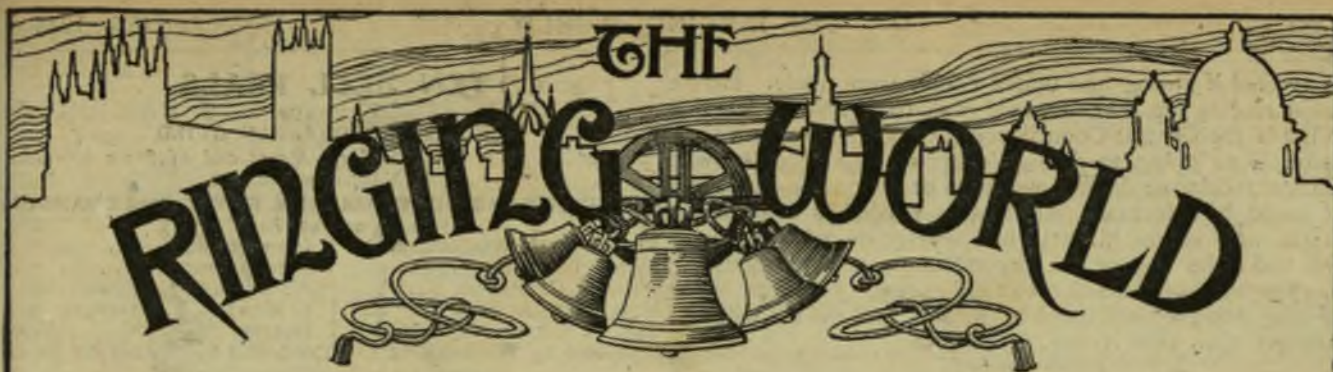
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THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

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THE FUTURE.

The end of the war, at least on this side of the world, cannot be delayed very much longer. All the indications seem to show that it may come soon, but when and how no one as yet can say. One thing is fairly certain, it will not come in the way it did the last time. There will be no day of which we can say, This is the end. There will be no signing of an armistice, no general cease-fire at 'the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.' Our leaders have clearly said that nothing short of total surrender will be accepted, and that they will not treat with Hitler and those who are associated with him. There are no others who can speak for Germany, and therefore, though general organised resistance may collapse at any time, we shall have to go on until we have occupied and taken over the whole country. And that probably will be many months ahead.

This is not the sort of ending we were looking forward to not so long back. Less than a couple of years ago we were expecting that we should have to endure the full war-time restrictions and drawbacks and to contend with an intact, if beaten, enemy up to the last; and then at a definite minute the guns would cease firing, the lights would go up again in the streets, our long silent bells would ring out, and we should be able to turn from war to peace, as we did, or tried to do, after the last war.

But there will be no such sudden and sharply cut finish this time. The coming of peace may be delayed for long after the ending of the war, and we shall risk bitter disappointment if we imagine we shall be able to pick up at once the threads of our old life where we dropped them five years ago.

The long-drawn-out period of transition from full war to full peace is pretty sure to be a period of disillusionment and frustrated hopes, but in the long run it may prove a blessing. Perhaps it is as well we are getting rid of war-time restrictions and dangers one by one. We recovered our ringing over a year ago. The detestable black-out comes practically to an end on Sunday. The bomb menace to London was to all intents and purposes ended a week ago. People will be better able to adapt themselves to the new and altered conditions of the future if they come somewhat gradually, than if they were suddenly confronted with them.

For many months after the outbreak of war, and especially after the imposition of the ban on ringing, the general feeling in the Exercise was that ringing had suffered such a setback that disaster could only

(Continued on page 382.)

be averted if strong and united efforts were made. How could ringing be rehabilitated? was the question asked. What is the Central Council going to do? What are the associations going to do? We know the answers now. No spectacular or drastic measures or action are required or could be effectual. All that is needed is that each ringer who values his art shall quietly do what he can and make the best of the circumstances he finds himself in. The time of transition to fully normal conditions may be long, but they will come in the end, and the art will be stronger than ever it was.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

DARLEY DALE, DERBYSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., Sept. 3, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

J. J. PARKER'S FIVE-PART.		Tenor 15 cwt.
ROBERT ALSOP Treble	*VERNON BOTTOMLEY ... 5	
GEORGE H. PAULSON ... 2	JOHN SAUNDERS ... 6	
BERNARD ALSOP ... 3	HERBERT E. TAYLOR ... 7	
RAYMOND GREATORIX ... 4	ERNEST PAULSON ... Tenor	

Conducted by G. H. PAULSON.

* First peal in the method. Rung as a thanksgiving for victory.

FARNHAM, SURREY.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 9, 1944, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S VARIATION.		Tenor 21 cwt. in E flat.
GEORGE UPSHALL Treble	WILLIAM T. BEESON ... 5	
FREDERICK OLDROYD ... 2	CHARLES F. ANDREWS ... 6	
GEORGE L. GROVER ... 3	ALFRED H. PULLING ... 7	
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... 4	FRANK C. W. KNIGHT ... Tenor	

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 9, 1944, in Three Hours and One Minute,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th the observation).		Tenor 16 cwt.
*FREDA D. MURKITT ... Treble	C. ALFRED LEVEIT ... 5	
ALBERT DISERENS ... 2	WILLIAM WELLING ... 6	
GEORGE H. GUTTERIDGE 3	GEORGE GILBERT ... 7	
†JEAN M. BROOMFIELD ... 4	FRANK H. HICKS ... Tenor	

Conducted by GEORGE GILBERT.

* First attempt for a peal. † First attempt away from the treble.

PORTISHEAD, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 9, 1944, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.		Tenor 16 cwt.
*JENNY PYM Treble	THOMAS W. KIMBER ... 5	
DONALD G. CLIFT ... 2	†EMLYN F. HANCOCK ... 6	
†MONICA J. RICHARDSON 3	RONALD G. BECK ... 7	
JOHN H. B. HESSE ... 4	FREDERICK A. TARGETT Tenor	

Conducted by DONALD G. CLIFT.

* First peal. † First peal on tower bells. ‡ First peal of Triples.

HAGLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., Sept. 10, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th the observation).		Tenor 9 cwt.
*SUB-LT. D. H. WATSON Treble	C. W. COOPER ... 5	
N. LEECH 2	B. LAWTON ... 6	
MISS F. WRIGHT ... 3	J. W. SMITH ... 7	
J. LLOYD 4	J. S. WALTON ... Tenor	

Conducted by N. LEECH.

* First peal.

TEN BELL PEALS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 9, 1944, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,
AT MAGDALEN COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt. in E.

FREDK. A. H. WILKINS ... Treble	JOHN E. SPICE ... 6
VICTOR J. F. BENNETT ... 2	NEIL ALLNATT ... 7
WILLIAM C. PORTER ... 3	W. BERTRAM KYNASTON ... 8
MISS VALHALLA HILL ... 4	J. HOWARD R. FREEBORN ... 9
REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG ... 5	WALTER F. JUDGE ... Tenor

Composed by WILLIAM PYE.

Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

EVEESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 9, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,
AT THE BELL TOWER,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERPS, 5067 CHANGES;

Tenor 31½ cwt.

JAMES HEMMING Treble	ARTHUR H. REED ... 6
JOHN THOMAS 2	WALTER C. ROSE ... 7
JOSEPH D. JOHNSON ... 3	CHARLES W. MARTIN ... 8
MRS. J. THOMAS 4	GEOFFREY J. HEMMING ... 9
RALPH HARRIS 5	JOSEPH E. NEWMAN ... Tenor

Composed by J. E. GROVES.

Conducted by J. D. JOHNSON.

SOLIHULL, WARWICKSHIRE.

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

On Sat., Sept. 9, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ALPHEGE,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt. 1 qr. 11 lb.

ALBERT WALKER Treble	*JOHN PINFOLD ... 6
*MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 2	*REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE 7
FRANK W. PERRENS ... 3	GEORGE E. FEARN ... 8
J. FRANK SMALLWOOD ... 4	FRANK E. PERVIN ... 9
HENRY H. FEARN ... 5	FRANK E. HAYNES ... Tenor

Composed by WILLIAM PYE.

Conducted by GEORGE E. FEARN.

* First peal of Surprise Royal.

SIX BELL PEALS.

AUGHTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 9, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven extents. Tenor 5½ cwt.

*ROBERT CRITCHLEY ... Treble	†RONALD KENRICK ... 4
JOHN LUNHAM 2	ARTHUR MAWDESLEY ... 5
JAMES TAYLOR 3	JOSEPH RIDYARD ... Tenor

Conducted by JOSEPH RIDYARD.

* First peal in the method. † First peal.

WHICKHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Sat., Sept. 9, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Kent Treble Bob and Oxford Bob and three 720's of Plain Bob. Tenor 8 cwt.

*ERNEST CAIRNS Treble	*STANLEY PROUD ... 4
JACK LISHMAN 2	KIT LAMB ... 5
*STEPHEN THOMPSON, JUN. 3	STEPHEN THOMPSON ... Tenor

Conducted by STEPHEN THOMPSON.

* First peal in three methods.

HANDBELL PEAL.

EDMONTON, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., Sept. 6, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes,
IN THE BELFRY OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERPS, 5003 CHANGES;

DENNIS H. LANGDON ... 1-2	ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 5-6
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7-8
PHILIP J. COWARD ... 9-10	

Arranged and Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

SEVEN BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 376.)

College Triples (original version).	Twickenham Triples.
1234567	1234567
2143576	2143576
2415367	2415367
4251376	4251637
4523167	2456173
5432617	4265713
5346271	4627531
3564721	6472351
3657412	6743215
6375142	7634125
6731524	6731452
7613542	7613542
7165324	7165324
1756342	1756342
1573624	1573624
5137642	5137642
5316724	5316724
3561742	3561274

We now come to a class of seven-bell methods which are worth a little examination, although they are generally considered to be irregular and are passed by in the Central Council's 'Collection of Triples Methods' with a bare mention. These are the methods with a plain hunting treble and six working bells, which are composed throughout the plain course of triple changes only. As we have already seen, their peculiarity is that the plain course consists of three leads only, and therefore two full courses are necessary if any one bell is to do the complete work of the method in the sense that each working bell does the complete work of the method in the plain course of Bob Major or Superlative Surprise. This feature has condemned the whole class in the eyes of the men who were acknowledged as authorities, for it has for very many years been a generally recognised rule that 'there shall be as many plain leads in the plain course as there are working bells,' and that 'each lead, together with the hunting and place-making which connect it with the next lead, shall contain the whole working of the method.' These quotations are from the 'Report on Legitimate Methods,' adopted by the Central Council forty years ago and printed in 'Rules and Decisions,' 1904. Although some of the clauses of that report were hotly challenged, these were unanimously accepted.

A rule like this was not laid down, and was not unanimously agreed to, without good cause, but that is no reason why we should not enquire whether it must still be observed.

In the early days of the Exercise this class of method was freely exploited, and the two we have given as examples both date from the first half of the eighteenth century. College Triples as given above differs very considerably from the College Triples given in the Central Council's 'Collection of Triples Methods,' and from the College Minor given in the six-bell book, but it is really the correct seven-bell expression of the idea which was in the minds of the old ringers when they talked of College as a method.

The idea was that the two bells left behind by the treble should dodge together until it returned and parted

them, and that the other bells should make places to enable them to dodge. Thus came College Single Minor and College Single Major, which had a certain amount of popularity from the earliest times down to recent years. The word 'Single' was added to the title only because there was another version, little rung, in which there was dodging in front as well as behind.

But College Single Minor and Major have irregular lead-ends, and so when the first edition of the Minor book was issued the name College was transferred to the variation with the dodging in front instead of behind. It was not a wise thing to do, but the change has been made and cannot now well be altered.

The original College Triples, then, is a method in which each bell plain hunts, except that it makes Fifths place, unless the treble is above it, when it goes to 6-7 and does a four-pull dodge before returning to the front. In the plain course the second, fifth and sixth do the dodging in 6-7 down after turning the treble from behind and lying a whole pull; and the fourth, third and seventh do the dodging in 6-7 up before lying a whole pull and being turned by the treble.

Original College Triples has the correct lead-ends, and the lead is perfectly symmetrical. It is formally true that in the 3-lead plain course all the working bells do not do the same work, but it is also true that what three of them do forwards the other three do backwards, and all six carry out the same general idea of work. The place making and dodging are all at handstroke, and the method is a very simple one. A peal of it was rung so far back as the year 1728, and it is not easy to see why a band should be debarred from ringing one now, if they desire something fresh and out of the usual which will prove no great tax on their abilities.

But will such a method give us a true five thousand and forty? Yes, certainly it will, but there are some points which need careful watching. If we could make our bob when the treble is leading full, the problem would be a simple one; but we cannot make it there because there is no place we can move. We must make the bob in the interior of the lead. The original bob was made by moving the Fifths place (in the change when the treble is leading at handstroke) to Sevenths; and that is probably the best way to do it. But it must be remembered that the symmetry of the lead is upset, and therefore every course must be included in its entirety; it must not come partly in a direct form and partly in the reverse form for, though the lead-ends might be true, there might be repetition in the interior of the lead. The singles must be made by two bells lying still when the treble is leading full.

If, however, one precaution is taken, most of the difficulties in composition disappear. It will be noticed that in the plain course each bell never falls twice into the same relative position with the treble. Therefore, if the observation bell (say the seventh) is fixed and unaffected by the calls, any repetition between handstroke rows and backstroke rows is an impossibility, whether the courses are in-course or out-of-course. The observation bell will, of course, in a sense only do half the work of the method, but the same thing is true in the Bob-and-Single peals of Grandsire Triples and for the same reason; for the Bob-and-Single peals of Grandsire Triples are really peals in a method which belongs to this group and of which the real plain course is the usually called B. Block.

(To be continued.)

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official Journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.

The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to:—

The Editor,

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Cheques and remittances should be made payable to 'The Ringing World.'

As the menace from flying bombs is now practically at an end, the College Youths have decided to resume the ringing after their fortnightly meetings.

We have received a defective report of a peal of Stedman Triples rung by the Lancashire Association on September 4th. No place is mentioned and no dedication of the church. Correspondents should write out their peal reports strictly in the form always used in 'The Ringing World.'

THE MONTH'S PEALS

During the month of August, 57 peals were rung, 43 of them on tower bells and 14 on handbells.

The tower bells consisted of: Grandsire Triples 2, Caters 1; Plain Bob Minor 2, Major 5; Oxford Bob Triples 1; Kent Treble Bob Major 2, Royal 1; Stedman Triples 4, Caters 2, Cinques 2; Double Norwich Court Bob Major 3; Cambridge Surprise Major 2, Royal 2; Superlative 3; London 1; Three Minor Methods 4, Four Minor Methods 1; Doubles 5.

The handbell peals consisted of: Grandsire Doubles 1, Triples 1, Caters 1; Plain Bob Major 2, Royal 1; Maximus 2, Fourteen-in 1; Kent Treble Bob Royal 1; Stedman Cinques 3.

The number of peals in January was 50, in February 34, in March 37, in April 48, in May 41, in June 34, and in July 47, making a total for the year (so far) of 348.

In January, April and July there were five Saturdays; in the other months four.

DEATH OF MR. MAURICE SWINFELD.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Maurice Swinfield, of Burton-on-Trent, who was so well known as a conductor of peals of Stedman Triples. He passed away on September 7th at the age of 46 years.

MUFFLED RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I often wonder if we are right in ringing the church bells half-muffled in tribute to the memory of a fellow ringer, for by doing so we make public a sorrow which is felt by a comparatively small circle of friends. Furthermore, we believe as professing Christians that death is not the end and that our friends have passed on to a fuller life—it is the parting we mourn. One doesn't ring half-muffled in farewell to an emigrant; on the contrary we ring a joyous salute to wish him good luck.

I believe if we were to ask our departed friends before they died their wishes in the matter they would choose 'open' ringing.

The public are more sensitive than ever before to the reason for ringing our bells. They accept customary practices and Sunday ringing without question. Any other ringing should be advertised beforehand, especially in the large towns.

I think our half-muffled tributes should be reserved for occasions of public mourning or sorrow or at such times as the end of the year, when the significance of such a procedure is well known.

116, Alma Road, Bournemouth.

ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

THE LATE MR. JOHN AUSTIN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very sorry to see that Mr. John Austin had passed away. A year or two ago the old man handed over to me a number of letters he received many years ago from prominent ringers, among them being Mr. Hattersley and Mr. Lindoff. He also gave to me Giles Mansfield's written account of the long peal of Grandsire Caters at Painswick in 1817. This account has, I believe, never been published.

Early this year I wrote to Mr. Austin for some particulars of the first peal of Double Norwich Caters. Your readers may be interested in a part of the letter he sent in reply, for it sheds light, not only on the great activity of the St. Michael's Juniors in the 90's, but also on the character and skill of John Austin:—

'When I came to Gloucester in 1890 the St. Michael's Juniors were just practising Double Norwich. I, of course, joined them, and we rang the first peal on Christmas morning, 1890, then another on Boxing Day at Stroud. After that peals came quite easily, peals at Bath and, I think, the first peal in Bristol, Cardiff, Dursley and several more places.

'At that time the brothers James were crazy for ringing. They were after me every night to go somewhere. On one occasion H.L. suggested going for Double Norwich Caters, so E.B. arranged the bobs in thirds place and composed a peal, gave it to me to fix up a practice. Only having eight at the Cross we had to go to Stroud or Painswick to get the practice.

'On one occasion J. W. Taylor, who was visiting the district, said he would like to ring a peal of Double Norwich Caters, so I fixed up Stroud. We rang up to the last course, and 89, which should have made a single and turned into the handstroke 798, made a bob and came out 789 as a bob. I called "Stand" at once. It was very disappointing. One member of the band said he would never ring another peal, but that is only one of the setbacks we get in ringing.

'After that we started Superlative. I conducted the first peal at Quedgeley in April, 1893, my 100th peal. Afterwards we turned our attention to Cambridge Surprise and rang several peals. Then H.L. suddenly had a brainwave. We must go for Cambridge Royal, and no ten bells to practise on, only by going away. However, it had to be done. In 1898 we went to Stroud for the peal and lost it, not far from home. Goes over to Cheltenham the next night and rang it. Then we had to go in for Maximus, so I wrote out a full course and we set it going at Cirencester, but did not get a peal, ringing well into two courses once.'

I last saw the old gentleman at the Henry Johnson luncheon in Birmingham in the spring of this year, when he entertained me with some lively recollections of his palmy days of ringing. I trust that the extract I have given will serve to recall the days when the skill of John Austin was the talk of the 90's, and the integrity of John Austin was quoted as an example for all conductors.

Solihull.

E. C. SHEPHERD.

FIVE-BELL RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The letter which appeared in this week's issue under the above heading seemed to me to uphold the spirit we definitely do not want.

To my mind, the tower at which the ringers turned up casually, till at 10.40 the bells were pulled up and rung for service, gave a better performance, as far as the listening public were concerned, than the one where the bells were pulled up singly, and ringing on four, five and eight bells was indulged in, all in the short space of an hour or under, usually associated with service ringing.

In any case, neither state of affairs is to be commended. We most certainly go to ring the bells for service, and, that being so, what's wrong with us giving a good measure of our service? If a band decides to ring at a certain time, surely it's up to them to do it. It's a poor sort of service if they don't. I'm afraid that were I in charge of the ringing in a tower where we had to regularly wait for the rest, we should ring those impressive Doubles till service time in the hope that the desirability of turning up at the proper time would impress itself upon them. Finally, if a tower boasts a band capable of ringing Major, they should be able to raise and fall the bells in peal every time they meet for service ringing. Surely this is the first essential of good service ringing.

H. J. SANGER.

Evercreech.

FIFTY YEARS AGO.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The Winchester Guild rang the first peal of Double Norwich on the bells at SS. Peter and Paul, Fareham, Hants, on September 15th, 1894; on September 16th, and 17th, the first peals of Double Norwich and Stedman Triples at St. Edward's, Netley Abbey; on September 17th, the first peal at St. Michael's, Southampton; on September 18th, the first of Superlative in Hampshire at Soberton, and the first peal of Double Norwich on the bells the same day; and on September 19th, the first peal of Superlative on the bells of Holy Trinity, Privett.

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

Eastleigh.

HENRY THOMAS ELLACOMBE.

(Continued from page 373.)

The views of Ellacombe and the early reformers on Sunday ringing seem very strange to us to-day. Even when we try to look at the matter through their eyes and from their standpoint we feel that they were quite mistaken. If we grant that the ringers' conduct was not everything to be desired, that they were slack in their attendance at church, and regular in their visits to the alehouse, yet it would not seem that the best way to cure their faults was to forbid them to come to the church at all, if it were only for the ringing. We know now that the general introduction of Sunday service ringing in place of the old chiming has been one of the principal causes of the improvement which has taken place during the last half-century in the relations between ringers and the clergy and in almost everything connected with bells and ringing. It might have seemed obvious that one of the best ways to begin the reformation of the conduct and status of the ringers was to make them and their art more closely connected with the services of the church. Why then did Ellacombe and the others take the contrary view? Not, I believe, for the reasons they gave, though they may themselves have thought it was. What really influenced them, more or less unconsciously, was the strong traditions which had come down through the ages concerning the nature and uses of ringing and chiming.

Ellacombe, as we have seen, believed that before the Reformation bells were employed solely in the service of the Church and of religion, that the only uses were tolling and chiming, and that ringing in its origin and spirit was a later and secular thing which might be tolerated on week-days but was quite wrong on Sundays. Such an opinion will seem incomprehensible to the present generation, but those who (like myself) spent their early childhood in a puritan atmosphere remember quite well that such Sabbatarian views were taken for granted not only by the clergy but by the staid and sober laity as well.

Chiming was the traditional way of calling people to church, and ringing was secular. Ellacombe was right there, but he was wrong when he said that before the Reformation the only uses of bells were religious. The truth is that throughout the ages the religious and secular uses of bells had been going on side by side, but during the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries the influence and action of that party in the Church with which Ellacombe was least in sympathy had caused the virtual suppression of ringing as a religious use and had left it almost entirely for secular and social purposes.

A bell essentially is not a musical instrument, like a violin, or a flute, or an organ. It is a voice. One of the things which first distinguished man from the lower animals was that he learned to use tools. A tool was simply some mechanical means of extending and reinforcing the powers of the man's body. Instead of fighting with tooth and nail, he learned how to use clubs and spears. Instead of having to dig with his hands, he learned to use primitive spades. So, too, when he wanted to attract attention by making a noise he learned how to extend the range of his own voice by two inventions. One (the earliest) was the trumpet made from the horn of some beast slain in the chase. The other (which appeared as soon as metals were discovered) was the hollow vessel whence was evolved the bell. These two, the trumpet and

the bell, are man's supreme instruments for making sound, and they have had a longer and a wider appeal than any others.

A bell is a voice, and not only a voice but the voice of man, and man's voice has two main functions—to convey messages and to express emotion and feeling. That is what the bells were made and cast for, and that is why they had and still have such a wide appeal to men.

The bells hung in the churches in early times were used to convey many kinds of definite messages, both ecclesiastical and secular—the times and the nature of the services, the times of the beginning and ending of the day's labour, the announcement of the death of some person, the calling of the people together for a purpose connected with the communal life, the outbreak of fire, and occasionally the alarm when the enemy was at the gate. For all these purposes the bells were knolled or chimed, and to distinguish one kind of message from another there were various ways of doing it. The different services were marked by different chiming, and so arose those definite uses which lasted down to quite recent times.

But the bell was also a voice which had to show feeling and emotion, and that (any more than a similar use of the human voice) needed no exact expression. So all the bells were sounded together and swung as high, as they could be to get the loudest and fullest tone out of them. That was the ultimate origin of ringing, and the proximate origin was when the young men who were employed to do it found it good sport to see, first how high they could swing the bells, and then how nearly they could do it in perfect time and orderly rounds.

The emotion expressed by this ringing was both secular and religious. There was exultation when the news came of some victory, greetings to some great man, homage to the king or the bishop, joy at a marriage, and there was also the sound of triumph when the solemn procession typifying the Church militant passed down the aisle and the bells took the part which is now performed by the singing choir. They were also the voice of the Church flinging defiance at the powers of evil; for when demons 'hear the trumpets of the Church militant, that is the bells, they are afraid, as any tyrant is afraid when he hears in his land the trumpets of a powerful king.' Unfortunately this thought, noble in itself, was almost bound to lead to superstition, and the time came when bells were popularly supposed to have some magical powers of their own, with the result that ringing for religious purposes had in the interests of truth to be greatly curtailed and practically abolished. Ringing for other purposes went on as before, but it was almost entirely secular. When needed reforms are made, the reformers almost always go too far, and the suppression of 'superstitious' ringing led, in fact, to the suppression of nearly all ringing for distinctively Church purposes. The real problem which faced the nineteenth century belfry reformers was (if they had known it) how to win back ringing to the service of the Church. That problem has been solved by the territorial associations.

(To be continued.)

'GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF MINOR.'

To the Editor.

Sir,—Correction to 'Number Pairs Bobbed.' Delete 23 45 56 25 (redundant with 23 45 42 62). Delete 63 25 34 56 23 (redundant with the partner in 5b with 63 34 25 56 64). The correct total is 40 in all.

I must apologise for allowing this redundancy to appear. The errors were shown by a more rigorous method of checking the truth of the figures.

BRIAN D. PRICE.

HENRY THOMAS ELLACOMBE.*To the Editor*

Sir,—With reference to the articles that you have been publishing about the Rev. H. T. Ellacombe, several of my friends were well acquainted with him personally, and it was my own privilege (confessedly after an interval of 40 years) to succeed him as Rector of Clyst St. George. On these accounts I feel it specially incumbent on me to point out that your anonymous contributor is seriously at fault in the conclusions he draws.

To do this it seems to me sufficient to challenge the stress laid on the assumption that Ellacombe (and men like him) had no practical interest in change ringing, culminating in the statement in the issue of September 8th that 'he certainly mistrusted it and disliked it.'

In point of actual fact Mr. Ellacombe was himself a change ringer. He founded, or at the least was the most active agent in founding, the Guild of Devonshire Ringers, the first territorial association to be established, the preliminary meetings inaugurating the Guild being held in the Exeter office of Mr. Fulford, solicitor, a personal friend of Mr. Ellacombe living in the nearby parish of Woodbury. On two occasions he obtained at his own expense, once from London and once from Bristol, bands of the most expert ringers of the day to go down to Clyst St. George to ring there on special occasions.

And as a final refutation of your contributor's theories, he started at Clyst one of the earliest parochial bands of change ringers in Devon with such success that the band continued to flourish without a break right down to the present day, or more accurately until Clyst St. George Church was blitzed in 1940.

E. S. POWELL.

Staverton Vicarage.

[What Ellacombe wrote in his prime and published in his books is a safer guide to his opinions than memories of him when he was close on ninety years old. That his opinions changed and developed as he grew older is true of him as it is of any other man who uses his brains, and, as we pointed out, he did know enough about change ringing to ring Grandire Doubles. What we wrote, however, is substantially correct.—The Editor.]

TECHNICAL TERMS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—To anyone who is puzzled by the terms up and down in hunting I would say, 'Hold your bell up' when you want to get to lead, and 'Cut her down' when you want to get out behind and see what happens!

I suspect that we owe these terms to those who were teaching young ringers.

E. BANKES JAMES.

Surfleet.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.**MEETING AT BALCOMBE.**

A meeting of the East Grinstead and District Guild was held at Balcombe on August 19th, when 23 ringers from London, Croydon, Hartfield, East Grinstead, Tonbridge, Kingston and Balcombe rang methods ranging from Grandire to London Surprise. After tea a short business meeting was held, when some new members were elected and further meetings at Tonbridge and Godstone were arranged. The proceedings ended with a good touch of Stedman Triples on the handbells.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT DOWNTON.**

A meeting of the Salisbury Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held at Downton on August 26th, was attended by members from Britford, Amesbury, South Newton, Wishford, Wilton, Downton, Swallowcliffe, Fisherton St. Paul and the city churches of St. Martin and St. Thomas. Visitors came from Breamore, Ringwood and Cirencester.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. A. G. Birch, who gave an address, and tea followed at the New Inn with business meeting, Mr. E. G. Caple being in the chair. New members were admitted from St. Paul's, Salisbury, and Amesbury, and the Vicar of Downton was elected an honorary member. It was announced that the next branch meeting would be the special gathering at St. Martin's on September 30th, and it was decided to hold a practice meeting at South Newton on a date to be arranged with the local ringers.

MEETING AT TROWBRIDGE.

A meeting of the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held at Trowbridge on September 9th, was attended by members from Trowbridge, Melksham, Westbury, Warminster, Bishop's Canning, Keevil, North Bradley, Chilton, Devizes (St. John's and St. Mary's) and St. James' (Southbroom), and visitors from Bath, Bathaston, Swinden, Wootton Bassett and Norwich.

Service was conducted by the Rev. P. Owen, and Mr. A. T. Weeks was at the organ. Forty-six sat down to tea in the Parish Hall, and Mr. E. F. White presided at the business meeting which followed.

WINSCOMBE, SOMERSET.—On Sunday, August 27th, 720 Bob Minor: G. Lilley (first 720) 1, W. Claydon 2, Major J. H. B. Hesse 3, G. Olliver 4, E. F. Hancock 5, D. G. Clift (conductor) 6.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—General meeting, Acton, Sept. 16th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. — C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—General meeting, Tadcaster, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 2 p.m. Committee 3 p.m. in Boys' Sunday School. Service 4 p.m. Tea and business in Boys' Sunday School 5 p.m.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-East Division.—Meeting at Mistley, Saturday, September 16th, 2 p.m. Bring food and a pinch of tea.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., Park Farm Cottages, Shimpling, Bury St. Edmunds.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—Half-yearly meeting at Washingborough, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Business meeting later. Bring tea.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Annual meeting at Clent, 3 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 16th. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and business after.—B. C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Meeting at Holbeach, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 2 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by business. Own arrangements for tea.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—Practice meeting at Henley, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 6.45 to 9 p.m.—E. G. Foster, 401, London Road, Reading.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Asfordby and Kirby Bellars, Sept. 16th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—H. W. Perkins.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at St. Mary's, Portsmouth, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.—R. J. Stone, 16, Penhale Road, Fratton, Portsmouth.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at St. James', Moss-side, Leyland, Saturday, Sept. 16th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Bring food.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Clent, jointly with Worcestershire Association, Saturday, September 16th, 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea and meeting afterwards.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Saturday, Sept. 23rd, 3 p.m. Service ringing at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, Sunday, Sept. 17th, 9.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Heptonstall, Saturday, Sept. 23rd, 2 p.m. Tea 2s. 9d. Apply W. Southwell, 16, Longfield, Heptonstall, before Sept. 18th.—Wm. Ambler, Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Uttoxeter, Saturday, Sept. 23rd (not the 16th as arranged). Names to Mr. E. Roberts, 46, Ashbourne Road, Uttoxeter, Staffs, before Sept. 19th.—Andrew Thompson.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Meeting at Handsworth, Sept. 23rd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Names for tea to Mrs. J. E. Turley, 365, Main Road, Sheffield 9, by 21st.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Meeting St. Ignatius' Parish Church (8 bells), Saturday, Sept. 23rd, 2.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided.—Frank Ainsley, 30, Aysgarth Avenue, Grangetown, Sunderland.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Braywood (5 bells), Saturday, Sept. 23rd, 3 p.m. Tea for those who notify me by Sept. 18th.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting at Harpenden, Sept. 23rd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea at Swallow Cafe 5 p.m. Names for tea to R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—Meeting at Willoughby (6 bells), Saturday, Sept. 23rd. Notify for tea.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Bridgnorth (St. Mary's and St. Leonard's), Sept. 23rd, 1 p.m. Tea can be arranged if names are received before September 20th.—F. Colclough, 20, West Castle Street, Bridgnorth.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—Meeting at Aspley Guise, Saturday, Sept. 23rd. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Woburn bells after tea. Names by Sept. 20th to D. E. Lidbetter, 13, Grove Road, Leighton Buzzard.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch.—Meeting at Marham, Saturday, Sept. 23rd. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Bring food.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at Duffield, Saturday, Sept. 23rd, 2.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food and sugar.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chad-desden, Derby.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery.—Meeting at Wedmore, Saturday, Sept. 23rd. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m., in Church Schoolrooms.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Meeting at Tettenhall, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 3 p.m. Service 4.45. Cups of tea in Parish Hall 5.30. Bring food. Frequent buses from G.P.O., Wolverhampton.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Manchester, Saturday, September 30th, 2 p.m. Service 3.30. Meeting 4.15. Tea 6. Particulars by circular.—W. H. Shuker, 36, Colwyn Avenue, Fallowfield, Manchester 14, and T. Wilson, 118, Langham Road, Blackburn, Hon. Secs.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—Meeting Shoreham, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 2.45 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and meeting 5.30 p.m. Names for tea by Wednesday, Sept. 27th, to Mrs. E. L. Hairs, Hon. Sec., The Oaks, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Coalbrookdale (10 bells), Saturday, Sept. 30th, 3 p.m. Service 4. Cups of tea and cakes provided. Bring sandwiches. Buses from Wellington.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Special branch meeting and presentation to Mr. F. W. Romaine, St. Martin's, Salisbury, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea (1s. 6d.) 4.30 p.m., followed by presentation. Names for tea before Monday, Sept. 25th. Subscription list closed on Sept. 25th.—E. G. Caple, Branch Chairman, Wilton, Salisbury.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Hethersett on Saturday, Sept. 30th, 2 p.m. Service 4.45. Tea at King's Head 5.30. Names for tea to Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—Meeting at Great Barr, Birmingham, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 3.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., business meeting to follow. Names before Sept. 27th to J. R. Terry, 49, Peak House Road, Great Barr, Birmingham, 22.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION and the **OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD** (East Berks and South Bucks Branch).—Joint meeting at St. John's, Hillingdon, Saturday, October 7th. Details later.—J. E. L. Cockey and A. D. Barker, Hon. Secs.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Fletcher is now The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of the Rev. K. C. Davis is now St. Francis' Vicarage, 35, Oakland Way, Ewell Court, Surrey.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT STURRY.

The annual meeting of the Canterbury District of the Kent County Association was held at Sturry on September 2nd, and some 42 members and friends were present, representing ten towers in the district. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. S. Risdon-Brown, who gave an address.

Tea at the Rose Inn was followed by the business meeting, the chair being taken by the Ringing Master. The report and balance sheet were adopted and showed an increase in membership and activity during the year. Meetings were arranged for October at St. Stephen's, Canterbury, for January at Whitstable, for March at Faversham, and for July at Margate.

The retiring officers were all re-elected: Representatives, H. R. French and J. W. Unwin; Ringing Master, S. P. Masters; secretary, B. J. Luck.

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THE RINGING WORLD

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

No. 1,748. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd, 1944.

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

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A FOOTNOTE.

•In a letter which appears on another page, Mr. Frank E. Haynes, after a full and just acknowledgment of the skill, concentration and patience shown by Mr. John Thomas and his handbell band, takes exception to the footnote which said that one of their performances was 'the first peal rung on fourteen bells.' That distinction, says Mr. Haynes, belongs to the peal of Stedman rung at Birmingham in 1922.

Now, whether it be so or not, Mr. Thomas and his band are blameless in the matter; for the footnote was not his, but ours; and was adopted after consideration as the best way of conveying the necessary information in the minimum number of words. Economy of wording is always essential in footnotes and was especially so in this particular instance if all the peal reports were to be published.

We were not unaware of the point raised by Mr. Haynes, but judged it was fully met by the paragraph on another page which was really a developed footnote to the peal, and which specially mentioned the Birmingham performance.

We have here, raised once more, a question which ringers have always debated and will, we do not doubt, continue to debate. Is a peal of Stedman Caters a ten-bell peal? or a peal of Stedman Cinques a twelve-bell peal? Readers will remember the controversy which arose when the Painswick men claimed that their seventeen thousand of Grandsire Cinques was the longest twelve-bell peal, supplanting the fifteen-thousand of Cambridge Maximus at Ashton-under-Lyne. Mr. Haynes maintains that a peal of Cinques is a twelve-bell peal, and he cites the practice of this journal in support of his views. It is, and has been from the beginning, the custom of 'The Ringing World' to publish reports of peals of Triples and Major together under the heading 'eight bell peals,' and similarly with Caters and Royal, and Cinques and Maximus. But that is merely for convenience of arrangement and must not be taken as evidence in this controversy. Mr. Haynes goes on to speak of London Surprise. 'We are all aware,' he says, 'that a man can ring the treble to London Surprise and be entirely ignorant of the method itself. Yet, if a peal is achieved, he may obviously claim to have taken part in a peal of London.' Why cannot the tenor man in a peal of Stedman Triples or Cinques do the same? The analogy is a false one.

(Continued on page 390.)

The work of the treble is an integral part of London Surprise and is just as much a part of the method as the work of the tenor. The bell which covers Triples, or Caters, or Cinques takes no part in the method at all. This view is supported by the only formal and official pronouncement which has any bearing on the matter. The Central Council's rule is that a peal of Triples must be rung on seven bells 'with or without a covering tenor,' and peals of Caters and Cinques are to be rung on nine and eleven bells 'with the addition of a covering bell.'

In ordinary circumstances a certain amount of flexibility of expression is allowable and necessary. If we were to ring the tenor to a peal of Stedman Caters we should naturally include the performance among our other peals in that method, and so would Mr. Haynes and Mr. Thomas and any other ringer. But not one of us would go on to argue that therefore Stedman was a method rung on ten bells. Or does Mr. Haynes think it wrong to say that the St. Martin's Youths of Birmingham are the only society which has rung peals of Stedman on eight and ten bells?

The commonsense view of the whole question seems to be that in ordinary circumstances a good deal of latitude may be allowed, but when a method or a record is mentioned a more precise and rigid use is required. We shall be following the general custom of the Exercise and leaving no room for ambiguity if we say that the first peal on thirteen bells was rung by the Birmingham men and the first peal on fourteen bells by the Edmonton band.

TEN BELL PEAL.

APPLETON, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., September 16, 1944, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

JOHN E. SPICE Treble	WILLIAM JUDGE 6
ALBERT E. LOCK 2	WALTER F. JUDGE 7
MRS. A. E. LOCK 3	GEORGE HOLIFIELD 8
MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 4	RICHARD WHITE 9
*WILLIAM C. PORTER ... 5	†CECIL G. CALCUTT ... Tenor

Composed by C. H. HATTERSLEY. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.
* First peal of Stedman Caters. † First peal on ten bells. First peal of Stedman Caters as conductor.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

OLDHAM, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., Sept. 4, 1944, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS, MOORSIDE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION.

JOHN MEADOWCROFT ... Treble	ISAAC GARSIDE 5
FRED DUNKERLEY 2	CHARLES HAYNES 6
FRANK LAWTON 3	IVAN KAY 7
*VERNON SYKES 4	*HERBERT BARLOW ... Tenor

Conducted by I. KAY.

* 25th peal together.

NORWICH.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 9, 1944, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 13½ cwt.

R. W. BARBER Treble	HENRY TOOKE 5
GEORGE SAYERS 2	REV. A. G. THURLOW ... 6
MISS P. GRAPES 3	GEORGE BAILEY 7
ERNEST SHORTING 4	A. G. BASON Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by A. G. BASON.

ENDERBY, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Fri., Sept. 15, 1944, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5624 CHANGES;

Tenor 11½ cwt.

HARRY WAYNE Treble	SHIRLEY BURTON 5
*JILL POOLE 2	WILLIAM J. ROOT 6
*JOHN R. SMITH 3	EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD ... 7
ERNEST MORRIS 4	HAROLD J. POOLE Tenor

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* First peal in the method.

BALCOMBE, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 16, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

MIDDLETON'S COMPOSITION.

Tenor 9 cwt.

HORACE E. LILLEY ... Treble	ALBERT F. LAKER 5
PHILLIP A. CORBY 2	HARRY W. SIMMONS 6
REGINALD V. JOHNSON ... 3	FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... 7
ALBERT J. STEELE 4	CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... Tenor

Conducted by C. H. KIPPIN.

The first peal in the method on the bells.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 16, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt. in D.

FREDERICK OLDROYD ... Treble	NORMAN HARDING 5
GEORGE L. GROVER 2	FRANK H. HICKS 6
CLARENCE H. DOBBIE ... 3	WILLIAM T. BEESON 7
ALFRED H. PULLING 4	CHARLES F. ANDREWS ... Tenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

ST. ALBANS, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 16, 1944, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 23 cwt.

JOHN E. ROOTES Treble	EDWIN JENNINGS 5
*RALPH BIRD 2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 6
RICHARD G. BELL 3	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7
FRANCIS KIRK 4	MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT ... Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.
* First peal in the method. Rung for the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Cartmel.

ALVERSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 16, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 13½ cwt.

JOSIAH D. HARRIS ... Treble	*PATRICK PAGE 5
FREDERICK A. BURNETT ... 2	HAROLD NOBES 6
*THOMAS PAGE 3	ERNEST J. MUNDAY 7
*JOHN H. HUNT 4	FREDERICK W. BURNETT ... Tenor

Composed by GEO. WILLIAMS. Conducted by F. W. BURNETT.

* First peal.

LEISTON, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 16, 1944, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 20½ cwt in E.

CHARLES WHITING ... Treble	JAMES M. BAILEY 5
*MRS. J. E. BAILEY 2	*ALAN G. HALL 6
JAMES G. RUMSEY 3	GEORGE GREENACRE 7
ERNEST S. BAILEY 4	JAMES E. BAILEY Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES. Conducted by J. E. BAILEY.

* First peal in the method. First peal of Treble Bob as conductor

HANBURY, WORCESTERSHIRE. THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 16, 1944, in Three Hours,

At the Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin,

A PEAL OF OXFORD BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HARVEY REEVES' SIX-PART (C.C.C., No. 22). Tenor 12 cwt.

WILLIAM RANFORD	Treble	ALLEN MORGAN	5
CHARLES R. SMITH	2	RALPH W. SAYERS	6
WALTER H. RAXTER	3	REGINALD WOODVATT	7
GEORGE E. LARGE	4	CHRIS. F. BLISSETT	Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

STOKE-ON-TRENT, STAFFORDSHIRE. THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 16, 1944, in Three Hours,

At the Church of St. Peter ad Vincula,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 20½ cwt.

EDWARD STEELE	Treble	WILLIAM CARNWELL	5
*GEORGE JONES	2	†ARTHUR W. HALL	6
ANDREW SHUFFLEBOTHAM	3	ANDREW THOMPSON	7
EDWIN W. CARTLIDGE	4	CHARLES H. PAGE	Tenor

Composed by J. THORP. Conducted by CHARLES H. PAGE.

* First peal in the method. † 60th peal.

LINTON, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 16, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

At the Church of St. Nicholas,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt.

HARRY BAKER	Treble	WILLIAM A. OLDFIELD	5
*MRS. T. CULLINGWORTH	2	THOMAS E. SONE	6
TOM SAUNDERS	3	PERCY PAGE	7
FREDERICK S. MACEY	4	WILLIAM GORRINGE	Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by THOMAS E. SONE.

* First peal in the method. Rung for the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Sone.

SIX BELL PEALS.

SOMERSHAM, HUNTS.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., Sept. 12, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven extents. Tenor 14 cwt.

*ERNEST WAKELING	Treble	*GEOFFREY DODDS	4
MICHAEL R. D. HARFORD	2	†ERIC NOMES	5
REV. B. F. SHEPARD	3	FRANK WARRINGTON	Tenor

Conducted by F. WARRINGTON.

* First peal. † First peal of Minor.

WILLESBOROUGH, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 16, 1944, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents. Tenor 12 cwt.

*RONALD F. BOOTH	Treble	†MARK LANCEFIELD	4
*JOHN W. IRELAND	2	WILLIAM J. LANCEFIELD	5
*RICHARD NEWTON	3	EDWARD S. RUCK	Tenor

Conducted by EDWARD S. RUCK.

* First peal. † First peal inside.

HORTON, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 16, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

At the Church of St. Michael,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of London and Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob, Double Court, Double Oxford, St. Clement's and Plain Bob.

Tenor 12 cwt. in F sharp.

WILLIAM WELLING	Treble	*WALTER SPARROW	4
*GEORGE C. GOODMAN	2	*G. WILLIAM MORRIS	5
RICHARD E. PRICE	3	TONY PRICE	Tenor

Conducted by TONY PRICE.

* First peal in seven methods.

FLAMSTEAD, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 16, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

At the Church of St. Leonard,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent each of Double Bob, St. Clement's, Double Oxford, Oxford Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 13 cwt.

*WILLIAM A. BEDDARD	Treble	*WILLIAM C. HUGHES	4
JOE HEBBS	2	HERBERT GATES	5
AUGUSTINE V. GOOD	3	WALTER AYRE	Tenor

Conducted by WALTER AYRE.

* First peal in seven methods. Rung for the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Cartmel.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Sept. 6, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

In the Cathedral Belfry,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERPILLARS, 5079 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

G. STEDMAN MORRIS	1-2	PERCY L. HARRISON	5-6
HAROLD S. POOLE	3-4	ERNEST MORRIS	7-8
PHILIP A. CORRY	9-10		

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE, BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Sept. 10, 1944, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

At St. Peter's Hall,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor size 15 in C.

MISS JESSIE C. CHICK	1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS	5-6
MRS. F. J. MARSHALLSAY	3-4	FRANCIS S. WILSON	7-8

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

FELKIRK, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., Sept. 11, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes,

At No. 3, FELKIRK, SOUTH HIENDLEY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

DANIEL SMITH	1-2	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY	5-6
HAROLD CHANT	3-4	RAYMOND FORD	7-8

Composed by GEORGE LEWIS. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

Rung in memory of Mr. J. T. White, 45 years a ringer at St. Peter's, Felkirk.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Sept. 17, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,

At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

MRS. J. THOMAS	1-2	ALBERT J. WALLMAN	5-6
JOHN THOMAS	3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS	7-8

Composed by J. PLATT. Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

First in the method in hand by all.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

MEETING AT WHIMPLE.

A meeting of the Aylesbeare Branch of the Guild of Devon Ringers, held at Whimple on September 9th, was attended by members from Buckfastleigh, East Budleigh, Collaton Raleigh, Dawlish, Heavitree, St. David's and St. Thomas' (Exeter), Honiton Clyst, Kenn, Otterton, Ottery St. Mary, Sowton, Topsham, Withycombe Raleigh and the local tower.

After the service conducted by the Rector, the Rev. E. A. Jullian, assisted by Prebendary E. V. Cox, tea, provided by ladies connected with the local band, was served, and some 60 members and friends were present. Prebendary Cox presided, and in appreciation of the work of Mr. Brooks, late secretary, he proposed that 'he was leaving the branch in a flourishing condition and had earned the gratitude of all the members' be recorded in the minutes. Nine new members were elected. The next meeting was fixed for January 13th at Withycombe Raleigh. The methods rung were Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Minor.

CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

The Editor in his leader of August 4th quite rightly laid stress upon the truth that in the past architects very often ignored the fact that the towers they planned and built would carry swinging rings of bells, and even where they did make provision, often forgot to place therein adequate means of reaching them. How many towers are there without proper access to their upper storeys except by awkward—and often dangerous—ladders? We have noted in the series on central towers many examples where—to get to the ringing chamber and bells—one has a roundabout journey often over or under roofs, or along exposed galleries of some height, very trying to the nerves of the visitor. Again, many belfries are made awkward for the ringers by ill-conceived clock cases or other obstruction. Often where they happen to be at the west end on the ground floor the sexton invariably uses this for his cleaning utensils, buckets, mops, ladders, etc., and perhaps to house the bier and other paraphernalia. It is not only such things as these that make ringers and ringing uncomfortable, but many other difficulties have to be surmounted, such as where the base of a tower forms a porch and the congregation pass through the circle of ropes. These are but a few of the awkward things that ringers find, and there are many curious and even quaint belfries scattered over the countryside.

In this series I hope to give examples of the more notable of these, of course only mentioning such places where there are five bells and over. These are primarily of interest to change ringers, but there are hundreds of others with less numbers of bells.

Everyone is familiar with the famous tower of St. Botolph's, Boston, Lincs, often called 'Boston Stump.' The tower, built in the Perpendicular style, rises in stately grandeur to a height of 272½ft., and is divided into four storeys, the bells hanging in the third, with the ringing chamber immediately beneath and over the groined ceiling which is 156ft. above the floor. Before the great restoration in 1932 there was an old and mixed ring of eight bells with four extra clock bells, cast in 1896 from the small bells which formed the carillon which used to hang in the tower. Ringing was carried on under difficult conditions, and it was not altogether a pleasant task. After climbing 185 steps and opening the belfry door, one was confronted with a very dark cavernous-looking room, 34ft. square by a little over 7ft. high. When one got accustomed to the gloom, one could see a high dome rising up from the centre of the room to within 2ft. 7in. of the ceiling. Round the bottom of this dome, which was actually the vaulted roof inside the tower, the ringers stood to ring, two on each side, quite close to the wall. The ropes were local made and had no proper sallies, merely a bit of wool woven in, and as one could only see the head and shoulders of the ringers opposite it was difficult to see if they were at hand or back stroke. The 'so-called sallies' went round the wheels, and it was impossible to manipulate the ropes and keep them on the bell wheels unless they were slipped through the hand at every stroke. The bells were hung immediately above, and a tall ringer could almost touch them. The ceiling was formed of huge oak beams on which the bells were hung, the spaces between the beams had at one time been covered with boards, but most of

these had rotted away, leaving great holes through which the bells could be seen swinging. The noise was terrific, and it was only by using his full lung powers that the conductor could make himself heard. As there were no windows in the place, artificial light had to be used even in daytime. This was provided by candles stuck in brackets round the walls, which when lit produced a very ghostly scene. In spite of these difficulties, a band of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild rang a peal of 5,040 Stedman Triples on October 11th, 1913, in 3 hours 21 minutes, conducted by the late Rev. H. Law Jamies.



BOSTON STUMP.

In 1932 a great restoration scheme was carried out, and the bells all recast and rehung in a new iron and steel frame on specially constructed concrete bases, some 10 to 12ft. higher in the tower. The floor of the ringers' room was also raised, which, although still leaving the central dome protruding, does not now interfere with the ringers' view. There is now a well-lighted and airy belfry of about 10½ft. high, and it is a pleasure to ring the ten bells hung for ringing in full swing. There are also four clock bells hung 'dead.' Since restoration, a number of peals of Caters and Royal have been rung by both local and visiting ringers. The weight of the new tenor is 21 cwt. 1 qr. 10 lb., and this—a descendant of one cast in 1657, bears an inscription on one side surmounted by a Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes, cast on shields, indicating the part played in the restoration by the Bostonians of Massachusetts. The connection between the two towns is not in name only: they are linked up through the Pilgrim Fathers.

(To be continued.)

DEATH OF MR. R. N. RUNHAM.

The death is announced of Mr. Richard N. Runham, Reading, who passed away on September 9th at the age of 52 years.

The funeral at St. Michael's, Tilehurst, was attended by many ringers. Before the service the bells were rung half-muffled, and over the grave a course of Grandsire Triples was rung by Messrs. Goodger, Lewington, A. Osborne and R. T. Hibbert. Touches of Stedman and Grandsire Triples were rung on the church bells in the evening.

Mr. Runham learned to ring in 1906 at St. Laurence's, Reading, and rang his first peal there in 1910. In 1912 he was employed at Warner's bell foundry at Spitalfields and during that time he rang several peals with the Society of Cumberland Youths. He served in the last war and in 1918 returned to Reading, where he joined the band at St. Giles' and afterwards at Tilehurst. He was elected captain of the last-mentioned belfry in 1939. He had rung 63 peals, which included Stedman Triples and Caters, Grandsire Triples, Caters and Cinques, Bob Major and Minor, Kent Treble Bob Major, Double Norwich, Cambridge Surprise Major, Superlative and Bristol Surprise Major, and Kent Treble Bob Maximus.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT BEVERLEY.**

A meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association, held at Beverley on September 2nd, was attended by about 60 members from Barnby Don, Beverley (Minster and St. Mary's), Cottingham, Hessle, Hull (Holy Trinity and St. Mary's), Howden, Headingley (St. Michael's), Kirk Ella, Market Weighton, Nunburnholme, Patrington, Selby Abbey and York Minster, and visitors from Scunthorpe, Ulceby, Lincolnshire, and London.

Service in St. Mary's was conducted by the Vicar, and the address was given by the Vicar of the Minster, the Rev. D. T. Dick.

Tea was served in the Mayor's Parlour in the Guildhall, and the company were received by the Mayor of Beverley, Alderman W. Hutchinson.

The business meeting was presided over by Mr. A. H. Fox, the vice-president, supported by the Mayor, the Vicars of the Minster and St. Mary's and the district officers.

Mr. William Jobson, of St. Mary's, Beverley, was elected a member, and Mr. Nolan Golden, of Norwich, a life member.

Market Weighton was selected as the next place of meeting, to be held this year if possible.

The methods rung included Stedman and Grandsire Caters and Triples, and Plain and Kent Treble Bob Royal, Major and Minor.

A collection for the Association's Bell Repair Fund realised £1 10s. 10d.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT FARNHAM ROYAL.**

Members from Amersham, Boyne Hill, Beaconsfield, Braywood, Burnham, Cookham, Fulmer, Old Windsor, Penn, Slough, Stoke Poges and Wendover, and visitors from Rochester Row, Feltham, Bushey and St. Albans attended a meeting of the East Berks and South Bucks District of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, held at Farnham Royal on August 26th. Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. C. W. Warner, who welcomed the Guild. Mr. Fowler proposed a vote of thanks and said he was glad to see so many young ringers present.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Mr. H. J. Poole's letter leaves us exactly where we were. He contributes nothing for us to consider in the way of advantages for diocesan guilds as opposed to the Midland Counties Association.

If he would indicate where the association has failed to cater for ringers (after all, the noted band at Burton in the past was a product of the association and the present prominence of the Leicester district has been developed within it), then we could begin to consider where diocesan guilds could be an improvement.

As the proposer of the scheme, surely Mr. Poole has something better to put before the members than merely suggesting how the guilds should be constituted and how the finances should be allocated.

We in Derby consider we have an association which caters for our requirements, and the visitors we get at our meetings indicates that others think as we do.

W. LANCASTER.

83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

TECHNICAL TERMS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Though the use of the terms 'up' and 'down' by ringers seems puzzling to musicians and beginners there is logic in the convention. We invariably write 123456 or 213546 when we put changes on paper, and it is the almost universal practice to hang rings in the same direction, left to right. As one correspondent said, 2 or 12 is a higher place than 1. Hence the treble moves 'up' to a higher place. The terms 'up' and 'down' are used commonly for direction to a place. The 'up' line to London wherever we may be in England runs from left to right, if we face London, and traffic to a place is on the 'near' side and runs from left to right in that direction. It is interesting to note that the movement 'up' the scale on a piano is left to right. Hence it would appear that since the treble moves from its position left to right it must go 'up.'

Okehampton.

FREDK. C. SMALE.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

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MUFFLES,
Etc,

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official Journal of the Central Council or
Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.

The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

PLAIN BOB FOURTEEN-IN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In common, no doubt, with many others of your readers,
I have noted with interest the progress made by Mr. John Thomas
and his band of handbell ringers in recent months at Enfield, and I
should appreciate the opportunity of congratulating them, especially,
of course, upon the peal of Plain Bob on 14 bells which they accom-
plished on August 27th. Such a performance calls for a degree of
skill, concentration and patience, of which the Enfield band may
justly feel proud.

But mingled with my pleasure and interest there is now a certain
disappointment and feeling of regret—a feeling which I venture to
suggest is by no means confined to myself—that is occasioned by the
footnote to the peal, which states that it is 'the first peal rung on
14 bells.' Indeed, I am surprised, not only that Mr. Thomas should
make such a claim, but also that you, who as Editor have shown such
discrimination in the publication of footnotes, should countenance it.

You yourself, Mr. Editor, are obviously aware that the claim is
untenable because on the previous page of the same number of 'The
Ringing World' you publish particulars of two peals of Stedman
Cinques, one at Leicester and the other at Cheltenham, under the
heading 'Twelve-Bell Peals.' Among the eight-bell peals also you
record two peals of Triples, both, curiously enough, rung at Bir-
mingham.

Most ringers will agree with you that the peals at Leicester and
Cheltenham were, in actual fact, rung on twelve bells and the two at
Birmingham on eight bells; it follows then that the first peal on
fourteen bells was rung at Birmingham in 1922, conducted by Mr.
Albert Walker.

May I hasten to add that it is not primarily because it is a peal
at Birmingham with which the present performance is bound to be
compared that I write to you? I am writing because I feel that as a
result of this obviously false footnote there is a likelihood of the old
controversies being reopened regarding the part played by the ringer:
(a) of the treble in all methods where that bell is merely hunting up
and down, and (b) of the tenor behind. We all know that a man can
ring the treble to London Surprise and be entirely ignorant of the
method itself, and that if a peal is achieved under such conditions he
may obviously claim to have taken part in a peal of London Surprise,
if he desires to do so. Such claims, of course, used frequently to be
made, and it is one of the virtues of your present policy regarding
footnotes that they no longer appear, even though quite justifiable
logically. Everyone, too, would agree, I suppose, that Mr. Ernest
Morris took part in a peal of Stedman Cinques at Leicester on August
26th, but if the footnote to the Enfield peal is correct, then Mr.
Morris was not present at all.

Arguments of this nature, however, will get us nowhere. As has
been pointed out on many occasions, there are certain conventions in
connection with change ringing, and especially with its terminology,
that must be accepted if we are to understand one another at all;
certainly they must be accepted if your peal columns are to remain
intelligible to the majority. And a spirit of healthy rivalry in the
Exercise can undoubtedly be a spur to progress. But surely I detract
nothing from the merit of the peal of Plain Bob at Enfield when I
congratulate the band on having rung the first peal of Fourteen-in
and the second peal on fourteen bells?

102, Vicarage Road, Smethwick, 41.

FRANK E. HAYNES.

[Reference to this letter is made in the leading article.]

THE BELLS OF ST. MARY'S.

An address delivered on September 16th, in Acton Parish Church, by the Editor of 'The Ringing World.'

We are here this afternoon as part of the celebrations to mark the seven-hundredth anniversary of the foundation of this church, and my job is to say something about the bells which hang in the steeple. There is a lot to be said about church bells. They have borne a long and intimate part in the common life of the people, and books can be written, and have been written about them, their history, their archaeology, and their uses.

But when we come to speak about any particular peal of bells the case is different. History only concerns itself with individual things when they are outstanding and unusual. There are hundreds of peals throughout the country, and we shall best understand the history of any one of them, not so much in the rather scanty details we can gather from old churchwardens' accounts and parish records, as in the general story of the church bells of England.

That is true of the bells here in Acton. They are an average peal typical of hundreds of peals throughout the country. They are not remarkable in any particular way for their beauty of tone, or weight, or age, or inscriptions. They have played no great part in the art of change ringing. They are an average peal, which, with their predecessors, have served the interests of the church and people of Acton for many generations.

The oldest bell now hanging in the steeple was cast in the year 1637 during the reign of King Charles the First. That is not very old as church bells go. There are hundreds throughout the country just as old and many much older. Acton had bells long before that. In fact, we may be quite sure that when the first church was built on this site 700 years ago a bell was hung in it. It was quite a small bell, much smaller than any in the tower now, and it probably hung in a wooden structure above the roof.

BEGINNINGS OF RINGING.

That bell no doubt served the church for many years by itself. But as the years went on and the church was rebuilt and provided with a tower, one or two heavier and more powerful bells were provided. Then came the time, somewhere about the year 1400, say rather more than five hundred years ago, when Englishmen began to ring their bells in peal, which was really the beginnings of our present-day ringing.

For the benefit of those present who are not ringers, I should explain the difference between tolling and chiming, and ringing. When a bell is tolled or chimed it is swung only just enough to make the clapper strike it on one side, and that need be no more than a few inches. But in ringing the bell is swung high enough for the clapper to strike fully on both sides, and to allow the rate of striking to be controlled and varied. Actually we ringers to-day swing our bells a full circle at every blow, from mouth upwards round to mouth upwards again. Five hundred years ago the bells were not swung quite so high as that, but they were swung high enough to make ringing a distinctive and new thing in the use of bells.

This ringing became very popular with the people, and in order to carry it out they added to the number of bells in their towers and cast and tuned them to a musical scale. It was a distinctively English invention, for though there are many bells in Christendom and indeed all over the world, nowhere else except in this country, and the countries where Englishmen have settled, are bells cast and tuned to be rung together. Belgium and the Low Countries have many bells tuned to a musical scale, but they are used for tune playing, and are not, and cannot be, swung.

For the purposes of this early ringing three, four or five bells were necessary, and during the fifteenth century parishes all over the country, in town and village alike, were increasing their bells to those numbers. More were not needed, and another century went by before there were rings of six anywhere except in a few special instances.

SAUNCE BELLS.

About what happened at Acton we have no definite information, but we may conclude that the parish followed the fashion and added to the number of bells. Perhaps there were three shortly before the year 1400. Probably there were four before the year 1500. We do know that there were four ringing bells in the reign of King Edward the Sixth, for in the year 1552 a general survey was made of all the goods and ornaments in all the parish churches throughout the country, and most of the inventories then sent in by the churchwardens, including that for Acton, still exist, and are preserved at the Public Record Office.

Meanwhile, what had happened to the humble little bell which hung in the first church? Probably it had been broken through usage once or twice and had been recast. But it may not have been. One thing we may be certain of. It was not discarded and thrown out of use. It continued to hang among its younger and bigger sisters, and, because of its handy size, was used for several purposes connected with the ritual of the services. It is mentioned in the 1552 inventory and is called there a saunce bell. Saunce bells were common everywhere. Whether, as I am inclined to suspect, they were the original bells which survived when the larger ringing peal was supplied, or whether they were later introduced to meet a fairly obvious need, cannot be known, but they continued in regular use down to quite recent times, and there are still scores of them in the country, mostly,

of course, recast in later years. Ealing Parish Church has one still, and there is the equivalent of them in all the London city churches.

It became the fashion in some places to hang the old saunce bell in a turret on the top of the tower for the clock to strike on. The idea was that the bell could be heard further, if it were more or less in the open, than when it was in the bell chamber among the other bells. This is what happened at Acton. Acton had a clock in 1552, and some time (in the early seventeenth century, I imagine) the old saunce bell, which had been recast during the previous century, was hung on the top of the steeple for the clock to strike on. And there it served the parish for another two hundred or two hundred and fifty years.

When the present lofty tower was erected seventy years ago and the bells restored and put into their present form, the new clock was made to strike and chime on the new bells. The work of the old saunce bell was finished. It ought to have been pensioned off and hung either among the other bells or down inside the church as a most interesting and valuable link with the past. But unfortunately the then churchwardens and the men who were engaged on the rebuilding of the church had not enough imagination. Bell metal was wanted for the new tenor, and so they broke up the old saunce bell to help to supply it. It was a great pity, but there is at least this thought—that it is quite possible that the metal of the bell which was rung seven hundred years ago from the first church on this site is still included in the bells we have just been ringing, and it is certain that the tenor is in some rather small degree composed of metal which was in use here four hundred years ago.

What became of the four bells which hung in the steeple in 1552? As individual bells they have gone. Probably they suffered the fate of so many other bells and were broken in the course of their service. Or it may be that one or more of them was recast to adapt them to new conditions when the number of the ring was increased to meet the expanding needs of ringing. First, and probably in 1637, the number was increased to five. That was the year when Ellis Knight, of Reading, a noted bell founder of the time, cast the present seventh which then became the tenor of the ring. Perhaps he recast some or all of the others. Later on, the ring was further augmented to six, and in 1712 the present sixth, the second oldest bell in the tower, was recast by James Bagley.

The last alteration of the bells was in the year 1877, when the present lofty steeple was built. John Warner and Sons, of Cripple-gate, who made the familiar chime bells in the clock tower at Westminster, added a treble and tenor and recast some of the others, thus completing the octave.

The bells have had a chequered career; all of the old ones have been recast, some more than once, but it is quite reasonable to think that at least a substantial part of the metal of the bells which were in use here before the Reformation is still doing duty in the present bells in the steeple.

ANCIENT MIDDLESEX BELLS.

I have said that the oldest bell now in the steeple was cast in 1637. That is three hundred years ago, not a long time as the ages of bells go, but it is a long time in the history of the modern world.

All through those years and all through the many changes which took place, the bell was serving exactly the same purpose as it does to-day and in the same way. Church bells are one of the strongest links we have with the Church and people of bygone ages.

Here in Middlesex we have not many really old bells. Not far away in the old church at Kingsbury there hangs a bell which was cast about the year 1350 in the reign of King Edward the Third, when Englishmen were fighting in France where they are fighting to-day, and had just fought the battle of Crecy, a victory as hardly won and as complete as that lately achieved by our armies. Another bell of much the same date is at Greenford. These are small humble bells which have survived because they were in tiny obscure villages, where the people were not numerous enough or wealthy enough to build a church tower big enough to hold a full ringing peal. At Brentford there is a bell cast about the year 1510, just after Henry the Eighth came to the throne; and another at Twickenham of about the same date. These two bells take their places among the other and later bells. I have rung each of them to a peal and there are many here to-day who have rung them to touches and never known that they were in any way older or different from the bells cast in recent years.

I do not think there are any other things in the country which have been in so long and constant use as some of our church bells. Of course, we have many churches which date from a much earlier time and all along have been used for the service of religion. But though the main fabrics may be substantially the same as when the buildings were erected, they have in all cases been altered and restored and added to. The bells are the same in every way, for once a bell is cast—apart perhaps for a little tuning—it cannot be altered. A recast bell is a new bell.

The most remarkable thing about church bells is the extraordinary hold they have had through many centuries on the affections of the people of this country and the wonderful power they have of stirring the emotions and appealing to the feelings of persons of every sort. Poets have been strongly influenced by them. Not merely poets of the weaker and more sentimental type, but the greatest of all poets, like Shakespeare, and Milton, and Tennyson, and Keats. That per-

(Continued on next page.)

THE BELLS OF ST. MARY'S.

(Continued from previous page.)

haps we might have expected. But bells have also the power to stir the deepest emotions in ordinary commonplace men and women in the street. Not, of course, everyone and but seldom anyone, but the appeal does exist.

We had a most striking example of the hold bells have on the affections of the people nearly two years ago, when, after a long silence, they rang for the victory of El Alamein. I believe that Sunday when the bells rang will go down to history as the great dividing point of this war, the time when England felt, rather than knew, that the supreme crisis had been met and passed. Church bells spoke for the whole nation then and they have done so many times throughout the centuries.

Those were exceptional occasions, and the appeal of the bells is usually to the individual on some occasion which specially concerns him alone. It is extraordinary how deep and lasting has been the love of ordinary average Englishmen for the bells of their parish churches. To-day to the Englishman abroad nothing seems so typical of home and its blessings as the sound of the bells. This age-long affection is shown by the care the laity have always taken of the bells. The bells were the one thing in the church that the laity valued more than anything else. They provided for them, kept them in order, and controlled their use. Until quite recent times the clergy appear to have had little or no say in the matter.

Anyone who has studied the churchwardens' accounts which still exist and which go back in some cases for five hundred years cannot fail to be struck with the important part the bells played in parish affairs. Far more money was spent on the bells than on any other thing connected with the church.

A VOICE.

It seems a great mystery that bells should have this great and lasting appeal to ordinary people. I think it is really due to the fact that a bell is essentially not a musical instrument, but a voice. It is one of the two supreme instruments man has invented to extend and increase the range and power of his own voice. The other is the trumpet. These two have made a longer and wider appeal to humanity than any other sound producing instrument.

A man uses his voice for two purposes. One is to convey messages and the other is to express emotions and feelings. And that was what bells were cast for. In the early ages their primary use was to convey definite messages. Some of them concerned the services of the church and some of them the secular, social life of the people. Bells were sounded to mark the beginning and ending of the day's labour, to regulate the opening and closing of markets and taverns, the outbreak of fire, or to call the people together for some civil purpose; as well as to indicate the hours of divine service or the death of some person.

BELLS AND THE POWERS OF EVIL.

For these purposes single bells were generally used, but when emotion was expressed all the bells were rung together and swung as high as they could be, to get the greatest volume of sound out of them. This ringing, too, was as much for secular as for religious purposes.

Ringling for religious purposes in the Middle Ages seems to have been almost confined to ringing at the processions during High Mass on Sundays and festivals and as a defence against evil spirits.

In early mediæval times men did really believe in the existence of wicked spirits. They were called upon to fight, not merely with abstract evil, but with evil personalities—a host of beings that existed in time and space, and were like men except that they were enormously more powerful and were invisible. It was an evil spirit that rode in the tempest to destroy the works of men, that scattered the pestilence to ruin their bodies, and that hung over their death beds, waiting to catch the soul as soon as it should be released from the body to bear it to everlasting damnation.

But if these men believed in evil spirits, they also believed in good. They believed in angels and in the great company of the Saints of God. They felt that if like Elisha's servant their eyes could be opened, they would see the whole mountain full of chariots and horsemen round about them. The fight with the evil spirits was a terrible one, but here was help for the asking. And there are other ways of asking besides the spoken word. Hence those symbolical acts and ritual which mean so much at their highest and so little at their lowest. The man who made the sign of the cross was invoking the whole tremendous power of the Incarnation; the priest who sprinkled holy water was appealing to the cleansing power of goodness, and the voice of the rung bell was a defiance flung in the face of principalities and powers, and the rulers of the darkness of the world; and an appeal to angels and archangels, and to the spirits of just men made perfect.

That was the ideal. That was exorcism at its best. But we do not need much knowledge of human nature to realise that the time was bound to come when the spirit and the reality were lost sight of in the sign; and the bells themselves were supposed to possess magical powers. That point had long since been reached in the sixteenth century and when men who shared either the scientific and sceptical spirit of the Renaissance, or the religious spirit of the Reformation, looked at all this ringing of bells to allay tempests or keep away the devil, it was no more than a sham and a lie.

One of the chief notes of the prayer book is sincerity. Nothing of the old service books was retained that could not stand the most rigorous tests of utility and truth, and inevitably all this sacramental and semi-liturgical ringing of bells had to go. One of the things the bishops and rulers of the Church set themselves to stamp out was what was called 'superstitious' ringing.

It was a necessary reform; but unfortunately the result was that ringing (as distinct from tolling and chiming) became almost entirely secular. This tendency was increased by two things. One was the strong Sabbatarian opinions held by the puritan party in the Church. They maintained that any ringing on Sundays, other than the tolling of one bell to call the people together, was Sabbath breaking and a sin. The other was the spread of bellringing as an athletic sport. This began long before the Reformation and increased during the reign of Queen Elizabeth when it was very popular among all classes of people. Our art of change ringing came a little later, but I have no time to speak about that.

For three centuries ringing remained chiefly secular, but during the last sixty years or so it has been recovered for the service of the Church, and nowadays wherever it is possible the bells are rung for the Sunday services. It has been the work of the great associations like our Middlesex Association to bring about this reform.

And though ringing was for so long mainly secular, it was little the worse for that, for it was always associated in the minds of hearers with the Church and the highest things in life. As a poet has said, it was always England's 'best music—a music hallowed by all circumstances—which, though it falls on many an unheeding ear, never fails to find some hearts which it exhilarates and some which it softens.'

FUNERAL OF MR. MAURICE SWINFELD.

The funeral of Mr. Maurice Swinfeld, whose death we announced last week, was at St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, on September 11th. Before the service a guard of honour was formed by Messrs. A. G. Foster, G. Roden, A. Wright, W. Leech, G. Harris, S. Ainger, of St. Paul's, J. H. Brittan, of St. Modwen's, R. H. Dove, of Leeds, T. W. Chapman, of Worcester, E. Beadmoore, of Ashby, J. Paget,

of Derby, and J. W. Cotton and W. H. Curson, of Overseale. Afterwards a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on the bells half-muffled. Over the grave in Burton Cemetery a course of Grandsire Triples on handbells was rung by J. W. Cotton 1-2, J. Paget 3-4, E. W. Beadmoore 5-6, W. H. Curson 7-8. In the evening St. Paul's bells were rung half-muffled.

Maurice Swinfeld, who was the son of John H. Swinfeld, a ringer well known in the Midland Counties, was born at Earl Shilton in Leicestershire on February 14th, 1898, and therefore was in his forty-seventh year when he died. He learnt to ring at St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, where his father was leader of the band, and there he rang his first peal, one of Stedman Triples, on December 27th, 1920. Two years later, on December 26th, 1922, at Overseale, he called his first peal, Mr. John O. Lancashire's variation of Washbrook's four-part composition of Stedman Triples.

Mr. Swinfeld specialised as a conductor of Stedman Triples, and the great majority of his peals, which numbered nearly 250, were in that method. He called most of them and almost always a different composition. In that respect he set up a standard for the method far higher than any other conductor has reached. His other peals as conductor included Duffield, Forward and Little Bob Major, Grandsire Triples and Caters, and Stedman Caters.



MR. MAURICE SWINFELD.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.

MEETING AT NEW ALRESFORD.

A practice meeting, held at New Alresford on September 2nd, was attended by visitors from various towers in the Winchester and Southampton districts, and from Croydon and Bedford. Ringing ranged from Grandsire and Oxford Bob Triples to the Surprise methods.

SEVEN BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 383.)

College Double Triples. Clements Triples

1234567	1234567
2143576	2143657
2415367	2416375
4251376	4261357
2453167	2463175
4235617	4236715
2436571	2463751
4263751	4236571
2467315	2463517
4276135	4236157
2471653	2431675
4217635	4213657
4126753	4126375
1462735	1462735
<hr/>	
1647253	1647253
6174235	6174523
6712453	6715432
7621435	7651423

About twenty pure Triples methods with six working bells and 3-lead plain courses have come down to us from the early eighteenth century. Some are duplicates except for the bob making; some are unsymmetrical; and some have irregular lead ends. The first of these last two defects is not so important as it is in the Triples methods with 6-lead plain courses; and the second defect is not so important as it is in Major and Royal methods. Still they are serious enough to make the methods not worth ringing, and should at any time a band desire to attempt a peal in a method belonging to this class, their choice ought to be confined to four—the two we gave last week and the two we give this week. The original College Triples we described in our last article, and College Double Triples is the same method, but with 4-pull dodging in front as well as behind. Each bell does a 4-pull dodge in 1-2, makes Fifths and Thirds, does a 4-pull in 6-7, and makes Thirds and Fifths. In the plain course the second, fifth and sixth do the 4-pull dodges in 1-2 up and 6-7 down after they have turned the treble; and the third, fourth and seventh do the 4-pull dodges in 1-2 down and 6-7 up after the treble has turned them.

In Twickenham Triples the second, fifth and sixth in the plain course do a single dodge in 1-2 up, a double dodge in 6-7 down, and a single dodge in 1-2 up, make Fifths and Thirds places, and hunt up behind and down again to the lead.

The third, fourth and seventh do the same work in reverse order. Each in turn makes Thirds and Fifths, dodges in 1-2 down, double dodges in 6-7 up, dodges in 1-2 down, and hunts up behind and down again.

In the plain course of Clements Triples the second, fifth and sixth in turn do a 4-pull dodge in 1-2 up and

a single dodge in 6-7 up, make Fifths, do a single dodge in 6-7 up, make Thirds do a double dodge in 3-4 and make Fifths. The third, fourth and seventh do the same work in reverse order—a 4-pull dodge in 1-2 down, Fifths, a double dodge in 3-4, Thirds, a single dodge in 6-7 down, Fifths, and another single dodge in 6-7 down.

A method like this, with its two distinct courses and variety of work, should prove quite interesting enough for any band, even the most skilful.

In all these methods the place making and dodging above the treble are at handstroke and all below the treble at backstroke. There are two obvious ways of making the bob. One is to move the Fifths place when the treble is leading at hand to Sevenths—

4126753 instead of 4126753

1462573 1462735

and the other is to move it to Thirds—

4126753 instead of 4126753

1427635 1462735

The single (which is a necessary call) can be made by the bells in 1-2 lying still when the treble is leading full.

There remain to be considered the seven bell methods which have no hunts and in which all the bells work alike. Of these Stedman is the outstanding example, and Stedman has proved such a useful and popular method that the natural hope is that there are other and somewhat similar methods almost as good. Unfortunately that hope has been and always will be disappointed. Stedman stands by itself, and there is none other of the same class worth troubling about. There is Erin, which is the Slow Sixes of Stedman and which in practice is about as unsatisfactory as its name; and there is the miscalled Original. Both of these are show pieces for conductors, but of very little interest to the average ringer. The other methods of the group are generally incapable for producing true peals.

The number of good seven bell methods is much smaller than that of the six and eight bell methods, but our survey has shown that in peals of Triples there are still unexplained fields which await skilful and enterprising bands.

(Concluded.)

THE BISHOP OF LIVERPOOL.*To the Editor*

Dear Sir,—An item of interest in connection with the Rev. Clifford A. Martin, the new Bishop of Liverpool, is that he was a practising member of the St. Andrew's, Plymouth, band, and has been awarded the certificate of proficiency of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers.

FREDK. C. SMALE.

Oakfield, Station Road, Okehampton.

ACTON.—On Sunday, September 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Jeffrey Birt (first quarter) 1, A. Jones 2, J. A. Trollope 3, J. E. L. Cockey 4, F. A. Finch 5, H. Kilby 6, A. Harding 7, E. C. S. Turner (conductor) 8.

COOKHAM, BERKS.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss C. Tuck 1, Miss J. Tubb 2, T. Burton 3, Miss J. Caught 4, Sergt. P. Toccock (conductor) 5, Pte. K. Tuck 6.

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MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

HATFIELD, HERTS.—On Saturday, September 2nd, 1,263 Stedman Caters: A. Lawrence 1, W. Nash 2, C. F. Sayer 3, A. S. Carter 4, A. W. Coles (conductor) 5, A. Day 6, S. W. Cull 7, H. L. Nobbs 8, A. R. Lawrence 9, H. J. Hazell 10.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—On Thanksgiving Day, September 3rd, at the Cathedral, 420 Stedman Triples and three courses of Stedman Caters, and at St. John's, two courses of Stedman Triples and three courses Double Norwich Court Bob Major: Miss Sheila Mackay, W. H. Barber (conductor), J. Anderson, A. W. Greenwood, W. Story, C. L. Routledge, G. Pickering, H. Cliff, J. E. Gofton, J. E. R. Keen, L. Ingledew and Corpl. Ellis.

TROWBRIDGE.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: J. Francis 1, W. Loud 2, *Mrs. Penn 3, C. Butcher 4, W. Baxter 5, R. Amor 6, *F. Penn 7, E. Parker 8, G. H. Harding (conductor) 9, S. Francis 10. *First quarter of Caters.

PIDDINGTON, NORTHANTS.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 720 Bob Minor: Miss H. Arnold (first 720) 1, W. Hammons 2, J. Linnitt 3, G. Care 4, J. Fitzhugh 5, R. Noon (conductor) 6.

PORTISHEAD, SOMERSET.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. Hancock 1, Mrs. B. Jelley 2, A. Lane 3, G. Talbot 4, R. G. Williams 5, Lieut. C. Glenn (conductor) 6, N. Coombs 7, A. Colbourn 8.

BATH.—At the Abbey, on Sunday, September 3rd, 720 Grandsire Caters: Mrs. G. Savill 1, Mrs. A. Evans 2, W. J. Prescott 3, G. Hawkins 4, F. W. Alleyway 5, M. Smart 6, F. Merrett 7, T. F. King (conductor) 8, J. Hallett 9, S. Woodburn 10.

HINCKLEY.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss Madge Grewcock (first quarter-peal of Grandsire) 1, John Ison 2, George Thompson 3, Frank Trotman (conductor) 4, George Charlton 5, Bert Ridgway 6, William Aldridge 7, Cyril Ison 8.

SOLIHULL.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: W. Leeson 1, V. W. Rigg 2, J. N. Jukes 3, C. W. Bragg 4, E. C. Shepherd (conductor) 5, H. Shepherd 6, H. Bragg 7, S. Bragg 8, J. Bragg 9, A. Bragg 10.

FINCHLEY, MIDDLESEX.—On September 3rd, 720 Grandsire Doubles: G. Barand (first 720) 1, J. Whiting 2, F. Barker 3, T. Bevan 4, F. Prachett (conductor) 5, A. Richardson (first 720) 6.

ST. ALBANS, HERTS.—On September 3rd, at St. Peter's, 1,320 Kent Treble Bob Royal: R. Darvill 1, H. E. C. Goodenough 2, A. V. Good 3, C. F. Sayer 4, W. J. Arnold 5, G. Blake 6, W. Hughes 7, *W. A. Beddard 8, *R. Ewer 9, W. Ayre (conductor) 10. *First quarter-peal of Kent Royal.

NORTH STONEHAM.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 1,025 Grandsire Caters: Roy Linter 1, J. W. Faithfull 2, E. Dumper 3, C. J. Fray 4, *N. Hayes 5, M. Crawley 6, G. Williams (conductor) 7, R. Brown 8, W. T. Tucker 9, *C. Taylor 10. *Longest length.

CLAVERLEY, SHROPSHIRE.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 720 Bob Minor (with 7 and 8 covering): L. W. Francis 1, E. Drew (conductor) 2, J. Marsh 3, G. Goodson 4, C. Jones 5, F. Hinton 6, T. Davies 7, W. H. Francis 8.—Also on Friday, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles (10 callings), half-muffled: L. W. Francis 1, E. Drew (conductor) 2, G. Goodson 3, C. Jones 4, F. Hinton 5, T. Davies 6.

MAISEY HAMPTON, GLOS.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: W. C. Cuss 1, G. H. Pearce 2, W. A. Godwin (conductor) 3, H. Prophet 4, E. Cooper 5, L. W. Cuss 6.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 720 Oxford Treble Bob, 720 Kent Treble Bob, 360 St. Clement's Bob, 144 Bob Minor: J. Smith 1, G. W. Peverell 2, S. Bryant 3, J. West 4, G. Hutchinson 5, R. B. Robinson (conductor) 6, H. Sanderson tenor.

BRISTOL.—On Sunday, September 3rd, at St. Luke's, Brislington, 1,020 Grandsire Doubles: Frederick Brine 1, William Stowell (conductor) 2, Ronald Porter 3, John Stallard 4, Donald Marsh 5, Edward Humphries 6.

HINCKLEY, LEICS.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss Madge Grewcock 1, J. Ison 2, G. Thompson 3, F. Trotman (conductor) 4, G. Charlton 5, B. Ridgway 6, W. Aldridge 7, C. Ison 8.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT USK.

A meeting of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association was held at Usk on September 9th. Service was conducted by the Vicar, who presided over the business meeting which followed the tea. Reference was made to the deaths of Messrs. John Austin and W. H. Fussell, and Bridgend was selected as the place of the next meeting.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT OCKBROOK.

A meeting of the Derby District of the Midland Counties Association, held at Ockbrook on August 26th, was attended by about thirty ringers from Radford, Aston, Shardlow, Ilkeston, Sawley, Hinckley, Derby (St. Peter's and St. Luke's), Alveston and Spondon.

The methods rung included Grandsire, Stedman and Bob Doubles. Bob Minor, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Double Court and Cambridge Surprise Minor. Three new members were elected, Mr. James Rook, Mr. Walter Shaw and Mr. James Boylin, and it was decided to hold the next meeting at Duffield on September 23rd.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

Meeting at Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Saturday, Sept. 23rd, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.

—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.

—Meeting at Heptonstall, Saturday, Sept. 23rd, 2 p.m.

—Wm. Ambler, Hon. Dis. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.

—Meeting at Handsworth, Sept. 23rd. Bells (8) 3 p.m.

—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and

South Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Braywood (5 bells), Saturday, Sept. 23rd, 3 p.m. — A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans

District.—Meeting at Harpenden, Sept. 23rd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea at Swallow Cafe 5 p.m. Names for tea to R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at

Bridgnorth (St. Mary's and St. Leonard's), Sept. 23rd, 1 p.m.—F. Colclough, 20, West Castle Street, Bridgnorth.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby

District.—Meeting at Duffield, Saturday, Sept. 23rd, 2.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food and sugar. —Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chad-desden, Derby.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge

Deanery.—Meeting at Wedmore, Saturday, Sept. 23rd. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m., in Church Schoolrooms.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chester Branch.—

Practice at St. Mary-within-the-Walls, Chester (8 bells), Saturday, Sept. 23rd, 5.45 p.m.—J. W. Clarke, Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAF-

FORD.—Meeting at Tettenhall, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 3 p.m. Service 4.45. Cups of tea in Parish Hall 5.30. Bring food. Frequent buses from G.P.O., Wolverhampton.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at

Manchester, Saturday, September 30th, 2 p.m. Service 3.30. Meeting 4.15. Tea 6. Particulars by circular.—W. H. Shuker, 36, Colwyn Avenue, Fallowfield, Manchester 14, and T. Wilson, 118, Langham Road, Blackburn, Hon. Secs.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern Divi-

sion.—Meeting Shoreham, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 2.45 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and meeting 5.30 p.m. Names for tea by Wednesday, Sept. 27th, to Mrs. E. L. Hairs, Hon. Sec., The Oaks, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Coalbrookdale (10 bells), Saturday, Sept. 30th, 3 p.m. Service 4. Cups of tea and cakes provided. Bring sandwiches. Buses from Wellington.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Special branch meeting and presentation to Mr. F. W. Romaine, St. Martin's, Salisbury, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea (1s. 6d.) 4.30 p.m., followed by presentation. Names for tea before Monday, Sept. 25th. Subscription list closed on Sept. 25th.—E. G. Caple, Branch Chairman, Wilton, Salisbury.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Hethersett on Saturday, Sept. 30th, 2 p.m. Service 4.45. Tea at King's Head 5.30. Names for tea to Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—Meeting at Great Barr, Birmingham, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 3.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., business meeting to follow. Names before Sept. 27th to J. R. Terry, 49, Peak House Road, Great Barr, Birmingham, 22.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch. —Meeting at Caversham, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 2.30 p.m. Service 5.30 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec., 401, London Road, Reading.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kington District.—Meeting at Staunton-on-Arrow, Saturday, Sept. 30th. Bells (6) 5.30. Tea 6.30. Names by Thursday, 28th. — Jabez Preece, Lea Lodge, Staunton-on-Arrow.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District. — Meeting at Thurlaston, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 4 p.m. Business 6 p.m. No tea.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Biggleswade District. — Meeting at Pottton, Saturday, Sept. 30th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

DEVON GUILD.—N.E. Branch.—Meeting at Silverton (8 bells), on Saturday, Sept. 30th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Names for tea to C. G. Dymond, Hon. Sec., Silverton.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Towcester Branch. — Meeting at Brackley, Saturday, Sept. 30th. Service 3.30. Picnic tea (bring food and sugar) 4.15. — Rev. E. V. Fenn, Hon. Sec., Lois Weedon Vicarage, Towcester.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION. — Cirencester Branch. — Meeting at Watermoor, Cirencester, on Sept. 30th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Names for tea by Sept. 26th. Business to follow.—W. H. Hayward, 1, Bowling Green Road, Cirencester, Glos.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. John's, Alloa, on Saturday Sept. 30th, 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea in Townhead Tea Rooms 5 p.m. Names by Sept. 28th to E. A. Stafford, 16, Tabard Road, Glasgow, W.3.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Annual meeting in library, Newcastle Cathedral, on Saturday, Sept. 30th, at 2.30 p.m. St. Mary, Gateshead, bells available. Bring food, cups of tea provided at the Anchorage, Gateshead, at 4.15. Names by Sept. 27th.—Roland Park, Hon. Sec., 23, Oaklands Terrace, Darlington.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch. — Meeting at Harlestone, Saturday, Sept. 30th. Service 4.15 p.m. Bring food. — R. S. Cowley, 83, Beech Avenue, Northampton.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — Meeting at Arksey, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 3 p.m. Names for tea before Sept. 28th. Buses every ten minutes. — W. E. Lloyd, 3, Cranbrook Road, Doncaster.

BOURNEMOUTH.—A combined practice, Sept. 30th, St. John's, Surrey Road (8), 2.30 p.m. Tea, St. Peter's Hall, 5.30. St. Peter's bells 6.30-8. — Rev. C. A. Phillips and E. G. Preston, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Boreham, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 2.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Numbers for tea by Sept. 27th.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — Meeting at Woodlesford, near Rothwell, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 3 p.m. Names for tea (1s. each) to Mr. A. Marsh, 9, Aberford Road, Woodlesford, near Leeds, by Sept. 27th. Royston bus from Leeds 30 minutes past each hour.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Loughborough District. — Meeting at Kegworth, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food. Buses from Coalville every hour; half hour from Nottingham, 20 minutes Loughborough.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION and the **OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD** (East Berks and South Bucks Branch).—Joint meeting at St. John's, Hillingdon, Saturday, October 7th. Details later.—J. E. L. Cockey and A. D. Barker, Hon. Secs.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Oxford City and North Berks Branches. — Joint meeting at Cumnor, Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Ringing, Appleton, 6 p.m. Names for tea to Miss M. R. Cross, The School House, Radley, Abingdon, by Oct. 4th.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Lincoln District.—Meeting at Blankney (6 bells), Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea, 1s. each, at 5 p.m. Names before Oct. 4th.—K. W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Carline Road, Lincoln.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District. — Annual meeting at Tonbridge, Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea at Carlton Cafe 5 p.m. Names to Mr. J. Medhurst, 251, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

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THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

No. 1,749. Vol. XXXIX

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[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 COUNCIL AND THE EXERCISE.

When the projected meeting of the Central Council at Whitsuntide was postponed there was some hope that it would be possible to hold it at a later date during the year. That hope has not been fulfilled. It was based on the possibility that this war would end in much the same way the last did, and when the enemy realised that a victory was out of his reach he would ask for an armistice. To-day the enemy is already beaten, but he is not yet conquered. England will have to wait at least until next year before those peace-time activities, of which the work of the Central Council is one, can be resumed.

Meanwhile, since the last meeting six full years will have gone by. The Council, which was elected in 1939, held one meeting only. The Council which would have been elected in 1943 never came into being. Next year a new Council is due to be elected. Obviously a state of affairs has arisen which will need to be regularised. In accordance with strict rule, the officers and organisation came to an end when the term of the 1939 Council finished. But in abnormal conditions such as the present, strict rule does not and cannot apply. The standing committee, which held one meeting during 1943, decided virtually, if not formally, to treat the war years as if for the purposes of the Council they did not exist. That seems to be the most sensible as well as the most useful way out of the difficulty, and we imagine that when the Council does meet it will take the same view.

The times we are passing through have made, and are making, vast changes in almost everything connected with men's lives and thought. For the moment people are distracted by the abnormal conditions which they look on as temporary. They imagine that they themselves are in no wise changed, and that when peace comes they will think and act much as they did before war came. That, however, will not be possible. Whether he knows it or not, every man's outlook on life and his fellow-men will be different in some way from what it was. Whether this country and the world at large are going to be better or worse will depend, not nearly so much on schemes of social reform and what Governments do, as on the changes in the people themselves. It will be a few years before the effect of these changes shows itself.

The Exercise is a little world which is affected and altered by much the same influences as the great world around it, and in much the same way. It is indeed less liable to violent changes than most things of a like

(Continued on page 402.)

nature, but it will be changed. There will be great opportunities for advance and improvement. That there is much room for improvement no thoughtful person can deny, and we should be glad it is so, for a thing which needs no improvement or cannot be improved is pretty sure to be stagnant and lifeless.

We do not require any elaborate or drastic plans. We do not need to alter our old ideals, and habits, and ambitions. What we do need are wider vision, more unselfishness, and higher standards. Each ringer has a duty to his own band, and can get the best out of his art only when he fulfils that duty. He also has a duty to the Exercise as a whole. It is just because the Central Council represents the whole Exercise and can act for the Exercise and speak for the Exercise, that the ordinary average ringer should take an interest in it and see to it so far as his limited possibilities go that it is composed of the best and most suitable persons.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HALESOWEN, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 23, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST.

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES,

Tenor 17 cwt. in E flat.

THOMAS GREENALL ... Treble	FRANK W. PERRENS ... 5
CLIFFORD SKIDMORE ... 2	NORMAN J. GOODMAN ... 6
WILLIAM B. CARTWRIGHT ... 3	THOMAS HEMMING ... 7
HENRY H. FEARN ... 4	GEORGE E. FEARN ... Tenor

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by WM. B. CARTWRIGHT.

KIDLINGTON, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 23, 1944, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES,

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 23½ cwt.

ALBERT HANCOX ... Treble	*ALAN R. CORNISH ... 5
WILLIAM C. PORTER ... 2	WILLIAM JUDGE ... 6
*CECIL G. CALCUTT ... 3	GEORGE HOLIFIELD ... 7
†MISS VALHALLA HILL ... 4	WALTER F. JUDGE ... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE HOLIFIELD.

* First peal of Triples. † First peal of Grandsire Triples.

ALTON, HAMPSHIRE.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 23, 1944, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES,

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION. Tenor 18 cwt. in E.

GEORGE UPSHALL ... Treble	RAYMOND S. PHILPOTT ... 5
C. ERNEST SMITH ... 2	GEORGE L. GROVER ... 6
FREDERICK OLDROYD ... 3	ALFRED H. PULLING ... 7
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... 4	FRANK C. W. KNIGHT ... Tenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

HALEWOOD, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 23, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES,

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th the observation). Tenor 11 cwt.

THOMAS LEE ... Treble	GEORGE R. NEWTON ... 5
THOMAS W. HESKETH ... 2	EDWIN C. BIRETT ... 6
ARTHUR LINTOTT ... 3	WILLIAM ROBINSON ... 7
FREDERICK W. ALMOND ... 4	PETER HOUGHTON ... Tenor

Conducted by G. R. NEWTON.

Rung for the wedding of Mr. Frank Varty.

HETHERSETT, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 23, 1944, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. REMIGIUS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES,

Tenor 9½ cwt.

MRS. G. SAYER ... Treble	*REV. W. G. BRIDGE ... 5
FREDERICK C. GOODMAN ... 2	GEORGE SAYER ... 6
REV. A. G. G. THURLOW ... 3	RUSSELL W. CURSON ... 7
ERNEST G. SHORTING ... 4	HENRY TOOKE ... Tenor

Composed by JOHN R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by HENRY TOOKE.

* First peal. First peal of Bob Major as conductor.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

TRYSULL, STAFFS.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Sun., Sept. 17, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES,

Being one 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob and Kent Treble Bob, and two 720's each of Single Oxford and Plain Bob.

Tenor 11 cwt.

JOHN LLOYD ... Treble	CLIFFORD SKIDMORE ... 4
*ARTHUR V. PEARSON ... 2	†HOWARD HOWELL ... 5
*ALBERT D. COLLINS ... 3	THOMAS HEMMING ... Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS HEMMING.

* First peal in five methods. † 100th peal for the society.

PITSFORD, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 23, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES,

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor 8 cwt.

*JOHN FITZHUGH ... Treble	WILLIAM HOMMONS ... 3
†MISS HILARY ARNOLD ... 2	*GEOFFREY GAYTON ... 4
GEORGE CARE ... Tenor	

Conducted by GEORGE CARE.

* First peal of Doubles. † First peal.

GAMSTON, NOTTS.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 23, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES,

Seven different extents. Tenor 9 cwt.

OSWY STREET ... Treble	MISS K. BURCHNALL ... 4
*ERNEST PRESTON ... 2	†C. F. BRIGGS ... 5
MISS G. BURCHNALL ... 3	H. DENMAN ... Tenor

Conducted by H. DENMAN.

* First peal. † First peal of Minor.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., Sept. 19, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,
AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5091 CHANGES,

ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 1-2	JOHN THOMAS ... 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4	ERIC A. DENCH ... 7-8
MRS. J. THOMAS ... 9-10	

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by E. C. S. TURNER.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 24, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes,

AT ST. PETER'S HALL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES,

Tenor size 15 in C.

*ANDREW I. PEARMAIN ... 1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS ... 5-6
MRS. F. J. MARSHALLSAY ... 3-4	†PERCY W. BRAYSHAW ... 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

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

NATIONAL GUILD OF POLICE RINGERS.**MEETING AT MANCHESTER.**

At a meeting of the National Guild of Police Ringers, held at Manchester on September 9th, representatives were present from the following Forces: Leicester City, Cardiff City, Liverpool City, Bolton Borough, Manchester City and Leicestershire County. Visitors attended from Bath, Stourbridge, Newcastle (Staffs), Loughborough, Leicester, Macclesfield, Crewe, Bowdon (Cheshire), Liverpool, Bolton and Ashton-under-Lyne. Officers of the Lancashire Association and local ringers were also present.

Ex-Supt. F. R. Williams took the chair at the luncheon at the Piccadilly Restaurant, to which 64 sat down.

Sergt. H. G. Jenney, Leicester City, proposed the toast of 'The National Guild,' and said he thought the state of the Guild was very satisfactory. He paid tribute to the hon. secretary, Inspector H. J. Poole, for his efforts in keeping the Guild active during the war.

The Chairman welcomed the visitors. The hon. secretary reported that 73 members had paid their subscriptions up to date and 22 members were in arrears. There was a balance in hand of £10 10s. His greatest difficulty, he said, was to maintain contact with the Metropolitan members. He appreciated that they had had many other things to think about besides ringing, and extended sympathy to them in their trials and dangers. Mr. W. Wolstencroft and Mr. G. R. Newton replied on behalf of the visitors.

Ringings on the bells at the Town Hall included rounds, Grandsire and Stedman Cinques, Stedman Triples and Caters, and London and Bristol Surprise Major.

Eighty-four persons were present at tea, which was followed by a social evening.

WEDDING.

Two of the ringers at Christ Church, Epsom, P.O., Navigator G. W. Massey and Miss Hilda Mary Mills, were married at Claygate Parish Church on September 16th. The bridegroom is assistant hon. secretary of the North-Western District of the Surrey Association, and the bride is assistant hon. secretary of the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Guild. Ninety relatives and friends were at the reception, and courses of Grandsire Triples and Caters were rung on handbells.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT UPWEY.**

A meeting of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Upwey on September 9th, at which the following towers were represented: Wyke Regis, Dorchester St. Peter, Fordington, Upwey, Abbotsbury, Stratton, Bradford Peverell, Wool and Sydling.

The service in church was conducted by the Rev. A. F. Godley, the lesson was read by the Rev. W. G. E. Squire, Vicar of Abbotsbury, and the address was given by the Rev. A. S. Bryant, Rector of Upwey.

In the absence of the chairman of the branch, Canon Markby, the chair at the business meeting was taken by the Rector. It was arranged to hold fortnightly practices under the leadership of the Ringing Master, Sergt. P. Tocock, beginning on Saturday, September 23rd, at St. Peter's, Dorchester. Two new members, John Lock, of Stratton, and Roy Denford, of Abbotsbury, were admitted.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

A meeting of the Stockport and Bowdon Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild was held at St. Paul's, Stalybridge, on September 9th, when 65 members and friends were present. Three new members were elected from Poynton and two from Cheadle. The date of the joint meeting with the Macclesfield Branch at Macclesfield was altered to October 21st, and the next branch meeting was fixed for Hyde on November 25th. During the evening the bells of Holy Trinity were also available.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT WILLOUGHBY.**

A meeting of the Daventry Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Willoughby on September 23rd. The service was conducted by the Rev. E. S. Powell, and Mr. G. Hancock, chairman of the branch, presided over the business. Mr. Birkinshaw produced the recording of the Staverton bell broadcast to Australia, which was played over. The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, and St. Clement's and Cambridge Surprise Minor.

JOINT MEETING AT RAWMARSH.

A joint meeting of the Barnsley and District Society and the Sheffield and District Society was held at Rawmarsh on September 9th, at which the following towers were represented: Arksey, Bushey, Conisbrough, Barnby Don, Doncaster, Eastwood, Eckington, Felkirk, Handsworth, Rotherham Parish, Sprotbrough, and the local belfry.

A meeting of the Barnsley Society was arranged for October 14th at Kirkthorpe, near Wakefield.

SERVICE TOUCHES.**BOB MINOR.**

720		720	
23456		23456	
23564 1		S 32564 1	
S 25364 5		S 62453 2	
32564 5		S 52436 2	
S 35264 5		S 25463 1	
42356 4		34256 4	
Twice repeated.		Five times repeated	
720		Single half-way and	
23456		end.	
S 32564 1		720	
53264 5		23456	
S 52364 5		S 32564	
42356 4		S 62453	
S 43256 5		S 35462	
24356 5		S 42356	
Repeated.		Five times repeated,	
720		omitting Singles half-	
23456		way and end.	
23564 1		720	
S 54236 4		23456	
S 52436 5		64235 4	
52364 1		S 53264 3	
35264 5		S 52364 5	
42356 4		26435 2	
34256 5		S 53428 3	
S 32456 5		32645 2	
Repeated.		32456 1	
		43256 5	
		24356 5	
		Repeated.	

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION**MEETING AT ACTON.**

In connection with the celebration of the 700th anniversary of the foundation of Acton Parish Church, a meeting of the Middlesex Association was held on September 16th by invitation of the Rector, the Rev. Percival Gough. About 50 members and friends attended, from Acton, Ardingly, Bishopgate (St. Botolph's), Brentford, Chester, Ealing (Christ Church, St. Mary's and St. Stephen's), Edmonton, Erith, Ewell, Harrow, Harmondsworth, Hatch End, Heston, Hillingdon (St. Andrew's and St. John's), Isleworth, Kensington (St. Mary Abbot's), Lewisham, North Mimms, Ruislip, St. Albans, Upper Clapton, Walthamstow, Wembley, Westminster (St. Margaret's and St. Stephen's), Willesden and Worcester Cathedral. With the exception of the president, the Rev. Preb. W. P. Cole Sheane, of Twickenham (who sent an apology), all the officers were present as well as the Rev. and Mrs. Paton, of Brentford, the Rev. A. C. Davies, of Worcester Cathedral, and the Rev. K. C. Davis, of Ewell.

The ringing during the afternoon and evening ranged from rounds to London Surprise.

Service in church was conducted by the Rector, and there were many parishioners in the congregation. Mr. J. E. L. Cooke read the lesson and the address was given by Mr. J. A. Trollope. During the service Grandsire and Stedman Caters were rung on handbells by the Edmonton band, assisted by Mr. E. C. S. Turner.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.**MEETING AT PORTSMOUTH.**

A meeting of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, held at St. Mary's, Portsmouth, on September 16th, was attended by members from Alverstoke, Bishop's Waltham, Fareham, Portsmouth (the Cathedral and St. Mary's), Titchfield and visitors from Newport (Isle of Wight), Liss, Farnham and Leatherhead.

At the business meeting the Vicar presided, supported by Mr. F. W. Rogers (hon. general secretary), Mr. Linter (district chairman) and Mr. R. J. Stone (hon. district secretary). Miss P. Wild, of St. Mary's, Portsea, was elected a member and Mr. Cope an unattached member. It was decided to hold the annual district meeting on January 20th, the place being left in the district secretary's hands. The ringing included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Plain Bob, Treble Bob, Double Norwich and Cambridge Surprise Major.

MEETING AT EAST GRINSTEAD.

A combined meeting of the East Grinstead Guild and the Kent County Association was held at Tonbridge on September 9th, at which over 20 ringers were present from East Grinstead, Hartfield, Balcombe, Shipbourne, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Wadhurst, Lamberhurst, Leigh, Brasted and Sundridge. The methods rung ranged from rounds to Cambridge Surprise Major. Tunbridge Wells was selected for a meeting in November.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to :—

The Editor,

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'The Ringing World' is sent direct by post from the office for 4s. 3d. per quarter payable in advance, but for the time being, owing to paper shortage, new orders cannot be accepted. We shall be obliged if subscribers will send their payments to Mr. G. W. Fletcher, The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

Cheques and remittances should be made payable to 'The Ringing World.'

The meeting of the Hereford Diocesan Guild at Staunton-on-Avon arranged for to-morrow has been postponed until October 7th.

The average age of the band who rang the peal of Grandsire Doubles at Pitsford on September 23rd is 15, the oldest ringer being 17 and the youngest 11.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS.

Last week we published reports of peals rung for the golden weddings of two men well known among ringers. Mr. G. W. Cartmel, whose wedding day was September 18th, has been hon. secretary of the Herts County Association for a far longer time than almost all the members can recollect, and Mr. C. H. Sone was hon. secretary of the Maidstone District of the Kent County Association for many years. Both gentlemen have in their time rung many peals.

THE REV. K. C. DAVIS.

The induction of the Rev. K. C. Davis as Vicar of St. Francis of Assisi, Ruxley Lane, Ewell, Surrey, took place on Saturday, September 2nd. The ceremony was performed by the Archdeacon of Dorking and the Rural Dean of Epsom, in the presence of a large congregation. A course of Bob Major was rung on handbells by R. Darvill 1-2, R. Bird 3-4, E. Hartley 5-6, and K. Darvill 7-8. Mr. Davis was formerly priest in charge of St. John's Church, Swindon, Wilts.

THE BISHOP OF LIVERPOOL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was very good to read Mr. Smale's letter and to hear that our new Bishop of Liverpool is a proficient member of the Devonshire Guild. We have heard from his lordship's own lips that he is able to do some plain hunting and are hopeful that he will be able to join with us at some Liverpool Branch tower in the near future. We also hope that before long he will become a patron of our Lancashire Association.

GEORGE R. NEWTON.

'A FOOTNOTE'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I must join with Mr. Haynes in disagreeing with you. You rightly say that when a record is under examination, rigid adherence to definitions is necessary. If, however, this is to be applied to discriminate between Sextuples and Fourteen-In, Cinques and Maximus, and so forth, then you will presumably say that Mr. Albert Walker's claim to have rung over 300 peals on twelve bells falls to the ground, because the vast majority have been peals of Cinques, and that with the possible exception of one or two of the Ipswich band, no one has yet reached a century on twelve.

If we were in the habit of ringing Cinques without a covering bell, this argument might be supportable, but the fact that no one challenged the claims of Mr. Walker, or of Mr. William Pye when he was described, I believe, as the first to ring 100 peals on twelve, or of any other ringer reaching a similar total, would seem to suggest that the Exercise does not wish to differentiate between the two types of performance. Mr. Haynes' description of the peal at Enfield as 'the first peal of Fourteen-In and the second peal on 14 bells' could not be bettered.

E. A. BARNETT.

HENRY THOMAS ELLACOMBE.

(Continued from page 385.)

If in the year 1850 a competent and impartial observer had made a survey of the belfries and ringers throughout the country, he could hardly have failed to come to the conclusion that change ringing was a dying art. It would have seemed to him a belated survival which had outworn its usefulness and was barely kept alive by a vague sentimental feeling among the people and the tenacity of the ringers' traditions. The ringers had seriously fallen, and were still falling, in popular esteem, and their numbers were decreasing as the older ones fell off and there were fewer younger ones to take their places; and almost everywhere the decay and dilapidation of bell fittings was making ringing a physical impossibility. The existence of a few outstanding companies was not really an exception to the general tendency. The Norwich Scholars had passed their highest point and were soon to reach the stage where they talked about what they had done instead of doing something fresh, and in London and Birmingham and places in the North, though peals were still being rung, the outlook for the future was anything but a bright one.

The truth is that the forces and influences which had created the art and had developed it and sustained it through two centuries were largely exhausted and were quite inadequate to deal with the great changes caused by the industrial revolution and the altered and altering standards in the Church.

These things our observer must have noticed. He could hardly have known that there were reserves of strength in the essential nature of the art, and in the deep-seated hold the sound of church bells has on the affections of the people of this land (even though they themselves do not realise it) which, if only they could be put into action, would more than restore the situation. As it happened, in the year 1850 the Exercise had reached its nadir, and, though it was some time before any definite improvement took place, that improvement did come, slowly at first and then increasingly until the present conditions were reached.

This great change in the Exercise has usually been called the belfry reform movement, and the name is a good one, though the improvement was really a much wider and more comprehensive thing than is usually meant by the people who use the words.

In this belfry reform movement, Henry Thomas Ellacombe took a leading part, and that, even more than his work as an antiquarian, is his title to a place in the history of the Exercise. But it is important to understand what his share really was. What he wrote, and what he did, had directly little influence even on the round ringers of his own West Country, and none at all on the change ringers throughout the country. The men whom he and those he worked with influenced were his fellow clergymen; and his appeal to them (though it was not phrased quite so bluntly and plainly) was that they should secure the control of their own belfries, assert their authority there, and undertake the responsibilities which followed from the action.

To us, to-day, when the parson is acknowledged by everyone to be the man who has the final word on the use of the bells, it seems strange that the clergy of a century ago should have had to fight for the control of their bells, and that is some measure of the change which has come

over the Exercise in the meantime. Whatever the strict law may have been, it is certain that from before the Reformation the control of the bells was in the hands of the laity. In ordinary practice it was the parish clerk who controlled their use and dealt with the ringers, and he was responsible (as far as he was responsible at all) to the churchwardens and through them to the vestry. In addition, the ringers by long custom had acquired vested rights to which they clung tenaciously, and in which they would usually have had the support of the parishioners, however little foundation there may have been for them in strict law.

It is probably true to say that there was no strict law at all on the matter. The common law of England was not, and still largely is not, a code of definite enactments, but is supposed to be based on age-long usage as interpreted by judges after argument when any dispute arises. Disputes about the right to control ringing which came before the law courts were naturally very few indeed, and in such the ringers quite obviously would have no standing. In the two or three cases in the nineteenth century when the dispute was between the parson and the churchwardens, the matter was brought before the ecclesiastical courts, and it is not unreasonable to suspect that the bias of the chancellor was in favour of the clergyman and against the layman. The Church laws (canons they are called) lay upon the churchwardens the duty of seeing that the bells are not rung superstitiously, or at other times without good cause, and make their consent, together with that of the minister of the place, necessary for any special ringing.

Thus it was that when, largely as the result of the Oxford Movement, parsons began to take notice of the unsatisfactory condition of their belfries, they found themselves powerless. Any interference with the ringing would almost certainly have produced such a general outcry in the parish as a new and untried man would hardly care to risk. So for the most part the parsons shut their eyes, and in time treated with indifference and toleration what they thought they could not alter. It was Ellacombe's task to rouse them out of this state, and that he (and others likeminded with him) did by what they wrote, and what they said, and by the example of what they did in their own churches. The work of the bell archaeologists had also indirectly a great and similar effect, for it showed men how interesting and how valuable were the bells which hung forgotten in many a village steeple, and so led to a greater care of them and the uses to which they were put.

Before Ellacombe wrote there had been cases where a strong-willed parson had come into opposition with his churchwardens, his ringers, and his parish generally, through his determination to stop ringing for some particular purpose. This was notably the case in the year 1820, when the attempt of King George the Fourth to obtain a divorce from his wife caused intense feeling throughout the country. When the Government were forced to drop the Bill in Parliament the common people showed their joy by bellringing all over the country. There is to-day in the belfry of Hammersmith Parish Church a board which records the ringing during three days 'in commemoration of the Glorious Victory of our Gracious Queen Caroline' and the drinking of nine bottles of wine at the same time. In many places the parsons, who belonged to the squire class, tried to stop

this ringing, but their authority was defied by churchwardens and ringers, who in some cases broke open the locked belfry doors. It ended in proceedings before the magistrates, who naturally supported the clergy, who belonged to their own class. We need not suppose that the parsons had any other motive than to uphold the authority of the government and repress undue feeling by the 'lower' classes.

In 1830 the Vicar of Chesterfield forbade the ringing of his bells during the races, and roused a storm of protest among the townsfolk which culminated in a public meeting called together by the mayor.

Other cases occurred during the middle of the nineteenth century where the incumbent cited churchwardens and ringers before the Court of Arches or the Consistory Court of the diocese, and had them admonished for ringing contrary to his prohibition.

But these were isolated cases due to special circumstances. What Ellacombe was pressing for was that the parson should gain the full control of the belfry at all times and, though he quoted these legal cases as proof of the parson's right, he did not desire such drastic measures.

In the end, and gradually, the parsons did to a large extent wake up to their responsibilities and take some interest in their bells and ringers, with the result that the control passed out of the hands of the churchwardens and the laity. That, we cannot doubt, was much aided by the abolition of compulsory church rates in 1868, for as long as the vestry had the power to levy a rate on the parish for the upkeep of the church, the ordinary ratepayers saw to it that the churchwardens looked after their interests. The abolition of the rates naturally very much increased the parson's power and influence.

(To be continued.)

MAGDALEN COLLEGE TENOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I see that, in your report of the peal on September 9th, the weight of this bell is given as 20 cwt. and the note E. But the late Rev. F. E. Robinson, in 'Among the Bells,' records the diameter as 47½, and the weight as 19 cwt. He states that he had this information on excellent authority. I once heard him say that the note was D, by which he would mean Old Concert Pitch. This corresponds to a shade flat of E flat Continental pitch, as used to-day.

Taking the lowness of the note in conjunction with the diameter, 19 cwt. must be about the right weight, which makes her one of the lightest bells for her note in existence, resembling Leatherhead, which I am told is about the same note, and that at only 18 cwt. Mr. Robinson goes on to speak of her excellence of tone and, indeed, of that of the whole peal, made up, though it is, of five Rudhalls (1712-1748), two Ellis Knights (6th and tenor, 1623), one R. Taylor (1828) and two unnamed.

The Magdalen bells are certainly a very good peal, and I cannot but wish that some of our modern peals had their clear cry and absence of 'Simpson sob.'

J. H. R. FREEBORN.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT KIRKHAM.

A joint meeting of the Wyke and Preston branches of the Lancashire Association, held at Kirkham on August 26th, was attended by ringers from Adlington, Accrington, Chorley, Whittle-le-Woods, Preston, Penwortham, Blackpool, Poulton, St. Anne's, Kirkham, Liverpool and two visitors from Kent and Hampshire. The methods rung were Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Double Norwich Major and Grandsire and Stedman Triples.

The bells were muffled as a tribute of respect to the victims of the recent disaster, who were buried at an adjoining village on the same day.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.

MEETING AT UPHAM.

A meeting of the Southampton Branch of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, held at Upham on September 16th, was attended by 25 members and visitors from Beddington, Salisbury and Wilton. It was decided to hold the annual district meeting at Bishopstoke on January 13th, and practice meetings at North Stoneham on October 21st, and at St. Michael's, Southampton, on November 25th.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

BOSTON, LINGS.—On Sunday, August 27th, 1,264 Bob Major: Miss Lorna Briggs (first quarter-peal) 1, A. Ellis 2, S. Jessop 3, Sig. R. Brown, R.A. 4, A. Freeston 5, F. Leggett 6, F. Dewey 7, W. E. Clarke (conductor) 8.

SWINDON.—On Sunday, September 3rd, for morning service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *Miss N. Davis 1, W. W. T. Daniell 2, S. Palmer 3, F. J. Daniell 4, C. J. Gardiner (conductor) 5, A. G. Wells 6, T. Townsend 7, W. Carter 8.—For evening service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *Miss P. Townsend 1, G. W. Townsend 2, H. W. Bishop 3, T. Cullingworth 4, C. J. Gardiner (conductor) 5, S. Palmer 6, T. Townsend 7, W. W. T. Daniell 8. *First quarter-peal.

DARLINGTON.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 720 London Surprise Minor and 720 York Surprise Minor: R. Busby, R. Jeff, W. Oliver, G. W. Park, W. N. Park, R. Park and J. T. Titt.

HALESOWEN.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. Greenhall 1, W. H. Webb 2, V. Warr 3, H. Shuck 4, L. Clissett 5, T. Greenhall 6, J. H. Cox (conductor) 7, A. H. Harris 8.

COPPULL, LANCASHIRE.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 720 Bob Minor: James Blackburn 1, Fred Rigby (conductor) 2, David Carpenter 3, Graham Carpenter 4, Alan Carpenter 5, John H. Gartside 6.

GUILDFORD.—On Tuesday, September 5th, at Holy Trinity, 1,260 Stedman Triples: George L. Grover 1, Thomas W. White 2, Henry Hutton 3, William J. Robinson 4, Harry Harris 5, Ronald J. C. Hagley 6, Alfred H. Pulling (conductor) 7, Frank C. W. Knight 8. Ring for the liberation of Brussels.

ST. IVES, HUNTS.—On Wednesday, September 6th, 720 Bob Minor: J. P. Stocker 1, H. W. Pratt 2, M. R. D. Harford 3, G. Dodds 4, L. W. Fisher 5, F. Warrington (conductor) 6.—On Sunday, September 10th, 720 Bob Minor: J. P. Stocker 1, M. R. D. Harford 2, L.A.C. E. Nobles 3, G. Dodds 4, L. W. Fisher 5, F. Warrington (conductor) 6.

RUSHMERE, SUFFOLK.—On Wednesday, September 6th, 720 Bob Minor: Miss Betty Steel (first 720) 1, Frank E. Wiseman 2, James W. Jennings (conductor) 3, John F. Jennings 4, Fred Bowell 5, William F. Tillet 6.—On Sunday, September 10th, 720 Bob Minor: Miss Betty Steel 1, James W. Jennings (conductor) 2, Harry Backler 3, John F. Jennings 4, Frank E. Wiseman 5, Edward Ellenger 6.

HEMINGFORD GREY, HUNTS.—On Thursday, September 7th, 720 Bob Minor: H. W. Pratt 1, G. L. Perkins 2, L.A.C. E. Nobles 3, E. Skeggs 4, F. Warrington (conductor) 6.

SELBY, YORKSHIRE.—On September 7th, at the Abbey, 720 Bob Minor on the front six: F. Welburn 1, H. S. Morley (conductor) 2, J. Silk 3, A. Cryer 4, T. H. Foster 5, F. W. Hinton 6.

ST. IVES, HUNTS.—On Sunday, September 10th, 720 Bob Minor on handbells: M. R. D. Harford 1-2, G. Dodds 3-4, F. Warrington (conductor) 5-6.

SOMERSHAM, HUNTS.—On Sunday, September 10th, 720 Bob Minor: W. Ransome 1, Mrs. E. W. Wakeling 2, Rev. B. F. Sheppard 3, L.A.C. E. Nobles 4, C. Goodyear 5, E. W. Wakeling (conductor) 6.

BRAFIELD, NORTHANTS.—On Sunday, September 10th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Eddie Robinson 1, *Miss Hilary Arnold 2, John Fitzhugh 3, Cyril Darrick 4, *William Hammons (conductor) 5. *First quarter-peal.

GOSEPEL OAK.—On Sunday, September 10th, 1,200 Grandsire Doubles: H. Barnard 1, T. Bevan 2, F. Barker 3, J. Payton 4, W. Prachett (conductor) 5, J. Odell 6.

ALLESLEY, COVENTRY.—On Sunday, September 10th, 720 Bob Minor: D. Hardwick 1, F. W. Perrens 2, J. W. Taylor 3, J. W. T. Taylor 4, N. S. Bagworth 5, D. Vincent (conductor) 6; and 720 London Surprise Minor: C. H. Aylett 1, H. G. Summers 2, F. W. Perrens 3, J. W. T. Taylor 4, J. W. Taylor 5, W. A. Stote (conductor) 6.

KERFLEY, WARWICKSHIRE.—On Sunday, September 10th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: H. V. Warnes (first quarter-peal) 1, H. Folwell 2, A. E. Bristow 3, T. Hastings 4, W. A. Stote (conductor) 5.

KIRTON-IN-HOLLAND.—On Sunday, September 10th, 1,264 Bob Major: E. Sellars 1, A. Young 2, F. Bishop 3, J. Lakin 4, J. Young 5, J. Kemp 6, T. Bishop 7, A. E. Flatters (conductor) 8.

BRAFIELD, NORTHANTS.—On Sunday, September 10th, 1,260 Doubles, being 120 each of St. Simon's, Stedman, Old Doubles, Antelope, April Day, Canterbury Place, London, New Grandsire, Plain Bob and 180 of Grandsire: J. B. Fitzhugh 1, E. Robinson 2, G. Guyton 3, G. Care 4, P. Jones (conductor) 5.

AMERSHAM.—On Sunday, September 10th, 720 York Surprise Minor: W. E. Redrup (conductor) 1, C. J. Chalwin 2, E. C. Ayres 3, L. Haddon 4, W. Edwards 5, W. A. Holmes 6.—On Sunday, September 17th, 720 London Surprise Minor: W. Edwards 1, C. J. Chalwin 2, E. C. Ayres 3, L. Haddon 4, W. A. Holmes 5, W. E. Redrup (conductor) 6.

ROTHWELL, YORKS.—On Tuesday, September 12th, 720 Bob Minor: G. W. Steel 1, A. G. Wood 2, P. Massam (conductor) 3, G. Conley 4, A. Marsh (first 720) 5, H. Homer 6.

NETHERSEALE.—On Wednesday, September 13th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. Sharpe 1, G. Hair 2, W. Brooker 3, H. Carter 4, W. H. Curson (conductor) 5, W. Woodward 6, J. W. Cotton 7, Sam Scattergood 8.

HITCHAM, BUCKS.—On September 15th, 720 Single Oxford Minor: Hilda M. Taylor 1, Jean M. Broomfield 2, Freda D. Murkitt 3, Mary Pemberton 4, Joyce Hearn 5, George Gilbert (conductor) 6.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—Meeting Shoreham, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 2.45 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and meeting 5.30 p.m.—E. L. Hairs, Hon. Sec., The Oaks, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—Meeting at Great Barr, Birmingham, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 3.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., business meeting to follow.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—Meeting at Caversham, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 2.30 p.m. Service 5.30 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec., 401, London Road, Reading.

DEVON GUILD.—N.E. Branch.—Meeting at Silverton (8 bells), on Saturday, Sept. 30th, 2.30. Service 4.30.—C. G. Dymond, Hon. Sec., Silverton.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting in library, Newcastle Cathedral, on Saturday, Sept. 30th, at 2.30 p.m. St. Mary, Gateshead, bells available. Bring food, cups of tea provided at the Anchorage, Gateshead, at 4.15.—Roland Park, Hon. Sec., 23, Oaklands Terrace, Darlington.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Boreham, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 2.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

BAYNE HILL, MAIDENHEAD.—The monthly practice fixed for October 1st is cancelled owing to the meeting at Hillingdon.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Saturday, Oct. 7th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Dunstan's, Stepney.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Oxford City and North Berks Branches.—Joint meeting at Cumnor, Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Ringing, Appleton, 6 p.m. Names for tea to Miss M. R. Cross, The School House, Radley, Abingdon, by Oct. 4th.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Lincoln District.—Meeting at Blankney (6 bells), Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea, 1s. each, at 5 p.m. Names before Oct. 4th.—K. W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Carline Road, Lincoln.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Hunts District.—Meeting at St. Neots, Saturday, Oct. 7th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at Plums Cafe, 5 p.m.—H. J. Parker, Dis. Sec., Great Staughton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn and Rossendale Branches.—Meeting at Burnley Parish Church, Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided.—Charles W. Blakey, Branch Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District. — Annual meeting at Tonbridge, Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea at Carlton Cafe 5 p.m. Names to Mr. J. Medhurst, 251, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

DEVON GUILD.—Mid-Devon Branch.—Meeting at Paignton, Saturday, Oct. 7th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea (1s. 6d.) and business in Church Hall 4.45 p.m. Names for tea before October 3rd.—A. L. Bennett, Branch Sec., Cornerways, Buckfastleigh (phone 3121).

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Meeting at Broxbourne, Saturday, Oct. 7th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business 5.15 p.m. Names by Oct. 3rd.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon, Herts.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION and **OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Joint meeting, Saturday, Oct. 7th, at St. John's, Hillingdon (10 bells), 3 p.m. Tea in St. John's Hall 5 p.m. Names to Mr. F. W. Goodfellow, Seaford, Slough Road, Iver Heath, Bucks, by Oct. 4th. Social evening to follow.—J. E. L. Cockey and A. D. Barker, Hon. Secs.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—Meeting at Barton Seagrave (5 bells), Saturday, Oct. 7th. Usual arrangements. Send names for tea.—H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at Baldock, Oct. 7th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—A. E. Symonds, Dis. Sec.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Blaydon, Saturday, Oct. 7th. Bells (6) at 2.30 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—J. A. Brown, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Finchdale Terrace, Chester-le-Street.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.—Meeting at Stanford-in-the-Vale, Saturday, Oct. 7th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 4.30. Names for tea by Wednesday, October 4th.—R. F. J. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Farnham, Faringdon, Berks.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—Meeting at St. Anne's, Saturday, Oct. 7th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food.—J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—Meeting at Hornchurch, Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Business meeting and tea to follow. Names before Oct. 3rd.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Tunstall (8 bells), Saturday, Oct. 7th. Names to Mr. W. Thompson, 29, Furlong Road, Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent, by Oct. 3rd.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD (Leatherhead District) and the **SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Leatherhead, Saturday, Oct. 14th. Service 4.45. Tea at the Duke's Head 5.30. Names for tea to Mr. G. Mariner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, by Oct. 12th.—A. H. Smith and D. Cooper, Hon. Secs.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—Annual meeting, Aylesford, Saturday, Oct. 14th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting after. Names to Mr. G. Avis, 56, Teapot Lane, Aylesford, near Maidstone, as soon as possible.—C. H. Sone, Dis. Sec.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY and **MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Norton, Saturday, Oct. 14th, 2.30 p.m. No tea arrangements.—G. G. Graham, 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington, and S. Scattergood, 797, Sheffield Road, Sheepbridge, Hon. Secs.

MARRIAGES.

GOODWIN—THAXTON.—At St. Peter's, Park Lane, Norwich, on Saturday, Aug. 12th, Hilary Mary, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Thaxton, 27, Portersfield Road, Norwich, to Corpl. Stanley Harold Goodwin, R.E., son of Mrs. and the late Mr. S. H. Goodwin, of 30, Alpha Terrace, Trumpington, Cambridge.

MASSEY—MILLS.—On Sept. 16th, at Holy Trinity Church, Claygate, Pilot Officer Navigator George Wilkins Massey, T.C., R.A.F.V.R., only son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins Massey, 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, to Hilda Mary Mills, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mills, 144, Coverts Road, Claygate.

JOINT MEETING AT CLENT.

A joint meeting of the Dudley and District Guild and the Northern Branch of the Worcestershire Association was held at Clent on Sept. 16th and was well attended. At the service in church the lesson was read by Mr. B. C. Ashfield, and the Vicar gave the address. The next meeting will be held at Bilston on December 2nd.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES

HITCHIN, HERTS.—On Sunday, September 16th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: E. W. Day 1, Miss Goodship 2, C. V. Hare 3, E. Winters 4, W. E. Symonds 5, D. P. Jones 6, L. Fidler (conductor) 7, A. E. Symonds 8.

GOODNESTONE, KENT.—On Saturday, September 16th, 720 Bob Minor: H. Stringer 1, T. Robinson 2, W. Thompson 3, H. J. Saunders 4, B. J. Luck 5, H. R. French (conductor) 6.

NORTHAMPTON.—On Saturday, September 16th, at St. Giles', 1,260 Stedman Triples: T. Roberts 1, F. Green 2, R. Howson 3, W. Yates 4, E. C. Lambert 5, G. Cooper 6, A. J. Green (conductor) 7, F. Case 8.

LLANDUDNO.—On Sunday, September 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Flood 1, H. Rumens 2, S. Brown 3, H. Lawrence 4, H. E. G. Jeanes 5, Miss K. M. Ruffell (first quarter-peal) 6, A. L. Barry (conductor) 7, C. H. Smith 8.

OXFORD.—At St. Mary the Virgin on Sunday, September 17th, 720 London Surprise Minor: Miss V. V. H. Hill 1, Miss M. R. Cross 2, W. C. Porter 3, W. F. Judge 4, J. E. Spice (conductor) 5, N. Allnatt 6.

CRAYFORD, KENT.—On Sunday, September 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: S. Anstead 1, V. J. Benning 2, D. Hall 3, H. E. Audsley 4, H. Wickens 5, F. A. Coley 6, H. Hovord (conductor) 7, W. E. Bond 8.

GORSEINON.—On Sunday, September 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: R. Dobbins 1, C. Pettit 2, R. Dobbins 3, R. Baird 4, J. Williams 5, W. Dobbins 6, H. Dobbins (conductor) 7, J. Hanson 8.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.—On September 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *Hilda M. Taylor 1, C. A. Levett (conductor) 2, *Mary Pemberton 3, *Joyce Hearn 4, *Percy Mellor 5, G. W. Limmer 6, F. H. Hicks 7, J. E. Taylor 8. *First quarter-peal.

TAMWORTH.—On Sunday, September 17th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: H. C. Spencer 1, R. J. B. Hadden 2, H. H. Fearn 3, J. F. Harvey 4, J. E. Eaton 5, S. G. Chaplin 6, G. E. Fearn (conductor) 7, J. N. Lindon 8.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD, HERTS.—On Sunday, September 17th, 720 Bob Minor: Miss D. Wacey 1, H. M. White 2, R. Wood 3, E. Garbett 4, W. T. Prior 5, F. Bird (conductor) 6.

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THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

No. 1,750. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6th, 1944.

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A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

A couple of months ago we referred to the restoration and repairs which will have to be made to many of our towers and belfries when the war is over, and we stressed the importance of doing everything to ensure that, during those repairs, such alterations and improvements shall be made as are needed for the convenience and comfort of the ringers, and to produce the best outside effect of the sound of the bells. We pointed out that these things have been very much neglected by architects in the past, and are likely to continue to be neglected, mainly because the architects are unaware of them and are more concerned with outside appearance and ordinary structural stability. The difficulty is to bring them to their notice with sufficient authority thoroughly to engage their attention.

We are now happy to say that an important step has been taken in the right direction. In the current issue of the 'Journal of the Royal Institute of British Architects' appears an article by Major J. H. R. Freeborn on 'The sound control and hanging of church bells.' Major Freeborn is himself an architect, and as he had some collaboration with Mr. E. H. Lewis and Mr. A. A. Hughes, his article is backed by the highest authority of every sort needed—engineering, ringing, bell founding and the general public. To those qualifications must be added the great advantage that the article appears in exactly the right place to attract the attention of those for whom it is specially written.

In his article Major Freeborn sums up on practical lines the results of the investigations and observations made during the last fifty or sixty years by several competent men, beginning with Sir Arthur Heywood. We do not intend to refer to any details, but it is remarkable how much opinion has altered on this subject. For close on a thousand years we have had in this country steeples built to hold ringing bells with bells hung in them, and because they were designed, first of all, to house bells, and then to be ornaments, the old towers answered their purpose very well indeed. It was only when architects put appearance before utility that their towers became less satisfactory to hold bells.

Originally the problem was quite a simple and straightforward one. Strength and size there must be in the tower sufficient to hold the bells. Windows there must be to let out the sound and give light to the ringers. A floor there must be for the ringers to stand on. Com-

(Continued on page 410.)

mon sense and inherited experience showed how best these requirements could be met. The rubble, of which the steeples were built, happened to be one of the best of all materials for the purpose, and buttresses are so essential a part of Gothic construction that they become one of its main artistic features. When brick began to replace rubble, and a style of architecture came into fashion which called for straight perpendicular lines reaching down to the ground, the quality of bell towers, as bell towers, fell away enormously.

When a steeple stands in the country in a large churchyard and without any houses in the immediate vicinity, the obvious plan was, and is, to hang the bells as open as possible, and the bigger the windows the better they are for sound. Even in the old style towns, with their incessant noise, where the streets were stone paved and the carts iron tyred, the loud clanging of the bells was an exhilaration rather than a nuisance. But it was different when purely residential districts were built. You will find many and heavy rings of bells in the East End of London. You will find none among the squares of Bloomsbury, and Mayfair, and Belgravia. In the nineteenth century vast suburban areas were built over, and the architects who designed the churches thought (if they thought at all) that the problem of the sound control of bells was no different there from what it had been in the early villages and the mediæval towns. Nor were they helped by the loudly expressed opinions of Lord Grimthorpe, who was generally supposed to be the great authority on the matter.

One of the greatest services Sir Arthur Heywood rendered the Exercise and the Church was when he called attention to this question of bell sound control. Since his time a committee of the Central Council has been steadily at work, and good results are increasingly in evidence.

Any ringer who is on an advisory committee or has anything to do with tower restorations should make a note of this article of Major Freeborn's and call the attention of the architect to it. If he already knows of it so much the better. If he does not, he will be likely to treat it with respect as an authoritative pronouncement.

LEADING IN EVEN-BELL METHODS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Our band of ringers the other evening rang a 720 of Bob Minor for the benefit of a learner on the treble, and afterwards discussed it with him, pointing out his various faults, etc. One of my fellow ringers asked him if when leading he could see the last rope fall to lead off it.

I contended that this was unnecessary, as it would only add to the learner's worries, and that instead he should be taught to use only his ears for leading. Whereupon my friend retorted that he had been taught that way and that it was the correct way to make a lead in an even-bell method. He was as much surprised by my statement that I led only by ear as I was by his.

He has several peals of Major to his credit and has put up an excellent performance in each, but he still maintains that in ringing Royal and Maximus it is correct to lead from the last rope down, which I contend is impossible.

In the tower where I practised my early ringing 21 years ago our only method of ringing was Grandsire Doubles with tenor covering, and I was taught to look at the tenor rope every time I led. I asked the foreman which bell would I lead from if the method were rung on the back five, and was told that I could only lead by ear. This I have practised ever since when the tenor has been turned in.

Is my friend's way of leading the generally accepted way, and have I made my leads wrongly in Minor, Major and Royal for the past 20 years? I can only leave it to your readers to judge. I should be interested to know if my friend's method of leading prevails in other bands or other parts of the country.

WILLIAM A. STOTE.

Coundon, Coventry.

TERMS AND TITLES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—There are two very urgent matters which have come up for discussion and must be faced. The first urgency concerns names. On odd numbers the Norman-French numerals have given us two good names, Caters and Cinques. In this process the spelling or the pronunciation or both may be altered, so that we have only just missed Stedman Sanks instead of Cinques by the skin of our teeth.

As the six in dise was often called the size, here is a perfect ready-made name for changes on 13 bells—SIZES—a world-beater and absolutely basic. So it is Stedman SIZES all right. Here one has to venture into the blue somewhat, as a great deal of information that I have not yet come across may be available as to pronunciation in the old days. On 15 bells a word would have to be developed from Sets or Seps, probably Setters, which seems better than Septers. It would be advisable not to be mixed up with Set Changes, which, I believe, is a term used in stoney.

On 17 bells the word might quite easily be Hoots—Stedman Hoots—sounds good to me. On 19 it could be Nuffs, and on 21 bells there comes another world beater, Dizes, with a basic appearance about it. The next two are quite good, Horns—St. Clement's Horns—and Dozes—Grandsire Dozes.

The position with the even numbers is less clear. On even numbers Minimus has been used for four bells. This is unfortunate, as there are changes on three and two bells below them. Minimissimus might do for two bells. Maximus for twelve bells almost gives one a feeling of the hidden hand. It has always been wrong theoretically. It indicates finality. It has been completely out of date now ever since the first changes of Stedman SIZES were attempted. Maximissimus for 14 bells would not help.

To continue the idea of Royal on ten we may have to go on to Brights, Rapture, Racers, Winners, Crackers, etc., if we don't look out. But please, please, don't let us have place names.

Urgency No. 2 is a matter of tenors behind. Of all the odd numbers of bells below twelve, seven appears to cry out most insistently for a tenor behind, owing to the treble's being a semitone below the keynote. The treble of 13 bells is the octave of that on six and is quite musical. The treble of 14 bells is the octave of that on seven and is unpleasant. We are forced to the conclusion that 13 bells do not want a covering tenor, but 14 bells do. A covering tenor with 14 bells gives 15, that glorious pillar of sound, the double octave. It seems a pity that this was not achieved recently. The double octave is also complete in itself and does not want a covering bell.

Some of these remarks are in modification of those in my memorandum to 'The Ringing World' of last year.

'BELLITIS.'

'A FOOTNOTE.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should like to join in congratulating Mr. John Thomas and his band on their recent handbell performances, culminating in the peal on 14 bells. It is typical of Mr. Thomas that his quiet personality, coupled with unbounded enthusiasm, should have encouraged his band to have reached a stage where they are the admiration of the Exercise. In Somerset, my home county, in towns and villages, he is known and liked, not only as an outstanding ringer and conductor, but as someone who was always a great pleasure to meet.

With regard to the footnote under the peal and most of your remarks in your leader, they are obviously not in keeping with facts. One thing is certain, the Birmingham men rang 14 bells in their peal, so this must have been a peal on 14 bells, whatever we say or write about it.

Of course, a peal of Stedman Caters is a ten-bell peal. Whoever has wanted to ring or listen to a peal of Stedman Caters on nine bells? It would not be countenanced by the Central Council anyway. Let us be practical; if we ring a peal of Doubles with 4-6-8 covering it is not a five-bell peal, it is eight bells being rung and this in any language is an eight-bell peal.

You finish your leader by saying that you will be following the general custom of the Exercise if you say that the first peal on 13 bells was rung by the Birmingham men. I do not believe that they have ever rung a peal on that number.

W. H. COLES.

Hayes End, Middlesex.

Dear Sir,—I have read with great interest your leading article and Mr. Haynes' letter with reference to the peals on 14 handbells in 'The Ringing World.'

Your remarks about tenor ringing on tower bells cannot be applied to handbell peals, as I am sure you will admit that the man who rang 13-14 to the peal of Stedman had to know the method being rung just as much as the man who rang 13-14 to the peal of Plain Bob.

In my opinion, the peal of Stedman should, therefore, take precedence as the first peal on 14 bells.

J. L. GLANVILL.

Withycombe, Exmouth.

'DEATH OF MR. RICHARD WALTER

The death is announced of Mr. Richard Walter, of Chichester, who passed away on September 22nd at the age of 83 years. He called a peal of Grandsire Triples on the Cathedral bells on November 9th, 1894, the first by a Chichester band. The bells were rung muffled on the day of the funeral.

TEN BELL PEAL.

HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Sept. 24, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes,

At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor 31 cwt.

FRED HAYES Treble	PERCY NEWTON 6
J. HOWARD FREEBORN ... 2	*WALTER LEE 7
GILBERT R. GOODSHIP ... 3	FRANK WEST 8
ARTHUR JONES 4	EDWARD R. COLES ... 9
RALPH COLES 5	ALECK D. STRATHDEE ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by FRED HAYES.

* First peal on ten bells. Rung for the completion of 50 years' service as parish clerk by Mr. Ralph Coles.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

NUNEATON, WARWICKSHIRE.
THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Thur., Sept. 28, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

At the Church of St. Nicholas,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

FRANK E. PERVIN ... Treble	JOSEPH H. BEALE 5
FRANK W. PERRENS ... 2	FRANK TROTMAN 6
GEORGE LARGE 3	LEONARD TREVOR 7
HUBERT G. SUMMERS ... 4	*JOSEPH GIBSON Tenor

Conducted by F. W. PERRENS.

* First peal.

GRAYSHOTT, HANTS.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 30, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At the Church of St. Luke,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

REV. C. D. P. DAVIES' VARIATION. Tenor 8½ cwt. in A flat.

GEORGE UPSHALL ... Treble	ERNEST J. MUNDAY ... 5
ERNEST J. AYLIFFE ... 2	EDWARD R. COLES ... 6
FREDERICK OLDROYD ... 3	ALFRED H. PULLING ... 7
GEORGE L. GROVER ... 4	FRANK C. W. KNIGHT ... Tenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

First peal of Triples on the bells.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 30, 1944, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

At the Church of All Saints, EDMONTON,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

*PHILIP J. COWARD ... Treble	*ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 5
*VICTOR R. WOODWARDS ... 2	*DENNIS H. LANGDON ... 6
MRS. J. THOMAS 3	JOHN THOMAS 7
*ERIC A. DENCH 4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... Tenor

Composed by JAMES HUNT.

Conducted by J. THOMAS.

* First peal in the method.

LONGTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 30, 1944, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

At the Church of St. John,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION.

Tenor 16 cwt.

ALAN D. STEEL ... Treble	EDWIN SHARRATT 5
WILLIAM P. DEANE ... 2	ANDREW THOMPSON ... 6
GEORGE W. BIDDULPH ... 3	JOHN WORTH 7
CHARLES H. PAGE 4	EDWARD STEELE Tenor

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

STAPLEGROVE, SOMERSET.—On September 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: John Matthews 1, Edwin Elson 2, Arthur H. Reed (conductor) 3, Samuel Pine 4, Douglas Fear 5, Frederick Copham 6.

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS, DORSET.—On Sunday, September 23rd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: D. King (first away from tenor) 1, Mrs. G. Wareham 2, Miss V. Mabblerly (first on an inside bell) 3, L. H. Pink 4, H. E. White (conductor) 5, J. Dennett (first quarter-peal) 6.

SIX BELL PEALS.

NORTHAW, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 23, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

At the Church of St. Thomas A'BECKET,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two extents.

Tenor 13 cwt.

*DONALD C. PRICE ... Treble	*CHARLES R. GODFREY ... 4
†RALPH BIRD 2	*JOHN NORTH 5
†VERNON J. BENNING ... 3	*GEORGE H. GRIGGS ... Tenor

Conducted by R. BIRD.

* First peal. † First peal of Grandsire Doubles.

CHILCOMPTON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., Sept. 28, 1944, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

At the Church of St. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST.

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one 720 of Single Court and two 720's each of Kent, Cambridge and Plain Bob. Tenor 20 cwt.

H. DAVID MACKAY ... Treble	FREDERICK A. TARGETT 4
DAVID TARGETT 2	E. JOHN TARGETT 5
*JOHN DOWNING 3	RONALD G. BECK Tenor

Conducted by RONALD G. BECK.

* First peal in four methods.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., Sept. 26, 1944, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

A. J. WALLMAN 1-2	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7-8
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	ERIC A. DENCH 9-10
MRS. J. THOMAS 5-6	DENNIS H. LANGDON ... 11-12

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by J. THOMAS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Sept. 28, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5010 CHANGES;

ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 1-2	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7-8
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	*WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 9-10
MRS. J. THOMAS 5-6	ERIC A. DENCH 11-12

Composed and Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

* First peal of Stedman Cinques.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Oct. 1, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

At St. PETER'S HALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (2nd the observation). Tenor size 15 in C.

*ANDREW I. PEARMAN ... 1-2	MRS. F. J. MARSHALLSAY 5-6
ARTHUR V. DAVIS 3-4	FRANCIS S. WILSON ... 7-8

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* First peal of Triples.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT TADCASTER.

A general meeting of the Yorkshire Association was held at Tadcaster on September 16th. Service, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. R. J. Hall, was followed by tea, provided by the local band. At the business meeting the chair was taken by Canon C. O. Marshall, the president, who was supported by the general secretary, Mr. L. W. G. Morris, and Mr. P. J. Johnson.

The committee recommended that owing to unfavourable circumstances, no January general meeting should be held and that the next meeting should be the annual one in May, 1945, and this recommendation was confirmed. Five new members were elected, Messrs. A. McNaught, B. Sutton, G. Crompton, F. Welburn and P. A. Corby. Votes of thanks to the Vicar, churchwardens, organist, choir and local band were passed.

THE BELLS OF EALING.

There was a parish church at Ealing from very early times, but all details of what it was like are lost. In 1552 an inventory was 'made on the tenth day of March in the thyrde yeare of the reyne our moaste drede Sovereyn Kyng Edward the Sexth by the grace of God of Ingland Fraunce and Ireland the Kinge Defendor of the Faith and of England and Irelande the supreme hede emedyately under God, of all such goods as ar in the parysshe church of Yelynge in the comptye of Myddlesex,' which included:—

'Item, five great bels and a small bell in Steple.'

'Item, two hande bells and two sakaryne bells.'

Soon afterwards the latter were sold with some other goods, 'all of latten and copper.'

During the seventeenth century the church got into a very ruinous condition, and on September 10th, 1718, the vestry 'agreed to lett to Mr. Thos. Fells and Mr. Wm. Jones ye present churchwardens to repair ye steeple of the Parysshe Church as they shall think most fitting.' The tenor bell also was broken and a contract was made with James Bagley, the founder, who undertook to recast it for twenty pounds and to make good any damage he might do to the other bells and fittings in taking it down. He was to supply a new clapper at 9d. per lb. with an allowance of 2d. per lb. for the old one.

Twelve years earlier the wardens were instructed to have the porch repaired, and (presumably to meet the expense) they were to dispose of the bell which was formerly the Saints' bell to the best advantage. Fells and Jones evidently carried out extensive repairs, for in the following March it was 'ordered and agreed that the present churchwardens be empowered to sell and dispose of all the lead and all the ironwork which belonged to the steeple and tower of our Parysshe Church lately taken down to the best and most benefit and advantage which can be got for the same and to accompt from all moneys arising from the same.'

The state of the fabric continued to cause anxiety to the parish and the wardens were 'empowered to take down the bells now standing and being in ye steeple or tower adjoining our Parysshe Church and also they are empowered to employ two or more able workmen to survey and view the defects in or about the steeple or tower of the Parysshe.' A year later they were ordered to employ Mr. Reeve and Mr. John Price, of Twickenham, 'and other persons they think fit to inspect and view the present state and condition of the church and steeple and certify their opinion on the same.'

The vestry received the report in 1722 and agreed that the building was in a very dangerous condition, so much so that the churchwardens were ordered to look out for some temporary place in which to hold services, and a wooden structure was erected for use while the parish considered what could be done. In 1729, while they were considering, the old church collapsed and a new one became necessary.

During the seventeenth century there were several instances of mediæval churches falling down. This can hardly have been from neglect or decay due to age, though they may have been contributory causes. Probably it was due to the custom of digging graves in or

near the church and so undermining the foundations, which would only be a few feet deep.

The work of rebuilding had now to be taken in hand, and trustees were appointed who erected the church, which stood for a hundred and fifty years. It was a brick building with a square embattled tower in the style of the times and had very few architectural merits. The bells were among the first things provided for, and £200 was agreed upon as the sum for recasting and rehangings. On June 23rd, 1739, this was increased by £80, so that the parish might have a full octave, and an agreement was entered into with Knight and Catlin by which they were to 'provide and set up a new frame for eight bells, with new stocks, wheels, pulleys and iron-work, new clappers and brasses, ropes, etc.' They were to take away the old five bells and bring down the new ones all for the sum of £76. The old five were to be recast at a charge of eighteen shillings per cwt., and sufficient new metal added to make a ring of eight bells of as deep a tone as those of Fulham. The whole weight was not to exceed 85 cwt. nor to be less than 75 cwt., and the charge for the new metal was to be at £5 12s. per cwt. The work was to be guaranteed for one year.

Samuel Knight died before the work was completed, and Robert Catlin carried out the contract. On May 10th, 1740, the new bells were delivered and weighed in the presence of the trustees. The tenor was 19 cwt. and 9 pounds.

The vestry minutes record that during the time the church was being rebuilt and while the old five bells were standing on the ground some persons in the village carried off the treble and used it as a punch bowl during the festivities in connection with the wedding of Frederick, Prince of Wales. Frederick was the father of George the Third and the brother of that Duke of Cumberland from whom the society of London ringers took its name. He was married on April 26th, 1736.

Whether the churchwardens had actually sold the old saunce bell as directed is not clear, for the parish was using a similar bell in the temporary church, and when in 1754 a cupola was added to the new tower it was hung there and used for the clock to strike on. It now hangs in the present tower above the other bells.

The opening peal on the new bells was rung on June 1st, 1740, by the Eastern Scholars. It was one of Bob Major and was conducted by John Sharpe from the fourth. The next, on May 22nd, 1757, was by the band formed by members of the two societies of Eastern Scholars and College Youths after the death of Benjamin Annable, the band from whom the present Ancient Society of College Youths is directly descended. It was their second peal, Thomas Bennett conducted, and among the others were several of the most skilful ringers of the day. Joseph Monk rang the tenor. The method was Oxford Treble Bob Major.

Thirty years elapsed before the College Youths rang the next known peal in the steeple. It was one of Grand-sire Triples, and was by a band drawn from West Middlesex towers, where at the time change ringing was in a flourishing condition. John Cole, of Isleworth, was the conductor, and as he rang the second we may conclude that he called Holt's Ten-part.

In 1798 a band of College Youths, mostly from St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, rang 6,048 changes of Bob Major, which still remains the longest length on the bells.

James Bartlett was the conductor, and William Jones, the principal author of the 'Clavis,' was in the company. No record of the performance appears in the society's peal book.

Ealing never had a good change ringing band of its own, and the only other recorded peals in the old tower were Grandsire Triples in 1800, by the Isleworth Youths, and another of the same method in 1841 by a 'friendly society.' Thomas Tolladay conducted the latter, and the treble was rung by Robert Haworth, who is still well remembered by many living ringers.

In 1866 the church was rebuilt and greatly enlarged. The old walls were mostly left standing, but by recasing and the addition of aisles and chancel the whole building was entirely altered. The result is a qualified success, and the reconstructed tower of brick without buttresses is not sufficiently rigid to carry a ringing peal properly. Some of the bells, including the tenor, have been recast at different times, all at Whitechapel, and some few years ago Messrs. John Taylor and Co. rehung the ring in a new frame and modern fittings. Of the performances in the steeple in more recent years, the most outstanding was the peal in twelve spliced Surprise Major methods rung on July 1st, 1931, by a band of the Middlesex County Association and conducted by William Pye. This still remains the highest point to which eight-bell ringing has ever reached.

Ealing has two other rings of eight, both from Whitechapel, and both with a tenor of 14 cwt. That at Christ Church was cast in 1852, and the one at St. Stephen's at various times just before the last war. Neither is readily available for peal ringing, but a good variety of methods have been rung at both.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR.

720		720	
23456		23456	
42356	5	64235	2
63425	2	35264	4
63254	3	42356	2
35426	1	42563	3
64352	2	42635	3
23645	2	23564	1
34562	1	45236	2
34625	3	62453	2
34256	3	25346	1
62345	2	25463	3
45362	4	34256	2
23456	2	23456	5
720		720	
23456		23456	
64235	2	23564	3
64352	3	23645	3
45236	1	34562	1
62453	2	25346	2
34625	2	63254	2
42563	1	35426	1
42635	3	35264	3
42356	3	42356	2
63425	2	34256	5
25463	4	62345	2
34256	2	45362	4
23456	5	23456	2

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT WOODLESFORD.

Over forty members and friends attended a meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society, held at Woodlesford on Sept. 30th. They came from Armley, Batley, Bradford Cathedral, Drighlington, Headingley (St. Chad's), Idle, Leeds Parish Church, Pudsey, Rothwell and the local helfry. The methods rung were Stedman Doubles and Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Cambridge Surprise, Killamash and London Scholars' Pleasure Minor.

The next meeting will be at Burley on October 28th.

John Taylor & Co.

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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official Journal of the Central Council of
Church Bell Ringers.

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Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.

The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
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'The Ringing World.'

The peal of Stedman Triples rung at Grayshott on September 30th
was Mr. A. H. Pulling's 1,100th as conductor.

VILLAGE BELLS.

Dear Bells! how sweet the sound of village bells

When on the undulating air they swim,

Now loud as welcome, faint now as farewell,

And trembling all about the breezy dells.

As fluttered by the wings of cherubim. —T. Hood.

MAGDALEN COLLEGE TENOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Apropos Major J. H. R. Freeborn's letter in 'The Ringing World' of September 29th, in which he states that the tenor bell of the Magdalen College peal must be one of the lightest bells for her note in existence, I beg to quote the two following examples, being bells which have passed through the Loughborough Foundry, viz:—

Ewerby, Lincs.—Tenor, 3ft. 11in. diameter. Note, D natural. Weight, 15 cwt. 23 lb.

Claybrooke, Warwicks.—Tenor, 3ft. 10in. diameter. Note, E flat. Weight, 13 cwt. 3 qr. 10 lb.

The pitch in both instances is very slightly sharp of international pitch.

J. OLDHAM

The Bell Foundry, Loughborough.

MR. RALPH COLES.

The peal of Stedman Oaters at High Wycombe on September 24th was rung to celebrate the completion of 50 years' service by Mr. Ralph Coles as bellringer and parish clerk. In the early 90's of the last century a junior band was formed to supplement the old parish ringers, and the two were eventually amalgamated; but the bell fittings were in a very bad state of repair and the ringing consisted of rounds and stoney. In the year 1909 the ring was restored and augmented to twelve and a period of ringing activity began. Mr. Coles was elected deputy foreman, and in 1916 captain. Oaters and Cinques were rung regularly for Sunday services, and in 1933 a peal of Stedman Cinques was rung by a band all residents in the parish.

Mr. Coles was recently presented with a testimonial and a cheque from the congregation of All Saints' as an appreciation of his 50 years' service under six vicars.

DEATH OF MR. ROBERT W. COOKE.

The death is announced of Mr. Robert W. Cooke, of Fakenham, who passed away on September 13th. Mr. Cooke, the whole of whose ringing career was spent in connection with the Fakenham band, joined the Norwich Diocesan Association in 1891. He was appointed hon. secretary of the Fakenham District in 1927, and in the same year was elected a member of the general committee of the association. The latter appointment he held until his death. He was not a great peal ringer, his total number being 34, all of Plain Bob and Treble Bob Major, but he was very keen on good striking and maintained a high standard in his belfry. He leaves a daughter and two sons.

HENRY THOMAS ELLACOMBE.

(Continued from page 405.)

Ellacombe's devotion to bell archæology was a comparatively late development. As a boy he naturally came into contact with the ringers at his father's church at Alphington, just outside Exeter. No doubt he occasionally strolled into the belfry, and there he saw and heard things which contrasted very sharply with the piety and decorum of his home life. He could not have known that much of what struck him as profanity and wickedness was no more than the result of lower standards, rougher manners, and less culture. The impression he gained never left him, and though his opinions developed with wider views and increasing knowledge, it formed the background of all his dealings with ringing and ringers. Here was a crying scandal that called loudly for reform, and when he became himself a parson, he felt he must not shirk the responsibility of doing everything he could in his own belfry, and then elsewhere, to bring about improvement.

It meant that he approached the question of the ringers from the outside, and (at first at any rate) with some measure of distaste. It is significant that he prefaced nearly every one of his books with this quotation—'Some, perhaps, many wonder why anyone should thus trouble himself about so low and mean a subject as this is generally thought to be; but I think nothing mean or low that has any relation to the service of God and His Church.'

It was a very noble apologia for his most enduring work, but when a man loudly and often protests that he is not ashamed of doing something, it is a pretty sure sign that either he is not far off being ashamed, or else he feels that his friends and acquaintances will think he ought to have been ashamed. Ellacombe thus approached ringers and their ringing with the definite intention of reforming them from the outside and from above. He was separated from them by the deep and wide gulf caused by differences in culture, education, and social status. He could never fully sympathise with them, for he never understood their ideals and the attraction ringing (and especially change ringing) has for those who follow it closely. He has left us in no doubt about these things. Here is the opening paragraph of the first book he published, and the main thought it contains reappears again and again in what he wrote:

'Reared in a country parsonage, and close to a peal of eight bells, as musical and as well rung as any in the kingdom, it has been my lot from childhood to have seen much of the practices in a country belfry. They had better, I grieve to say, be passed over in silence; for such things as I remember to have seen and heard would hardly be tolerated in a village ale-house; and yet the ringers were considered respectable, honest men in their way, and had the honour—many of them—of being the ringers of the Cathedral bells in the adjoining city, where fifteen men were required; and it was a well-known fact that, as a body, a more drunken set of fellows could not be found. It is painful to me even to allude to such ungodly practices. I mention the fact in the hope that it may perhaps call the attention of those in authority to this crying evil, which exists more or less in every parish and belfry in England; and how dreadful it is to think of such conduct in a church, if perchance (as formerly no doubt was universally the case) the ropes hang down to the pavement of the ground

floor. It is therefore high time—especially in these days when so many efforts are being made to restore a better discipline and a more legitimate and correct system in all Church matters—that some move should be made towards bringing the belfry, and the occupiers thereof, under regulations in accordance with church order and discipline.'

It is most paradoxical that at the time when Charles Lamb spoke of bell ringing as the 'music nearest heaven,' and Robert Southey called it 'England's best music'; when Thomas Moore's 'sentimental poem on 'Those evening bells' charmed thousands of ears, and Alfred Tennyson was singing of Christmas bells and the deep appeal they made; and when (as there is abundant evidence to show) the common people loved their sound, the bells themselves were going to rack and ruin through decay and sordid neglect, the ringers were generally looked upon as the very dregs of society, and their art as 'the lowest and most debased and debasing of all amusements.' Listen to a passage from that lecture by the Rev. Robert Walker to which I have already referred:

'I am well aware that most clergymen, being men of a liberal and refined education, have been accustomed to regard ringing as the lowest and most debased and debasing of all amusements. They associate it with the idea of sottishness and uproarious revelry, and ribald profaneness, and finally turnings-out of the public-house at the closing time to remain in the gutter perhaps half the night. It is now an antiquated and generally received idea that sots, drunkards, rogues, and ringers are mutually convertible expressions.' 'Ringers are generally from the very lowest orders. Generally speaking, they are very unsteady men in every way.'

When this lecture was printed anonymously in 'The Ecclesiologist' these expressions were considerably toned down. I have quoted from the original manuscript from which the lecture was delivered.

Here is a passage from a book published in 1862 which prints the names of more than four hundred clergymen (most of them it is true Nonconformists) who supported and recommended it—'Judging from the general character of bell-ringers, ringing has a most injurious effect both with regard to morals and religion.'

And this from a book published in 1846 by Thomas Blunt, a Church of England parson:

'Our belfries are left in a state of filthy dilapidation, receptacles for dirt and rubbish of all kinds, and very frequently the drinking-place of the most profane and profligate persons in the parish; who ring the bells for their amusement amid oaths and obscenity, and sell their voices for drink money for any worldly purpose—who ring the muffled or the merry peal for the rich man's sorrow or rejoicing, but never send forth a sound of unbought sympathy with the poor.'

Ellacombe himself wrote that 'the style of men who are generally the ringers in any parish makes the task of attempting their reformation very difficult,' and in another passage he summed up the difficulty in these words:

'Generally speaking, there does not exist in connection with the Church a more difficult class of men to keep in order and submission than the bellringers. Moreover, they take it upon themselves to train up whom they choose in their peculiar art, and the young disciples soon learn under the tutelage of their rough preceptors to

claim as a sort of prescriptive right the privilege of succeeding without let or hindrance to the status of an old ringer whenever a vacancy occurs. Such a self-elected and exclusive body of men think nothing of setting at defiance those orders and directions, whether of the minister or of the churchwardens, which may be likely to interfere with their usual habits or overrule their private arrangements. They seem to think that they are at liberty to ring at any hour and on any occasion they please and in the style and manner they prefer; and that they have the right to impose for their performances at marriages and other occasions of ringing whatever charge they may deem it necessary to demand.'

'Perhaps no one thing has been the source of such constant trouble and annoyance to the clergyman as the belfry and the ringers, especially if the same persons happen to belong to the self-appointed and conceited choir of the singers. I have heard of clergymen who have even refused to accept a living where there was a peal of bells, and of those who have said, upon learning the number of bells in the tower, "Then certain it is that there are as many drunkards in the village." "That man is a ringer," is quite enough in some places to intimate that he is an idle, sottish character. I know one clergyman who left his curacy in Worcestershire on account of the conduct of the ringers.'

'In country parishes especially, the churchwardens have hitherto been rarely found to uphold the minister in such matters; in many places being raised but little above the grade of the ringers, and in some places being themselves of the number; thus the minister feeling the whole onus of controlling the bells, and correcting abuses in the belfry, rests solely on his shoulders, he is induced rather to let things go on as he found them, than screw up his moral courage to undertake the task of bringing about a reformation. For though the controlling power, which by law the minister possesses over the bells, is generally now pretty well understood, and his veto upon their use established; yet, unless absolutely and in very glaring cases, it will be found a very impolitic step for him to exercise his right; and by such means to bring about the reformation he wishes. He may silence the bells; but the chances are that by so doing (especially if he has but lately come to reside in the place) he will awaken a most discordant clamour throughout his parish against himself and the Church and all his ministrations, which he may not be able to tranquillise for years.'

'In many cases, however, the ringers are open to argument and to reason, and when reproof is kindly administered they will often strive to amend.'

It would be easy to quote more evidence, but it is not necessary. And now what can we make of it all? The picture painted is a pretty black one. Some of it must be true; but we feel it is too bad to be wholly true. There must be another side to the matter which these early reformers and critics had lost sight of, and there must be some explanation of such a state of affairs if only we can find it. It is natural for a present day ringer to say that all these things belong to the past and had better be forgotten, but those who are interested in the history of the Exercise must know the whole of its story, the bad as well as the good; otherwise we shall not understand why we are what we are, nor learn the lessons for the present the past has to teach us.

(To be continued.)

CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 392.)

I have already given, in a previous article, some details of the fine church of Cottingham, Yorks, where the architect forgot to put a means of access to the ringing room and belfry, so a chimney-like staircase turret was erected externally. The ringers ascend right to the bell chamber, then, lifting up a trapdoor alongside the bell frame, go down again by a step ladder into a dungeon-like room with only one small window. The sallies of the bell ropes pass over the bell wheels, and the noise while ringing the eight bells is very great.

Another instance where it is said the architect forgot the tower stairs is at St. Michael's, Bath. Here is an elegant tower and spire at the west end, containing a ring of eight bells (tenor 16 cwt.), all 'cast at Gloucester by Abel Rudhall, 1757,' according to the inscription on the 6th bell. In 1912 the 7th was recast and all were retuned and rehung by J. Warner and Sons. To get to the ringing room one ascends the gallery, thence a short stairway leads through the wall on to the roof. A short covered way leads to another short stairway through the tower wall direct into the ringing chamber.

The priory church of St. Mary, Deerhurst, Glos, is very largely Saxon, probably dating from the 10th century, originally consisting of a choir with presbytery and aisles, clerestoried nave of four bays and west tower, the entire length being 105ft. The presbytery, with exception of its foundations and one side wall has disappeared, as well as one-half of each choir aisle, but otherwise the church possesses its ancient features. The tower, 70ft. high, has a clock and six bells. This Saxon tower is divided by a stone wall into two compartments, i.e., below the bell chamber. The five smaller bell ropes fall on one side of the wall, the tenor on the other, and the ringer of the latter has to look at the others through a doorway in the wall. The bells are by Abel Rudhall, 1736, except the 3rd, which was recast in 1872 by M. Blews and Son, of Birmingham.

Merton, Surrey, Parish Church of St. Mary, which recently celebrated the 800th anniversary of its foundation, has over the west end of the north aisle a small broach spire covered with shingle and surmounted by a weather vane, while at the base wooden louvres open into a belfry. There is no tower proper, yet in this curious structure hangs a ring of five bells with a tenor 7 cwt. 1 qr. 16 lb. As early as the 1552 inventory there were 'in the steeple iij belles,' and in the 'Church Bells of Surrey' the inscriptions of three are noted, first by T. Mears, 1803; second was a pre-Reformation bell probably by Danyell, of London, and bore an invocatory inscription to St. Margaret; and third by Bryan Eldridge, 1621. Now there are five from the Whitechapel foundry. These are hung in the open church behind pews, and the congregation would have to pass through the circle if the west door was the only way in. But as there is a small north porch, while the bells are being rung the west door is locked, and the congregation enter by the porch. It was at this church that Nelson worshipped when he resided at Merton, and here attended a church service before he left for the war that ended with Trafalgar.

Newport Pagnell, Bucks, Parish Church of SS. Peter and Paul has a western tower where the ringers perform from the ground floor. There is nothing curious or

peculiar about that, but the way to get up to the clock room and belfry is very unusual. The church existing on the site in the first half of the 14th century was cruciform. About the third quarter of that century the central tower was destroyed, and the nave was rebuilt and aisles added or rebuilt. The great length of the nave and the thickness of the chancel arch show the existence of the former tower, and the break between the eastern bays of the arcade on each side indicate that the west walls of the transepts were pulled down after the arcades were built. The church is interesting on account of the size and development of the plan. In the south-east corner by the side of the chancel arch is a small doorway opening to the stair turret. The upper doorway opening into the former rood loft has been destroyed, and this stair turret now leads to the roof of the nave. This roof is traversed the whole length westward to a door giving access to the tower and clock room. The west tower is 15½ ft. square and of four stages, with clasping buttresses at the four angles, and a restored moulded plinth. There is a ring of eight, tenor 22¼ cwt., originally dating from 1749 to 1819. These were recast and rehung by Gillett and Johnston in 1911. There is also a Sanctus and a semi-tone bell.

The Parish Church of St. Michael and Felix, Rumburgh, Suffolk, is an old and curious building in mixed styles. The church stands in what was a Roman camp, and is still surrounded by the Roman fosse. Here was formerly a priory of the Benedictine order, first founded by the monks of Hulme Abbey in 1064, as a cell for that house and afterwards transferred by Stephen or Alan, Earl of Richmond and Bretagne, to the Abbey of St. Mary at York. In its present form the church consists of a tower basement at the west end, and a nave, the eastern part of which is separated from the rest by the original screen (Perpendicular), so forming the chancel. What remains of the tower is a basement with Early English entrance and, above, three lancet windows. On this has been built a timber structure with latticed windows as a bell chamber, and is very picturesque. This is surmounted by a higher pitched tiled roof with flagstaff and vane. The wooden bell chamber, reached by a very narrow staircase, is in a somewhat dilapidated condition. It contains five bells dating from 1624 to 1823. In 1553 there were '3 bells and a Saunce.'

The Church of the Assumption of St. Mary-the-Virgin, Stowe, Bucks, stands in a churchyard surrounded by the grounds of Stowe House. The walls are covered with roughcast except the third stage of the tower, which is of stone. The roofs are covered with copper. The west tower was built c. 1330, and in the 19th century the third stage was rebuilt and entire church restored. The tower is 10 ft. square and contains five bells, 1, 3, and 4 by James Keene, 1654, 2 and 5 by Richard Keen, 1660 and 1665 respectively. There is also a cracked Sanctus bell. The curious feature here is the fall of the bell ropes in the unusual circle of 1, 2, 4, 3, 5.

THE PASSING BELL

Who bends not his ear to any bell which on occasion rings? But who can remove it from that bell which is passing a piece of himself out of this world? No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friends or thine own were; any man's death diminishes me because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.—John Donne, 1573-1631, Dean of St. Paul's.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT MANCHESTER.

The annual meeting of the Lancashire Association was held at Manchester on September 30th. During the afternoon there was ringing at the Town Hall, the Cathedral, and Sacred Trinity, Salford. Service was at the Cathedral, at which the president of the association, the Rev. F. F. Rigby, gave an address, and a collection was made for the Cathedral Restoration Fund.

The business meeting was held in the Cathedral, and was presided over by the Rev. F. F. Rigby. The committee reported that during the previous year 75 new members had joined and 30 old ones rejoined, in addition to 21 non-resident members and three honorary life members. A large number of subscriptions in arrears had been paid. There were now 1,067 names on the books. Sixteen members had died, three of them on active service. The statement of accounts showed an increased balance of £42, each section showing an increase.

The Rev. F. F. Rigby was re-elected for two years as president, and Messrs. P. Crook, G. R. Newton, W. H. Shaker and A. Tomlinson were appointed representatives on the Central Council. Blackburn was chosen as the place for the next annual meeting.

The President referred to ringing for peace and victory, and suggested that where bands were short-handed they should combine. It would also be well to appoint men to advise on the repairs to the fittings which would be necessary.

Votes of thanks to the Cathedral authorities and the chief verger were passed.

At the tea in the Gravel Lane Wesleyan Institute 123 sat down, and more ringing followed in the evening.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HANDSWORTH.

The Southern District of the Yorkshire Association held a meeting at Handsworth on September 23rd, when members attended from Driffield, Ecclesfield, Eckington, Felkirk, Bolsover, Spottborough, Sheffield (Cathedral and St. Marie's) and the local belfry. Tea was provided in the Church Room by the local company.

In the absence of the vice-president through illness, the business meeting was presided over by Mr. D. Smith. Mr. George Lewis, the vice-president, wrote that though he was on the way to recovery, he did not feel quite well enough to attend, and the secretary was instructed to convey to him the members' wishes for a speedy restoration to good health. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Ranmoor on December 16th. Mr. Ernest Padgett, of Barnby Don, was elected a member. A collection in aid of the Bell Repair Fund realised 9s. 9d.

MEETING AT HEPTONSTALL.

A meeting of the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association, held at Heptonstall on September 23rd, was attended by upwards of 30 members and visitors from a wide area. A variety of methods, ranging from Bob Major to Superlative, were rung. Service was conducted by the Vicar, and tea was served in the Co-op. Cafe. The business meeting was presided over by the vice-president, Mr. P. J. Johnson.

On the committee's recommendation, it was decided to postpone the December meeting, since it was thought that travelling arrangements would not make it worth while. The next meeting will be in March at a tower selected by the committee. A collection for the Belfry Repairs Fund realised 10s. 9d.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Eastern District of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association, held at St. Ignatius', Sunderland on September 23rd, was attended by about 20 ringers from Blaydon, Chester-le-Street, Houghton-le-Spring, Newcastle (Cathedral), South Shields, West Hartlepool (St. Oswald's), Sunderland (St. Michael's and St. Ignatius').

The ringing consisted of rounds, Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Double Norwich, Kent Treble Bob and Superlative and Cambridge Surprise Major.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. G. H. Marshall, assisted by the Rev. F. O. Taylor.

Tea at Valley House was followed by a business meeting, at which Mr. R. L. Patterson, the vice-president, welcomed Lieut. W. Morton, of Hereford.

Mr. R. L. Patterson was re-elected vice-president and Mr. F. Ainsley secretary for the ensuing year. Miss Sheila M. McKay was elected a member of the association.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at South Shields on October 28th.

MEETING AT BOURNEMOUTH

Between fifty and sixty ringers attended a combined meeting of the Wimborne Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild and the Christchurch Branch of the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild, held at Bournemouth on September 30th.

The bells of St. John's, Surrey Road, were rung before tea (which was at St. Peter's Hall), and the bells of St. Peter's afterwards. The ringing ranged from Grandsire Doubles to Cambridge Surprise Major.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

STOURBRIDGE.—On September 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Sub-Lieut. D. Watson, R.N. 1, Miss F. L. Wright 2, A. Whatmore 3, F. W. Gibbs 4, A. L. Dunn 5, F. V. Nicholls 6, J. W. Smith (conductor) 7, Robert Lees 8.

PORTSMOUTH.—On Sunday, September 17th, at the Cathedral, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: S. E. Cook 1, J. W. Meade 2, T. E. Thorpe 3, H. Nobes 4, E. Jurd 5, F. W. Burnett 6, W. Tate (conductor) 7, W. Scaife 8.

FULHAM.—On Sunday, September 17th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: H. Harris 1, R. Mackrill 2, C. Hunt 3, W. Gibbons 4, H. Page 5, H. Miles 6, A. Paice (conductor) 7, H. Belcher 8.

NORTON-IN-THE-MOORS.—On September 17th, 720 Durham Surprise Minor: J. Ryles 1, W. Corfield 2, S. Ryles 3, W. C. Lawrence 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6. Also 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: O. Williams 1, J. Jolley 2, J. E. Wheeldon 3, W. C. Lawrence 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6.

CHALFONT ST. PETER.—On Sunday, September 17th, 720 Spliced Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Minor: F. Bolton 1, G. H. Gutteridge 2, G. E. Swift 3, Mrs. M. King 4, A. Swam 5, W. L. Gutteridge (conductor) 6.

STAINES.—At St. Peter's, on Sunday, September 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: G. Walmsley 1, W. Goldstone 2, W. C. Parker 3, E. W. Butler 4, R. J. Andrews 5, J. Crocker 6, J. B. Hessey (conductor) 7, E. W. Ryder 8.

HANDBRIDGE.—On Sunday, September 17th, 1,344 Bob Major: A. Close 1, Miss H. Close 2, Miss J. Close 3, J. Hayes 4, J. W. Griffiths 5, J. Swindley 6, T. Griffiths 7, P. Swindley (conductor) 8.

EAST BUDLEIGH.—On September 17th, 1,260 Bob Minor: E. A. Connock 1, B. Pidgeon 2, F. Dymond 3, E. Sprague 4, J. Brown (conductor) 5, J. Glanvil 6.

HEREFORD.—On September 18th, at St. Nicholas', 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: W. Yates (first quarter-peal) 1, C. Gimbert 2, H. Johnson 3, W. Evans 4, A. W. Davies (conductor) 5, D. H. Wright 6.

BOURNE, Lincs.—On Wednesday, September 20th, 720 Bob Minor: J. McIntyre (first 720) 1, Marion Gann 2, Rev. D. H. Tindell 3, S. Smith 4, F. W. French 5, A. I. Holmes (conductor) 6.

POULTON-LE-FYLDE, LANCASHIRE.—On Friday, September 22nd, 720 Bob Minor: Stephen Lawrenson 1, Robert E. Smith (first inside) 2, Ralph Taylor 3, Sgt. William Procter 4, J. H. Foster (conductor) 5, Opl. William Perkins 6.

READING.—On Sunday, September 24th, at St. Laurence's, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: W. Hibbert 1, Mrs. Cathall 2, Miss J. Stacey 3, Miss P. Hart 4, T. Lanaghan 5, R. Rex 6, R. T. Hibbert (conductor) 7, E. G. Foster 8, P. Dyke 9, W. Rampton 10.

ALVERSTOKE.—On Sunday, September 24th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss E. Landon 1, J. Hunt 2, S. Cook 3, H. Nobes 4, E. Jurd 5, F. Barron 6, F. Burnett (conductor) 7, L. Houghton 8.

SLOUGH.—On Sunday, September 24th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. D. Rivers 1, F. V. Sinks 2, W. E. Judd (conductor) 3, W. Worsfold 4, J. Gayford 5, J. W. Best 6, E. Hudson 7, E. H. Preston 8.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association, held at Mistley on September 16th, was attended by 25 members from Ipswich, Great Holland, Harwich, Thorington, Mistley, Langham, Colchester, Barningham, Shrimpling and Rushmere.

The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and Plain Bob, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and York and Cambridge Surprise Minor. Several new members were elected.

Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. J. G. Madeley. It was decided to hold the annual meeting at Kirby-le-Soken. A discussion was started by Mr. Chalk about what will happen when hostilities cease. It was felt that nothing officially can be done, but that neighbouring towers should help each other as they have been doing.

MEETING AT BRIDGNORTH

Ringers from Kidderminster, Wolverhampton, Coleshill, Coalbrookdale, Lichfield, Dudley, Bilston and the local belfry were present at Bridgnorth on September 23rd. The methods rung were Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Double Norwich Major. Tea was at the Swan Hotel.

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.

The annual meeting of the St. Paul's Cathedral Society, Melbourne, was held at the Cathedral on July 25th, the Dean of Melbourne, the Very Rev. H. T. Langley, in the chair. Ten members were present. The captain, in his report, said the society was in a sound position and the balance sheet showed a credit of £15.

Regret was expressed at the death of a late member, Mr. W. R. Madgwick. Mr. Madgwick was a member for two or three years before returning to England. On September 20th, 1925, he rang the third in a peal of 5,040 Grandsire Triples, conducted by the late A. G. Fitzgerald.

The following officers were elected: Captain, J. Spencer; vice-captain, E. Knott; secretary, W. Wagborn; assistant secretary, B. Zelius; steeplekeeper, H. Ross; auditors, Miss M. Henstridge and E. Knott.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Saturday, Oct. 7th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Dunstan's, Stepney.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Oxford City and North Berks Branches. — Joint meeting at Cumnor, Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Ringing, Appleton, 6 p.m.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Lincoln District.—Meeting at Blankney (6 bells), Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea, 1s. each, at 5 p.m.—K. W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Carline Road, Lincoln.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District. — Annual meeting at Tonbridge, Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea at Carlton Cafe 5 p.m.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

DEVON GUILD.—Mid-Devon Branch.—Meeting at Paignton, Saturday, Oct. 7th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea (1s. 6d.) and business in Church Hall 4.45 p.m.—A. L. Bennett, Branch Sec., Cornerways, Buckfastleigh (phone 3121).

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Meeting at Broxbourne, Saturday, Oct. 7th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business 5.15 p.m.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon, Herts.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION and OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Joint meeting, Saturday, Oct. 7th, at St. John's, Hillingdon (10 bells), 3 p.m. Tea in St. John's Hall 5 p.m. Social evening to follow.—J. E. L. Cockey and A. D. Barker, Hon. Secs.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at Baldock, Oct. 7th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—A. E. Symonds, Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.—Meeting at Stanford-in-the-Vale, Saturday, Oct. 7th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 4.30.—R. F. J. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon, Berks.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—Meeting at Hornchurch, Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Business meeting and tea to follow.—J. H. Crampin, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD (Leatherhead District) and the **SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Leatherhead, Saturday, Oct. 14th. Service 4.45. Tea at the Duke's Head 5.30. Names for tea to Mr. G. Mariner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, by Oct. 12th.—A. H. Smith and D. Cooper, Hon. Secs.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—Annual meeting, Aylesford, Saturday, Oct. 14th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting after. Names to Mr. G. Avis, 56, Teapot Lane, Aylesford, near Maidstone, as soon as possible.—C. H. Sone, Dis. Sec.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY and MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Norton, Saturday, Oct. 14th, 2.30 p.m. No tea arrangements.—G. G. Graham, 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington, and S. Scattergood, 797, Sheffield Road, Sheepbridge, Hon. Secs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Samlesbury (8 bells), Saturday, Oct. 14th, 2.30. Bring food.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at All Saints', Hamer, on Oct. 14th. Names for tea to Mr. J. Taylor, 96, Greenbank Road, Rochdale, by Wednesday, Oct. 11th.

BARNSELY DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Kirkthorpe, near Wakefield, Oct. 14th, 2.30 p.m. For tea notify Mr. W. Riley, 12, Woodland Avenue, Kirkthorpe, near Wakefield, by Oct. 11th.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at Garston, Saturday, Oct. 14th, 3 p.m. Service 5. Names for tea to Mr. J. W. Rawlinson, 29, Mersey Avenue, Liverpool 19.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Crewkerne Branch.—Meeting at Shepton Beauchamp (8 bells) Saturday, Oct. 14th. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Names for tea by Tuesday, Oct. 10th.—J. T. Locke, Hon. Sec., School Street, Drayton, Taunton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—Meeting at St. Paul's, Walkden, Saturday, Oct. 14th, 2.30. Business 6.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at South Wingfield, Saturday, Oct. 14th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names by Oct. 11th.—J. W. England, 49, The Common, South Normanton, Derby.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—W. Norfolk Branch.—Meeting at Fakenham, on Saturday, Oct. 14th. Tea at 5.30. Names to W. J. Eldred, 4, Wellington Street, Kings Lynn.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch.—Meeting at Bourne (6 bells) on Saturday, Oct. 14th. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business. Names for tea to Mr. F. French, 90, West Street, Bourne, by Oct. 11th.—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Weston, Bath (6 bells), Oct. 14th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—S. S. Woodburn, Hon. Sec., Manor Lodge, Weston, Bath.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District.—Meeting at Kirkby-in-Furness (6 bells), Saturday, Oct. 14th, 2.30 p.m.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Meeting at Lydiard Millicent on Saturday, Oct. 14th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting at Hindley on Saturday, Oct. 14th, 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. (1s. 6d. each).—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Banbury Branch.—Meeting at Wardington (6 bells), Saturday, Oct. 14th, 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea to follow. Cropredy tower during evening.—Notify E. Pearson, Adderbury West, Banbury.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Aylestone (6 bells) on Oct. 14th, 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea in Church Hall 5 p.m. Names by Oct. 12th to H. W. Perkins, 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—Meeting at St. Stephen's, Canterbury, Oct. 21st, 2.30. Service 4.15. Names for tea by Oct. 18th.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport, Bowden and Macclesfield Branches.—Meeting at Macclesfield on Saturday, Oct. 21st. Christ Church (8) 3 to 4 p.m. Service in Christ Church 4 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Christ Church Day Schools. Parish Church (12) after meeting. Names for tea to J. Worth, 261, Peter Street, Macclesfield (phone 3904) before Oct. 18th.—T. Wilde and T. Taylor, Hon. Secs.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Leamington Spa, Saturday, Oct. 21st. Bells of Parish Church 3 p.m. Tea at Pattison's Cafeteria 4.15. Service 5.30. Meeting to follow in G.F.S. House.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION (Luton District) and **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION** (North Bucks Branch).—Meeting at Leighton Buzzard, Saturday, Oct. 21st. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Notify Miss D. E. Lidbetter, 13, Grove Road, Leighton Buzzard, by Oct. 18th.—D. E. Lidbetter and R. H. Howson, Hon. Secs.

BIRTH.

FITCH.—To Doris (née Sargeant) and Archie A. Fitch, of 7, Croft Road, Sudbury, Suffolk, on Sept. 3rd, at St. Leonard's Hospital, the gift of a daughter, Sandra Elizabeth.

MARRIAGE.

MASSEY—MILLS.—On Sept. 16th, at Holy Trinity Church, Claygate; Pilot Officer Navigator George Wilkins Massey, T.C., R.A.F.V.R., only son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins Massey, 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, to Hilda Mary Mills, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mills, 144, Coverts Road, Claygate.

DEATH.

DOBBIE.—On Sept. 29th, at 117, High Street, Milton Regis, Kent, Ernest James, aged 59 years.

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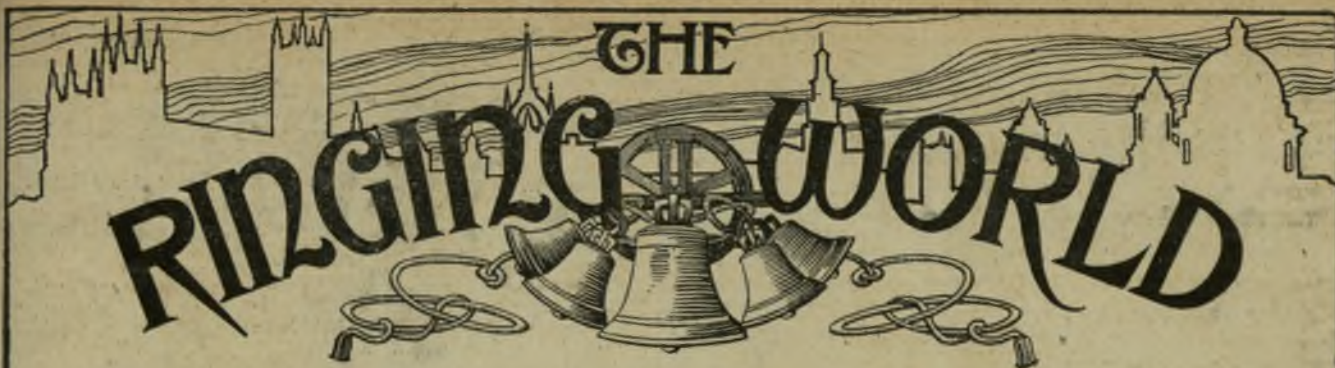
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THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

No. 1,751. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13th, 1944.

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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.

LEADING.

In a letter we published last week a correspondent asked which is the correct way to lead in an even-bell method: to watch carefully for the last rope in the previous change (as his friends maintain), or to rely on hearing (as has always been his own practice)? It is a question which has been asked many times and which is worth a little consideration.

One obvious answer is that 'correctness' has nothing to do with the subject. All that matters is that the ringer should make a good lead, and so long as he does so, how he does it is quite immaterial. But that does not quite meet the point our correspondent wishes to raise. What he really asks is: Which is the best plan to teach a beginner to adopt? There the point is an important one. Some time ago, when we were writing of a similar matter, we stressed the importance of teaching a beginner to use to the fullest, not only his eyes but his ears also. Here we think is the real answer to the present question.

No man can ring changes properly who does not use his eyes. Seeing is the faculty by which we find our way among the other bells, and a man is a competent ringer very largely to the extent he can take all the ropes into his vision. And not only the ropes, but the other ringers' arms and bodies, and can notice by their faces and their attitude and their slight movements what they are doing and what they expect him to do. Ropesight is not merely being able to pick out the particular rope which must be followed, but a general understanding of all the ropes. This does not come as a rule by instruction but by practice, and good teaching is that which provides the right sort of practice.

But seeing by itself will never make a first-class ringer. It may enable a man, and in many instances it does enable a man, to ring easily the most complicated of methods, to conduct peals and touches, and to detect and correct trips and mistakes by other men. But something may be, and often is, still lacking; and unless the man uses his hearing as well he will never be a really first-class ringer, and, for all his splendid list of peals, his reputation among ringers will not be of the highest.

The opinion is widely held (tacitly, if not vocally) that sight is the faculty a ringer must mainly rely on in the practice of his art, and that hearing comes in later to test whether the ringing is well done or not. By sight many men find out which rope they must follow. They use their hearing, so far as they use it at all, to judge whether the blow they have made is a good one or not.

(Continued on page 422.)

That is not how a really first-class ringer works. With him sight and hearing are co-ordinated. The two aid each other and produce a sense of rhythm which will enable a man to go on ringing for a long time without consciously considering what either his ears or his eyes are telling him. Ask such a man how he leads in a Major method and he probably will not be able to tell you. Does he take notice of the rope which closed the last change? Of course he does, for he takes notice more or less of all the ropes. Does he use his ears? Of course he does, for otherwise he would not be a first-class ringer. But he most probably never uses either eyes or ears as some people imagine. What happens is that his sense of rhythm tells him that to lead properly his rope must be pulled just in one way and not otherwise. Whether there is a covering tenor or not makes no difference to him.

Beginners should be so taught that they acquire this full comprehension of the sight of the ropes and the sound of the bells, and the best way to do that is to give them the fullest opportunities of practising on the smallest number of bells without any covering tenor. To push them on to the higher numbers before they have learnt to be ringers on the lower is a great mistake.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., Oct. 3, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,
At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5065 CHANGES;

ERIC A. DENCH 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4	ALBERT J. WALLMAN 7-8
CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 9-10	

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS.

Conducted by J. THOMAS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., Oct. 4, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,
At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

ERIC A. DENCH 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4	*PHILLIP D. COWARD ... 7-8

Composed by I. J. ATTWATER.

Conducted by J. THOMAS.

* First peal of Bob Major in hand.

ST. ALBANS, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., Oct. 5, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 12.

*REGINALD W. DARVILL... 1-2	WALTER AYRE 5-6
P. MICHAEL FREEMAN ... 3-4	*CHARLES F. SAYER 7-8

Composed by GEO. H. CROSS.

Conducted by WALTER AYRE.

* First peal on handbells.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Oct. 7, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

IN THE CHOIR VESTRY OF ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5187 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

HAROLD J. POOLE 1-2	*T. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. ... 5-6
G. STEDMAN MORRIS 3-4	ERNEST MORRIS 7-8
JOSIAH MORRIS 9-10	

Composed by MAJ. J. H. R. FREEBORN. Conducted by E. MORRIS.

* First peal of Stedman on handbells. A 77th birthday compliment to T. Groombridge, sen.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

THURCASTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 30, 1944, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt.

HARRY G. WAYNE ...Treble	SHIRLEY BURTON 5
*JILL POOLE 2	WILLIAM J. ROOT 6
G. STEDMAN MORRIS 3	EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD 7
†ERNEST MORRIS 4	HAROLD J. POOLE ...Tenor

Composed by HENRY DAINS. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* First peal in the method. † 850th peal.

KIDLINGTON, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., Oct. 3, 1944, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION.

Tenor 23½ cwt.

MISS VALHALLA HILL ...Treble	ERNEST MORRIS 5
WALTER F. JUDGE 2	WILLIAM JUDGE 6
CHARLES J. GARDNER 3	MAJ. J. H. R. FREEBORN 7
REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG ... 4	WILLIAM H. THORNE ...Tenor

Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

EASTWOOD, ROTHERHAM.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Fri., Oct. 6, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt.

*RONALD H. DOVE ...Treble	GEORGE S. LEE 5
JACK G. BROTHWELL ... 2	WALTER ALLWOOD 6
*JOHN W. SMITHSON 3	HERBERT O. CHADDOCK... 7
SERG. N. CHADDOCK ... 4	JOHN E. TURLEY ...Tenor

Composed by ERNEST MORRIS.

Conducted by JOHN E. TURLEY.

* First peal in the method.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Oct. 7, 1944, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

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

THOMAS W. WHITE ...Treble	GEORGE L. GROVER 5
*ALBERT LAMBIN 2	RONALD J. C. HAGLEY ... 6
ALFRED H. PULLING 3	WILLIAM T. BEESON 7
CLARENCE H. DOBBIE ... 4	FRANK C. W. KNIGHT ...Tenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

* First peal on eight bells.

ORMSKIRK, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Oct. 7, 1944, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION.

Tenor 25 cwt. in D.

THOMAS BUTLER, SEN. ...Treble	THOMAS W. HESKETH 5
GEORGE R. NEWTON 2	EDWIN C. BIRKETT 6
THOMAS R. BUTLER 3	PERCIVAL W. CAVE 7
*FREDERICK S. ALMOND 4	FRANK VARTY ... ..Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS R. BUTLER.

* First peal in the method.

TICKHILL, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Oct. 7, 1944, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt. 3 qr. 7 lb.

JOHN H. BROTHWELL ...Treble	F. BERNARD DITCHER ... 5
MILTON C. FOWLER 2	J. EDWARD CAWSE 6
HARRY MORGAN 3	NORMAN CHADDOCK 7
ARNOLD HILL 4	JOHN E. TURLEY ... ..Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by J. ED. CAWSE.

First peal in the method on the bells.

CLENT, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Oct. 7, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

WILLIAM C. DOWDING ... Treble	CLIFFORD SKIDMORE ... 5
HENRY H. FEARN ... 2	*JOHN PINFOLD ... 6
DANIEL T. MATKIN ... 3	NORMAN J. GOODMAN ... 7
WILLIAM B. CARTWRIGHT ... 4	THOMAS HEMMING ... Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by WM. B. CARTWRIGHT.

* First peal of London.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Oct. 7, 1944, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

WILLIAM FERNBY ... Treble	CECIL AUSTIN ... 5
W. W. WOLSTENCROFT ... 2	ALAN J. BROWN ... 6
TOM WILDE ... 3	JOHN WORTH ... 7
JAMES A. MILNER ... 4	PETER LAFLIN ... Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

200th peal as conductor.

SIX BELL PEALS.

REDBOURN, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 30, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's (Morris'), one 720 C.C. Collection and 24 extents (10 callings).

Tenor 14½ cwt.

WILLIAM A. TAYLOR ... Treble	WALTER AYRE ... 5
ALBERT HARRIS ... 2	HORACE W. ANSTEY ... 6
WILLIAM BEDDARD ... 3	JOE HOBBS ... Tenor

Conducted by WALTER AYRE.

PENWORTHAM, LANC.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Oct. 7, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three extents of Kent Treble Bob and four of Plain Bob.

Tenor 8½ cwt.

*WILLIAM GUNSON ... Treble	*TOM WATSON ... 4
*FRED HAWORTH ... 2	WILLIAM TAYLOR ... 5
*ARTHUR TOMLINSON ... 3	E. R. MARTIN ... Tenor

Conducted by E. R. MARTIN.

* First peal. Ringers of 1, 2 and 3 are aged 14 years and the 4th 15.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association was held on September 30th in the library of Newcastle Cathedral.

In his report, the hon. secretary, Mr. Roland Park, called attention to the long membership of some of the men whose names were on the roll. Dr. Barrow, of Rothbury, had completed 65 years, Mr. W. Story 64 years, Mr. C. L. Routledge and Mr. J. W. Shipp 63 years, Mr. T. H. Surtees and Mr. W. Sheraton 58 years, Mr. R. Welsh 54 years, Mr. G. W. Park and Mr. J. E. R. Keen 52 years, and Mr. F. Sheraton 51 years.

There had been a fairly heavy death roll during the five years which had passed since the last annual meeting. It included Mr. Arthur Payne, a past president, and Mr. William Newton, the last of the original members. Four members had lost their lives on active service, and 18 other members had died. Three members, Chris. Hetherington, Charles Lea and Cyril Mordue, were prisoners of war. Many bands had been depleted by the call-up, some having all their members in the forces and others with but one or two left.

The financial statement, presented by Mr. W. Norman Park, the treasurer, showed a balance in hand of over £126.

Mr. F. Ainsley reported on the activities of the Eastern District and Mr. J. T. Titt on the Southern District. Mr. W. N. Park said that Mr. J. A. Brown had done good work in the Western District.

Touques of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Caters, and Plain Bob, Double Norwich and Cambridge Surprise were rung at the Cathedral and St. Mary's, Gateshead.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT CLENT.

Eighty-two ringers from twenty-seven towers were present at the annual meeting of the Northern Branch of the Worcestershire and Districts Association, held at Clent on September 23rd. The Dudley Guild were guests.

The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Gwynfor John, and was fully choral. The lesson was read by Mr. B. C. Ashford.

At the business meeting Mr. Thomas Greenhall, of Halesowen, was elected Ringing Master in place of Mr. John Lloyd, who had expressed a wish to resign, as he considered the office should go round more often. Mr. B. C. Ashford and Mr. John Bass were re-elected secretary and Central Committee representative respectively.

Three new members were elected from Cradley, Stourbridge and Selly Oak, and it was decided to hold monthly meetings at Oldswinford or Wollaton on October 21st, and at Kidderminster on November 18th. The next quarterly meeting was fixed for January 20th at Stourbridge.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

MEETING AT TETTENHALL.

Upwards of 60 members and friends attended a meeting of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford, held at Tettenhall on September 30th. The methods rung during the afternoon and evening included Double Norwich and Cambridge Surprise Major. Service was conducted by the Rev. J. Bickley, curate-in-charge, who gave an address. It was announced that Mr. A. Madeley, of Burton, near Preston, had given the society nine books on ringing with a request that they should be kept in the library of St. Peter's, Wolverhampton, for the use of members generally. Seven members were elected. The next meeting will be at St. Paul's, Wood Green, Wednesbury, in April.

RINGING AT LONDON UNIVERSITY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The formation of the Universities Association has encouraged a band of ringers at London University to form an association of their own and to start recruiting in the university.

During last year tower bell practices were held (with tied clappers) at St. James', Pretan Square, and open at St. Mary's, Lambeth. Several recruits are making progress in Grandsire and some in more advanced methods.

Handbell practices have been held at the Church House of St. Clement Danes', and a peal of Bob Major was rung there for the Universities Association, with Mr. W. L. B. Leese, of Oxford, conducting.

Two members attended the Universities Association ringing tour in Worcestershire.

DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON.

King's College, The Strand, W.1.

BRISTOL UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

A meeting of the University of Bristol Society was held at the University Union on October 2nd, the first anniversary of the foundation of the society. Forty members and prospective members were present. The Master, Miss Monica J. Richardson, in a report, said that in October, 1943, only two members could handle a tower bell, but for the past five months there had been ringing at St. Michael's, Cotham, for morning and evening services every Sunday during term. Two members had recently scored their first peal in the tower. Regular handbell practices had also been held throughout the year.

The society could never have come into existence had it not been for the help given by the Bristol Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, and the kindness of Mr. D. G. Clift and Lieut. C. Glenn, who had attended nearly all the practices during the year. As far as Bristol was concerned, the Universities Association had also more than justified its existence, giving much encouragement in both moral and practical spheres. Several members had benefited by visits to Oxford and by participation in the ringing tour in Worcestershire. The initial difficulties of establishing a society had now been to a large extent overcome, and more rapid progress might be expected in the future.

Grandsire Triples and Bob Major were rung on handbells by M. Richardson, Jenny Pym, Margaret Carpenter, Eric Taylor and Edward Burge, and the party then adjourned to St. Michael's for some Grandsire Doubles in the tower.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HETHERSETT.

A meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held at Hethersett on September 30th, at which about 30 members were present from Ranworth, Long Melford, Mulbarton, Bergh Apton, Hethersett, Wymondham, Redenhall, Diss, New Buckenham, Great Yarmouth, Yaxham, Norwich and Wighton. Methods were rung up to Cambridge Minor and Kent Major. The Rector conducted the service. Tea and business meeting were at the King's Head. It was arranged to hold the next meetings at Scotow in November and Horsham St. Faith in December.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official Journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to:—

The Editor,

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Cheques and remittances should be made payable to 'The Ringing World.'

The peal of Bob Major at Hethersett reported as being rung on September 23rd was really rung on September 16th.

We have received a report of a peal of Grandsire Doubles at Wollaston, Stourbridge, without a date.

THE MONTH'S PEALS

The number of peals rung in September was fifty-nine, two more than in August, but there were five Saturdays. Forty-nine were rung on tower bells and ten on handbells.

The tower bell peals consisted of: Grandsire Doubles 4, Triples 7; Bob Minor 5, Major 2; Oxford Bob Triples 1; Stedman Triples 6, Caters 3, Cinques 1; Kent Treble Bob Major 4; Double Norwich Court Bob Major 2; Cambridge Surprise Major 1, Royal 2; Superlative Major 2; Bristol 1; London 2; Three to seven Minor methods 6.

The handbell peals consisted of Grandsire Triples 1, Caters 1; Bob Major 2; Kent Treble Bob Major 1; Oxford 1; Stedman Caters 2, Cinques 2.

The number of peals in January was 50, in February 34, in March 37, in April 48, in May 41, in June 34, in July 47, and in August 57; making a total for the year (so far) of 407.

DEATH OF MR. J. J. LAMB

The death is announced of Mr. John James Lamb, who passed away on October 7th at the age of 85 years, at the residence of his niece, Miss Elders, 43, Invieta Road, Blackheath.

Mr. Lamb began his ringing in 1883, and his first peal, one of Grandsire Triples on January 29th, 1884, was at St. Alphege's, Greenwich, where for many years he was a service ringer. This was rung by the now extinct Society of Trinity Youths. His last was one of Double Norwich at Eltham on February 26th, 1936, for the Kent County Association. In all he rang 408 peals. They consisted of Grandsire Triples 40, Caters 1; Stedman Triples 90, Caters 67, Cinques 1; Kent Treble Bob Major 28, Royal 2; Oxford Treble Bob Major 3, Royal 1; Bob Major 7; Canterbury Pleasure Major 1; Oxford Bob Major 1; Double Norwich Court Bob Major 36; Superlative Surprise Major 73, Cambridge 4, New Cambridge 7, Bristol 11, and London 35.

Mr. Lamb was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, the Middlesex County Association, the Winchester Diocesan Guild, the London County Association, the Waterloo Society and the Trinity Youths. The funeral was at Charlton Cemetery yesterday.

DEATH OF MR. E. J. DOBBIE.

The death is announced of Mr. Ernest James Dobbie, of Milton, Kent, which took place on September 29th at the age of 59 years.

Mr. Dobbie, who belonged to a family which has produced several ringers, had rung 177 peals. He joined the Sittingbourne company in 1908 and for many years was steeplekeeper. The funeral was at Milton Parish Church on October 3rd and was attended by several ringers. A course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the grave on handbells by Miss Betty Spice, Mr. W. Spice, sen., Mr. G. H. Spice and Mr. W. Burley. Among the floral tributes were wreaths from the Rochester District of the Kent County Association, the St. Michael's Society and the Tunstall ringers.

RINGING FOR VICTORY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The recent statement by Mr. Churchill to the effect, that fighting in Germany may go on indefinitely prompts the question, what indication will ringers have that victory ringing may start? If, as Mr. Churchill stated, the Nazis go to ground and continue a resistance movement, it is possible that there will be no sudden cessation of hostilities, as was the case in 1918. In this event, one is bound to wonder whether any arrangements for victory ringing will mature. It will be unfortunate should such circumstances arise, and they can only have a detrimental effect on the return to peace-time standards of ringing.

This is due to the attitude of many ringers, also some ringing bodies, who have adopted a policy of no peal ringing during the period of hostilities. There are also many fine peals of bells lying idle on account of the same idea. While such a policy may have been sound three or four years ago, it may be pointed out that we have made much progress in the field of arms since then, and the continuation of such a policy under present circumstances is to my mind prejudicial to progress.

It was pointed out in the pages of this journal some time ago that a ringer's proficiency as a Sunday service ringer depends largely on his ability as a peal ringer, and ringers who come in the above category would do well to reflect now, as to whether decisions taken four years ago are still warranted. The same applies to those incumbents who if they would release their bells could play a big part in the return to peace-time conditions of ringing which only a revival of peal ringing can accomplish.

D. G. CLIFT.

21, Wathen Road, Bristol.

BELLS AND THE FILMS.

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—When hostilities cease, victory bells will be rung all over the country. The news reels on the films will probably depict the bells ringing merrily, but what of the ringers?

In a film that I recently witnessed, a peal of eight bells was shown, whilst in the next scene three or four men were giving sharp tugs on their respective 'sallies' (the bells were definitely being rung, not chimed). What a travesty!

Would it not be possible for the Central Council to get in touch with those responsible for filming the news reels?

If the bells are shown ringing in the belfry, why not give the public a view of those at the other end of the ropes?

There may not be a lot of time left; why let the opportunity pass?

T. EVANS.

48, Glebe Street, Penarth, Glam.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

PRESENTATION TO MR. F. W. ROMAINE.

To mark the completion of 21 years' service as secretary of the Salisbury Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, a presentation was made on September 30th to Mr. F. W. Romaine of a leather bound copy of H. B. Walter's 'Bells of Wiltshire,' a cheque, and a list of subscribers.

A service in St. Martin's Church, conducted by the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards, was followed by tea. Mr. E. G. Caple, the branch chairman, presided at the meeting and was supported by Mr. A. F. Martin Stewart (past master and vice-president), the Rev. F. Llewellyn Edwards (general secretary), Mrs. Hibberd (hon. life member), Mr. E. White and Mr. A. T. Weeks (chairman and vice-chairman respectively of the Devizes Branch), the local branch officers, and ringers from all the city churches and from Amesbury, Berwick St. John, Britford, Coombe Bissett, Damerham, Downton, Martin, Shrewton, Wilton, Wylve, Wishford, South Newton, Southbroom, Swindon, Warminster and Wimborne.

Mr. F. Ll. Edwards, in making the presentation, spoke of the work Mr. Romaine had done and what the Guild owed him.

Mr. A. F. Martin Stewart, Mr. E. White and the Rector of St. Martin's spoke of their long association with Mr. Romaine, and the Rector thanked Mr. Caple for the work he had done in collecting subscriptions.

Acknowledging the gift, Mr. Romaine said that since he took on the office of secretary, he had spent many pleasant hours and made a wide circle of friends. The work had been made a pleasure by the friendly welcome he had always met with, and the co-operation of all the members had helped to make the job very much easier. He learned ringing in 1903 at St. Martin's, under the late Mr. Gifford, and had been connected with St. Martin's since he was six years old. He wished to express very deepest thanks to one and all.

Mr. Caple said that every tower affiliated to the branch had sent a subscription, and donations had come from other branches (particularly Devizes) and from towers outside the diocese.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ALLOA.

Twenty-five ringers from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Paisley and the local belfry were present at a half-yearly meeting of the Scottish Association, held at St. John's, Alloa, on August 30th. A service was held in church, and tower bells and handbells were rung

CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 417.)

At Quainton, in the same county, the five bell ropes fall in anything but a circle. 5, 4, and 1 are in practically a straight line on one side of the tower, and 2 and 3 on the opposite side, so the rotation is 1, 3, 2, 5 and 4. This church is dedicated to the Holy Cross and St. Mary. In the 15th century the western tower was built and the west window and doorway of the nave were reset in the tower. This tower is 13½ ft. by 13 ft., and of three stages with embattled parapet, below which is a string course with grotesques at the angles. The south-west stair turret is continued above the parapet and is also embattled. Of the five bells the first four are by Henry Knight I., and the inscriptions seem to be intended as an encouragement to the parishioners not to grudge the expense of recasting:—

1. Thinke no cost to mvch
2. That yov bestow of all
3. To bring to pas
4. So good a thing.

The tenor has much larger cannons than Knight's bells. The inscription band looks as if the original wording had been filed off, and the present one incised in its place. It is by T. Lester, 1745. The left-handed frame is probably much older than the present ring, and was evidently altered on the augmentation to five in 1621, hence causing the very unusual and awkward 'circle' as described above. There is also a Sanctus by Thomas Eldridge, of Wokingham, the first founder of his family, dating between 1565 and 1592. It has a half-wheel.

The Church of St. Giles, Oxford, founded by Aylwin Godegose, is one of the earliest ecclesiastical buildings in Oxford, dating from 1200. Its walls are of rubble with dressings of local stone, and roofs covered with slate and lead. Towards the end of the 12th century the western tower was built and the aisles extended to enclose it on north and south. The top stage was added shortly after. It is 12½ ft. square, and contains a ring of eight. The tenor is dated 1692. Three were recast and two added in 1850 by W. Taylor, and in 1927 the octave completed. The approach to the ringing chamber here is first, as one enters the church by north or south doors, pass westward to the tower which is to open on three sides, being built in (and not on) to the church. Ascend a short step ladder to a small platform, then right across the side of the tower on a wooden staircase, rising to the ringing chamber in full view of the congregation, and through a trap door in the floor to the ringing chamber. The ascent to the bells and to the top of the tower is by ladders, there being no spiral or other means of ascent in the tower itself.

The Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin, Oxford, is the principal ornament of the High Street, and is the fourth church to stand on this site. One is mentioned in the Domesday book. The Norman church erected c. 1139 was rebuilt in Pointed style. The whole of the existing structure, with the exception of the Decorated tower and spire, is Perpendicular. This tower and spire form one of the most striking objects in every distant view of Oxford, and the immediate view from the Radcliffe square on the north is majestic in the extreme, the massive severity of the tower contrasting finely with the richly

decorated groups of pinnacles and other elaborate details clustering round the base of the spire, the height of which from base to vane is 197 ft. 9 in. The tower was built against the end of a north transept, the roof line of which can be seen on its south face. There are similar indications of a building to the east of the tower, but it is not certain if this was actually erected. The tower is 16½ ft. square, and is of two main stages and three storeys. Of the two staircases in the north angle of the tower, that on the east has been completely blocked up, and that on the west blocked to the ringing chamber.

This has caused a somewhat involved ascent to the belfry, thus: One enters a door on the east side of the tower, leaving Adam-le-Brome's Chapel on the left, climbs a wooden staircase leading up to rooms, then through a door on the right and up another wooden staircase; through another door at the top and on to the church roof; turns immediately right and up an iron stairway outside running up the side of the tower some 10 or 12 ft., and straight through a glass panelled door, and so into the ringing room. This glass panelled door is the only light to the room. This room is right under bells which naturally have a short draught of rope. Immediately opposite the door on the far side is the clock case with protruding platform for winding, which has to be let down before ringing commences, as the fourth rope drops right against it. Through a door on the left of this clock case one continues up a spiral staircase and comes out on the little balcony above the clock face, from whence a good view of the city can be obtained. There are six bells, tenor 28 cwt. The fourth is the famous 'music bell,' cast of Newcombe, of Leicester, in 1612. The music is in two lines, extending round the bell and divided into four parts.

The Church of St. Cross, Holywell, Oxford, has a 'built in' tower, and the ringers of its six bells perform from the ground floor and are thus exposed on three sides. Holywell is so called from the holy well in the old manor house, now the Balliol College extension, at the north-east boundary of the city. The church was originally a chapel of east to St. Peter-in-the-East. It was built or rebuilt by Robert D'Oily; the chancel arch dating from 1080 appears to be part of his work. It is almost of horseshoe shape of Transitional Saxon and Norman type. The embattled west tower dates from 1240, the upper portion of which was added by Henry Sever, warden of Merton College in 1464.

Hugo de St. Petro, of Oxford, is said to have built part of the church about 1160. The holy well was situated north of the church and was dedicated to St. Winifred and St. Margaret. The tower is 11½ ft. square, of two stages, and finished with a modern embattled parapet. On the south face of the south-east pier is one jamb of a former doorway to the blocked tower staircase. The west window is a single lancet with a doorway below. Of the six bells, there are two by Richard Keene, 1677, one each by Henry Knight, 1620, and Ellis Knight, 1641.

(To be continued.)

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT HARLESTONE.

A meeting of the Northampton Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Harlestone on September 30th. Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Ryder-Mitchell, and refreshments were served in the Village Hall. The Rev. M. L. Couchmen presided over the business meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

STOURBRIDGE.—On September 24th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Sub-Lieut. D. Watson, R.N. 1, Miss F. L. Wright 2, J. W. Smith (conductor) 3, Robert Lees 4, F. V. Nicholls 5, A. D. Fellows 6, A. Whatmore 7, A. Reynolds 8.

BRISTOL.—On September 24th, at St. Ambrose's, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss Bennett 1, Mr. Maggs 2, Mrs. Bennett 3, Mrs. Skidmore 4, Mr. Baker 5, Mr. Wiltshire 6, Mr. Ridler (conductor) 7, Mr. Cox 8.

CHISELDON, WILTS.—On Sunday, September 24th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: W. Farmer 1, C. Williams 2, W. E. Court 3, S. C. Archer 4, B. Thompson (conductor) 5, A. Atwell 6.

APSLEY END, HERTS.—On September 24th, 720 Bob Minor: E. Upton 1, Jean Rowe (first 720) 2, A. V. Good 3, A. Kendall 4, H. Gates 5, W. Ayre (conductor) 6.

SHEPPERTON, MIDDLESEX.—On Sunday, September 24th, 360 Plain Bob and 1,020 Grandsire Doubles: W. C. Parker 1, Mrs. L. Crocker 2, F. E. Hawthorne 3, J. B. Hessey (conductor) 4, J. Crocker 5.

WALSALL.—On Sunday, September 24th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: G. W. Hughes 1, H. T. Higgins 2, E. T. Smith 3, A. T. Dutton 4, W. R. Hughes 5, A. Botterill 6, J. S. Eastwood (conductor) 7, W. A. Walker 8.

TRETON, YORKS.—On September 28th, 720 Kent Minor: R. Birch 1, Mrs. J. E. Turley 2, J. H. Brothwell (conductor) 3, J. G. Brothwell 4, H. O. Chaddock 5, J. E. Turley 6.

BATH.—On Sunday, October 1st, at St. Michael's, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. Baverstock 1, T. F. King 2, Mrs. A. Evans 3, G. Hawkins (conductor) 4, H. Andrews 5, E. King 6, J. Hallett 7, H. Merrett 8.

LLANDUDNO.—On Sunday, September 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Flood 1, N. Rumens 2, F. Brown 3, Gnr. H. Lawrence 4, Gnr. H. Jeanes 5, Miss K. M. Ruffle (first quarter) 6, Gnr. A. Barry (conductor) 7, Sgt. Smith 8.

AMERSHAM.—On Sunday, September 24th, 720 Norwich Surprise Minor: C. J. Chwalin 1, E. C. Ayres 2, W. E. Redrup (conductor) 3, L. Haddon 4, W. A. Holmes 5, W. Edwards 6.—On Sunday, October 1st, 720 Beverley Surprise Minor, band as above.

BRAY, BERKS.—On Sunday, September 24th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: *Elizabeth Walker 1, †Malcolm Upstone 2, George Mitchel 3, *Robert Howes 4, Frederick Russell (conductor) 5, Rev. E. S. C. Lowman 6. * First quarter-peal. † First inside.

MAISEY HAMPTON, GLOS.—On September 27th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: V. R. Williams 1, L. W. Cuss 2, L. A. Smith 3, W. C. Cuss (conductor) 4, E. Cooper 5, W. A. Godwin 6.—On October 1st, 720 Bob Minor: W. A. Godwin 1, W. C. Cuss (conductor) 2, L. W. Cuss 3, N. G. Peare 4, E. Cooper 5, V. R. Williams 6.

MACCLESFIELD.—On September 28th at 261, Peter Street, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles on handbells: A. A. Potts 1-2, J. Worth 3-4, L. Ward 5-6.

ANSTEY, NEAR LEICESTER.—On Thursday, September 28th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: T. Gardner 1, S. Gardner 2, Derek Dodson 3, R. F. Elkington (conductor) 4, J. S. Liffe 5, P. J. Staniforth 6, Dennis Dodson 7, Miss Ivy Simpson 8.

ECCELESTON, CHESHIRE.—On Friday, September 29th, 630 Grandsire Triples: G. Jones 1, J. W. Clarke 2, A. E. Richards 3, J. Morgan 4, J. S. Webb 5, W. Hopwood (conductor) 6, H. Thomas 7, E. Price 8.

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS, HUNTS.—On Sunday, September 30th, 720 Bob Minor: H. W. Pratt 1, L. W. Fisher 2, F. Warrington (conductor) 3, L. A. C. Nobles 4, G. L. Perkins 5, J. Perkins 6.

ST. IVES, HUNTS.—On Sunday, September 30th, 720 Bob Minor: J. P. Stocker 1, H. W. Pratt 2, P. S. Skipworth 3, E. Nobles 4, L. W. Fisher 5, F. Warrington (conductor) 6.

SALISBURY.—On Saturday, September 30th, at St. Thomas', 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. A. Roles 1, W. W. T. Daniel 2, F. W. Romaine 3, A. F. Martin-Stewart 4, E. White 5, L. Harris 6, W. C. Shute (conductor) 7, B. Jewell 8. Rung following presentation to Mr. F. W. Romaine.

BLACK NOTLEY, ESSEX.—On Sunday, October 1st, 720 Doubles, being 360 St. Simon's and 360 Plain Bob: Miss M. Hutley 1, Mrs. E. M. Huxter 2, D. Talbot 3, H. A. Pratt (conductor) 4, S. Bores 5.

BEXLEY.—On Sunday, October 1st, 720 Bob Minor: Denis Shepard 1, Dennis L. Hall 2, Audrey Holden 3, Alan Ball 4, Alan G. Hall 5, N. Chaddock (conductor) 6.—Also 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. Mitchell 1, B. Frost 2, H. Holden 3, Dennis L. Hall 4, N. Chaddock 5, A. Ball 6, A. G. Hall (conductor) 7, Denis Shepard 8.

COSGROVE.—On Sunday, October 1st, 720 Double Court: H. Hopkins 1, E. C. Lambert (conductor) 2, V. Adams 3, J. May 4, J. Higgins 5, C. Sharp.—Also 720 Plain Bob: H. Cummings 1, E. J. Lambert 2, J. Higgins 3, F. Lambert 4, J. May 5, E. C. Lambert (conductor) 6.

BILLINGSHURST.—On Sunday, October 1st, 720 Bob Minor: P. Wood, T. Adams, T. Newman (first 720), L. Stilwell (conductor), R. Wood, sen., W. Wicks.

DEVIZES.—On Sunday, October 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss O. Hunt 1, S. G. Grant 2, P. P. Hunt 3, W. G. Mortimer 4, J. S. Weeks (conductor) 5, D. J. Lye 6.

LEFK.—On Sunday, October 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: G. Wilkinson 1, A. R. Bartlett 2, J. Newall 3, Edgar Sharratt, jun. 4, Edwin Sharratt 5, A. Rider 6, J. Rider (conductor) 7, D. Davis 8. Rung half-muffled for Mr. Edgar Sharratt, sen., who died a year ago.

BANSTEAD.—On Sunday, October 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *Betty Layton 1, Margaret Pitow 2, D. N. Layton 3, *Winifred Adams 4, H. J. Smerdon 5, A. E. Cheesman 6, H. N. Pitow (conductor) 7, E. T. Woolloff 8. * First quarter-peal.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received **NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD (Leatherhead District) and the **SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Leatherhead, Saturday, Oct. 14th. Service 4.45. Tea at the Duke's Head 5.30.—A. H. Smith and D. Cooper, Hon. Secs.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—Annual meeting, Aylesford, Saturday, Oct. 14th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting after.—C. H. Sone, Dis. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Crewkerne Branch.—Meeting at Shepton Beauchamp (8 bells) Saturday, Oct. 14th. Service 4.30. Tea 5.—J. T. Locke, Hon. Sec., School Street, Drayton, Taunton.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—W. Norfolk Branch.—Meeting at Fakenham, on Saturday, Oct. 14th. Tea at 5.30.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch.—Meeting at Bourne (6 bells) on Saturday, Oct. 14th. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business.—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Banbury Branch.—Meeting at Waddington (6 bells), Saturday, Oct. 14th, 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea to follow. Cropredy tower during evening.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Aylestone (6 bells) on Oct. 14th, 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea in Church Hall 5 p.m.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—Meeting Appleby Magna, Saturday, Oct. 14th. Bells (6) 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chester Branch.—Meeting at Christleton, Saturday, Oct. 14th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Light tea provided: notify Mr. W. Griffiths, Christleton, Chester.—J. W. Clarke, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting Saturday, Oct. 21st, 3 p.m., Whitechapel Bell Foundry, E.1. Ringing All Saints', Poplar 4.30, Sunday, Oct. 15th; St. Dunstan's, Stepney, 9.30 a.m. 307th anniversary luncheon, November 11th, Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., 1.30 p.m.—A. B. Peck.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—Practice meeting at St. Laurence's, Reading, Saturday, Oct. 21st, 6 to 8.30 p.m.—E. G. Foster, 401, London Road, Reading.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION (Luton District) and **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION** (North Bucks Branch).—Meeting at Leighton Buzzard, Saturday, Oct. 21st. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Notify Miss D. E. Lidbetter, 13, Grove Road, Leighton Buzzard, by Oct. 18th. — D. E. Lidbetter and R. H. Howson, Hon. Secs.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—Meeting at St. Stephen's, Canterbury, Oct. 21st, 2.30. Service 4.15. Names for tea by Oct. 18th.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Leamington Spa, Saturday, Oct. 21st. Bells of Parish Church 3 p.m. Tea at Pattison's Cafeteria 4.15. Service 5.30. Meeting to follow in G.F.S. House.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport, Bowden and Macclesfield Branches. — Meeting at Macclesfield on Saturday, Oct. 21st. Christ Church (8) 3 to 4 p.m. Service in Christ Church 4 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Christ Church Day Schools. Parish Church (12) after meeting. Names for tea to J. Worth, 261, Peter Street, Macclesfield (phone 3904) before Oct. 18th.—T. Wilde and T. Taylor, Hon. Secs.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION and MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting Saturday, Oct. 21st, at St. John's, Leytonstone, 3 p.m. Service and tea. Names to Mr. G. Dawson, 143, Norman Road, Leytonstone, E.11, by Oct. 17th.—J. H. Crampion and T. J. Lock, Hon. Secs.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Meeting at Market Weighton, Saturday, Oct. 21st. Bells (6) from 2 o'clock. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names to Mr. J. W. Kneeshaw, Hillcroft, Londesborough Road, Market Weighton, E. Yorks, by Oct. 19th.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 45, Green Lane, Selby.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Glastonbury Deanery.—Meeting at Dinder, Saturday, Oct. 21st. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Notify early for tea.—W. H. Marsh, 4, Dovecotes, Street, Somerset.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Annual meeting at Bexley, Saturday, Oct. 21st, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Names for tea to Mr. H. Holden, Church Institute, Bexley, by Oct. 18th.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—Meeting at Backwell, Saturday, Oct. 21st, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m.—Percy G. Yeo, Long Ashton.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southampton District.—Practice at North Stoneham, Saturday, October 21st, 2.30 to 6 p.m. No tea.—G. Pullinger.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Meeting at Stoney Stanton, Saturday, Oct. 21st, 3.30 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea at the Rectory.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at West Hallam (8 bells), Oct. 21st, 2.30 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—Meeting at Staverton (6), Saturday, Oct. 21st. Usual arrangements. Send names for tea.—W. C. Moore, 5, William's Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wirral Branch.—Meeting at Eastham (6 bells) Saturday, Oct. 21st, 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—Harry S. Brocklebank, Hon. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellingborough Branch.—Meeting at Bozeat, Saturday, Oct. 21st. Service 4.30. Names by Oct. 17th.—A. Bigley, Hon. Branch Sec., 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting Wollaston, 3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 21st. Tea 5 p.m.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

ORDSALL, NOTTS.—Practice meeting, Saturday, Oct. 21st. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Bring tea.—H. Denman, 9, Rockley, Retford, Notts.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Godstone, Oct. 21st, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. at Curds Tea Rooms.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Crewe Branch.—Meeting at Nantwich, Saturday, Oct. 21st. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4.45, followed by tea. Names by Oct. 18th.—J. E. Brough, 2, Chapel Row, Nantwich.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—Meeting at Hersham, Saturday, Oct. 21st. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names by Oct. 17th.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Sec., 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bridgwater Branch.—Meeting at Puriton, Saturday, Oct. 21st, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business 5.—C. Evans, 17, Wellington Road, Bridgwater.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Practice Meeting, Chichester Cathedral, Saturday, Oct. 28th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. No business. Send names for tea.—L. Stilwell, Pikeholme, Pulborough.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Meeting at Merstham, Saturday, Oct. 28th, 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea 5.45 p.m. at the Golden Wheel, by invitation of Mr. D. Kenneth C. Birt, to those who accept by Oct. 25th, to Alfred Gear, Sandy Way, The Cutting, Redhill.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Practice meeting at Crawley, Saturday, Oct. 28th, 3 p.m.—O. Sipetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION,

MEETING AT ASPLEY GUISE.

Ringers from Bedford, Biddenham, Bromham, Dunstable, Maulden, Newport Pagnell, Leighton Buzzard, Linslade, Northampton, Tempsford, Silsoe, Weston Underwood and Woburn attended a meeting of the Bedfordshire Association at Aspley Guise on September 23rd. The methods included Stedman and Grandsire Doubles, Plain Bob and Cambridge and York Surprise Minor and rounds. After tea there was ringing on the eight bells at Woburn.

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No. 1,752. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20th, 1944.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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THE LENGTH OF PEALS.

Why should five thousand changes be necessary for a peal? Would it not do just as well to fix a shorter number and ring for two hours instead of the three which are now usual? These are questions which have been asked before, and a correspondent this week returns to the subject and gives what he considers good reasons for making the change. They are obvious enough and will readily occur to almost anyone who stops to think for a moment. There would be less risk of creating annoyance and so fewer complaints. There would be more likelihood of permission to ring being granted and so more attempts. There would be less physical strain for those who feel that the full three hours is too much for them. The chances of failure would be fewer and so there would be more peals.

These things are obvious, so obvious that they must have been clear all along, and yet the Exercise has never shown the slightest tendency to alter the standard which was set up two and a half centuries ago. It was accepted, without any consideration or discussion, simply because it seemed the natural length for a peal. No doubt what first suggested it was that it is the extent of the changes on seven bells, and we may assume that bands were ringing or attempting to ring the whole peal of Grandsire Triples (though it was false) long before there was any idea of fixing a length for all numbers. When, however, bands did think of ringing peals of Major, and Caters, and (a little later) Royal and Maximus, five thousand changes seemed so much the natural length to be aimed at that men do not appear even to have thought of any other. They looked upon it, however, not so much as the standard length of a peal, as the minimum—the shortest length worth recording in peal books or on peal boards—and the proportion of longer lengths they rang was much greater than it has been in recent years. The last forty or fifty years have seen some very remarkable long peals, but it is seldom a band thinks of starting for a six-thousand or a ten-thousand, just because it is a six or a ten-thousand which would not create a record of some sort.

There is no doubt that five-thousand changes and somewhere about three hours do give the conditions which for most men made peal ringing worth while. The length is enough to make the task a difficult one, but not too long to be fitted into an evening or an afternoon. A shorter length would not give the same satis-

(Continued on page 430.)

faction of having done something worth doing. A longer length is usually not convenient or even possible.

What should we gain if we lowered the standard and shortened the length of peals? Peal ringing would be easier. More attempts would be possible and a greater proportion of them successful. More ringers, perhaps, would be able to be peal ringers. Would these things be an advantage? That may very well be doubted. Peal ringing is far easier to-day (or would have been had times been normal) than it was fifty years ago. There are more rings of bells available and there are more ringers to select bands from. The hanging of the bells is incomparably better than it was, so much so that ringing as an athletic sport for strong men is almost a thing of the past. Tenors and other bells which once taxed the strength and skill of the most powerful men can now be rung easily by schoolgirls. There is much gain here, but some loss; for the charm and fascination of our art lies in the fact that it sets before ringers tasks which call for the best that is in them, mental, and moral, and physical; and so far as the standard is lowered so far are the charm and the attraction lessened.

Peal ringing is an important feature in the life and activities of the Exercise, but the number of peals rung, in itself, is not a great matter. The more ringers there are who hope and try to be peal ringers the better, but it would be for the good of the Exercise if the standard of peals was raised rather than if it were lowered.

PEAL RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—If the public could see those who practise the old English sport of peal ringing in the process of ringing a peal the cartoonists of this generation would have material for years to come. Surely it is time 'The Ringing World' dealt with the idiosyncracies of famous exponents of the art of ringing.

In the last peal in which I participated one ringer whose name is honoured and respected throughout the Exercise crouched on his rope with a stance reminiscent of a racehorse immortalised by Tom Webster. Another chewed his gum with such avidity and relish out-rivalling in facial contortion the brightest of our American cousins.

At least five of the eight, probably myself included, were mumbler, the brain being unable to retain the position without the movement of the lower jaw. Alas, none of them mumbled gracefully, but in the process pulled most hideous grimaces, providing a constant source of amusement. The greatest joys of the evening, however, were the periodic winks from one of the props of the Exercise, which seemed to imply not only an exhortation to stick it, but a refusal to be cowed by the conductor's injunctions about 'back stroke.'

And what of the conductor who will soon have a peal for each of his grey hairs? The peal started with that friendly atmosphere of a service touch. Then came the stage of nursing the weaker brethren, giving them full confidence. Just after half-way the glint of his eye had an additional lustre; there was a prize at stake, which on no account was to be lost. Nothing escaped his vigilance; a crisper note was apparent in the calling of the bobs. As the minutes passed one felt that his enthusiasm had truly captured the band. His eye, however, did not lose its brightness; he was indeed the master of the belfry. Finally came the first of the two singles and the knowledge that except for something very unusual another peal had been added to the annals of the Diocesan Guild.

There were appropriate congratulations at the conclusion, but, above all, a sense of accomplishment and the knowledge that the traditions of a centuries old fine English sport had been maintained in an age when the majority of the community trust to others to provide their amusement.

Leaving the belfry, I found myself unconsciously parodying the old evangelical hymn of my boyhood:—

Count your blisters, count them one by one,

And it is surprising what the . . .

Your obedient servant,

'ONE WHO WAS BLISTERED.'

EALING.—On Sunday, October 1st, at St. Mary's, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Birt 1, H. A. Harding 2, A. Jones 3, J. E. Churchill 4. H. Rogers 5, A. M. Stacey (conductor) 6, A. Harding 7, F. Miller 8.

BLETCHLEY.—On Sunday, October 8th, 720 Bob Minor: A. Crane 1, W. R. Loveridge 2, W. Daniels 3, S. Smith 4, F. Sear 5, H. Sear (conductor) 6.

PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have a suggestion to put forward, which may not be a new one, but may interest many of your readers. It is to alter the length of peals which are recognised by the various societies and recorded in their peal books, also in 'The Ringing World.' I suggest that the minimum length be reduced from 5,000 changes to 3,600. This would give five 720's on six bells, and an average peal on six or eight bells would take a little over two hours to ring, as against three hours.

In the country churches, where the sound of the bells is well regulated and unlikely to annoy anyone, the present peal length does not call for any alteration from the public point of view, but there are quite a lot of towers so situated in our towns and cities that to ring the bells continuously from 3 to 3½ hours is something of an imposition on many of the public who live or work in the vicinity of the church, and is apt to produce complaints which we do not like. We all like to think that our efforts are a source of pleasure to all who can hear the bells. I could mention a number of towers in my own district, with fine peals of bells, the ringing of which is, I think, a joy to the public, but the present peal length is, I think, too long except for events of great national joy, such as the victory we are all looking forward to.

The present peal length probably originated from the extent on seven bells, 5,040 changes, but there is no law which says that this shall stand for ever, should it be expedient to make a change. With a shorter peal composers would be able to select more musical combinations and omit some of the inferior ones.

There will probably be an increase in the number of peals rung when conditions have returned to something like normal, but it is doubtful whether there will be a big increase later, as the past 40 years have, I believe, shown a decline. There are quite a lot of lengths rung up to the quarter-peal, but usually the next stage is an attempt for the complete peal, one of the reasons being that it is published and recorded to the credit of those taking part.

Two hours of continuous ringing is a good test for a ringer, and it should encourage a high standard of striking, as the ringer of a difficult bell would put up a better performance if he had two hours to go and not three. As ringing usually ceases at 9 p.m. there would be more opportunity for evening peal attempts, also many good ringers who feel that to stand and ring a bell for three hours is too much for them may be able and willing to try a shorter length. Those ringers in the town and city churches who do not care for many peal attempts on their own bells may regard a shorter peal as quite permissible.

It is, I think, agreed that peal ringing improves the standard of ringing generally. Should the length be reduced probably more peals would be rung, with an improvement all round.

Peal attempts at any particular tower would, of course, still have to be limited to some kind of rule such as one per month, and it would still be possible to ring peals of 5,000 changes or more when desired and at towers suited to do so. Any extra credit due to length would be noted in the records.

HERBERT O. CHADDOCK.

Seagrave Crescent, Sheffield.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

MEETING AT GREAT BARR.

A meeting of the Birmingham St. Martin's Guild, held at the six-bell tower of Great Barr, on September 30th, was attended by about 40 members and friends. Before the business meeting the Vicar addressed the gathering. He stressed the importance of good fellowship and wished the Guild success.

Mr. Albert Walker, the Master, presided. He referred to the death of John Austin and W. H. Fussell, both of whom had been members for many years and had done excellent service for ringers and the cause of ringing generally.

Mr. Norman Smith, of Four Oaks, Mr. G. W. Critchley, of Wyld Green, Mr. S. B. Higham, of Four Oaks, Miss B. Connor, of Edgbaston, and Mr. E. Weaver, of Aston, were elected members, and the elections as life members of Miss M. R. Cross, of Abingdon, Mr. D. D. Cooper, of Crydon, and Mr. A. Diserens, of Reading, were ratified.

It was decided to hold the annual meeting at headquarters on January 6th, and the next bi-quarterly meeting at Erdington Parish Church about the middle of November.

It was also agreed to hold the annual Henry Johnson Commemoration in March, and the secretary was instructed to make the necessary preliminary arrangements.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar, to Mr. J. R. Terry who had made the local arrangements, and to the ladies who provided the tea.

DEATH OF L-CPL. HAROLD BRACKLEY.

News has been received that L-Cpl. Harold Brackley has been killed in action in Italy. He was 33 years of age and had been a ringer at Tring Parish Church since he was 14 years old. At the time he joined H.M. Forces he was captain of the belfry. On October 8th the bells were rung half-muffled before morning and evening services.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WHISTON, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., Oct. 12, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

Mrs. J. E. TURLEY ... Treble	J. EDWARD CAWSE ... 5
JACK G. BROTHWELL ... 2	JOHN W. SMITHSON ... 6
HERBERT O. CHADDOCK ... 3	RONALD H. DOVE ... 7
JOHN H. BROTHWELL ... 4	JOHN E. TURLEY ... Tenor

Composed by JOHN REEVES. Conducted by JOHN E. TURLEY.

BEXLEY, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Oct. 14, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION.

Tenor 7½ cwt.

JAMES E. BAILEY ... Treble	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ... 5
ROBERT WAKE ... 2	ALAN G. HALL ... 6
*ALAN G. BALL ... 3	HARRY HOVERD ... 7
DENNIS L. HALL ... 4	HERBERT A. HOLDEN ... Tenor

Conducted by HARRY HOVERD.

* First peal in the method. The conductor's 400th peal.

WICKEN, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Oct. 14, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th the observation).

Tenor 15½ cwt.

*JOHN B. FITZHUGH ... Treble	*JOSEPH W. L. LINNITT ... 5
*PHILIP JONES ... 2	THOMAS E. ROBERTS ... 6
†WILLIAM YATES ... 3	*GEORGE CARE ... 7
ERNEST C. LAMBERT ... 4	FREDERICK C. CASE ... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE CARE.

* First peal in the method. † First peal.

BARNET, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Oct. 14, 1944, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... Treble	MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT ... 5
*RALPH BIRD ... 2	EDWIN JENNINGS ... 6
FRANCIS KIRK ... 3	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7
*BURLEY P. MORRIS ... 4	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

* First peal in the method.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Oct. 14, 1944, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

PRITCHARD'S FOUR-PART.

Tenor 16 cwt.

*MARY PEMBERTON ... Treble	JOHN E. TAYLOR ... 5
H. WILLIAM BARRETT ... 2	FRANK H. HICKS ... 6
GEORGE H. GUTTERIDGE ... 3	WILLIAM HENLEY ... 7
†JOYCE HEARN ... 4	GEORGE GILBERT ... Tenor

Conducted by GEO. GILBERT.

* First peal. † First peal of Major.

WRAXALL, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Oct. 14, 1944, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 23 cwt. 3 qr.

DONALD G. CLIFT ... Treble	EMILYN F. HANCOCK ... 5
JOHN H. B. HESSE ... 2	*NORMAN H. COOMBS ... 6
FREDERICK A. TARGETT ... 3	RONALD G. BECK ... 7
THOMAS W. KIMBER ... 4	DAVID MACKAY ... Tenor

Conducted by RONALD G. BECK.

* First peal of Bob Major.

SIX BELL PEALS.

WOLLASTON, STOURBRIDGE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(Northern Branch.)

On Tues., Oct. 3, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two extents.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

JOHN BASS ... Treble	SIDNEY THOMPSON ... 4
*CHARLES RICHARDS ... 2	PERCY RICHARDS ... 5
JOHN PAGETT ... 3	SAMUEL THOMPSON ... Tenor

Conducted by JOHN PAGETT.

* First peal. Rung for the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Pagett.

GOSBERTON, Lincs.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Oct. 7, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent each of Double Oxford, Single Court, St. Clement's, Double Court, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise. Tenor 17 cwt. 2 qr. 7 lb.

HORACE BENNETT ... Treble	ARTHUR J. FARR ... 4
*STANLEY E. BENNETT ... 2	HAROLD BARSLEY ... 5
JOHN G. AMES ... 3	CYRIL R. BURRELL ... Tenor

Conducted by C. R. BURRELL.

* First peal in seven methods. Rung for the wedding of Miss P. Robinson to Mr. W. G. Short, a ringer at Donington.

WALLASEY, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., Oct. 11, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

E. BANKES JAMES' ARRANGEMENT.

Tenor 16½ cwt.

JOHN A. WEBSTER ... Treble	GEORGE R. NEWTON ... 4
LESTER L. GRAY ... 2	HARRY ROGERS ... 5
FRANK VARTY ... 3	THOMAS ROGERS ... Tenor

Conducted by FRANK VARTY.

Rung for the marriage of Mr. F. Varty to Miss J. Varley.

SWAVESEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Oct. 14, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

*HERBERT W. PRATT ... Treble	*JOHN PERKINS ... 4
FRANCIS G. GLEAVES ... 2	LESLIE W. FISHER ... 5
GEORGE E. CRISP ... 3	FRANK WARRINGTON ... Tenor

Conducted by F. WARRINGTON.

* First peal on six bells.

HANDBELL PEALS.

COVENTRY.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Sat., Oct. 7, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes,

AT 117, WIDDINGTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5017 CHANGES;

FRANK W. PERRENS ... 1-2	FRANK E. PERVIN ... 5-6
ALBERT WALKER ... 3-4	*HAROLD ARGYLE ... 7-8
J. FRANK SMALLWOOD ... 9-10	

Composed by JOHN CARTER.

Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

* First ten-bell peal in hand.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., Oct. 10, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5055 CHANGES;

ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 1-2	MRS. J. THOMAS ... 5-6
JOHN THOMAS ... 3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7-8
ERIC A. DENCH ... 9-10	

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

Rung with alternate tittum and handstroke courses.

THE PLAIN MAJOR METHODS.

Half a century ago the Central Council adopted a formal and official schedule of points by which the relative values of peals in different methods could be judged. All Plain Major methods were given eight points for each peal; all Double Major methods, sixteen points; all Treble Bob Major methods, twelve points; Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major, forty points; and London, fifty points.

It was a significant action; for the men who drew up the schedule and the men who adopted it were not fools, nor were they altogether ignorant. They expressed what was the general opinion of the best ringers of the time, an opinion based on experience in the Exercise of more than one hundred years. If the schedule had been confined to the half dozen or so methods then in general use a good case might be made out for its values; but the scheme was drawn up at the close of a long period when method ringing was practically stagnant, and at the opening of a period when men were beginning to take an interest in the vast numbers of methods which lay outside what were then regarded as the standard methods; and the effect of these values expressed in points was to judge the future by the imperfect knowledge of the past. We do not say that men did consciously and deliberately value methods by the points allotted to them by the Central Council; but the same ideas which led people to imagine it was possible and advisable to allot points to methods led them to judge on very superficial grounds methods of which they had practically no experience or knowledge. It was the failing of the men of the time (a very natural and not very blameworthy failing in the circumstances) that they thought they were competent to lay down rules for ringing which should be valid for all time, and this failing has had some rather unfortunate results.

When these men looked at the methods they knew and which were practised in their time, they found a small number which seemed to fall naturally into well defined groups that could easily be arranged in an ascending order of merit. At the bottom were the Plain methods, which it was the fashion to look on somewhat contemptuously. Then there were the Treble Bob Methods, far too useful and too popular to be treated with contempt, but still rather beneath the notice of a first class band. Then the Double methods (which really meant Double Norwich with perhaps now and then Double Oxford). And, finally, the three Surprise methods, the climax of the best ringers' ambition, and the envy of the less skilful or less fortunate. Perhaps there was a time when these opinions were not so very far wide of facts. Oxford and Kent were for ordinary purposes better than Bob Major; Double Norwich was an improvement on Treble Bob; and Superlative, Cambridge and London did call for the best the ringers had to give. It was when men went further and unthinkingly applied these values to all other methods, that they went wrong and did the art of change ringing harm. It is surprising how much ringers have been, and are, influenced in their opinions by mere words. Call a method a Plain method and they feel it must be rather beneath their notice. Call another Surprise and they feel it must be worthy of the attention of the very best bands. Yet a Plain Major method is not necessarily, nor usually, a plain method—it is a method in which the treble has a plain hunting path. And a Surprise method

is no more than a method belonging to a rather artificial group which contains some first class and some really difficult methods, many that are quite easy, many that are commonplace, and many that are bad.

It has long been the fashion, and still is, to talk of Surprise ringing and Surprise ringers, as if that were the highest title which can be applied to a method or to a ringer. Why this should be is an interesting enough question, but one which does not concern us now. What is important is that a false standard has been set up which has done some considerable harm and may do more unless it is corrected. During the last forty years there has been a great and praiseworthy advance in method ringing, but it has been very largely confined to Surprise Major methods; while other and equally good classes of methods have been almost entirely neglected. In ten and twelve bell ringing the result has been distinctly unfortunate. Because of the great prestige of the Surprise Major methods, and especially of the four standard Surprise Major methods, when men sought for something beyond Treble Ten and Treble Twelve they must needs turn to Surprise Royal, and they wasted their time and their skill on what are called Superlative, and London, and Bristol, Surprise Royal, though they have precious little right to the names and on their own merits are not worthy of being practised. The truth is that, for clearly defined and easily understood reasons, Surprise methods as a class are quite unsuitable for ten and twelve bell ringing. There are methods—many of them—really suitable for these numbers, which can supply everything that is needed—interest, difficulty, music, and the rest—but they do not get a chance because the word Surprise blocks the way.

Just as the word Surprise has unduly raised some methods in the estimation of ringers, so the word Plain has unduly depreciated others. As we said just now, a Plain Major method is not necessarily or usually a plain method. The group as a whole is probably the most useful one in the whole of change ringing. It comprises every variety from the simplest to the most complex, and it can supply everything that is needed. If ringing had to be confined to the Plain methods the loss and the hardship would not be great, and there might even be gain. Shortly before the war there seemed a tendency among a few good bands to pay some attention to this neglected group, and it is to be hoped that when the next advance in method ringing comes (as it will come eventually) its merits will be more generally recognised.

There is no need to try to discourage Surprise ringing or to seek to belittle the merits of many Surprise Major methods. They will always be popular and always be rung and deservedly so. What is needed is for ringers to rid themselves of the tyranny of the word Surprise and the idea that because a method is a Surprise method it must be better than any other and the ringing of it more meritorious than that of other methods. We want the wider vision that can appreciate a good method to whatever group or class it belongs, and can understand why it is a good method.

We propose to make a survey of the Plain Major methods in the hope it will interest our readers in a group which is well worth study, not merely when there is a chance of practising one or more of them, but especially for the light it can throw on the art and science of change ringing generally.

MISCELLANEOUS

REDRUTH, CORNWALL.—On September 30th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: W. G. Hiscott 1, J. A. Pill (first quarter) 2, H. Seymour 3, W. J. Sanders 4, V. Williams (conductor) 5, S. Seymour 6.

ROUGHAM, SUFFOLK.—On Sunday, October 1st, 720 Bob Minor: Mrs. L. Wright 1, Miss B. Hill 2, F. Cooper 3, A. W. Rolfe 4, L. Wright (conductor) 5, A. Gillings 6.

DAYBROOK, NOTTS.—On Sunday, October 1st, 1,248 Kent Treble Bob Major: *R. A. Ward 1, *Mrs. R. A. Ward 2, *T. Groombridge, jun. 3, *P. E. Ball 4, F. Bradley 5, F. A. Salter 6, J. A. Barratt 7, *W. E. Clark (conductor) 8. *First quarter of Kent Major.

BIDDENHAM, BEDS.—On October 7th, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: Miss E. Steele 1, C. Branson 2, C. Mortimer 3, R. Brockett 4, P. Inskip 5, R. West (conductor) 6.—On October 8th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: R. Chapman 1, F. Tysoe 2, Miss P. Gilbert 3, C. Branson 4, R. Brockett 5, L. Bowler (conductor) 6.

ALLESLEY.—On October 6th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: C. Aylett 1, J. W. Taylor 2, W. Stote 3, J. W. T. Taylor 4, H. Summers (conductor) 5, F. W. Perrens 6.—On Sunday, October 8th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: C. Aylett 1, W. Stote 2, H. Summers 3, J. W. T. Taylor 4, J. W. Taylor (conductor) 5, G. Gardner 6.

NORTON SUBCOURSE, NORFOLK.—On Sunday, October 8th, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: Mrs. W. R. Barber 1, A. I. Walpole 2, B. Barber 3, S. Fenn (conductor) 4, H. W. Barrett 5, G. Walpole 6.

EPPING.—On October 8th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: H. Street 1, A. W. Brighton 2, E. E. Holman 3, J. C. Adams 4, C. T. Coles (conductor) 5, L. E. Last 6, F. C. Maynard 7, F. C. Taylor 8.

READING.—On Sunday, October 8th, at St. Laurence's, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Miss J. Stacey 1, Mrs. Cathall 2, A. D. Cullum 3, T. Lanaghan 4, H. Smith 5, R. Rex 6, E. Humfrey (conductor) 7, W. Rampton 8.

**MR. F. W. ROMAINE.**

The accompanying portrait of Mr. F. W. Romaine recently appeared in 'The Salisbury and Winchester Journal,' which has allowed us to reproduce it. An account was given in our last week's issue of a presentation made to Mr. Romaine on the completion of his 21 years' service as hon. secretary of the Salisbury Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild.

PERFORMANCES

DEVIZES.—On Sunday, October 8th, 720 Bob Minor: *J. Romaine 1, W. Bolwell 2, *F. Hale 3, G. Winter 4, *W. Mortimer 5, *S. G. Grant (conductor) 6. *First 720 of Bob Minor.

OXFORD.—On Sunday, October 8th, at Christ Church Cathedral, 783 Stedman Cinques: Miss E. F. Badder 1, Miss V. V. H. Hill 2, W. F. Judge (conductor) 3, Miss M. R. Cross 4, H. Miles 5, W. C. Porter 6, W. G. E. Collett 7, H. R. Badder 8, G. E. Fearn 9, V. J. T. Bennett 10, J. E. Spice 11, H. Gardiner 12.

BANBURY.—On October 8th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Alexander 1, J. Simons 2, W. Watson 3, D. Mears 4, T. Impey 5, F. Selwyn 6, H. Impey (conductor) 7, J. Stretton 8.

OVERSEAL, DERBYSHIRE.—On Sunday, October 8th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. Sharpe 1, G. Hair 2, E. W. Beadmoore 3, W. H. Curson 4, A. Beadmoore 5, P. W. Grice 6, J. W. Cotton (conductor) 7, H. Curson 8.

WHISTON, YORKS.—On Sunday, October 10th, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: Mrs. Elsie Chaddock 1, Mrs. W. Rydes 2, Ronald Birch 3, Alan White 4, Mrs. D. E. Kelly 5, John E. Tunley 6, L. Colin Ryder 7, Norman Chaddock (conductor) 8.

ROTHERHAM.—On Wednesday, October 11th, at All Saints', 720 Bob Minor: David Adams (first 720) 1, L. Parkin 2, Mrs. T. C. Ryder 3, T. C. Ryder 4, E. Liversedge 5, A. Firth (conductor) 6.

SHERBURN-IN-ELMET.—On Wednesday, October 11th, 720 Bob Minor (with tenor covering): C. W. Sissons (first 720) 1, Miss D. M. Hawley (conductor) 2, Mrs. E. M. Bradley 3, L.A.C. Hammond 4, L. Scarth 5, E. M. Bradley 6, A. Sheppard 7.

MELBOURN, CAMBS.—On Thursday, October 12th, 720 Bob Minor: Miss N. E. Shorter 1, Mrs. V. E. Lathbury 2, W. Winters 3, R. L. Lathbury (conductor) 4, J. W. Ward 5, F. Harper 6.

SUTTON COLDFIELD.—On October 14th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: *S. B. Highams 1, G. F. Swann (conductor) 2, *G. W. Critchley 3, *N. G. Smith 4, W. G. Anker 5, *G. W. Anker 6. *First quarter-peal.

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The official Journal of the Central Council or
Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.

The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
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Cheques and remittances should be made payable to
'The Ringing World.'

Members of the Leeds and District Society should note that the
October meeting will be at Leeds Parish Church, not at Burley as
intended.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

234567		1,260. Continued	Continued
674253	2	456372 1	672345 2
346572	1	674523 3	246753 3
673425	3	356274 1	372546 1
546273	1	743625 2	243765 3
735624	2	437625 4	572643 1
247563	2	634572 5	675324 5
352647	1	256734 1	436275 1
473265	2	632547 3	754623 2
734265	4	756432 1	237465 2
657423	2	457263 5	652743 2
346257	1	634725 2	376452 1
573624	2	256473 2	653724 3
245367	2	342756 1	246375 2
672534	2	253467 3	P 234567 1

From Holt's Original.

MAGDALEN TENOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to Major J. H. R. Freeborn's letter query-
ing the note and weight of Magdalen tenor, I should like to say:
(1) The president and fellows put up a board in 1919 for the Peace
Peal, which states that the tenor is 20 cwt. in E. (2) It was generally
known amongst ringers here that Appleton are the same note as
Magdalen, and Mr. R. White brought the note of Appleton 9th on a
tuning fork into St. Giles' tower when the trebles were added in
1927, assuming that it was the same note as the tenor, which proved
correct. St. Giles' tenor is F sharp, so Magdalen must be E natural.

For the information of Major J. H. R. Freeborn, Merton tenor is D
natural, St. Mary's and New are slightly flat of this, Christ Church
is D flat and Great Tom is A natural.

30, Lime Walk, Headington.

V. BENNETT.

TRURO DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT TUCKINGMILL.

The first meeting of the Truro Diocesan Guild for five years was
held on September 30th at Tuckingmill on September 30th, and was
attended by about 100 ringers from Truro Cathedral, Kenwyn, Crowan,
Ludgvan, Illogan, Phillack, Wadebridge, Redruth, Penzance, St.
Gluyvas, Luxulyan, Mabe, Gwennap, Liskeard, Camborne and the
local belfry. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. J. Britton,
who gave an address. The lesson was read by the Rev. J. A. Simcock.

During the afternoon and evening the bells of Tuckingmill and
Camborne were rung to rounds, call changes, and Grandsire Doubles
and Triples.

THOMAS THURSTANS.

BY JOHN DAY.

(John Day, who wrote the following account of Thomas Thurstans, the composer of the familiar peal of Stedman Triples, was for many years a prominent man among the Birmingham ringers. He was a nephew of Thomas Day, one of those men who during the early middle years of the last century made the town a principal centre both of practical ringing and composition, and whose productions both in Stedman Triples and Treble Bob Major are of outstanding merit. John Day was not himself particularly distinguished as a ringer, but he came into contact with almost all the men of his time and he wrote a most interesting series of memories of them. He died about thirty or forty years ago.)

Next to my uncle, Thomas, the first man I ever knew as a ringer, wrote John Day, was the celebrated Thomas Thurstans. About the year 1830 my father kept a public house, the Bell, in Smallbrook Street, Birmingham, and a frequent visitor to the house was a man whom I used to hear spoken of as 'Tommy Thurstans.'

He was looked upon by my parents as somewhat of a nuisance, being generally noisy and intoxicated. Possibly that was the reason I noticed him at so early an age.

At the commencement of my ringing career in the year 1842, one of the first names I heard mentioned in the belfry was Thurstans, and I soon learned that it was the man I had known in childhood, and it was not long before I saw him. He was a bachelor, and lived with his sister in a small house in Church Street very near St. Philip's Church.

A FAMOUS COMPOSER.

After Sunday morning practice, Chattel and I generally passed the house on our way home, and often Thurstans would be standing at his door in shirt sleeves, pipe in mouth, waiting to have a chat with Chattel. He would ask about the young band, give his opinion as to their progress, and generally work his way round to Lates and Stedman Triples, since Lates and he were both hard at work at that time trying to improve the peal.

I only remember ringing with him once, when I was a very young hand, and he made a not very complimentary remark about my striking, but it did me no harm.

Thurstans' name will last probably as long as the art of ringing is practised as the composer of the peal of Stedman Triples bearing his name. He must have begun to study composing when very young in the art, as he would be about twenty-four years of age when he called his peal of 6,600 Stedman Cinques, while there were also peals of Stedman Caters and Treble Bob Royal of his composition rung even prior to that.

No doubt there would be a little rivalry between Thurstans and Cooper, as the latter had made a name before the former came on the scene. Being so good a man at the heavy end would enable Thurstans to assert himself and claim priority as conductor.

I have heard both my uncle and the late Henry Johnson say that Thurstans' great fault as a composer was his lack of patience to prove his work, and I have had many opportunities of knowing such to be the case. His later peals of Stedman were submitted to Mr. Johnson, and his peals of Treble Bob Major to Mr. T. Day to look over as to their truth.

TREBLE BOB COMPOSITION.

When he was working at Treble Bob Major with the tenors parted, which resulted in his peal of 15,840, he sent a great number of peals to Mr. Day, the late Amos Cresser being the messenger, as he lived in Church Street very near Thurstans. Mr. Day used to look them over and then put them into an old hat, which he kept for the purpose in a recess over the stairs door, and the hat was nearly full before Thurstans produced a true peal. On one Sunday afternoon, on my way to see my uncle, as I usually did once a fortnight, I met Cresser coming away from his house. He told me he had taken another peal to be looked over, and when I arrived I found my uncle very interested in the figures. Knowing that it was of no use to speak to him while he was so occupied, I sat down and waited quietly for him to break the silence, and he did so presently with his usual, 'Yes! Yes! This will do, if he alters these three courses. I believe it will run true,' at the same time showing the papers with the 7th in 5th's. The alteration was made, and as is now well known the peal is true.

Thurstans was very pleased with his success, and went to see Mr. Day, thinking he had superseded the others' peals, but this was not so, as Mr. Day had a peal of the same number of which he had said

nothing, not even mentioning it to me. Thurstans was rather annoyed when he learned this, and could not help showing his pique, so that when he was leaving Mr. Day told him that if he sent any more peals to be looked at he hoped he would send him something of his own, 'for,' he said, 'what you have sent is nearly all my work.'

On one occasion a band met at Aston for a peal of Treble Bob Major, Mr. Day intending to ring the tenor and call one of his own peals. Thurstans was in the band, and almost at the last moment asked Mr. Day to call a peal of his (Thurstans'). Being willing to oblige, he did so, and an apparently excellent peal was rung. Among those who heard it was Lates, who had just begun to show his skill as a composer and as a listener. In due course he asked to see the figures, and pronounced it to be false. False it was, and Mr. Day was so much annoyed at the occurrence I believe he never rang another peal of Major.

When Mr. Henry Johnson began to compose Stedman, thinking he had a good peal of Caters, he asked Thurstans to look over it for him. This he did, pronouncing it true. It was rung at Aston, Thurstans being in the band, and on its publication a Mr. Cross, of Liverpool, sent for the figures and discovered them to be false. Of course, Johnson never trusted Thurstans again in this way.

About the year 1846 (the year that Thurstans composed his peal of Stedman) there was a great stir about Treble Bob Triples. Day had produced a peal, and Lates had by some means got one, while Day and Cooper had produced touches also. At that time the large bells at St. Martin's were seldom rung owing to the eleventh going so badly. Stedman and Treble Bob Triples were practised on the first eight, and some beautiful ringing used to be heard. The Treble Bob Triples was quite a feature, and Thurstans, on hearing a touch rung, tried his hand in that direction and submitted a number of touches to Johnson, not one of which was true. He made a final effort, and said if that was not true it was 'impossible' to get a true touch, and Day's and Cooper's must be false. But, like all the rest, his final effort was false.

Apart from all this, I have heard Mr. Johnson, my uncle, and others say that no man of his time understood the theory of composition more than he did, but that he jumped at conclusions that were often erroneous.

A TRAGEDY.

In appearance Thurstans was a very broad-set man, about 5ft. 8in. in height, although not looking so tall, and in later years he had a stooping and waddling gait. It was very plain to see he had been a very strong man, as he was very wide from shoulder to hip. By trade he was a brass finisher, and up to 1825 or thereabouts was a quiet and respectable man. About that time there was a trade dispute, resulting in a strike, and through leaving his work in an unfinished state he was summoned before the magistrates, who, in the then existing state of the law, had power to send him to prison. This they did for a month's hard labour at Warwick gaol.

The first time I heard of this I was in conversation with Lates, about the time Thurstans had been having one of his 'break outs.' 'Ah!' said Lates. 'Tom has never done any good since they made him grind his own corn.'

There can be no doubt that this disgrace totally upset him, and, although steady and right enough at times, on others he would break out and act more like a madman than anything else. We also used to think he had been jilted in a love affair, for when he had a fit on, if anyone said anything to him relating to women it would make him ten times worse (and this was sometimes done on purpose, I am sorry to say). In fact, I and one or two others always avoided him at these times as they generally lasted for weeks until he became dirty and ragged, and a fit of illness put an end to it.

The last time I remember seeing him he was respectably dressed in black—I think in mourning for his sister, with whom he had lived for many years. He was carrying a basket of soil, which he had been getting for his window plants. He told me he was unwell and could not work. That was in the spring of 1858, and in the autumn of that year Mr. T. Cole, a former member of St. Martin's Youths, went to Johnson and told him 'poor Tom' was dead. From what Mr. Cole said we were led to suppose that he had had a break out and was taken ill in the street, it was said with English cholera. He was taken to the 'General Hospital,' and there died.

No one knew who he was, and no one enquired about him, so it came to pass that the parish authorities buried him, no friends or relatives being near. We used to think it was mainly through the influence of his brother Charles that he was employed for some years as a filer at Messrs. Ellingtons, the manager overlooking his transgressions as to loss of time, etc.

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BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 425.)

There are a number of towers, the base of which forms the entrance or porch to the church. Where ringing takes place in such towers from the ground floor, it often means that the congregation will have to pass through the circle of ropes to attend Sunday services. Perhaps the best known of such towers is that of the very famous Crowland (or Croyland) Abbey Church, Lincs. Here the present ring of six bells is rung from the ground floor, and there is consequently a very long draught of rope. There are two or three sets of iron guides, but nevertheless the handling is somewhat difficult. As the tower forms the entrance to the church, the congregation pass through the circle of ringers when entering.

There is a tradition (for the truth of which I cannot vouch) that Croyland Abbey was the first church in England to possess a peal of bells. Be that as it may, we find that Turketye, the sixth abbot (A.D. 946-976) cast a great bell for the abbey, and named it Guthlac, to whom the abbey is dedicated. Egelric, his nephew and successor (A.D. 975-984) added six more bells, viz., two large ones, named Bartholomew and Betelin; two middle ones, named Turketye and Tatwyn; and two smaller ones, named Pega and Bega.

Abbot Ingulph, the chronicler, says that when these seven bells were rung 'an excellent harmony was produced thereby, nor was there such a peal of bells in those days in all England.' The sound of Guthlac was said by Fuller to be a remedy for headache. Those bells hung in the central tower until 1091, when a fire broke out in the belfry and they were totally destroyed. Ingulph, going to the door and trying to enter, had a narrow escape of being killed by the molten metal which poured down from above. This fire was caused by a plumber who had been preparing lead for repairs to the roof of the tower, and had foolishly left his embers covered up for the next day. Nearly the whole of the abbey was consumed thereby. After the fire, the monks set to work immediately to rebuild their abbey. No sooner was the calamity known than the neighbouring towns and villages sent relief in money, food, building materials and other commodities. Among these, Fergus the copper-smith, of Boston, gave two metal skillets or pans, which were suspended in a temporary belfry, and which gave a certain amount of resonance when struck. Ingulph replaced the books, vestments, bells and other requisites before his death in 1109.

Abbot Ralph Merske (1253-1281) erected a detached bell tower at the east end of the church, which was called the 'outward belfry.' Abbot John de Asheby, who died in 1392, gave or recast the large bells hanging in this structure. In 1405 there were 'four sweetly sounding bells hanging in the tower behind the choir.' These were repaired in that year by Abbot Thomas Overton. In the time of Abbot John Lytlington (1427-1469) the great bells in the outer steeple were recast 'in order that they might be brought into a state of more perfect harmony.' In this work the monks were assisted by John Leycester, a brother of the monastery, who in 1463 'induced by pious considerations, contributed 40 marks towards the work.' What became of these bells in the outer steeple at the Dissolution is not known.

It was in 1465 that Abbot John Lytlington, 'in order that nothing might remain undone which is considered to tend to the increase of the praise of God, caused five fine and choice bells to be cast at London and substituted for the three old ones (one gone since 1405) here (*i.e.*, in the central tower), to send forth their sweet sounds with their harmonious chimes. The cost of these, together with the expense of the carriage thereof to Croyland by land and water, amounting in all to £160, was defrayed entirely by himself. These bells, while still lying below upon the ground before they were hung, were solemnly consecrated by Nicholas, the venerable Lord Bishop of Elphin, who was at this time suffragan to the reverend Father in Christ, John, Lord Bishop of Lincoln. They were inscribed from the smallest to the greatest with the names in especial of the patron saints in whose honour they were most devoutly dedicated, the names being Guthlac, Bartholomew, Michael, Mary and Trinity.'

It is further related that a great beam, which was being raised in the greater bell tower, which had been newly built in the western part of the church, in which it was intended that the bells just mentioned should be hung, fell down, doing much damage and jeopardising the lives of the workmen, all of whom, however, escaped.

From 1788 up to 1903, the tower contained a ring of five bells, and the following note on Croyland in the original M.S. book of J. A. Parnell, of Sheffield, is most interesting:—

'The first set of Tuneable Bells in England was put up (say hung up) in the Tower of Crowland Abbey, in Lincolnshire (near Holbeach and Spalding) which was a Musical Peal of five about the year 900—or a little before that time or period of the Christian Aera. I (John Alfred Parnell) paid this once large Gothic Building—now most of it in Ruins except the North Aisle which is Patched up or rather say slightly Built up for Crowland Abbey Parish Church—a walking visit in October, 1814—and found only 5 bells. When I descended the very low West End Gothic Tower on Examining it I say very minutely and the old Inhabitants Informed me (the Grandsire Ringers also) there were never any more than 5 bells at one time. These 5 Bells were not the Originals—some of them cast as late as 1783 and one in 1788 by Mr. Arnold of the Town of Leicester.

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

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

On the old five bells only one full peal was rung thus: On Saturday, November 28th, 1894, in 2 hours 48 minutes, 5,040 Doubles being four 120's Canterbury, four Plain Bob, twenty-four St. Dunstons, ten Grandsire, each differently called. The ringers were: P. Cherrington 1, W. Ambrose 2, R. Wyche 3, Rev. H. Law James 4, C. R. Lilley tenor. Since 1903, when the ring was increased to six, one or two peals of Minor have been rung. To commemorate one of these, the present writer did an illuminated tablet which is preserved in the tower of the abbey. (To be continued.)

HENRY THOMAS ELLACOMBE.

(Continued from page 416.)

In the year 1846, four years before Ellacombe published his first book, a pamphlet on bells and ringers was issued by a man named Walter Blunt, a clergyman of the Church of England. Where he lived and who he was I cannot say; he claimed to have had the care or joint care of very many parishes in various parts of the country, and evidently he had been shocked by what he saw and knew of the condition in the belfries. Like Ellacombe, he felt he was called upon to do what he could to bring about a reformation and, like him, he started from the assumption that bells and ringing had once been sacred things, solely devoted to the cause of religion, but had now been desecrated and degraded to every wrong and profuse use.

'In our older churches,' he says, 'the position of the belfry on the floor of the church immediately communicating with the nave is sufficient to point out to every thinking person in the parish the very sacred character which was attached to their bells when they were first hung, the holy purposes to which they were dedicated, and how solemn a matter, how truly a service of Almighty God the ringing of them was then esteemed. In other churches, almost always of a later date, we find the original position of the ringers at a higher level, upon a floor in the tower. But the belfry was still laid open by an arch to the body of the church—thus yielding evidence that the ringing of the bells was still esteemed a very sacred thing.'

He goes on to state that from these ideal conditions there was a steady and gradual decline. Superstitious and profane uses were introduced and 'the rules and doggerel verses which remain in many of our belfries, while they often show that the bells were still used for holy purposes and according to their original design, afford, alas! a melancholy evidence that the ringing of them was no longer esteemed a sacred service.'

The final mischief was brought by change ringing. 'Towards the latter half of the last century, that worst age of the English Church, the ringing of church bells became a fashionable amusement among the yeomanry and gentry, and was degraded to the level on which the hurdle-race and steeple-chase now stand; and while their sweet voices were seldom heard for any holy purpose, they were made continually to wake the echoes of the neighbourhood in no more noble cause, for no more sacred object, than the battue-shooting of the present day. This amusement, however, at any rate in most parts of the country has long ago become vulgar and gone out of fashion.'

The belfries were now, he said, in a state of filthy dilapidation and the ringers were the most profane and profligate persons in the parish.

To amend this deplorable state of affairs he made several suggestions, but first he reviewed what he considered to be the Church's law and rule on the matter as laid down in the prayer book and the canons.

Eleven suggestions for reform are made. They are all excellent in intention, and some are harmless and almost self-evident. But most of them are quite unworkable and quite clearly come from one whose zeal was far greater than his practical knowledge. We need not go through them in detail. If they had been fully carried out, the ringers would have become a very docile flock

of sheep waiting patiently to do what they were told and when they were told, and in the way they were told. There were to be two bands each equal to the number of bells. The first one would do all the regular ringing and take all the money; the second one would supply any permanent or temporary vacancies which might occur in the other. There was to be no ringing for any but ecclesiastical purposes. No ringing should last longer than a quarter of an hour at a wedding or any other time. Before a burial the bells were to be rung or chimed 'in a steady, grave and solemn though cheerful peal (kept strictly for this purpose)' for ten minutes only; and after the burial 'in a steady, solemn, though more cheerful peal (kept strictly for the purpose)' for five minutes only. At midnight on eight days in the year the bells were to be rung in peal for five minutes only. No practice ringing was provided for the regular band, but the second company were to be allowed a special quarter or half an hour on festivals. That apparently was all they would get throughout the year.

The writer claimed that 'very beneficial results have been obtained from the following out of this system, and it has become evident to those who have tried it that the more perfectly it is carried out, so much more in due proportion, are the benefits.' We must take his word for it, but it does not seem very likely. Even Ellacombe, whose ultimate object was the same as Blunt's, could see clearly that the latter's proposals would not work. 'Perhaps,' he said, 'they would have been more intelligible if the author had explained what he means by a "peal." He proposes one peal of a quarter of an hour, whereas it is well known that some heavy bells cannot be raised and ceased in that time; nay, some heavy bells never can be raised in peal, but are raised singly; *a fortiori* a five minutes peal would be still more difficult.' 'It can hardly be expected that any ringers would think it worth while to meet to practise only for a quarter of an hour; it would be almost useless, and a five minutes peal at midnight would be unintelligible—almost as much so as what is meant by a solemn, cheerful peal.' Ellacombe had sound common sense as well as reforming zeal. What was wanted, he considered, was not a uniformity of use, but that the parson of each parish should do what he could according to the circumstances, and if he acted temperately and judiciously he would soon make some progress to an improvement.

(To be continued.)

LEADING.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Just an attempt to amplify your leader on 'Leading.' The second bell taking the leading bell off notes which bell he has led off. That is the last bell down, or, and this is the only alternative, who is looking at that bell.

How does a covering bell find the last bell down? By watching the last two bells change places. It is just the same.

CHARLES W. BLAKEY.

133, Ormerod Street, Accrington.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT CHURCH HOLT.

A meeting of the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held at Church Holt on October 7th, was attended by 40 members from Melksham, Warminster, Keevil, Trowbridge, Bishops Cannings, Chilton, Longbridge Deverell, North Bradley, Westbury, Holt, Devizes and Southbroom. The methods rung during afternoon and evening were Grandsire, Stedman, Cambridge and Plain Bob. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. C. F. H. Brewis, Miss Pullin being at the organ. Tea was served in the Parish Hall by ladies of the parish.

BELLS AS WARNINGS.

The recent action of the Government in reserving the use of church bells as a warning in the event of an invasion was not a new idea. As far back as the reign of King Edward the Third a very similar order was issued, only then the ban on ringing was not a total one. One bell and one bell only was allowed to be used for ordinary purposes in all the parishes within 21 miles of the sea, and it was ordered that if there was an invasion all the bells should be rung as a warning. England was then at war with France and Scotland. It was the beginning of what is known as the Hundred Years War. For some time French ships made attempts to raid towns on the South Coast. They burnt Southampton and Harwich and Plymouth, and did other damage, but a great English naval victory at Sluys destroyed the French fleet, and afterwards it was the English who invaded France.

On November 20th 1338, an order was issued to all sheriffs of counties lying on the sea coast which ran: 'Because we have understood for certain that our enemies from abroad are daily preparing to invade our realm, in order to commit therein what evil and wickedness they can—for this reason we have ordained by the advice of our Council, for the more speedy warning of our people of the approaching attacks of the enemy, and for the better avoiding of their malice, that one bell only shall be rung in all churches within a distance of seven leagues from the sea; and that if peril shall threaten from such hostile attacks, all the bells shall be rung in each of these churches, for the defence of our people, and to give warning for the repulse of our enemies.'

In the twelfth century, movement in war by sea or by land was far slower than it is to-day, people were much more accustomed to listen for the messages the bells had to give them, and the warning (in conjunction with beacons) was doubtless quite effective.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION,**MEETING AT WEDMORE.**

A meeting of the Axbridge Deanery of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association, held at Wedmore on September 23rd, was attended by nearly 50 ringers from Wedmore, Mark, East Brent, Bristol, Street, Shepton Mallet, Weston-super-Mare, Kewstoke, Dinder, Clevedon, Yatton, Burnham-on-Sea, Wookey, Congresbury, Wrington, Cheddar, Cleve, Badgworth, Worle and Churchill.

In the absence of the president, the Rev. L. T. Powys David, the Vicar of Wedmore took the chair at the business meeting which followed the service in church.

It was decided to hold the annual meeting at Congresbury in December, and practice meetings at Axbridge in October and Kewstoke in November.

The methods rung were Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Stedman Doubles and Triples, Plain Bob Minor and Major, Kent, Forward and Cambridge Major.

DEVON GUILD.**MEETING AT SILVERTON.**

A meeting of the North-East Branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers was held at Silverton on September 30th and was attended by members from Exeter, Calverleigh, Silverton, Honiton Clyst, Tiverton, Thorverton, Washfield and Plymouth. Thirty-eight were present at the business meeting, which was presided over by the Rev. J. M. Turner, chairman of the branch. One member was elected and the annual meeting fixed for January 27th at Calverleigh. Rounds, Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Stedman Triples and Bob Major were rung.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT TONBRIDGE.**

The annual meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association was held at Tonbridge on October 7th and was attended by 30 members from Leigh, Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells, Shipbourne, Ponshurst, East Peckham, Aylesford, Tunstall, Headcorn and the local belfry. Service in church was followed by tea and the business meeting, at which Mr. B. Collison took the chair.

The secretary's report and balance sheet were adopted, Sevenoaks was selected as the place of the next meeting and it was decided to hold weekly practices at Tonbridge on Fridays. Mr. T. Saunders was re-elected hon. secretary, Mr. B. Collison ringing master, and Miss B. Richardson and Mr. A. Batten district representatives. A collection for the association realised 8s. 6d.

JOINT MEETING AT HILLINGDON.

A joint meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association and the East Berks and South Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, held at St. John's, Hillingdon, on October 7th was attended by about 80 ringers from Ealing, Rickmansworth, Pinner, Farnham Royal, Hillingdon, Harrow, Windsor, Cookham, Cranford, Beaconsfield, Isleworth, Stoke Poges, Uxbridge, Hughenden and High Wycombe. The ringing, under the direction of Mr. J. Fowler and Mr. T. Bannister, ranged from rounds to Cambridge Surprise Royal. Tea, provided by Mr. and Mrs. Goodfellow, was at the Parish Hall. It was decided to hold the next Middlesex meeting at St. Mary's, Ealing, on November 25th.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting Saturday, Oct. 21st, 3 p.m., Whitechapel Bell Foundry, E.1. Ringing All Saints, Poplar, 4.30. St. Dunstan's, Stepney, 9.30 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 15th. 307th anniversary luncheon, November 11th, Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., 1.30 p.m. Tickets 6s. 6d. each. Accommodation limited to 110.—A. B. Peck.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—Practice meeting at St. Laurence's, Reading, Saturday, Oct. 21st, 6 to 8.30 p.m.—E. G. Foster, 401, London Road, Reading.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—Meeting at St. Stephen's, Canterbury, Oct. 21st, 2.30. Service 4.15.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport, Bowden and Macclesfield Branches. — Meeting at Macclesfield on Saturday, Oct. 21st. Christ Church (8) 3 to 4 p.m. Service in Christ Church 4 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Christ Church Day Schools. Parish Church (12) after meeting.—T. Wilde and T. Taylor, Hon. Secs.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION and MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting Saturday, Oct. 21st, at St. John's, Leytonstone, 3 p.m. Service and tea.—J. H. Crampson and T. J. Lock, Hon. Secs.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Meeting at Market Weighton, Saturday, Oct. 21st. Bells (6) from 2 o'clock. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 45, Green Lane, Selby.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Glastonbury Deanery.—Meeting at Dinder, Saturday, Oct. 21st. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow.—W. H. Marsh, 4, Dovecotes, Street, Somerset.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Annual meeting at Bexley, Saturday, Oct. 21st, 3 p.m. Service 4.30.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at West Hallam (8 bells), Oct. 21st, 2.30 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting Wollaston, 3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 21st. Tea 5 p.m.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—Meeting at Hersham, Saturday, Oct. 21st. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Sec., 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL GUILD.—Practice on alternate Tuesdays at Cathedral (12 bells) and St. John's (8 bells). Cathedral, Tuesday, Oct. 24th, 7.30 p.m.—J. Anderson, Hon. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Practice Meeting, Chichester Cathedral, Saturday, Oct. 28th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. No business.—L. Stilwell, Pikeholme, Pulborough.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Meeting at Merstham, Saturday, Oct. 28th, 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea 5.45 p.m. at the Golden Wheel, by invitation of Mr. D. Kenneth C. Birt, to those who accept by Oct. 25th, to Alfred Gear, Sandy Way, The Cutting, Redhill.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Practice meeting at Crawley, Saturday, Oct. 28th, 3 p.m.—O. Sipetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Leeds Parish Church, Saturday, Oct. 28th, 3 p.m. Tea can be obtained near church. Business 7 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—Meeting at Biggleswade, Saturday, Oct. 28th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery.—Meeting at Axbridge, Saturday, Oct. 28th. Bells (6) 6.30 p.m.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

HUDDERSFIELD AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Almondbury (8 bells), Oct. 28th, 3 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—Frank Rhodes, Sec.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Sprotborough, Saturday, Oct. 28th, 3 p.m. Buses every 15 minutes. Names before Oct. 24th.—W. E. Lloyd, 3, Cranbrook Road, Doncaster.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—Meeting at Ibstock, Saturday, Oct. 28th, 3 p.m. Service 4.45. Cups of tea at Rectory 5 p.m. Bring food. Buses from Coalville every 10 minutes.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—Meeting at Freiston (6 bells), Saturday, Oct. 28th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea to follow. Names by Oct. 24th.—W. E. Clarke, Hon. Sec., 99, Norfolk Street, Boston.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Meeting at South Shields, St. Hilda's (8 bells), Saturday, Oct. 28th, 2.30 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—Frank Ainsley, 30, Aysgarth Avenue, Grangetown, Sunderland.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Burnham, Saturday, Oct. 28th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m., 1s. per head. Names for tea by Oct. 23rd.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—Meeting at Hardingstone, Saturday, Oct. 28th. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea provided (1s. 6d.).—R. S. Cowley, 83, Beech Avenue, Northampton.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Cary Branch.—Meeting at Henstridge (6 bells), Saturday, Oct. 28th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea to follow. Templecombe bells also.—H. C. Lintern, Alhampton, Ditchat.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Grimsby and Gainsborough Districts.—Meeting at Scunthorpe, Saturday, Oct. 28th. Bells (8) 2.15. Service 4.15. Tea, 5 p.m., in the Old Library. Names to Mr. F. Lord, Campana, 107, Bushfield Road, Scunthorpe, by Oct. 25th.—H. I. Mingay and L. Lunn, Hon. Secs.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—Meeting at Rainham, Saturday, Oct. 28th, 2.45 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Names before Oct. 25th to G. H. Spice, 35, Woodstock Road, Sittingbourne.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—Meeting at St. Matthew's, Stretford, Saturday, Oct. 28th, 3.30 p.m. Business meeting.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Diamond Jubilee Celebrations at St. Albans, Saturday, Oct. 28th. Ringing: St. Peter's (10) 2.30, St. Michael's (6) and St. Stephen's (6) 2.30-3.30. Service, St. Peter's, 4 p.m. Social Gathering at the Abbey Restaurant 5 p.m. Tickets, 6s. inclusive, from district secretaries or W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead. Latest date, Oct. 24th.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Meeting at Sawley on Saturday, Nov. 4th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea in School 5 p.m. (1s. 3d. per head), followed by business meeting. Names for tea must reach Mr. W. Dawson, Clarke Drive, Sawley, Long Eaton, Notts, by Monday, Oct. 30th.—T. Groombridge, jun., Dis. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District.—Meeting at Willesborough, Saturday, Nov. 4th, 2.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. Ruck, 3, Hunter Road, Willesborough, Ashford, by Nov. 1st.—P. Page, Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Scottow (6 bells), Saturday, Nov. 4th, 2 p.m. Tea and meeting 4.30. Buses leave Norwich Bus Station 2 p.m., leave Scottow 5.3 and 7.28. Names for tea to Rev. A. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Basingstoke District.—Meeting at Deane and Church Oakley, Saturday, Nov. 11th. Service in Deane Church 4 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m. at the Deane Gate. Names to Rev. F. S. H. Marle, Deane Rectory, by Nov. 7th.—J. G. Stilwell, Hon. Sec.

BIRTH.

MARCON.—On Sunday, Oct. 8th, at the Bromhead Maternity Home, Lincoln, to Sylvia May, wife of Harold Marcon, the gift of a son.

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THE RINGING WORLD

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

No. 1,753. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27th, 1944.

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PRINCIPAL BELLFOUNDERS

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These famous bell-sounding 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.

PEAL RINGING IN WAR-TIME.

When, now more than five years ago, war broke out, the immediate result was to put a stop to all peal ringing. Up to the end of August, 1939, peals were being rung almost daily throughout the country, but during September, save for one of Grandsire Doubles on the last day of the month, there was silence. A few were rung before the end of the year, mostly in six bell towers in rather remote villages, but the names of the men and the churches which for so long had figured prominently in the peal reports were missing. There was a general feeling of uncertainty among ringers as to the right thing to do, and a rather vague feeling that peals, and indeed ringing generally, were somewhat out of place in the circumstances of the time.

When the new year came in and it seemed as if the war had settled down to a stalemate in which each side was waiting for the other to begin, but was not prepared itself to undertake the risks of an offensive, the number of peals began to increase, and by the early spring had reached what was for war time, a quite respectable weekly total. Then came the rude awakening. Norway and Denmark were conquered. Holland and Belgium were overrun. France was invaded, and our own expeditionary force flung back on the coast and saved as it were by a miracle at Dunkirk. It did not need the official ban on ringing, which soon after was imposed, to stop peal ringing again. For two years there was silence and the only tower bell peal rung during that time was in Ireland.

Once more we recovered our freedom. Once more ringers were allowed to try for peals and with perhaps more encouragement from church authorities and the general public than ever. Five years of war had added enormously to the difficulties. Bands were broken up and dispersed. Many belfries could not be blacked out. Travelling facilities were scanty or non-existent. Air raids and flying bombs made long ringing inadvisable. But, in spite of all, the number of peals rung during this year is a considerable one, and seems likely to increase as the end of the war draws nearer and some at least of the difficulties lessen.

Nevertheless, the doubts and uncertainties which beset the Exercise when the war began are still present with many ringers. Ought we to indulge in peal ringing so long as this dreadful conflict lasts? they ask, and many of them feel that the right answer must be No. Even

(Continued on page 442.)

among those who have nothing to say against peal ringing generally in these days are many who feel that they themselves would rather not take part.

We can respect the feelings of these men and we can appreciate the reasons for their opinions, but we are bound to take a wider vision and to ask the question: Is ringing in general and peal ringing in particular a good thing at present for the Exercise and the country at large, or is it a bad thing? When we put the question like that, there can be but one answer. The sound of the church bells has a message for everyone, and though it may not reach the majority of men and women, it does reach some, and more perhaps than we ringers imagine. Even though it is true, as a correspondent this week points out, that the sound of victory bells must fall on the ears of many whose hearts are saddened and whose lives are darkened by the price that has to be paid, yet the voices of the bells are more likely to bring consolation than regret, and to be a blessing and not a mockery. England would be the poorer and the sadder without her bells.

But, no doubt, it will be said that it is not ringing generally, but peal ringing which is objected to. The answer is that for the general public there is no difference between peal ringing and any other ringing, except that it is rather longer and usually very much better. Peal ringing only concerns ringers and the question is: does it now do the Exercise good or harm? We have no hesitation in saying it does good. Of course there is need for restraint and consideration for other people, as there always is, but we feel sure that those ringers who, consistent with their other duties, are able to ring peals, are not only doing themselves good, but are doing good to others as well.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

ACCRINGTON, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 14, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF BOB DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two extents. Tenor 9 cwt.

*ERNEST WILKINSON Treble	CHARLES W. BLAKEY 4
†LEONARD WALSH 2	ROGER LEIGH 5
RICHARD BLAKEY 3	*GEORGE M. HURST Tenor

Conducted by ROGER LEIGH.

* First peal. † First peal on tower bells.

GREAT STAUGHTON, HUNTINGDONSHIRE.
THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 21, 1944, in Three Hours and One Minute,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents. Tenor 19 cwt. 2 qr.

JOHN PERKINS Treble	FRANK W. LACK 4
REV. B. F. SHEPPARD 2	BRIAN F. SIMS 5
HERBERT FIELDS 3	FRANK WARRINGTON Tenor

Conducted by F. WARRINGTON.

BRADSHAW, HALIFAX.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 21, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF BOB DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 8 cwt.

WILLIAM AMBLER Treble	CLIFFORD ELLISON 3
PAUL BIRKETT 2	ALBERT PICKLES 4

SAM LONGBOTTOM Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM AMBLER.

First peal on the bells, and first peal of Doubles by all the band.

TEN BELL PEAL.

ABINGDON, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 21, 1944, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5187 CHANGES;

Tenor 20½ cwt.

*BETTY SPICE Treble	RONALD H. DOVE 6
*ARTHUR V. DAVIS 2	GEOFFREY J. LEWIS 7
WALTER F. JUDGE 3	GEORGE HOLIFIELD 8
EDGAR HUMFREY 4	JOHN E. SPICE 9
WILLIAM C. PORTER 5	RICHARD WHITE Tenor

Composed by J. H. R. FREEBORN. Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE

* First peal of Stedman Caters. The ringer of the 4th bell has now completed the circle of the tower.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BOWDEN, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 14, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

*LAWRENCE WARD Treble	ALAN J. BROWN 5
THOMAS TAYLOR 2	JOHN WORTH 6
†ALAN A. POTTS 3	†CECIL AUSTIN 7
DAVID VINCENT 4	GORDON HENSHAW Tenor

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

* First peal. † First peal in the method.

ROTHERHAM, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, October 19, 1944, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE PART (7th observation)

Tenor 34½ cwt.

MRS DORICE E. KELLY Treble	*JOHN E. TURLEY 5
T. COLIN RYDER 2	HERBERT C. CHADDOCK 6
J. EDWARD CAWSE 3	NORMAN CHADDOCK 7
ARTHUR FIRTH 4	PERCY MANGHAM Tenor

Conducted by NORMAN CHADDOCK.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method as conductor.

OXFORD.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, October 20, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EBBE,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 4½ cwt.

*WILLIAM H. B. WILKINS ... Treble	JOHN E. SPICE 5
†MARGARET D. TELFORD ... 2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS 6
EDWIN A. BARNETT 3	RONALD H. DOVE 7
BETTY SPICE 4	WALTER F. JUDGE Tenor

Composed by J. W. PARKER. Conducted by E. A. BARNETT.

* 250th peal. † First peal in the method.

WORCESTER.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 21, 1944, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th the observation).

Tenor 15½ cwt.

ERNEST WILSON Treble	†GEORGE E. LARGE 5
JAMES WOODYATT 2	ERNEST E. CUBBERLEY 6
ALLEN MORGAN 3	REGINALD WOODYATT 7
*FRED N. FLUCK 4	CHRIS. F. BLISSETT Tenor

Conducted by REGINALD WOODYATT.

* First peal of Grandsire Triples 'inside.' † 100th peal for the association. First peal in the method as conductor.

SHIRLEY, WARWICKSHIRE.—On Sunday, October 1st, 1,260 Bob Minor: S. G. Chaplin 1, R. J. B. Hadden 2, P. C. L. Tuffrey 3, A. Morris 4, E. T. Lloyd 5, V. A. Hemming (conductor) 6. First quarter-peal as conductor.

FAREHAM, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 21, 1944, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 502½ CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

*STANLEY E. COOK Treble	JOHN H. HUNT 5
TOM PAGE 2	PATRICK PAGE 6
FREDERICK A. BURNETT ... 3	HAROLD NOBES 7
JOSIAH D. HARRIS 4	FREDERICK W. BURNETT ... Tenor

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD.

Conducted by F. W. BURNETT

* First peal.

AUGHTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 21, 1944, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

THOMAS HAMMOND Treble	*THOMAS HESKETH 5
*JOHN LUNHAM 2	THOMAS ROTHWELL 6
*THOMAS HORRIDGE 3	*ARTHUR MAWDESLEY ... 7
*JOHN ROTHWELL 4	JOSEPH RIDYARD Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS.

Conducted by JOSEPH RIDYARD.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method as conductor.

HOLLESLEY, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, October 21, 1944, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 17 cwt. in F.

WILLOUGHBY E. MAULDEN Treble	Mrs. C. W. PIPE 5
*JAMES W. JENNINGS 2	*CHARLES CLARKE 6
FRANK L. FISHER 3	WILLIAM J. G. BROWN ... 7
GEORGE A. FLEMING 4	Cecil W. PIPE Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW.

Conducted by Mrs. C. W. PIPE.

* First peal in the method.

LICHFIELD, STAFFS.

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

On Saturday, October 21, 1944, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 19 cwt. 3 qr. 7 lb.

JOHN N. LINDON.. ... Treble	JOHN PINFOLD 5
RICHARD J. B. HADDEN ... 2	REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE... 6
HENRY H. FEARN 3	FRANK E. HAYNES 7
GEORGE F. SWANN 4	GEORGE E. FEARN Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. FEARN.

First Surprise peal in Lichfield.

NORWICH.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 21, 1944, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-DE-SEPULCHRE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt. in G sharp.

HENRY TOOKE Treble	CHARLES F. GOODMAN ... 5
ERNEST G. SHORTING 2	GEORGE BAILEY 6
*MICHAEL J. FOSTER 3	ARTHUR G. BASON 7
NOLAN GOLDEN 4	GEORGE SAYER Tenor

Composed and Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

* First peal.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Oct. 12, 1944, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT & OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

ILKESTON VARIATION.

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7-8

Composed by A. J. PITMAN.

Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

First peal in this variation in hand by all.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, October 17, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 1-2	CHARLES W. ROBERTS... .. 7-8
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	ERIC A. DENCH 9-10
MRS. J. THOMAS 5-6	ALBERT J. WALLMAN 11-12

Composed by JOHN CARTER.

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, October 18, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERES, 5065 CHANGES;

WILLIAM L. B. LEESER... .. 1-2	MRS. J. THOMAS 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7-8
ERIC A. DENCH 9-10	

Composed and Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS

ACORRINGTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, October 20, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-One Minutes,

AT 19, WILLOWS LANE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

*STEWART SMITH... .. 1-2	†CHARLES W. BLAKEY ... 5-6
†RICHARD BLAKEY 3-4	CHARLES SHARPLES 7-8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

Conducted by C. SHARPLES.

* First peal. † First peal on handbells.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT AYLESFORD.

The annual meeting of the Maidstone District of the Kent County Association was held at Aylesford on October 14th. Service was conducted by the Vicar and 25 members sat down to tea at the Chequers Inn.

At the business meeting Mr. C. H. Sone was re-elected honorary district secretary, and Mr. T. Leeson district representative. Dr. Hatchard was elected district representative in place of Mr. W. Grice.

It was proposed that district practices should be arranged for the young ringers, and as a central tower was necessary, this led to a lengthy discussion on the condition of the bells of All Saints', Maidstone. It was suggested that they should be recast into a ring worthy of the fine church and the county town. Eventually it was decided to hold the first practice at Linton on November 11th.

FALSE PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am sorry to have to inform you that the composition of 5.065 Stedman Caters published under my name in the Midland Counties Association Report (peal No. 3,025) is false, one six occurring twice. I offer my humble apologies to all concerned.

F. W. PERRENS.

CHURCH & TURRET CLOCKS - NEW INSTALLATIONS, REPAIRS
MAINTENANCEby **SMITH of DERBY**Estimates and
Advice Free**JOHN SMITH & SONS, Midland Clock Works, Derby, Ltd., QUEEN STREET, DERBY**

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official Journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.

The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to:—

The Editor,

'The Ringing World,'

c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
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Cheques and remittances should be made payable to 'The Ringing World.'

We have received a report of a peal of Grandsire Doubles rung at Ripple without the date.

MAGDALEN COLLEGE TENOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the recent correspondence regarding the note and weight of the tenor bell at Magdalen College, Oxford, personally, I doubt very much if this bell weighs more than 19 cwt., and quite possibly she weighs less, for her diameter is 47½ inches, and she may prove similar to the tenor at Kirtlington, Oxfordshire, which is the same note and diameter. Kirtlington tenor was popularly supposed to weigh 20 cwt., this fact being recorded on a framed certificate in the tower, prepared by one of the leading bellfounders, but when recently rehung she was found to weigh only 16 cwt. 1 qr. 19 lb. after the removal of her canons.

There are numerous bells sounding the strike note E natural weighing less than 20 cwt. To quote a few local examples: The tenor at Appleton, Berkshire, is 44 inches diameter and weighs 14 cwt. 2 qr. 19 lb. The tenor at Cookham, in the same county, is 45½ inches diameter and weighs 14 cwt. 1 qr. 23 lb., while other Berkshire tenors sounding the strike note E natural are: Faringdon, 17 cwt. 1 qr. 7 lb., 46½ inches, and Harwell, 16 cwt. 1 qr. 26 lb., 47 inches.

Is there any record of Magdalen tenor having been weighed? Perhaps Mr. Richard White could tell us if he weighed her when he rehung the Magdalen College bells. The ring is an exceptionally fine one, and Major J. H. R. Freeborn may be interested to learn that of the two unnamed bells he mentioned, the seventh of the ring was cast by William Dawe, circa 1410, and the other, the ninth of the ring, is by Ellis Knight I., of Reading, 1641.

FREDERICK SHARPE.

Derwen, Launton, Oxfordshire.

THE SIXTY COURSES OF STEDMAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following very simple proof of the non-existence of sixty true courses of Stedman Triples may interest your readers. It was given by W. H. Thompson, and appeared in 'The Bell News,' June 19th, 1909.

From the 360 possible in-course (or even) courses of Stedman Triples we desire to know whether it is possible to select 60 which are mutually true. We divide the 360 into 40 groups of nine courses each in the following way:—

To construct the group of nine containing 231456, say, we permute cyclically the first, second and fourth figures in rotation; and also the remaining third, fifth and sixth figures. Thus the group containing 231456 will be 231456, 341256, 421356; 235461, 345261, 425721, 234415, 346215, 428315. We have thus got these nine courses by rotating the two sets 234 and 156 independently. Now, any two of these nine courses are mutually false—verify this by experiment. We have, therefore, 40 groups of nine courses each, and at the most only one true course can be culled from each of the 40 groups. Thus the maximum possible number of true courses is 40. Examples of such sets of 40 true courses are given in 'The Bell News' of June 6th, 1908.

BRIAN D. PRICE.

Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

PEAL RINGING IN WAR-TIME.

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—I find difficulty in understanding Mr. D. G. Clift's reasoning when he states that the absence of any preparations for victory ringing would have a detrimental effect on peace-time ringing; I also fail to see how a revival of peal ringing can help matters. On the contrary, I believe that it would do great harm to the cause of ringing.

When this war started, sir, I quite definitely formed my own opinion that peal ringing was out of place in these times, and not even the admittedly bettering of our national position has seemed to me an excuse for a change of outlook. I feel rather that it is because of our victories that peal ringing for the time being should not be indulged in—here is the reason. All our great military victories have been, and are being, bought at great cost of lives; that means that family circles all over the country are suffering great sorrow and loss.

Therefore, as my peal ringing cannot be carried out without other disinterested persons being forced to listen, I would rather give it up until happier times are here. This, sir, is entirely my own reasoning and I assure Mr. Clift that I speak only for myself, as one of the 'no peal ringing' school of opinion.

Finally, to suggest an answer to Mr. Clift's query of what indication there will be of the cessation of hostilities—why worry about it anyway? There were those who said that the ban would be the finish of ringing. November 15th, 1942, successfully exploded that theory, and I would in all sincerity suggest to Mr. Clift that he looks upon El Alamein Day as 'the shape of things to come.'

From my own point of view, the one peal that will be worth starting for will be to celebrate the peace—it may probably go the same way as a few more I started for. There will be plenty of time to start for another.

RICHARD A. POST.

Llanelli.

THE LENGTH OF PEALS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Is it not a step in the wrong direction to suggest lowering the length of a peal? Surely our friend realises we ringers are still absolutely free even in these days to please ourselves. If one thinks it is too long, or the tower objects, he can still ring a quarter, half or three-quarter peal. There is no need to alter the length or the meaning of that hundreds of years word 'peal.'

A five thousand is a real test, both mentally and physically. A ringer will ring a quarter-peal fairly easily, but a full peal will test him; he may think he knows a method, but a peal will teach him more than ever he knew before. It is for us to teach ringers to listen to the music and beat of the bells and then a peal is never too long. It is well known that we English are funny. A church sometimes will allow a meeting with the usual three or four hours' ringing and we all know what that is like, but will bar a good three hours' peal ringing. Why?

A. H. PULLING.

Guildford.

Dear Sir,—With regard to the length of peals, I think most ringers will agree with me that the standard length for peals should not be less than 5,000 changes. If 5,000 is too much for Mr. Chadcock or any other ringer, there is every opportunity to ring a touch of shorter length.

JAMES GEORGE.

Chadwell Heath, Essex.

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL.

At the invitation of the B.B.C., the ringers of Worcester Cathedral recently made a broadcast to Worcester (Massachusetts) in the 'Bridge-Building Series,' which is designed to foster Anglo-American friendship.

The programme commenced with a sound recording of the bells being rung up in peal, and this was followed by the script, which was interrupted in the middle for a course of Grandsire Triples on handbells. A recording was then made of a touch of Grandsire Caters on the tower bells.

Among those taking part was Mr. James Hill, the oldest member of the Cathedral band, who has been ringing for 48 years.

The script was written by Mrs. Miranda Dulley, of the B.B.C. and the warden of the Guild (Minor Canon A. C. F. Davies). The ringers were H. Bentley 1, J. Hill 2, G. Lewis 3, D. Morris 4, G. Hinton 5, H. Humphries 6, W. Lewis 7, J. J. Jeffries (Master and conductor) 8, G. Ambler 9, F. Fluck 10. On the handbells: D. Morris, J. J. Jeffries, G. Lewis and G. Ambler.

DEVON GUILD.

MEETING AT PAIGNTON.

A meeting of the Mid-Devon Branch of the Devonshire Guild, held at Paignton on September 30th, was attended by ringers from Basingstoke, Exeter, Honiton, Olvest, Okehampton, Dawlish, Paignton, Dartmouth, Collaton, Buckfastleigh and Plymouth.

The tea was at the Church Institute, and the business meeting which followed was presided over by the chairman of the branch, the Rev. W. R. D. Mills. It was decided to hold the annual meeting at Newton Abbot with the ringing at Wolborough.

Touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major were rung on the bells.

HENRY THOMAS ELLACOMBE.

(Continued from page 437.)

We must admit that the sombre picture drawn by Ellacombe and others of the ringing Exercise a century ago was in the main a correct one. They were competent and truthful witnesses of what they had seen and known, and if they judged the matter from a different standpoint to that of the ringers, their testimony does not lack ample corroboration. Edward John Osborn, who for many years was the secretary of the Society of Cumberland Youths and afterwards a member of the Society of College Youths, wrote as his considered opinion that four-fifths of the ringers were of the very lowest class of men; and those of us whose memories and experience go back more than a half-century remember quite enough to make the black picture credible.

How did such a state of things come about? Surely, we may think, the fault lay not so much with the ringers as with the Church authorities who tolerated and permitted it. Theirs was the real responsibility. It is easy to understand the difficulty any particular parson in the middle of the nineteenth century would have had in making reforms, but reforms would not have been necessary if the earlier clergy as a whole had done their duty. And if we admit that the control of the bells was mainly in the hands of the lay authorities of the church, the fact still remains that the parson was usually the most influential man in the parish and could not divest himself of responsibility for the conduct of everyone connected with his church.

All that is true, yet the real truth is that the cause of the trouble lay not so much in any depravity of the ringers or neglect of duty by the Church authorities, as in the conditions which had grown up through the centuries as the result of the general life and opinions of the people, social and religious, acting on the ringing Exercise and its relations to the Church. If we would know why in the middle of the nineteenth century the status of ringers had fallen so very low, we must study the history not only of the Exercise through four centuries, but also the general history of the Church and people of England through the same time. Obviously it is too vast a subject to be dealt with here, yet some of the salient features may be pointed out.

In the first place, Ellacombe and the others were quite wrong when they imagined that the men who first rang church bells in the way we should recognise as ringing looked on the bells as sacred things not to be handed by profane or even lay hands; or that they did the ringing in any different or more religious spirit than has been usual with ringers through the ages. The fifteenth century, in which with some confidence we may place the beginnings of our present-day ringing, was not a religious age, nor were the young athletic Englishmen who did the ringing any more religious than their successors were in the nineteenth century. The Church was powerful, and her service and ritual counted for much in the life of the ordinary people, but the parish church was something more than a place of worship and devotion. It was the centre of the social and civic life of the community, and the spirit which built the splendid Perpendicular churches of the time and hung the bells in the stately steeples was at least as much civic pride as religious devotion. Religion there was, as there always has been even in what

seem the darkest and deadest periods of the Church's history, but religion is not the only influence which controls and influences even the best men's actions and opinions.

If Ellacombe could have visited a belfry in the fifteenth century he would have been very considerably surprised and disappointed with what he saw. Instead of clerks in minor orders, clad in their proper vestments, ringing the bells from the ground floor in the sight of a devout congregation, he would have found a band of much the same sort of men as the ringers in his own parish, ringing in much the same sort of way, except that the work was more laborious. He would have found that they had plenty of beer to drink in the intervals between their 'peals,' sent to them by the parish or some benefactor, and brought by boys or women employed for the purpose, and it is likely he would not have approved of the conversation he heard, if he could understand it. If the ringing was for a dirige 'at the cost of the church,' when he went downstairs he would have found the clerks, not at the bell ropes, but among the congregation serving out the drink which was usual after the service. And if he had expressed any surprise that such things should be, he would probably have been asked what was wrong with them?

The fifteenth century was an age when men accepted things as they were without enquiring why they were. Secular things, and social things, and things of religion, and things which were done just because they were traditional and, so far as men knew, had always been done, were mixed up indiscriminately in the life of the people. The laity, or rather that part of the laity which ruled the community, controlled the church and the bells. The clergy were held in no great esteem.

Ringling was as much for secular purposes as for religious purposes, and it was left to the parish clerk to find the ringers. Ringling was a laborious task, and we can easily understand what sort of men were employed. Shakespeare has shown us one of them, Peter Bullcalf, who complained that he caught 'a whoreson cold' ringling for King Henry the Fourth's Coronation, and though no doubt he was drawn from one of the ringers the poet came across in his early days among the Warwickshire villages, he will serve well enough as an example of the men who formed the first ringling Exercise.

Ringers, then, were drawn from the labouring classes in town and village, and from those same classes they were mainly drawn during the succeeding centuries. Their character and conduct were those of the classes to which they belonged, for they were farm labourers or artisans first and only ringers in a casual and secondary sense. But the general character of the Exercise was influenced and altered by the comparatively small number of men from other classes of society who became ringers, and the public opinion of the ringers varied according to the changing standards of the men who judged them.

One important point must be noted. From the very first the ringers never were directly under the control of the clergy or even of the lay church authorities. The parish clerk was held responsible for finding men to ring the bells, and the payments for the ringling was made through him. This was the direct cause of that independent spirit and lack of discipline of which Ellacombe complained.

(To be continued.)

SERVICE TOUCHES.

THURSTANS' QUARTER-PEAL.

Thomas Thurstans' well-known peal of Stedman Triples is made up of four quarter-peals, which are joined together by calling certain bobs, omitting others, and two singles. If these 'extras,' omits, and singles are left out, the peal will fall into four equal quarters, and, since one of them begins with the plain course, it can be (and often is) used as a service touch.

1,260.				
231456	S	H	L	Q
246351	x		x	
432561	x	x		x
342516	x			

Four times repeated.

The quarter-peal consists of five equal parts all alike and the calling is as follows, the Seventh being the observation:—

First course: In Slow, first Whole Turn, Last Whole Turn, Out Slow.

Second course: In Slow, First Whole Turn, First and Last Half Turns, In and Out Quick.

Third course: First and Last Half Turns.

The part ends are cyclical. They are 342516, 453126, 514236, 125346, and 231456. These are the rows at the end of the Sixes, but the *real* part ends and the *real* course ends are not at the end of the quick Six, but in the middle when the quick bell is leading its whole pull; and if we write out those rows we shall get the following: 234516, 345126, 451236, 512346, and 123456. These show the cyclical nature of the group, and these are the changes the conductor should look for.

In every part there is one bell which is in sixth place at two course ends, and in the fifths place at the part end. This is the part bell. The bells take up this work in the order 12345.

All the bobs except two affect either the sixth (the half hunt) or the part bell. The sixth makes the second bob in the first course, dodges in 6-7 up at the four bob set (S.H.) in the second course, and makes the second bob in the third course. The part bell dodges in 6-7 up at the first two bobs in the first course, makes the second of the four bob set, and dodges in 6-7 up at the last two bobs of the second course, and in 6-7 up at the two bobs in the third course.

The two bobs in which neither the half hunt nor the part bell is concerned are the second pair (L) in the first course. At those bobs the two dodging bells are the next two to the part bell in cyclical order. When the treble is the part bell they are 2 and 3. When the second is the part bell they are 3 and 4 and so on—and they come away from the back in reverse order, the third before the second, the fourth before the third, and so on.

This quarter-peal is not only in itself a very handy service touch, but it gives the conductor who observes these points an excellent opportunity of thoroughly learning the peal as a whole: for the same things apply to the other three quarter-peals, only they must be adjusted to the different part ends.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT MACCLESFIELD.

A joint meeting of the Stockport and Macclesfield Branches of the Chester Diocesan Guild, held at Macclesfield on October 21st, was attended by 80 ringers from Hyde, Ashton, Stockport, Cheadle (Cheshire), Cheadle (Staffs), Disley, Stoke, Newcastle, Longton, Leek, Bowden, Grappenhall, Sutton, Alsager and the local companies of St. Michael's and Christ Church.

During the afternoon ringing was at Christ Church, where the service was held. Tea was at Christ Church schools, after which a course of Grandsire Caters was rung by Messrs. D. Vincent, A. Barnes, J. Worth, P. Laffin and A. Thompson. The twelve-bell tower of St. Michael's was open in the evening. The methods rung during the afternoon and evening included Grandsire and Stedman from Triples to Cinques, Bob Major and Maximus, Treble Bob Major and Maximus, and Double Norwich and Cambridge Surprise Major.

JOINT MEETING AT LEYTONSTONE.

A joint meeting of the Essex and Middlesex County Associations held at St. John's, Leytonstone, on October 21st, was attended by about 40 ringers. Service was conducted by the Vicar and tea was provided by local ladies. The Vicar welcomed the associations, and Messrs. Coles and Chalk replied. It was said that the principle of arranging joint meetings was much appreciated, and the next fixture would be greatly valued. The ringing included rounds, Bob Major, Treble Bob Major and the Surprise Major methods.

THE LIBERATION OF ATHENS.

On Thursday, October 19th, a service of thanksgiving for the liberation of Athens was held at St. Paul's Cathedral, in which bishops and clergy of the Church of England and the Greek Orthodox Church took part. Four courses of Stedman Cinques were rung on the bells by the Cathedral band: E. G. Fenn treble, J. F. Smallwood 2, H. Hoskins 3, W. H. Pasmore 4, R. G. Green 5, H. Langdon (conductor) 6, H. Belcher 7, H. Miles 8, R. F. Deal 9, J. Bullock 10, A. B. Peck 11, J. Rumley and T. Langdon tenor.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

GREAT BADDOW.—On September 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: George Green (conductor) 1, H. Allen 2, H. Devonish 3, C. J. Hunter 4, Dr. Spence Phillips 5, H. Bradley 6, R. C. Thrift 7, H. Shadrack 8.

ST. ALBANS.—On Sunday, October 1st, at St. Peter's, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *Miss R. Sergeant 1, S. Jones 2, R. Dobson 3, †T. J. Southam 4, W. J. Southam 5, A. Dale 6, R. W. Darvill (conductor) 7, B. C. Johnson 8. Also 1,287 Stedman Caters: R. W. Darvill 1, A. V. Good 2, C. F. Sayer 3, †W. Hughes 4, W. Arnold 5, G. Blake and F. Spicer 6, H. E. C. Goodenough (conductor) 7, †W. A. Beddard 8, †R. Ewer 9, W. Ayre 10. *First quarter-peal. †First inside in method.

CHILCOMPTON, SOMERSET.—On Sunday, October 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: George Sugg (first quarter-peal away from the covering bell) 1, Ronald G. Beck 2, David Targett 3, Frederick Targett 4, David MacKay (conductor) 5.

CHISLEDON, WILTS.—On Sunday, October 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: W. A. Farmer 1, C. E. Williams 2, S. C. Archer 3, T. A. Palmer (conductor) 4, B. Thompson 5, A. H. Attwell 6.

APPLETON.—On Sunday, October 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: G. Holifield (first quarter-peal) 1, C. Calcutt 2, F. Messenger 3, A. H. White 4, A. K. Cornish 5, G. Holifield (conductor) 6, R. White 7, F. White 8.

MANGOTSFIELD.—On Sunday, October 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *Mrs. Wise 1, Miss N. Gardener 2, C. Harding 3, E. Palmer 4, *W. Richings 5, D. Gardener 6, J. Jefferies (conductor) 7, J. Jefferies, jun. 8. *First quarter-peal.

OXHEY, HERTS.—On October 2nd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles on handbells: L. Tarr (first quarter-peal on handbells) 1-2, H. Hodgetts 3-4, F. W. Brinklow (conductor) 5-6. — On October 10th, 720 Bob Minor: H. Hodgetts 1, Miss T. Waldron 2, E. Rosson 3, L. Tarr 4, J. Rosson (first 720 Bob Minor as conductor) 5, F. W. Brinklow 6. — On October 17th, 720 Double Court Bob Minor: *Miss T. Waldron 1, H. Hodgetts 2, *Rev. P. T. Hearn 3, *L. Tarr 4, *J. Rosson 5, F. W. Brinklow (conductor) 6. *First 720 Double Court.

LINCOLN.—On October 5th at St. Giles', 1,260 Stedman Triples: *Kenneth Chandler 1, George Flintham 2, *Jack Hodson 3, Kenneth Mayer 4, *Sidney Chambers 5, Jack Walden 6, John A. Freeman (conductor) 7, *Jack Chambers 8. *First quarter-peal of Stedman.

UPLYME, DEVON.—On Saturday, October 7th, 720 Bob Minor: *Neil Adams 1, *Miss Joan Burlinson 2, J. E. Philbrick 3, Mrs. C. W. Powell 4, Rev. C. C. Cox (conductor) 5, Preb. E. V. Cox 6. *First 720.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD, HERTS.—On Sunday, October 8th, at St. Michael's Church, 630 Oxford Bob Triples: T. Ward 1, R. Wood 2, F. G. Springham 3, F. Bird (conductor) 4, E. Garbett 5, H. M. White 6, W. T. Prior 7, W. Bird 8.

PORTSMOUTH.—On Sunday, October 8th, at the Cathedral, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: J. D. Harris 1, T. Page 2, J. H. Hunt 3, T. R. Thorp 4, P. Page 5, H. Nobes 6, W. Tate 7, F. W. Burnett (conductor) 8.

FAIRFORD, GLOS.—On Sunday, October 8th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss F. M. Hope 1, B. Guy 2, W. Godwin 3, A. Law 4, H. Acock 5, E. Cooper 6, J. Hope (conductor) 7, A. King 8.

MILTON REGIS, KENT.—On Sunday, October 8th, 1,260 Bob Minor: G. M. Eastman 1, Miss Betty Spice 2, W. A. Wood 3, T. Jull 4, G. Kenward 5, A. S. Boar (conductor) 6. Rung half-muffled for Mr. E. J. Dobbie.

STONEV STANTON.—On Sunday, October 15th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. Briggs 1, T. Cooper 2, E. Chamberlain 3, W. A. Wood 4, Len Hewitt 5, G. Newton (conductor) 6, Len Towers 7, J. Middleton 8.

THATCHAM, BERKS.—On Sunday, October 15th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: T. J. Fisher 1, S. Hector 2, Mrs. C. Pearce 3, C. Pearce 4, T. E. Loxton 5, R. W. Rex 6, H. W. Curtis (conductor) 7, A. Smith 8.

DARLINGTON.—On Sunday, October 15th, at Holy Trinity, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: J. T. Titt 1, W. Oliver 2, R. T. Simpson 3, A. G. Bason 4, W. N. Park 5, R. Park (conductor) 6; and 720 York Surprise Minor: W. Oliver 1, J. T. Titt 2, R. Busby 3, G. W. Park 4, W. N. Park 5, R. Park (conductor) 6.

BOURNE, Lincs.—On Sunday, October 15th, 720 Bob Minor: *H. Daff 1, J. W. Lake (conductor) 2, F. W. French 3, Rev. D. N. Tindall 4. *Peter Romaine 5, S. Smith 6. *First 720.

FINCHLEY, MIDDLESEX.—On Sunday, October 15th, 1,260 Bob Minor: P. Cherrett 1, A. Warren 2, B. Tubbs 3, P. Blake 4, E. Prachett 5, F. Barker (conductor) 6.

IDLE.—On Sunday, October 15th, 720 Bob Minor: Miss E. Briggs 1, F. Kilshaw 2, H. Davison 3, F. Wilkinson (first 720) 4, F. Davison 5, T. Hill (conductor) 6.

EAST ILSLEY, BERKS.—On Sunday, October 15th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: C. J. Hibbert (conductor) 1, W. Hibbert 2, R. W. Warwick 3, Mrs. A. Williams 4, E. T. Smeller 5, M. Rosier 6, A. T. Jones 7, F. Carter 8.

BRISTOL.—On Wednesday, October 18th, at St. John's, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: *J. Stallard 1, Miss A. M. Bennett 2, *A. V. Bennett 3, Mrs. D. M. Bennett 4, S. Woodburn (conductor) 5, W. R. Rawlings 6. *First quarter-peal.

PELSALL, STAFFS.—On October 18th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: W. C. Stackhouse 1, H. Claridge 2, J. Gregory (conductor) 3, J. S. Eastwood 4, G. Cooner 5, F. Rowley 6.

EDENHAM, Lincs.—On Thursday, October 19th, 720 Bob Minor: C. Whyles (first 720) 1, D. Stainsby 2, A. J. Holmes (conductor) 3, Miss E. Stainsby 4, Miss M. Gann 5, R. Stainsby 6.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Practice meeting at Crawley, Saturday, Oct. 28th, 3 p.m.—O. Sipetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—Meeting at Freiston (6 bells), Saturday, Oct. 28th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea to follow.—W. E. Clarke, Hon. Sec., 99, Norfolk Street, Boston.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Burnham, Saturday, Oct. 28th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Cary Branch.—Meeting at Henstridge (6 bells), Saturday, Oct. 28th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea to follow. Templecombe bells also.—H. C. Lintern, Alhampton, Ditchat.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Grimsby and Gainsborough Districts.—Meeting at Scunthorpe, Saturday, Oct. 28th. Bells (8) 2.15. Service 4.15. Tea, 5 p.m., in the Old Library.—H. I. Mingay and L. Lunn, Hon. Secs.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—Meeting at Rainham, Saturday, Oct. 28th, 2.45 p.m. Service 4 p.m.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting Saturday, Nov. 4th, 3 p.m., Whitechapel Bell Foundry, E.1. Ringing St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30. 307th anniversary luncheon, November 11th, Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., 1.30 p.m. Tickets 6s. 6d. each. Accommodation limited to 110.—A. B. Peck.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Meeting at Sawley on Saturday, Nov. 4th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea in School 5 p.m. (1s. 3d. per head), followed by business meeting. Names for tea must reach Mr. W. Dawson, Clarke Drive, Sawley, Long Eaton, Notts, by Monday, Oct. 30th.—T. Groombridge, jun., Dis. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District.—Meeting at Willesborough, Saturday, Nov. 4th, 2.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. Ruck, 3, Hunter Road, Willesborough, Ashford, by Nov. 1st.—P. Page, Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Scottow (6 bells), Saturday, Nov. 4th, 2 p.m. Tea and meeting 4.30. Buses leave Norwich Bus Station 2 p.m., leave Scottow 5.3 and 7.28. Names for tea to Rev. A. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Frome Branch.—Meeting at Doultong, Saturday, Nov. 4th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Names for tea to E. H. Nash, Hon. Sec., The Talbot, Mells.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Longton (not Hanley) on Saturday, Nov. 4th. Annual committee meeting at 4 p.m. British Restaurant nearby for tea.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—Meeting at Holy Trinity, Blackpool, Saturday, Nov. 4th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food.—J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Dronfield, Saturday, Nov. 4th. Bells (6) 2.30. Names for tea to Mr. T. Barker, 20, Upper School Lane, Dronfield, near Sheffield, by Nov. 3rd.—G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec., 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at St. Michael's, Blackburn, Saturday, Nov. 4th, 2.30 p.m. Business 6 p.m.—Charles W. Blakey, Branch Sec.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Basingstoke District.—Meeting at Deane and Church Oakley, Saturday, Nov. 11th. Service in Deane Church 4 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m. at the Deane Gate. Names to Rev. F. S. H. Marle, Deane Rectory, by Nov. 7th.—J. G. Stilwell, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Hchester Deanery Branch.—Meeting at Langport, Saturday, Nov. 11th. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Notify early for tea.—F. Farrant, Martock, Somerset.

PRACTICE NIGHT at All Saints', Kingston-on-Thames, is changed from Tuesdays to Thursdays, 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m.—F. E. Hawthorne.

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KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT CANTERBURY.**

About forty ringers from fifteen towers were present on October 21st at a meeting of the Canterbury District of the Kent County Association, held at St. Stephen's Church. Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. E. Brown, and three new members were elected.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT BOURNE.**

About fifty ringers were present at a meeting of the Southern Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild held at Bourne on October 14th, the following towers being represented: Surfleet, Pinchbeck, Spalding, Deeping St. Nicholas, Deeping St. James, Market Deeping, West Deeping, Peterborough, Stamford (All Saints'), Langtoft, Thurlby, Edenham, Polkingham, Billingborough and Morton.

At the service in church the Rev. D. N. Tindall, curate, gave the address. At the business meeting six members were elected, and it was decided to hold the annual meeting at Edenham in January.

The methods rung ranged from Bob Minor to London Surprise and included York, Norfolk, Ipswich, Cambridge, Primrose, Norfolk and Ipswich (spliced), Cambridge and Primrose (spliced), Double and Single Court, Kent, Oxford and St. Clement's.

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No. 1,754. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd, 1944.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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FALSE COMPOSITIONS.

The news given in a letter in last week's issue that another favourite and often rung composition has turned out to be false is a reminder of the many obstacles which lie in the peal ringer's path. Before a peal can be regarded as worthy of record, it must pass many tests. The full length must be accomplished. There must be no shift of course and no mistakes and patches of bad ringing which a sensitive conscience could not pass as temporary faulty striking. And the composition must be true.

The latter is the one in which failure is apt to cause the greatest amount of disappointment. Nearly all the other failures are due to some lapse of the band or member of the band, and even when the cause is a broken rope or some defect in the bell fittings, it can, and usually is, treated as bad luck. What makes a false composition such a disappointment is the fact that for some time, perhaps for months or even years, the band has enjoyed the satisfaction of having accomplished a well struck peal and done everything they hoped to do, and then, for no fault of their own, their record cannot stand. If it is a record length, or in other ways an outstanding performance, the disappointment is proportionately greater.

We have said that the risk and the chances of failure in peal ringing are among the things which make it worth while. If peals could be rung every time they were started for, they would hardly be worth attempting. But false compositions are not in the same class as the other causes of failure. If they can be obviated it will be to everybody's advantage. But how?

It is easy to blame the composer and to say he should be more careful; but that would not be fair or reasonable. The men who compose peals take as much pains to ensure that they are true, as the men do who afterwards ring the compositions. But they make mistakes. Even the best and cleverest of men make mistakes, and, however much they may regret it, they need not be ashamed of it. Very often a bad mistake will do a man a lot of good, for it reveals his weakness and supplies an incentive to better things.

It should not, however, be necessary, in teaching this salutary lesson, that other people should suffer. Granted that the composer should be allowed an occasional lapse, some means must be found to detect it before it reaches the conductor. The best way to do that is for any man

(Continued on page 450.)

who proposes to call a peal to prove it first and satisfy himself that it is true. Many conductors do so, at least with the simpler methods. Here we have one reason for a wider knowledge of the theory and science of change ringing among men who have no particular ambition to be themselves composers, and this is one justification of the technical articles published from time to time in this journal. But obviously there are many conductors who could not trust themselves to guarantee the truth of a composition in a simple method like Bob Major or Double Norwich, and very few who would undertake to prove a peal of Stedman or of a Surprise Major method. Expert help is called for.

Now it seldom happens that a peal becomes popular among conductors without finding its way into the annual report of some association, perhaps of several. There are conductors who rely on the figures in annual reports for their peals. They have a right to do so, and there is almost an obligation on the association officials to see that no false compositions appear. This is being increasingly recognised and many associations appoint a competent man to prove and guarantee every composition before the figures are published. It should be done by every society. That would be a safeguard for the future, but there still remain the reports of the years gone by, and here the example of the Yorkshire Association should be followed. It was a long and a laborious job to prove all the compositions printed by that society, but it was worth doing, and we do not doubt that there are men in other associations who would gladly undertake a similar task to Mr. Barton's in the spirit that the work is its own reward.

One more suggestion may be made. Many peals are rung of which the figures have never appeared in print, and so have not come under any particular scrutiny. It would be a good thing if each association were to appoint an official to whom a conductor could refer any such composition. The official would undertake either to guarantee himself the truth of the peal, or to put the conductor in touch with someone who would undertake to do so. There are some compositions (like, for instance, a peal of Erin Triples, or Spliced Surprise Major in several new methods) which an average, competent man could not be expected to guarantee, but for most methods the plan would probably work very well and save the disappointment due to ringing false peals.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

CLIFTON, BRISTOL.—On Sunday, October 15th, at Emmanuel Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *Miss R. Roberts 1, W. H. Cole 2, H. W. S. Gregory 3, Mrs. D. Bowles 4, *Miss J. McDowall 5, H. S. Gregory 6, W. J. Rawlings (conductor) 7, *L. Warren 8. *First quarter-peal. First as conductor.

PERRY BARR, BIRMINGHAM.—On Sunday, October 15th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: R. J. B. Hadden 1, G. E. Fearn (conductor) 2, J. Pinfold 3, J. F. Harvey 4, H. H. Fearn 5, R. C. Ingram 6, F. E. Haynes 7, J. N. London 8.

BRADFORD.—On Sunday, October 15th, at the Cathedral, 1,008 Stedman Triples: H. C. Buckley 1, J. Briggs 2, E. Dalingwater 3, A. Ashton 4, J. W. Cundall 5, T. B. Kendall 6, E. H. Rayner (conductor) 7, C. Barker 8.

FOLKINGHAM, LINGS.—On Sunday, October 15th, for evensong, 720 Oxford Treble Bob: Mrs. P. Humphrey 1, B. Dalton 2, J. H. Botham 3, Mrs. J. H. Botham 4, C. T. H. Bradley (conductor) 5, J. H. Musson 6.

COGENHOE, NORTHANTS.—On Friday, October 20th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: *P. Jones 1, *J. W. L. Linnitt 2, Miss E. Bedford 3, *G. Care 4, *J. R. Sharman 5, *R. Noon (conductor) 6. *First 720 in the method.

LUTON, BEDS.—On October 21st, 1,260 Stedman Triples: A. Rushton 1, A. Day 2, J. Herbert 3, A. King 4, H. Wood 5, W. Botterill 6, L. A. Goodenough (conductor) 7, A. J. Smith 8.

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 21, 1944, in Three Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAXIMUS, 5280 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt.

PERCY L. HARRISON Treble	SIDNEY O. CHENEY 7
*JILL POOLE 2	HAROLD G. JENNEY 8
MRS. H. J. POOLE 3	ERNEST MORRIS 9
G. STEDMAN MORRIS 4	FREDERICK H. DEXTER 10
*HARRY G. WAYNE 5	*WILLIAM J. ROOT 11
SHIRLEY BURTON 6	HAROLD H. POOLE Tenor

Composed by FRED DENCH.

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* First peal of Cambridge Maximus. Birthday compliment to the conductor.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

YOULGREAVE, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 21, 1944, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE PART (7th observation)

Tenor 26½ cwt.

ERNEST PAULSON Treble	GEORGE H. PAULSON 5
ROBERT ALLSOP 2	VERNON BOTTOMLEY 6
HUGH W. GREGORY 3	HERBERT E. TAYLOR 7
RAYMOND GREATORREX 4	*FRANK TOFT Tenor

Conducted by HERBERT E. TAYLOR.

* First peal.

KIDLINGTON, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 28, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART,

Tenor 23½ cwt.

*JEAN A. SOUTHERST Treble	WALTER F. JUDGE 5
WILLIAM PORTER 2	MAJOR J. H. R. FREEBORN 6
BETTY SPICE 3	JOHN E. SPICE 7
NEIL ALLNATT 4	H. PETER RAYNOR Tenor

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal in the method. Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

CRAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 28, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAULINUS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

A VARIATION OF THURSTANS'

Tenor 12½ cwt.

MRS. J. E. BAILEY Treble	ALAN G. HALL 5
DENNIS L. HALL 2	FREDERICK A. COLLY 6
FREDERICK J. CULLUM 3	EDWIN BARNETT 7
ROBERT WAKE 4	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY Tenor

Conducted by EDWIN BARNETT.

Rung muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

EDMONTON, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 28, 1944, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 17 cwt.

MRS. J. THOMAS Treble	*ALBERT J. WALLMAN 5
*VICTOR R. WOODARDS 2	*DENNIS H. LANGEON 6
*PHILIP D. COWARD 3	CHARLES W. ROBERTS 7
*ERIC A. DENCH 4	*W. DOUGLAS SMITH Tenor

Composed by H. W. WILDE.

Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

* First peal of Treble Bob Major on tower bells. Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

ACTON, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 28, 1944, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

THOMAS. G. BANNISTER ... Treble	FREDRICK A. FINCH ... 5
J. E. LEWIS COCKEY ... 2	HARRY KILBY ... 6
J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE ... 3	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 7
ARTHUR JONES ... 4	ARTHUR HARDING ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

FARNHAM, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 28, 1944, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION.

Tenor 21 cwt. in E flat.

ALFRED H. PULLING ... Treble	WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... 5
GEORGE L. GROVER ... 2	C. ERNEST SMITH ... 6
FREDRICK A. H. WILKINS ... 3	CHARLES F. ANDREWS ... 7
EDWARD R. COLES ... 4	FRANK C. W. KNIGHT ... Tenor

Conducted by ALFRED H. PULLING.

DUNSTABLE, BEDFORDSHIRE.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 28, 1944, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE PRIORY CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

GEORGE W. HELEY ... Treble	ARTHUR E. SHARMAN ... 5
ALBERT W. BEARD ... 2	JAMES G. NEWMAN ... 6
MRS. DORIS LIDBITTER ... 3	† EDGAR CONQUEST ... 7
* HUBERT C. HILLYARD ... 4	ALBERT G. MATTHEWS ... Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by A. E. SHARMAN

* First peal on eight bells. † First peal.

NUNEATON, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, October 28, 1944 in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

* ARTHUR H. BEAMISH ... Treble	J. FRANK SMALLWOOD ... 5
† MRS. A. H. BEAMISH ... 2	FRANK E. PERVIN ... 6
† LEONARD TREVOR ... 3	D. HAROLD ARGYLE ... 7
FRANK W. PERRENS ... 4	FRANK K. MEASURES ... Tenor

Composed by R. PYE. Conducted by FRANK W. PERRENS.

* 50th peal. † First peal in the method.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

DUBLIN.

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, October 22, 1944, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents called differently.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

ARTHUR G. WORRELL ... Treble	MISS I. IS ROWE ... 4
* MISS JOAN ROWE ... 2	* ARTHUR DARLINGTON ... 5
MISS ADA C. DUKES ... 3	FREDERICK E. DUKES ... Tenor

Conducted by F. E. DUKES.

* First peal. First peal in the method by all.

EYTHORNE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, October 24, 1944 in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two extents, ten callings.

Tenor 10 cwt.

WILLIS BROOKS ... Treble	CHARLES TURNER ... 3
LAURENCE BODMAN ... 2	E. THOMAS ELLENDER ... 4
BERNARD SMITH ... Tenor	

Composed by CHARLES TURNER.

BURGH, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, October 28, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. BOTOLPH AND ANDREW,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 Cambridge Surprise, two 720's Kent, Oxford and Plain.

Tenor 9 cwt.

* JOHN F. JENNINGS ... Treble	CHARLES CLARKE ... 4
JAMES W. JENNINGS ... 2	GEORGE A. FLEMING ... 5
MRS. C. W. PIPE ... 3	CECIL W. PIPE ... Tenor

Conducted by JAMES W. JENNINGS.

* First peal. Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

WHICKHAM, CO. DURHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 28, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

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

JACK LISHMAN ... Treble	STANLEY PROUD ... 4
CHRISTOPHER LAMB ... 2	JOHN JACKSON ... 5
STEPHEN THOMPSON, JUN. ... 3	STEPHEN THOMPSON ... Tenor

Conducted by STEPHEN THOMPSON.

Rung for the 21st birthday of the ringer of the third.

BLACK NOTLEY, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 28, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 14 extents each of Plain Bob, St. Simon's and Grandsire.

Tenor 7½ cwt. in B flat.

* FRANK PARTNER ... Treble	RONALD SUCKLING ... 3
MRS. E. M. HUXTER ... 2	STANLEY BONES ... 4
HENRY A. PRATT ... Tenor	

Conducted by RONALD SUCKLING.

* First peal. Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, October 24, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATER, 5079 CHANGES;

ERIC A. DENCH ... 1-2	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 5-6
ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 3-4	MRS. J. THOMAS ... 7-8
JOHN THOMAS ... 9-10	

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, October 26, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5120 CHANGES;

MRS. J. THOMAS ... 1-2	JOHN THOMAS ... 5-6
ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 3-4	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 7-8
CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 9-10	

Composed by J. PIGOTT.

Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

First peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal in hand by all.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, October 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

IN THE CHOIR VESTRY OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.	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

Composed by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Sunday, October 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

* MARGARET D. TELFORD ... 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6
BETTY SPICE ... 3-4	* JEAN A. SOUTHERST ... 7-8

Composed by A. CRAVEN.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal in the method.

THE PLAIN MAJOR METHODS.

(Continued on page 432.)

The first of the Plain Major methods is Bob Major. It is the simplest and best known of them all, and is so simple and well known that most men are inclined to treat it rather with contempt as something that might interest them when they were beginners, but is now too elementary for their notice. But, just because it is elementary and simple, there is no method which will better repay a close and thorough study when we are trying to understand the essential problems of change ringing, whether they relate to method construction, peal composition and proof, music and rhythm, or striking and the actual practice in the belfry. Most of the problems which face us in the more complex systems of ringing are there, but in their simplest, and therefore most easily understood, forms. Though the forms are simple the problems themselves are just the same. Suppose you were to select the very best band you could think of from the ringers throughout the country and set them to ring a peal of Bob Major. Suppose they were on their mettle and did their best. When the peal was finished it would still be true that it could have been rung better. This is an example of how high a standard change ringing can exact even in what appear to be its easiest and most elementary forms. That is really the strength of the art and the reason for the fascination it has on ringers; for there is nothing you do that you could not have done better, and however much you know, there is still far more to be learnt.

The construction of Bob Major is simple. Each lead in a natural course consists of a plain forward Hunting Course on the eight bells (which include the treble). At the lead end, while the treble is leading full, the other bells (the working or "extreme" bells) take one step of backward hunting—Seconds place is made and the rest of the bells dodge in pairs. So we get a natural course of seven leads. (By a natural course we mean any course which is produced by plain leads only and no bobs or singles; and starts and finishes with the same course end. The plain course is the typical natural course and the only one which occurs in actual ringing in the tower, but for purposes of composition the presence of other and similar natural courses must be recognised.)

All this everybody knows and understands, and accepts as a matter of course, but let us look a little closer into the subject. First of all there is the lead. This consists of sixteen rows produced by all the bells plain hunting. They follow each other in a definite order and this order is their Coursing Order. Coursing order is only another way of saying hunting order, and since plain hunting on eight bells will produce sixteen changes and no more, it follows that there are only sixteen changes in which the bells are in the same Coursing Order. We do use the term in a rather wider sense, but always with this strict and original meaning in mind. We can say, for instance, that throughout the plain course of Bob Major, the bells are in the same Coursing Order; but we consciously and deliberately restrict the terms to the working bells, and exempt the treble. In fact, except when we are referring to the Hunting Course, we always use the term Coursing Order of some, not all, the bells. It may be of all the working bells or only a part of them, but the number is definite.

A right understanding and a right use of the term Coursing Order are essential to understand the problems of change ringing.

Next let us look at the working bells. Every time the treble leads full they take one step of backward hunting or (as we say) they dodge. When we bring these steps of backward hunting together we find they make up a complete Hunting Course on the seven working bells, in which the bells move in the opposite direction to what they do in body of the lead. And because it is a complete Hunting Course, the seven bells keep throughout the same Coursing Order among themselves.

At the first sight it would seem that the treble has nothing to do with this backward Hunting Course, but when we look closer we find that the treble is put at each step in a different position in the Coursing Order of the whole eight bells. In the first lead of the plain course it is between the Second and the Third and the Coursing Order is 46875312. In the second lead it is between the Third and the Fifth and the Coursing Order is 46875132. Then it is between the Fifth and Seventh. Then between the Seventh and Eighth. Then between the Sixth and Eighth. Then between the Fourth and the Sixth. Then between the Third and the Fourth. And finally again between the Second and the Third as the bells come home.

Thus the treble makes a complete cyclical journey through the Coursing Order of the other bells; and here we have the simplest example of a Hunt and Extreme Bells, which is one of the most important, if not the most important, of all the things in the science of change ringing. Every method, every peal composition, and every round block, is made up of a combination of Hunts and Extreme Bells on different numbers of bells. Some of them are simple, as simple as this one in Bob Major. Some of them are complex. But all of them are alike in nature. A Hunt, be it remembered, is not merely a bell which has a fixed regular path; it is a bell which performs a cyclical path through the Coursing Order of other bells.

We must thoroughly understand these two things—Coursing Order and the construction, which consists of a Hunt and Extreme Bells—before we can understand how methods are built up, how one is related to another, and how the most complex follow from the simplest by a purely logical process. This is one of the services a study of Bob Major can render us; and there are many others, but it is no part of our present scheme to deal with Bob Major except so far as it is a necessary preliminary to the study of other and less known methods.

(To be continued.)

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY

Fifteen members and 60 recruits were present on October 15th at a meeting of the Oxford University Society in the Junior Common Room of New College.

Miss Betty Spice was appointed secretary in the place of Mr. A. White. The treasurer, Miss B. W. Smith, reported that the balance in hand was £7. The Master, Mr. J. E. Spice, reviewed the work of the past year. Three tower-bell peals had been rung—Grandsire Triples, Minor in 3 methods, and Kent Treble Bob Major; and four handbell peals, Double Bob, Spalding College, Kidlington College, and Maidstone Bob Major. Three more handbell peals had been scored after the close of the academic year.

HELMINGHAM, SUFFOLK.—On Sunday, October 22nd, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor, tenor covering: W. G. Whiting 1, J. Bennett 2, L. O. Wightman 3, G. Bennett 4, L. G. Brett 5, T. W. Last (conductor) 6, A. E. Whiting tenor.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**MEETING AT KIRKTHORPE.**

At the meeting of the Barnsley and District Society held at Kirkthorpe on October 14th, ringers were present from Crofton, Felkirk, Sandal, Sherburn-in-Elmet, Wath, Wakefield, Liversedge and the local belfry.

At the business meeting, which followed tea, the Vicar, the Rev. M. Buchanan, presided. Welcoming the society, he said that although he had been Vicar for twelve months it was the first time he had heard the bells. The next meeting was arranged for Kirkburton, near Huddersfield, on November 11th. A variety of Minor methods were rung.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT BEXLEY.**

The annual meeting of the Lewisham District of the Kent County Association, held at Bexley on October 21st, was attended by 34 ringers representing nine towers.

Service in church was conducted by the Vicar, who gave an address, and tea was at the Crayside Cafe. At the business meeting Mr. A. G. Hill was reappointed honorary district secretary, and Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., ringing master. Mr. J. E. Bailey was re-elected district representative on the Central Committee, but Mr. E. Barnett, in spite of strong pressure, refused to be nominated. He felt that the younger men ought to be given a share in the management of the association. Mr. P. Corby was appointed in his place.

A report of the year's activities and the balance sheet were adopted, and one new member was elected. Lewisham was selected as the place of the next meeting, to be held in January, with Woolwich as the alternative.

Reference was made to the death of Mr. J. J. Lamb.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**MEETING AT LEEDS.**

A meeting of the Leeds and District Society was held at Leeds on October 28th, when members and friends were present from Armley, Batley, Bradford Cathedral, Bramley, Calverley, Drighlington, Guiseley, Headingley St. Chad, Idle, Leeds Parish Church, Pudsey, Rothwell, Shipley, Selby, Sherburn, Woodlesford, Wakefield and Handsworth.

At the business meeting in the tower Mr. Senior presided, and one new member, Mr. T. H. Foster, of Selby, was elected.

The next meeting will be held at St. Chad's, Headingley, on November 25th.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**MEETING AT LEAMINGTON.**

A meeting of the Warwickshire Guild, held at Leamington on October 21st, was attended by about sixty members and friends from Arley, Allesley, Bulkington, Chilvers Coton, Bedworth, Keresley, Stoke, King's Norton, Nuneaton, Stratford-on-Avon, Rugby and Wolvey, together with the local band.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. R. C. Streatfield, and the business meeting was held in a room at G.F.S. House, the Vicar taking the chair. Stoke and Chilvers Coton were each proposed for the January quarterly meeting, and Coton was selected. The hon. secretary mentioned that the tower at Coton Church, damaged in May, 1941, when the remainder of the church was destroyed, had been repaired and the bells overhauled and replaced on ball bearings. They would be ready for ringing by the end of November, when a special rededication service would be held, to which the Guild members would be invited.

The Rev. C. Casson was elected an honorary member, and Messrs. J. F. Harvey and H. C. Spencer non-resident life members. The elections of Messrs. G. Large, Newport, Mon., F. Trotman, Burbage, and J. Gibson, Nuneaton, were ratified.

Mr. F. E. Pervin gave notice that he would propose at the annual meeting the alteration of Rule 1, the title of the Guild to read 'The Warwickshire Guild for the Diocese of Coventry.' Mr. H. C. Burt supported this.

Mr. Pervin said he would also propose the division of the Guild into districts as formerly.

YOUNG RINGERS' ENTHUSIASM.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—At the annual meeting of the Wilton (Salisbury) ringers on October 19th, it was reported that in addition to keeping their own bells going every Sunday during the past year, organised excursions had been made to no less than 38 towers, apart from attendances at branch meetings of the Guild; the experience gained by the young members, while handling all sorts and conditions of bells, from unwieldy rings of four and five to the perfect peal of twelve at Trowbridge, has been invaluable, and a marked improvement in the striking had resulted. A suggestion was put forward that as the parish would be celebrating the centenary of the dedication of the church in October next year, they might consider the possibility of augmenting the peal to eight: it would be something to last for all time, and with the existing bells rehung and retuned, they would have bells worthy of the most celebrated modern church in the diocese and the ancient Borough of Walton.

Wilton, Salisbury.

E. G. CAPLE.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

**The official Journal of the Central Council or
Church Bell Ringers.**

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.
Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.
Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to:—

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Cheques and remittances should be made payable to 'The Ringing World.'

We frequently receive reports of touches without dates, number of changes, or other particulars. Such cannot be published. Correspondents should write their reports strictly in the form always used in our columns, and use no unnecessary words.

PEAL RINGING IN WARTIME.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—If Mr. Post will re-read my letter in the issue for October 13th he will see that I did not state that the absence of any preparation for victory ringing would have a detrimental effect on peace-time ringing. On the contrary, my statement was one of wonder, as to whether, having in mind the probable course of the war, these preparations now being made will mature on anything like the scale one would expect, and, indeed, Mr. Post confirms my argument when he says that he is one of those who would rather give up ringing until happier times are here. Compared with 1940, I think happier times have long ago arrived. I would suggest to Mr. Post that he reads the admirable leading article in to-day's issue of 'The Ringing World.' Those of us in the West Country who are able to indulge in peal ringing have long ago fulfilled all the suggestions laid down in this article, and I think that when the time does come we shall be a lot fitter to start for that 'one peal' than will Mr. Post.

D. G. CLIFT.

21, Wathen Road, Bristol 6.

FAST PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I notice in the peal columns this week that a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at Rotherham in 3 hours 6 minutes, the weight of the tenor being given as 34½ cwt. Is not the time of the peal rather quick for bells of this weight? Furthermore, is there any pleasure in ringing fast peals on heavy rings of bells?

A. L. BENNETT.

Elliott Plain, Buckfastleigh.

THE HIGHEST HUNG BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was recently asked if there are many rings of bells hung at a greater height above sea level than Ebbw Vale. I was unable to answer this, although I had often mused over the matter. It would be interesting to know if there are many rings of bells over 1,000ft., and what is the loftiest situation.

It is evident from the pages of 'The Ringing World' that there are people with a vast amount of data relating to towers and bells and they may be able to answer this offhand.

The surveyors give me the site level of Ebbw Vale tower as 1,020ft., and as the bells are over 60ft. above ground, they must be over 1,080ft. Bedwelty tower, a few miles away, is situated at 1,000ft., and Bleenavon possibly a little higher, but in both cases the towers are of no great height, so the bells are not high above ground.

There may be towers in Derbyshire or elsewhere exceeding this, but I have no figures.

R. ALSOP.

Ebbw Vale.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

THREE MASTERS.

Three hundred years ago the Society of College Youths had been in existence seven years, and already it ranked as the foremost ringing company. The Civil War between King Charles the First and the Parliament had broken out and many of the Society's early leaders had left London, but the Law Courts still functioned, and, as the Society was largely composed of lawyers and law students, it continued to flourish. Captain John Harrison, who in 1644 succeeded Robert Mackworth as Master, was a different kind of man to his predecessors. Soldier, courtier, envoy, administrator, author and divine, he played many parts during an adventurous life spent in three Continents. Probably his connection with ringing was a slight one, and, like several others, his duties as Master were almost confined to the annual feast.

Of his birth and parentage nothing is known, but he was a man of some education and probably sprang from a good middle class family. We first hear of him in Ireland, where he spent three years in the wars of Queen Elizabeth's later days. In King James' reign he held the appointment of groom of the privy chamber to Henry, Prince of Wales, with a salary of £13 6s. 8d. per annum. After the prince's death he was in the suite of the Princess Elizabeth, wife of the Elector Palatine.

After ten years on the Continent he returned to England and was then made sheriff of the Bermudas. In 1625 he was sent on a mission to the States of Barbary and the town of Sallee, and during the next few years paid seven visits to Morocco as the envoy of the English government.

The coast towns of Morocco were then nests of pirates who captured and plundered the ships of Christian countries and enslaved their crews. The merchants who traded with them staked their lives and liberty against the hope of gain. They went there at their own risk, and none of the European Powers would be, or perhaps could be, at the trouble and expense of rooting out the pirates by force of arms. Instead, envoys were sent who by flattery and bargaining endeavoured to obtain toleration for the traders and freedom for the captives. That was Harrison's mission, and he was not unsuccessful. He claimed in a letter to the king that he had secured the release of 250 slaves and established a peace which lasted until an English ship adopted the Moors' tactics, seized a ship from Sallee, and sold the crew as slaves to the Spaniards.

Harrison was always more or less in financial difficulties. He was granted forty shillings a day during his services, but complained that he was not paid. He borrowed money from a William Wheeler, goldsmith, on security of household goods, and Wheeler, not receiving payment, petitioned that he might keep the goods, and, when Harrison was away, seized them. The matter having been referred to the Council, and the king having directed the Lord President Conway to inquire into it, the latter found that Harrison owed Wheeler £20, and asked a Sir William Blake to advance the money on security.

When Harrison returned he wrote to the Secretary of State and complained bitterly of the way he had been treated. He found himself, he said, at the end of his

means. Never was a poor gentleman who had done such service for the State as he had done so much neglected. The king had promised him a prize ship and it had gone to another. Getting no satisfactory reply, he wrote again, and in the end he was paid £100 to settle his claim of £200.

Like many of the adventurers of his time, Captain Harrison had a strong vein of religious feeling in his nature, and during his sojourn in Barbary he wrote a treatise entitled 'The Messiah already come,' with the object of converting the Jews to Christianity. Though unreadable now, it was then sufficiently well thought of to go through three editions. On the title page of the last, issued in 1656, the author is described as 'that Learned and late Eminent Divine.'

Another of Harrison's books, 'The Tragical Life and Death of Muley Abdala Melck,' is an interesting account of a Sultan of Morocco, a bloodthirsty tyrant who made himself drunk and then went about torturing and killing people for the mere lust of cruelty, until he was shot down as men shoot a mad dog that has broken loose. In this book Harrison notes that the Moors have no bells. Harrison also published two other books dealing with the affairs of the Elector Palatine.

William Gardiner, the Master of the College Youths in 1744, was a gentleman who lived at Richmond. In 1740 he added the two trebles to the ring there. Very likely he was a son of Thomas Gardiner, who joined the College Youths in 1713, and probably was churchwarden at St. Saviour's, Southwark, when the bells were recast. William was elected a member in 1724, and in 1729 rang two peals with the company. One was Bob Major at St. Peter's, St. Albans, 'the first true peal ever rung in the County of Hertford'; the other was Grandsire Caters at St. Dionis', Backchurch, 'the first that was rung in that steeple.'

The Master in 1844 was James Mash. The society was then at its lowest ebb and had narrowly escaped total extinction. By the year 1820 the class of men which had supplied the members during the eighteenth century was no longer attracted to the belfry, and the survivors were few and getting old. They were scarcely able to ring the bells of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, and another company of young men was formed to supplement their work. They called themselves the Society of Junior College Youths, but they had no official connection with the older society, the members of which looked down on them socially and disliked them personally. Osborn suggests that they had only one good quality—they were good ringers. James Mash joined these men, and with them rang 25 peals of Grandsire Triples and Caters, Oxford Treble Bob Major and Royal and one Stedman Triples.

In 1830 the fortunes of the old society were fallen so low that to save it from extinction the junior society was taken into membership. During two years James Mash, as a full College Youth, rang seven peals of Stedman Caters and Oxford Treble Bob Major and Royal. But the union was not a happy one, and in 1832 it was dissolved and the old Junior College Youths formed themselves into the Sussex Society—why Sussex does not appear. They rang a dozen or so peals of Stedman Triples and Caters and one Cinques, and Oxford Treble Bob Major, and then began to trickle back to the College Youths, one or two at a time, until they gained complete control and made it the society men knew half a century ago.

CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

(Continued from page 436.)

The church of St. Mary, Launton, Oxfordshire, which possesses a sweet toned ring of six, has a western tower with an unusual type of approach to the ringing chamber. Mr. F. Sharpe, author of 'The Church Bells of Berkshire' and other works, kindly supplies details as follows: The tower was built in the middle of the 12th century, and its architecture shows clearly the transition between the Norman and Early English periods; the belfry windows being composed of double lancets of early character grouped under semi-circular hood mouldings. On the south side is a large stone pentangle.

About the middle of the 15th century a serious subsidence occurred to the foundations of the tower, causing it to lean westward some feet out of the perpendicular, and as this subsidence was greater on the south, it had the effect of twisting the tower as well. With the tower came also the wall of the north aisle. This aisle was at once rebuilt, but the leaning position of the former west wall of the aisle is still to be clearly seen on the north wall of the tower. To disguise the fact that the tower is not upright, the upper portion was covered with rough cast, and the leaning appearance of the tower was further disguised at the end of the last century by the erection at the north-west and south-west angles of huge flying buttresses to minimise the likelihood of further trouble in this direction.

The approach to the ringing chamber is by an external iron ladder of nineteen rungs, by which access is gained to what is merely a narrow opening in the wall of the tower. From this a series of stone steps through the thickness of the wall leads to the ringing chamber door, a curious small one, measuring only four feet ten inches high by one foot six inches wide at the bottom, and only one foot two inches wide at the top. One has to enter sideways, head first; and leave feet first, walking backwards with body turned sideways until the iron ladder is reached. This curious entrance was constructed over a century ago by the then Rector. Formerly the bells were rung from the ground floor, and an internal ladder gave access to the room which now forms the ringing chamber. According to local tradition, a relative of a former Rector—one Colonel Browne—had led one of the famous cavalry charges at the Battle of Waterloo. He apparently never ceased talking of his exploits, and became known locally as 'Waterloo Browne.' One of his chief delights was to take a barrel of beer into the church on each anniversary of the battle, for the refreshment of the ringers who rang on that occasion. The rector disapproved of this and so constructed the awkward means of approach to the ringing chamber by which it would be entirely impossible to introduce a barrel. Needless to say, there has been no record of drinking in the tower within living memory, and all the ringers of to-day are keen church-workers. When the external approach to the ringing chamber was first constructed, a movable wooden ladder was used. This had the great disadvantage of constantly being removed during practices by practical jokers, who delighted in seeing one of the ringers lowered to the ground on a bellrope to find the ladder and so releasing his companions.

The ringing chamber is very small, its internal dimensions being only 7 feet by 7 feet 7 inches, out of which the works of the clock occupy a space 2 feet 8 inches

by 2 feet in one corner, and the clock-weight case another, while the remaining two corners of this tiny room are taken up by an iron ladder leading to the belfry, and by the entrance door. The rope circle (or oval as it is here) is only 2 feet 9 inches across its minor axis by 5 feet 9 inches at its major axis. It is possible to catch one's neighbour's sally on the opposite side of the 'circle,' and all the ringers stand shoulder to shoulder with their backs to the walls on three sides of the tower. It was here on February 18th, 1926, that the late Mr. Edwin Hims, of Bicester, rang the second and third bells to a peal of Bob Minor in 2 hours 49 minutes. During the peal, the ringing was much criticised by the parishioners, there being a great deal of speculation as to which two bells Mr. Hims was ringing. It was well struck throughout and no one guessed the correct pair. Normally it would only have been possible to ring either 1-2, 4-5 or 5-6, by reason of the position of the ladder leading to the belfry, and the clockcase; but on this occasion the ladder was removed to enable Mr. Hims to ring 2-3. Since the above mentioned peal, the approach to the belfry has been rearranged for the benefit of Mr. F. Sharpe, the present churchwarden and captain of the ringers, who frequently rings a pair of bells in touches, and rising and falling in peal, but who has not yet aspired to ring a full 5,000 double-handed.

When the tower was erected, c. 1150, it was equipped with one bell of 3½ cwt., also a Sanctus of ½ cwt. Two more bells, weighing between them 12 cwt., were added in 1416, and at the same time the original bell was recast. The inventory of church goods made in 1553 states: 'Item iij belles in the stepull and the saunce bell,' and these existed down to 1701. What happened then is not quite certain, but either the three bells were recast into a ring of four by Richard Chandler, of Drayton, Parslow, Bucks, to which a tenor was added in 1712, or he recast them into a ring of five in 1701 and recast the tenor later. Chandler also recast the Sanctus in 1725. This bell hangs out of the east window of the belfry, and is still used for its original purpose during Holy Communion services. The mediæval bell frame for three bells was altered and adapted by Richard Chandler for five bells by the inclusion of pits for the two smallest bells placed diagonally to the older pits. This meant that the second bell swung right into the south window recess, and the fourth into the north window recess. The rope 'circle' thus formed was most curious. The treble man rang with his back to the other ringers, and facing the doorway leading down to the ladder into the churchyard. The second ringer faced the south window; while the third faced the south-west of the tower, and each could see the rope in front of him only by taking a quick glance over his left shoulder. The fourth ringer was more fortunate as his rope came down in the centre of the chamber, but he could never see more than two ropes at a time without turning round. The tenor man had to face north-east and could not see any of his companions. No stays or sliders were fixed to any of the bells, and steps were cut in the tower wall for the tenor man to climb when he had the misfortune to let his bell go over a little too far.

These bells existed down to 1907, when they were recast by Gillett and Johnston, who added a treble, making six, to the memory of Richard Thomas Staples-

(Continued on next page.)

HENRY THOMAS ELLACOMBE.

(Continued from page 445.)

When I said that we may with some confidence place the beginnings of modern ringing in the fifteenth century, I did not mean that there was then any particular change in the use of bells either for ecclesiastical or social purposes which would have been noticeable to the people of the time; but that by then ringing had acquired certain characteristics which decided the future of the Exercise and still largely influence it. Before that time bells had been used in England much in the same way and for the same purposes as they were used on the Continent. But two things happened which decisively separated English ringing from that in France, and Italy and Spain. One was that the ordinary layfolk got to love the music of the bells and required that there should be more of them, and that they should be cast to a musical scale. The other was that the men employed to ring them found out that it could be a first class athletic sport. It was these two things, and not any ecclesiastical necessity, which gave England her bells and made her 'the ringing isle' during the following three centuries. In the Low Countries, Belgium and Holland and Flanders, the music of the bells appealed just as much as it did here, but the result was totally different; it produced the carillon and a vast number of very fine bells.

It is, of course, easy to talk about the 'profanation' of church bells by making them the instruments of a sport comparable to football and wrestling, but it is the historical truth that not only was the love of sport one of the main reasons why the bells were cast and hung, but it probably was the decisive thing which saved them from spoliation when nearly all that was valuable in church goods and ornaments was confiscated in the reign of Edward the Sixth. Had the bells before the Reformation been merely the sacred objects devoted solely to the services of religion, as Ellacombe and the others supposed, they would have shared the same fate as the chalices, and copes, and jewels. But for sport the bells in our steeples to-day would be something like the bells in the churches of Scotland, or at best like the bells in the churches of France.

These things gave the ringing Exercise definite characteristics which it has never lost, and there were other important influences at work. Before the Reformation, the ecclesiastical, and social and sporting uses of bells were mixed up indiscriminately, but one of the principal efforts of some of the reformers was to put a stop to what they called 'superstitious' ringing, which included almost all the ringing for distinctively ecclesiastical purposes. That tended to make ringing as distinct from tolling and chiming, almost entirely secular, and this tendency was further increased by the sabbatarian opinions of the puritan party in the Church, who held that to ring on Sundays more than the one bell needed to call the people together was Sabbath breaking and a sin. The time when bell ringing was more popular with the general public than at any other time was the time when it was least used for the service of religion.

Meanwhile, the paid ringing done for the parish and for weddings and such like was still performed by men of the labouring and artisan class. They have always formed the bulk of the Exercise, and if it had been con-

finied to them it is hardly likely that ringing would have influenced the number of bells cast. But other people, more influential in the parish, found out also what a good sport bell ringing could be, and during the sixteenth century ringing was popular with all classes. It was among the students at the Universities and the Inns of Court that change ringing was invented, and after their student days these men took the love of the new art down to their country homes and not only introduced it among the yeomen and farmers, but were largely instrumental in adding to the number of the bells so that it could be practised. These better class ringers were only a comparatively small part of the Exercise, but their influence was great, and so long as they existed the Exercise and the art were held in high esteem by the sober and religious members of the Church who accepted the secular nature of ringing and its use for recreation as a matter of course and nothing to be ashamed of or regretted.

But fashions in sport change, and the time came when ringing no longer interested the gentry class. By the beginning of the eighteenth century it had died out at Oxford and Cambridge Universities, and during that century the bulk of the best ringers were drawn from the lower middle class, the tradesmen of the towns and the yeomen and farmers of the villages. A century later these, too, began to desert the belfries, so that before the nineteenth century was very old, the Exercise was again composed almost exclusively of the same sort of men as had first formed it and had all along formed the largest part. Ringers were labourers and artisans, sharing the opinions, and habits, and failings of their class. After the long stagnation of the eighteenth century vast changes in the social and religious life of the people and in the Church were taking place. Many things which once were harmless and easily tolerated became noxious and a scandal. Two alternatives lay before the Exercise; either it must be reformed from without or from within, or else it must perish. Either could quite easily have happened.

(To be continued.)

CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

(Continued from previous page.)

Browne, a descendant of 'Waterloo Browne,' before-mentioned. At the same time a new iron H frame was erected. Later the bells were overhauled and hung on ball-bearings by Richard White, of Appleton. The tenor is now 7 cwt. 5 lbs. in B flat.

The church of SS. Peter and Paul, Mitcham, Surrey, was rebuilt in 1821, and is of flint covered with cement in the Perpendicular style. The tower of three stages, battlemented and with four tall pinnacles at each corner, is on the south side, and the whole of the base of it is filled by an organ. Therefore, to reach the ringing room, one has to squeeze up a straight wooden ladder between the back of the organ and the tower wall. This lands one in a window recess. Then turn right and ascend more wooden steps and enter the ringing chamber through a trap-door. In the 1552 inventory there was at Mitcham 'Item iijor gret belles: Item, a sauntes bell: Item solde to Henry Pyke a hande bell for ijs. iiijd.' There is now a ring of eight by Thomas Mears, jun., recast when the church was rebuilt, and dated 1820. The tenor is 15 cwt.

(To be continued.)

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Sunday, September 3rd, 720 Cambridge Minor, tenor covering: M. Wingrove 1, K. E. Fletcher 2, Rev. R. F. R. Routh 3, J. Harrison 4, D. R. Fletcher 4, H. Wingrove (conductor) 6, R. Buckland tenor.—On Sunday, October 8th, 720 London Surprise Minor, tenor covering: M. Wingrove 1, D. R. Fletcher 2, W. Redrup (conductor) 3, Rev. R. F. R. Routh 4, W. Edwards 5, H. Wingrove 6, J. Harrison tenor.

SHIPLAKE, OXON.—On Saturday, October 14th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: G. Cleave 1, E. Smith 2, J. Cook 3, W. Wicks 4, E. Nash (conductor) 5, J. Hiscock 6, N. Tanner 7, J. Smith 8.

OXFORD.—On Sunday, October 15th, at New College, 1,260 Stedman Triples: V. J. F. Bennett 1, Miss M. D. Telford 2, Miss M. L. Tutt 3, Miss B. Spice 4, H. Badder 5, J. E. Spice 6, H. Miles (conductor) 7, R. Challen 8.

STANTON-ON-HINDHEATH.—On October 16th, twelve six-scores Grandsire Doubles: E. V. Rodenhurst, F. Leach, A. Bayley, R. Turner, F. Venables, R. Davies.

HALESOWEN.—On October 19th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: W. H. Webb 1, V. Warr 2, J. H. Cox (conductor) 3, A. Greenhall 4, H. Shilcock 5, L. Clissett 6, T. Greenhall 7, A. H. Harris 8. Rung on the 65th birthday of Mr. W. H. Webb in recognition of 46 years' service in the belfry.

GROBY, NEAR LEICESTER.—On Saturday, October 21st, 2,160 Minor, being 720 each of Double Court, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob: Victor Geary 1, Stanley Gardner 2, Ernest Geary 3, Derek Dodson 4, Dennis Dodson 5, Redvers F. Elkington (conductor) 6.

SIBLE HEDINGHAM, ESSEX.—On October 22nd, 720 Oxford Treble Bob: A. Catterwell 1, F. Wiseman 2, S. Dace 3, B. W. Pettit 4, R. Rippington 5, C. E. Broyd (conductor) 6.

CROSTHWAITE, KESWICK.—On Sunday, October 22nd, 720 Bob Minor: Mrs. T. Wilson 1, R. Grisdale (first 720) 2, T. Wilson 3, F. Grisdale 4, J. Brownrigg 5, Tyson Hogarth (conductor) 6.

GOLDHANGER, ESSEX.—On Sunday, October 22nd, 720 Kent Treble Bob: W. J. White 1, J. R. Owens 2, J. D. Buckingham 3, C. J. Mann 4, B. C. Mann 5, H. B. Gardner (conductor) 6.

HINTON-ON-THE-GREEN, WORCS.—On October 22nd, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Joseph D. Johnson (conductor) 1, Ralph Harris 2, James Hemming 3, S. George Chaplin 4, Joseph Newman 5, P. C. Vincent A. Hemming (first in the method) 6, Geoffrey J. Hemming 7, George Freeman (first quarter-peal) 8.

BOURNE, Lincs.—On Sunday, October 22nd, 720 Single Court: J. T. Pollard 1, J. W. Lake (conductor) 2, F. W. French 3, *Rev. D. N. Tindall 4, *Peter Romaine 5, S. Smith 6. *First 720 in method.

NORTON-IN-THE-MOORS.—On Sunday, October 22nd, 720 Bidulph Double Surprise Minor: S. B. Bailey 1, W. Corfield 2, J. E. Wheelton 3, S. Ryles 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6.

RUISLIP.—On Sunday, October 22nd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: R. H. Colyer 1, G. M. Kilby 2, P. Blondell 3, W. Bunce 4, A. Hunter 5, W. S. Beaumont 6, Tom Collins (conductor) 7, N. Genna 8.

SOUTHGATE.—On Sunday, October 22nd, 1,260 Stedman Triples: A. R. Glasscock 1, J. Armstrong (conductor) 2, W. J. Bowden 3, J. E. Miller 4, N. A. Tomlinson 5, H. Miller 6, S. Wade 7, S. G. Piper 8.

STOURBRIDGE, WORCS.—On Sunday, October 22nd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Sub-Lieut. D. Watson, R.N. 1, John W. Smith (conductor) 2, A. L. Dunn 3, F. W. Gibbs 4, Robert Lees 5, F. V. Nicholls 6, W. A. Beddard 7, E. S. Bushell 8.

LEWISHAM.—On Sunday, October 22nd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Warnett, sen. 1, C. H. Walker 2, Miss H. Oakshott 3, V. J. Benning 4, J. Bennett (conductor) 5, P. J. Spice 6, G. R. H. Smith 7, E. Mounter 8.

BIRMINGHAM.—On October 26th at the Cathedral, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Arthur D. Cook 1, Richard J. B. Hadden 2, Herbert C. Spencer (conductor) 3, John Pinfold 4, James F. Harvey 5, Sgt. Ernest Sibley, R.A.F. 6, George E. Fearn 7, Henry H. Fearn 8. Half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

BOURNEMOUTH.—On October 26th, at St. Peter's, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss Mary Davis 1, Mrs. F. J. Marshall (conductor) 2, Rev. C. A. Phillips 3, Percy W. Brashaw 4, Andrew I. Pearmain 5, Charles R. Forfit 6, Eli Waters 7, Arthur V. Davis 8. Half-muffled for the Archbishop.

HINDLEY.—On October 28th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: H. S. Cooper 1, E. Ford 2, L. Wood 3, A. Greenhalgh 4, J. Halsall 5, P. Crook, sen. (conductor) 6.

BOLDMERE.—On Saturday, October 28th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Terry Hampton (first quarter-peal) 1, G. W. Critchley 2, N. G. Smith 3, Allan J. Cartwright 4, W. G. Anker (conductor) 5, G. W. Anker 6.

ROTHERFIELD.—On October 29th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: E. Bishop, jun. 1, R. Miles 2, R. Mitchell 3, A. Leury 4, F. Hammond 5, C. Brasier 6, W. Rogers (conductor) 7, F. Bishop, sen. 8.

EAST HAGBOURNE, BERKS.—On Sunday, October 29th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: E. Sawyer 1, W. Webb 2, K. White 3, F. Abbott 4, T. Rober 5, B. Brown 6, A. Webb (conductor) 7, W. Thorne 8.

COSGROVE.—On Sunday, October 29th, 720 Grandsire Doubles: H. Cummines, E. J. Lambert, J. Higgins, F. Lambert, E. C. Lambert. Half-muffled for Archbishop of Canterbury.

ARKSEY.—On Sunday, October 29th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: *Miss Lucy Mottishaw 1, *Dennis Wilson 2, *Miss Laura Mottishaw 3, Mrs. I. Somerville 4, Ernest Cooper (conductor) 5, Ben Birkitt 6. *First quarter-peal. Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

BOB MAJOR.

1,280.					
23456	W	5ths	4ths	B	M R
52364	—	—	—	1	—
26354	—	—	—	—	—
32654	—	—	—	—	—
1,280.					
23456	W	5ths	4ths	B	M R
42356	—	—	—	—	—
26354	—	—	—	—	—
32546	—	—	—	1	—
1,280.					
23456	W	5ths	4ths	B	M R
42356	—	—	—	—	—
25346	—	—	—	—	—
32465	—	—	—	1	—

Each three times repeated. Single half-way and end.

1,248.					
23456	W	5ths	4ths	B	R
52364	—	—	—	1	—
42356	—	—	—	S	S

Five times repeated. Bob for Single half-way and end.

TEACHING BEGINNERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The time is over-ripe for a reformation on a large scale of the methods of dealing with learners. As Mr. Knight says, the customary few minutes at the rope and sallie during the weekly practice is not enough.

The most monotonous stage in the course of the learner is first the handling of a bell and then the mastering of round ringing. He should have a night of his own (more if possible) in the tower apart from the general practice, whilst in the 'tied clapper' stage and where there are a number of learners this should continue at least until a proficiency of round ringing is produced. If handbells are available, these should be made good use of. This all helps to produce a certain amount of variety, lack of which is the main cause of learners falling away before they become of any use to the band.

How often during a practice is the remark made, 'And now a few rounds for the learners,' putting them all in together and hoping for the best. This does not give them a fair chance and the people in the vicinity have to suffer. If the belfries are to be kept full ringers must look to these points (there are many others) and be prepared to sacrifice more of their time to that end.

S. HARRISON, B.L.A.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION

MEETING AT MARKET WEIGHTON.

A meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at Market Weighton on October 21st, and was attended by over 30 ringers from Beverley Minster and St. Mary's, Eastrington, Goole, Hessele, Howden, Hull (Holy Trinity and St. Mary's), Kirk Ella, Market Weighton, Nunburholme, Selby Abbey, Sutton-on-Hull and York Minster. Choral evensong was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. J. M. Mundy.

Tea was served in the Church Hall and was followed by the business meeting, presided over by Mr. A. H. Fox. Two new members were elected, Miss B. Roaseley, of Hessele, and Mr. G. R. Hessay, of Kirk Ella. The place and date of the next meeting was left in the hands of the district secretary. A collection for the Bell Repair Fund realised 17s.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT BOZEAT.

A meeting of the Wellingborough Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, held at Bozeat on October 21st, was attended by ringers from Irthlingborough, Wellingborough, Great Doddington, Ecton, Easton Maudit, Finedon, Woolaston, Rushden, Kingsthorpe, Duston, Turvey, Biddenham, Bromham and the local belfry.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, who gave an address, and over forty sat down to tea in the Church Hall. At the business meeting Finedon was selected as the place of the annual meeting in January. Mr. H. Tyler was elected a ringing member and the Vicar an honorary member.

During the afternoon and evening the bells were rung, and the opinion was expressed that the services of a bell hanger would soon be necessary.

LLANDUDNO.—On Sunday, October 29th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *H. Geeson 1, J. Flood 2, S. Brown 3, *Miss M. Jones 4, L. Barry (conductor) 5, H. Lawrence 6, G. Jeanes 7, H. Smith 8. *First quarter-peal.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting Saturday, Nov. 4th, 3 p.m., Whitechapel Bell Foundry, E.1. Ringing St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30. 307th anniversary luncheon, November 11th, Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., 1.30 p.m. Tickets 6s. 6d. each. Accommodation limited to 110. Names by Nov. 6th.—A. B. Peck.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District. —Meeting at Willesborough, Saturday, Nov. 4th, 2.30. Tea 5 p.m.—P. Page, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting at Wigan Parish Church, Saturday, Nov. 4th, 2.30 p.m. Tea at local cafe 5 p.m.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Basingstoke District.—Meeting at Deane and Church Oakley, Saturday, Nov. 11th. Service in Deane Church 4 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m. at the Deane Gate. Names to Rev. F. S. H. Marle, Deane Rectory, by Nov. 7th.—J. G. Stilwell, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—Meeting at Langport, Saturday, Nov. 11th. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Notify early for tea.—F. Farrant, Martock, Somerset.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Tunbridge Wells, Nov. 11th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea at St. Peter's Parish Hall 5 p.m. Names by Nov. 9th to Mr. B. Collison, 169, Queen's Road, Tunbridge Wells.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District.—Meeting at Old Woking, Saturday, Nov. 11th, 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting 4.30. Ringing until 8 p.m.—A. C. Hazelden, Dis. Sec., 109, Grange Road, Guildford.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Portsmouth District.—Meeting at Alverstoke, Gosport, Saturday, Nov. 11th, 2.30. Tea 4. Service 5. Names by Tuesday, Nov. 7th.—R. J. Stone, 16, Penhale Road; Portsmouth.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Meeting at St. Mark's, Swindon, Nov. 11th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at St. Aidan's, Blackhill, Saturday, Nov. 11th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—J. A. Brown, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Finchdale Terrace, Chester-le-Street.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at Woolton, Saturday, Nov. 11th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec., 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch.—Annual meeting at Haslingden, Saturday, Nov. 11th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Business in tower 6 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—H. Parkinson, Hon. Sec.

BARNSELEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Kirkburton, near Huddersfield, Nov. 11th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec.; 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Preston Parish Church (10 bells), on Saturday, Nov. 11th, 2.30 p.m. Own tea arrangements.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—A meeting at Stagsden (6 bells), Saturday, Nov. 11th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea.—Frank C. Tysoe, Bromham, Bedford.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Practice at Washington Saturday, Nov. 11th, 5.30 p.m. Meeting Heene, Dec. 9th.—L. Stilwell, Pulborough.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—A practice at Holy Trinity, Morecambe, Saturday, Nov. 11th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m.—N. M. Newby, Branch Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—Practice at Daventry (8), Saturday, Nov. 11th, 8 p.m.—W. C. Moore, 5, William's Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Heath, Saturday, Nov. 11th, 3 p.m. Tea provided; bring food.—J. W. England, Hon. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—Meeting Linton, Saturday, Nov. 18th, 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business. Buses leave Maidstone 2.30 and 3.5. Half travelling expenses up to 2s. paid. Names to C. H. Sone, Linton, Maidstone.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting Kidderminster (12 bells), 3 p.m., Nov. 18th. Tea Florence Cafe, Blackwell Street, 6 p.m. Names by Nov. 16th; accommodation limited to 50.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowlring Green Road, Stourbridge.

PRACTICE NIGHT at All Saints', Kingston-on-Thames, is changed from Tuesdays to Thursdays, 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m.—F. E. Hawthorne.

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SET of 12 Handbells; tenor No. 15 in C, by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank; perfect order; £10.—Apply, Fussell, School House, Lympham, Weston-super-Mare.

SET OF 18 HANDBELLS, tenor size 19 in F, forming with semitones 2 sets of 12, 2 sets of 10, and 3 sets of 8. Price £10.—Reply to Box 12, 'The Ringing World' Office, Woodbridge Press, Ltd., Guildford.

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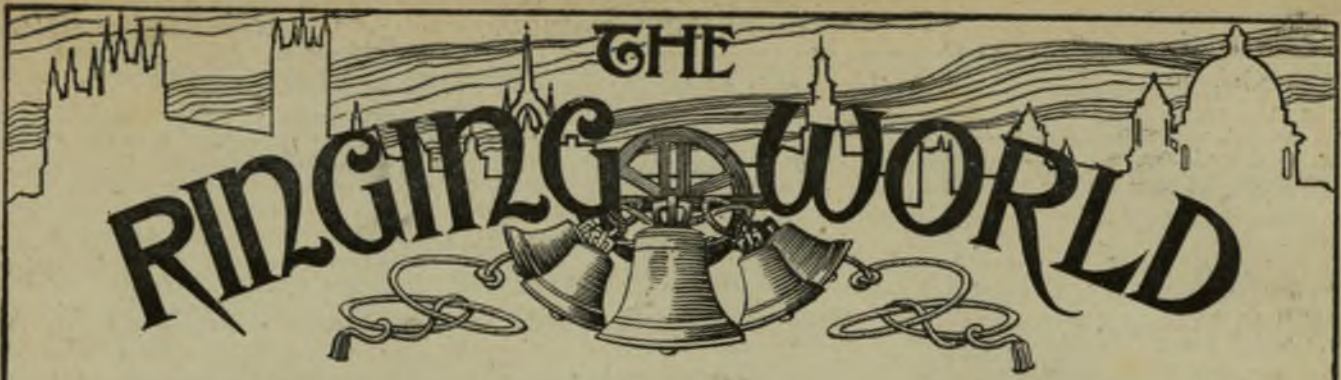
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THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

No. 1,755. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10th, 1944.

[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.

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS.

At a recent meeting of the Kent County Association Mr. Edwin Barnett firmly declined to continue as the District Representative on the Central Committee, an office he had held for twenty years. It was not that he had lost interest in the work, or had quarrelled with his friends; still less that they wished him to go. It was because he felt that the management of the association is far too much in the hands of elderly men, and that the younger generation, who form the backbone of the society, do not get a chance. The evil, he thinks, is largely due to the fact that once a man is elected to any office, it is looked on as his freehold, and so long as he is willing to continue there is no room for anyone else.

We know nothing about the working of the Kent County Association and have not the least intention of commenting on it or its members, either adversely or favourably, but the question in its general aspect is one of importance to the Exercise. Is the younger generation given sufficient scope in the management of belfries and associations or do the older men keep the control in their own hands long after they have passed their best? Should the Exercise rely mainly on the activity and enthusiasm of the young, or on the experience and wisdom of the old? It is only another case of that competition between youth and age which has been going on since man first was and to which there never will be an ending.

We do not propose at the present to say anything on that particular point. It may be worth while dealing with it later. What we would call attention to is the way the officers of an association are as a rule elected and the tendency there is to treat an office as a permanency held during the pleasure of the officer. Once a man is elected master, or secretary, or treasurer, it is tacitly assumed that he will continue to hold it as long as he chooses. Is that a good thing for the Exercise?

It is easy to understand how the idea first arose. The men who are able and willing to carry out the duties of a secretary efficiently are not plentiful, and once an association has got such a man it is anxious not to lose him. More men are available for the office of ringing master, but when one has been elected who commands the respect and affection of the members there is a general wish to retain his services. So, too, with the other offices, and especially those such as chairman, vice-president and the like, which bring honour and

(Continued on page 462.)

dignity but little or no work. The danger of it all is that a man, having been re-elected once or twice, often expects to be re-elected as long as he cares to stand, and perhaps when he is no longer the most suitable person for the job; and he blocks the way of a better man because he cannot be displaced without the risk of unpleasantness.

It is easy to see how the idea arose, but it should be pointed out that it is contrary to the words and the spirit of the association's rules. The rules of an association or guild definitely state that each officer is elected for one year (or some other period) and when his term of office is up he is on exactly the same footing as any other member (except in the rare cases where his immediate re-election is forbidden).

Here, perhaps, is the best solution of the question. The chairman at the general annual meeting should definitely explain that elections are for one year only, that the retiring officer is eligible for re-election, but any other names may be submitted and the meeting is free to choose between them. It should be clearly stated that no censure or slur is laid on a man if another is preferred to him. If these things are plainly put from the chair before an election and the members continue to re-appoint the old officers it is a sign that they wish to have it so.

It is undoubtedly true that in many associations there is among the average members a large amount of apathy and indifference as to how the society's affairs are managed. So long as somebody does the job they care little. This is a spirit which ought to be counteracted. Every member, even the youngest and humblest, should be encouraged to feel he has an interest in the wellbeing of the guild and is as much entitled to express his opinion as any other. The custom of re-electing officers en bloc (whatever can be said in its favour during war time) is a bad one, for it creates the impression that everything has been cut and dried by a secret junto and the ordinary members have no option but to accept what has been settled behind their backs.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BURTON-ON-STATHER, Lincs.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, October 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT TRENTWOOD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14½ in C sharp.

MRS. R. RICHARDSON 1-2	JACK BRAY 5-6
FRANK LORD 3-4	RUPERT RICHARDSON 7-8

Composed by FRANK BENNETT. Composed by JACK BRAY.

BROMLEY, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, October 31, 1944, in Two Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT 6, GLEBE ROAD.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 17 in A flat.

*MISS HILDA OAKSHETT ... 1-2	†VERNON J. BENNING ... 5-6
GEORGE R. H. SMITH ... 3-4	*PERCY J. SPICE ... 7-8

Conducted by G. R. H. SMITH.

* First peal of Triples in hand. † First peal of Triples. First peal of Triples as conductor.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.—On Tuesday, October 31st, 720 Bob Minor:
*Vida Simpson 1, *Valerie Crouch 2, Mary Pemberton 3, Jean Broomfield 4, Freda Murkitt 5, Joyce Hearn 6, N. V. Harding (conductor) 7, G. Gilbert 8. Treble leading and tenor covering. * First 720. Fully muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Tuesday, October 31, 1944 in Four Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5018 CHANGES;

Tenor 37 cwt.

THOMAS H. REEVES Treble	*JAMES F. HARVEY 7
*RICHARD J. B. HADDEN ... 2	JOHN PINFOLD 8
FRANK E. HAYNES 3	WILLIAM C. DOWDING ... 9
HERBERT C. SPENCER 4	ALBERT WALKER 10
REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE ... 5	GEORGE E. FRERN 11
*LEONARD TUFFREY 6	WILLIAM T. FROGGATT ... Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER.

Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

* First peal on twelve bells. Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

TEN BELL PEAL.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 28, 1944, in Three Hours and Forty Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt.

*PETER J. STANFORTH ... Treble	JOHN R. SMITH 6
JILL POOLE 2	SHIRLEY BURTON 7
HAROLD J. POOLE 3	EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD ... 8
MRS. H. J. POOLE 4	ERNEST MORRIS 9
HARRY G. WAYNE 5	G. STEDMAN MORRIS ... Tenor

Composed by JOHN A. BURFORD.

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE

* First peal of Royal. Rung on Miss Poole's 16th birthday.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

ENVILLE, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 28, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-1wo Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION.

Tenor 17 cwt.

JOHN LLOYD Treble	SIDNEY THOMPSON 5
*CHARLES RICHARDS 2	PERCY RICHARDS 6
CLIFFORD SKIDMORE 3	THOMAS HEMMING 7
FRED HANDLEY 4	JOHN PAGETT Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS HEMMING.

* First peal of Triples.

NORBURY (HAZEL GROVE), CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 28, 1944, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt. 3 qr. 21 lb.

ALAN J. BROWN Treble	WILLIAM FERNBY 5
*SYDNEY HOUGH, JUN. ... 2	TOM WILDE 6
JAMES A. MILNER 3	JOHN WORTH 7
CECIL AUSTIN 4	PETER LAFLIN Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES.

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

* First peal of Major.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, October 31, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

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

GEORGE L. GROVER Treble	RAYMOND PHILPOTT 5
ALBERT LAMBEIN 2	RONALD J. C. HAGLEY ... 6
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... 3	CHARLES HAZELDEN 7
ALFRED H. PULLING 4	FRANK C. W. KNIGHT ... Tenor

Conducted by A. H. POLLING.

Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

NORWICH.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, November 3, 1944, in three Hours and thirteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 14 cwt. in F.

MRS. DOROTHY MOORE ... Treble	*ERNEST G. SHORTING ... 5
NOLAN GOLDEN ... 2	ARTHUR G. BASON ... 6
MRS. GEORGE SAYER ... 3	GEORGE SAYER ... 7
REV. A. G. G. THURLOW ... 4	RUSSELL W. CURSON ... Tenor

Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

* First peal of Grandsire. Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

LYMINGTON, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 4, 1944, in three Hours and ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE PART (7th observation)

Tenor 20½ cwt.

EDWARD T. GRIFFIN ... Treble	FRANCIS G. BLAKE ... 5
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 2	ARTHUR G. ROSE ... 6
WILLIAM E. CHEATER ... 3	ARTHUR V. DAVIS ... 7
*ANDREW I. PEARMAIN ... 4	HARRY J. GILLARD ... Tenor

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

* First peal of Triples on tower bells. First peal of Triples on tower bells as conductor.

HILGAY, NORFOLK.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 4, 1944, in two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 17 cwt.

WALLACE W. COUSINS ... Treble	RONALD H. BULLEN ... 5
WILLIAM BUCKENHAM ... 2	CECIL V. EBBERTSON ... 6
*ERNEST H. MASTIN ... 3	CLAUDE COUSINS ... 7
REV. JOHN P. PELLOE ... 4	PHILIP A. CORBY ... Tenor

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS.

Conducted by P. A. CORBY.

* First peal in the method.

CLANDON, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 4, 1944 in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

DEXTER'S VARIATION.

Tenor 17 cwt. in E.

GEORGE L. GROVER ... Treble	ARTHUR H. SMITH ... 5
FREDERICK OLDROYD ... 2	FREDERICK BENNETT ... 6
CHARLES HAZLEDEN ... 3	ALFRED H. PULLING ... 7
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... 4	C. ERNEST SMITH ... Tenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury. First peal of Stedman on the bells.

PINNER, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 4, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 19 cwt.

ERIC B. HARTLEY ... Treble	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 5
*RALPH BIRD ... 2	THOMAS G. MYERS ... 6
CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 3	FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... 7
EDWIN JENNINGS ... 4	WALTER AYRE ... Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON.

Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

* First peal in the method.

SIX BELL PEALS.

RIPPLE, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 21, 1944, in two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings.

*THOMAS HILL ... Treble	CHARLES HAYTINGS ... 4
THOMAS BENNETT ... 2	CYRIL HALLING ... 5
FRED HAWKES ... 3	*PETER BENNETT ... Tenor

Conducted by C. HAYTINGS.

* First peal.

STEEPLE ASHTON, WILTS.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 28, 1944, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 19 cwt.

ALEXANDER G. WEEKS ... Treble	WILLIAM C. WEST ... 4
HENRY A. GUMMER ... 2	LEONARD G. CAVE ... 5
JOSEPH C. WEEKS ... 3	*VICTOR G. ROSE ... Tenor

Conducted by JOSEPH C. WEEKS.

* First peal.

SAPCOTE, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 28, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents.

Tenor 10 cwt.

*MICHAEL BROWN ... Treble	FRANK TROTMAN ... 4
†MISS MADGE GREWCOCK ... 2	CYRIL ISON ... 5
WILLIAM ALDRIDGE ... 3	GEORGE CHARLTON ... Tenor

Conducted by FRANK TROTMAN.

* First peal. † First peal inside. Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

MALINSLEE, SHROPSHIRE.

THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 28, 1944 in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents of Oxford Treble Bob, two of Kent and three of Plain Bob.

Tenor 10 cwt.

JOHN HARLEY ... Treble	JAMES FERNLEY ... 4
MISS P. FLITCHER ... 2	ARTHUR PRITCHARD ... 5
E. DENNIS POOLE ... 3	ALBERT WOODVINE ... Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR PRITCHARD.

Rung muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

APSLEY END, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, October 30, 1944, in three Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent each of Double Bob, Double Oxford, Oxford Bob, Cambridge Surprise, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

E. ALBAN KENDALL ... Treble	EDWIN JENNINGS ... 4
WILLIAM C. HUGHES ... 2	HERBERT GATES ... 5
AUGUSTIN V. GOOD ... 3	WALTER AYRE ... Tenor

Conducted by WALTER AYRE.

Rung for the diamond jubilee of the association.

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Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.

The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to:—

The Editor,

'The Ringing World,'

c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
Guildford, Surrey.

Owing to increased paper supply we are now able to accept orders for the delivery of 'The Ringing World' by post. They should be sent to Mr. G. W. Fletcher, The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk, accompanied by remittance. The charge is 4s. 3d. per quarter.

Arrangements have also been made for larger supplies through the trade, and newsagents in any part of the country will be able to obtain copies through their wholesale firms.

Cheques and remittances should be made payable to 'The Ringing World.'

The peal of Stedman Cinques at Birmingham was the 160th peal Mr. Albert Walker has rung on St. Martin's bells.

The peal of Stedman Triples rung at Kidlington on October 28th was conducted by Mr. W. F. Judge, not by Mr. J. E. Spice as reported.

MAGDALEN COLLEGE TENOR.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The interest taken in this matter prompted me to take the note of the bell and her measurements. These I submitted to unimpeachable authority, and am assured that the weight cannot exceed 18 cwt. (diameter 47 3-16 inches, soundbow 2 31-32 inches). The note registers 324 frequencies per second, which is half-way between E natural and E flat, B.B.C. (International) pitch, by which all musical instruments are tuned to-day.

The pitch by which bells were labelled in former times was nearly a semitone higher (Concert pitch), so that this bell was rightly denoted as E natural, even if to-day we may, with as much truth, call her E flat.

Here is one more instance of a tenor bell being reputedly heavier than she is. All of us have met instances of the kind, and I hazard a guess that the great majority of bells which have not been submitted to the test of an accurate weighing machine are lighter than their advertised weight. I ran across a minor instance only this week, a bell said to be 9 cwt. proving, on measurement, to be but 8 cwt.

In the interests of accuracy, and because this is a question which attracts all ringers, I suggest that you might consider publishing a list of diameters and notes, with the normal weight of each, from six to sixty cwt. The locals will then be able to determine for themselves whether that 25 cwt. tenor of theirs is really 25 cwt. or only a ton. The doctors say that a loss of weight in an unduly stout person is distinctly beneficial.

J. H. R. FREEBORN.

Little Chalfont, Amersham.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT SOUTH SHIELDS.

A meeting of the Eastern District of the Durham and Newcastle Association was held at St. Hilda's, South Shields, on October 28th, when 20 ringers were present from Blaydon, Chester-le-Street, Gateshead, Houghton-le-Spring, Sunderland (St. Michael's) and St. Ignatius', West Hartlepool (St. Oswald's) and the local belfry.

Mr. R. L. Patterson, vice-president, occupied the chair. Malcolm E. Payne, of St. Michael's, Houghton-le-Spring, was elected a member, and it was decided to hold the next meeting at Houghton on November 25th.

The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. P. F. Ardagh-Walker, and tea was in the Church Hall.

The methods rung consisted of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Double Norwich and Kent Treble Bob Major and rounds.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

B 168
2314567

3461275 2
4176352 2
1643752 1
1637452 1
7245631 4
2534716 2
5413267 2

Repeated.

D 252
2314567

3461275 2
1527463 4
5762134 2
7251634 1
7216534 1
2631745 2
6143257 2

Twice repeated.

A 420
2314567

3461275 2
1527463 4
7346521 4
3624715 2
6412357 2

Four times repeated.

C 420
2314567

3461275 2
4176352 2
1643752 1
1637452 1
6753124 2
7361524 1
7315624 1
3521746 2
5142367 2

Four times repeated.

B. Call the seventh—6-7 down; in and out quick and make bob; last half turn; out slow; 6-7 up.

A. Call the seventh—6-7 down; make bob after quick; last half turn; out slow; 6-7 up.

D. Call the seventh—6-7 down; make bob after quick; first whole turn, first and last half turns; out slow; 6-7 up.

These are the standard callings used for the in-course part of Carter's Odd-bob peal. It will be noticed that three bobs are common to all four. The seventh is bobbed in 6-7 down, makes the bob after it has been a quick bell, and is bobbed in 6-7 up at the course end. Here is a quarter peal made up of the same courses.

1,260.

231456

514236 C

642153 D

521643 C

Four times repeated.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT SOUTH NEWTON.

A meeting of the Salisbury Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at South Newton on October 28th, when members attended from Britford, Ourencester, Wishford, St. Thomas', St. Martin's and St. Paul's (Salisbury) and the local band. Service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. G. C. A. Smith), Mr. H. A. Roles being at the organ.

Tea was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Smith and friends. The vice-chairman (Mr. G. K. Norton) presided at the business meeting, at which Salisbury St. Thomas was selected for the annual branch meeting. A letter was received from Mr. J. E. Figgures stating that he would not seek re-election as Ringing Master and member of the Branch Committee. Wishford was also visited, where there is an old peal of five excellent bells, badly needing attention. Grandsire Doubles, Bob Minor, Bob Singles, rounds and call-changes were rung throughout the afternoon and evening.

THE LIBERTY BELL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Following on my recent remarks concerning the Liberty Bell of America, it will be of interest to learn that there is talk of the bell being repaired in time to take part in the peace celebrations. Here is a pertinent paragraph taken from the Mediterranean edition of 'Stars and Stripes,' the United States Services' newspaper:—

'Arc welding of the 109-year-old crack in the historic Liberty Bell which pealed out American independence in 1776 was urged yesterday (October 19th) by W. J. Conley, consulting engineer of Lincoln Electric, so the "long-hushed symbol" can again proclaim liberty on V Day.

'The bell, owned by the city of Philadelphia and housed in Independence Hall there, has been tapped, but never rung to herald great events since the large crack appeared in 1835.

'"Full tone can be restored to the bell by arc welding," Conley said. He added that a preliminary study of the problem had been made by his firm, world's largest producer of arc welding equipment.

'Conley said his suggestion had been sent to Speaker Sam Rayburn, of the House of Representatives in Washington, and he (Conley) had asked Congress to appoint a special committee of experts from the American Welding Society, now in convention, to take appropriate action.'

For myself, I trust this work will be put in hand, but I wonder what sort of result welding will produce. Perhaps American welders have something to teach us on this point?

KENNETH ARTHUR, Sgt., R.A.F.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

DIAMOND JUBILEE.

The sixtieth anniversary of the foundation of the Hertford County Association was celebrated at St. Albans on October 28th. Ringing at St. Stephen's, St. Michael's and St. Peter's was followed by service at St. Peter's, conducted by the Rev. A. M. Fergusson, who gave an address. A course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells in church by Messrs. R. Darvill, H. G. Cashmore, W. Ayre and A. Day. The lessons were read by the president, Mr. H. G. Cashmore, and the secretary, Mr. G. W. Cartmel.

Seventy-six members were present at the dinner held at the Abbey Restaurant. Mr. Cartmel proposed the toast of 'Church and State.' He said people to-day seemed to regard the Church as somewhere to be christened, married and buried, and were tending to forget the spiritual side of it. He called for a renewal of that spiritual sense and for an extension of the family spirit such as they found in associations like their own.

Mr. Cartmel read letters of good wishes from Capt. G. W. Debenham, on active service, and Mr. W. H. Lawrence, a former district secretary.

Replying, the Rev. A. M. Fergusson said there would certainly have to be a new spiritual awakening in the Church if it were to succeed in the future. The Church would have to look to its laurels. We all had religion in us and we had got to make it alive again and really known.

Mr. E. H. Lewis submitted the toast of 'The Association,' recalling its successful history and wishing it a successful future. He said he was not sure whether the ban on ringing had not been a good thing, for ringing was to-day enjoying a wave of popularity such as had never been known before. A large number of young people were becoming interested and they must be taught, and taught well.

Replying, the President mentioned the names of some of those who had been connected with the association in its early days. As far as peal ringing was concerned, he would like to see the district ringers ring peals with mixed bands and not stick to one particular band, and so do more good to their own district and also the association.

Mr. E. Jennings proposed the toasts of 'The Central Council' and 'The Ringing World,' and Mr. E. H. Lewis (president of the Central Council) replied.

Mr. W. Ayre apologised for the absence of the Archdeacon of St. Albans, the Dean of St. Albans, the president of the Bedfordshire Association, Mr. C. T. Coles (Middlesex Association), Mr. J. C. Mitchell and Mr. W. H. L. Buckingham (two very old members), and the Editor of 'The Ringing World,' all of whom either had prior engagements or could not come through travelling facilities.

'Absent Friends' were remembered by Mr. W. Ayre, who asked the company to stand in honour of them, remembering those called not only to active service, but to higher service.

Entertainment was provided by a male voice quartet comprising Messrs. K. Faulkner, S. J. Aries, F. W. Crawshaw and W. Ayre, with solos by Mr. K. Faulkner and Mrs. Thomas at the pianoforte. Mr. Geoffrey Buckingham provided clever conjuring tricks, etc.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT MERSTHAM.

A meeting of the Southern District of the Surrey Association was held at Merstham on October 28th, and was attended by 54 members and visitors. Service in church was conducted by the Rev. J. W. H. Battiscombe, who welcomed the ringers and gave an address. Tea, at the invitation of the Master, Mr. D. Kenneth C. Birt, was at the Golden Wheel and was followed by the business. One new member was elected.

A discussion on ringing at the close of hostilities took place. Arrangements had already been made between some towers to join forces, and this was considered an excellent arrangement.

A vote of thanks to the Rev. Battiscombe, to Mr. H. F. Houlder and to Mr. and Mrs. Birt completed the business. The ringing ranged from rounds to Surprise.

MISS JILL POOLE.

Three correspondents have written to us expressing admiration of Miss Jill Poole's achievement in ringing a peal of Cambridge Maximus before her sixteenth birthday, and indeed it is a performance of which she may be proud. Although she has been ringing only a comparatively short time, her list of peals is a fine one. It includes on handbells, Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques, and Bob Royal and Maximus; and on tower bells, Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques, Cambridge Surprise Major, Royal and Maximus, and Superlative, Bristol and London Surprise Major.

UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is proposed to form a London branch of the Universities Association. A small band is already practising handbells regularly at Imperial College. We would be very pleased to hear from any internal students or graduates of London University, as well as any research workers attached to the university, who would be interested in ringing tower or handbells with us. Would all those interested please get in touch with—

P. M. J. GRAY.

c/o Royal School of Mines, London, S.W.7.

RINGING IN WAR-TIME.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Not being old enough to remember the last war, I pondered with some misgivings on the possible reactions of the general public to air raids and the other terrors which seemed possible when hostilities commenced.

It soon became obvious that people were going to make 'Business (or pleasure) as usual' the general slogan. During the days of air raids and invasion danger this was very often difficult, but without doubt it has been the 'as usual' slogan which has helped the country through the difficult days. Not only in the field of business, but in entertainment and leisure we have carried on as usual as far as possible, and I see no reason why ringing should be made an exception.

There are, of course, those who choose to make martyrs of themselves, but the general tendency in all walks of life seems to be to get going again as soon as conditions permit.

As soon as the ban was lifted there seemed to be no reason why we should not ring a peal or two, provided, of course, the bells and church were still intact. We were just getting into our stride when the 'doodle-bugs' put in an appearance. For quite a long time there was no peal ringing, or any ringing at all for that matter, and then the daylight flying bombs ended. We just carried on where we left off. We find it difficult to see why it should be so.

As for public reaction to ringing in these times, I feel that no better illustration can be quoted than an incident at our own tower, which stands in the High Street of a busy town.

When the flying bomb menace was becoming less intense our Vicar suggested that we got together and rang the bells again, as he said, 'The place seems to have gone a bit dead and needs something to put a bit of life into it.'

J. E. BAILEY.

'FALSE COMPOSITIONS.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—When I received my 'Ringing World' last week I had already drafted a letter to you on the subject you have so ably dealt with in your leading article urging those associations who have not appointed a peal secretary to try and find among their members one with the necessary ability and inclination, and appoint him to that position, taking Mr. Barton as a pattern for imitation.

I was prompted, as evidently you were, by the letter which appeared in your issue of October 27th, and the amount of inconvenience these unfortunate happenings cause all round in readjusting the serial numbers of the association's peal records in the next report. Some do not do so, but simply make a note the following year that peal number so and so in such and such a year is withdrawn, as the composition is false, and who can blame them? But the fact remains where this has happened that association's peal total is inaccurate and misleading.

I have felt for a long time the need of such an official in my own association, but have hesitated to bring forward such a revolutionary suggestion (not having entirely lived down the commotion caused in the county by my suggestion of a Ringing Master for my own district, or my opposition to a subsequent attempt to make a rule framed to render his position untenable), not only to prove compositions before they appear, but to prevent duplication of figures which have appeared years before, and to give references when they have been published in one of the C.C. Collections, or one of the standard works on ringing. Such a person would also effect a considerable saving of expense in setting up type.

Our last report provides an example of where a perfectly true peal could easily have been withdrawn nearly twenty years afterwards. In it there appear the amended figures of the first peal of Dartford Little Bob in 1925. Early this year the general secretary wrote me stating he had received a letter from a man who took part in the second peal in the method, demanding the withdrawal of the first, as the composition was false. Mr. Mitchell was loth to believe it was possible for my father to begin to apply the figures in the 1926 report to the method. Could I give any explanation to the committee? Fortunately I was able to take them his pocket book with the correct figures and a footnote in his handwriting stating the method they were applied to, and where and when he called it. I have not the slightest doubt they would have accepted this evidence alone, but more fortunate still, the peal, method and figures were published together in 'The Ringing World' on March 6th, 1925. How the first set got into the report will never be known. With a competent peal secretary they would not have done.

E. BARNETT.

10, King's Close, Crayford.

DEATH OF ARCHDEACON R. C. M. HARVEY.

The death is announced of Archdeacon R. C. M. Harvey, who was secretary of the Winchester Diocesan Guild from 1890 to 1895, and Master from 1895 to 1901. He had taken part in a number of peals, including the first at Winchester Cathedral, one of Grandsire Caters.

The funeral was at Eastleigh on October 26th. Messrs. George Williams and W. T. Tucker represented the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild.

CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 457.)

The church of St. Michael and All Angels, Steventon, Berks, is a stone building in Early English and later styles, with embattled tower on the south side containing a ring of six bells. On the south side are two arches of unequal span, one Early English and the other Decorated. The tower arches are good Decorated with richly moulded impostes and curious carving. The door at the foot of the tower is the main entrance to the church, and just inside are the bellropes, the ringing being done from the ground floor. Up to 1932 the order was, on the left as you enter 6, 1, 2—on the right 5, 4, 3. Passing straight through brought one to the main aisle about midway along; directly behind the ringers of 3rd and 4th was the entrance to the south aisle leading to chancel and vestry. The congregation used to walk between the ropes as ringing was in progress, either to the main aisle, or to dodge between 3-4 up to the chancel, which was rather dangerous, but did not, I am assured, worry the ringers very much, and no accident ever happened. In 1932 the bells were rehung in a new metal frame, and the rope circle altered. The tenor is now in the middle of the doorway, and the 3rd just opposite. Therefore, while ringing is in progress, the door is locked, and people must enter the church by another door on the opposite side, but when the bells have ceased they can come through the tower. The ringers can be seen from two sides from the church. The bells date from 1613 to 1849 and the tenor is 11½ cwt.

At the church of St. Mary, Culworth, Northants, the five bells are rung from the ground floor open on three sides to the church, this west tower being built into, rather than on to, the body of the church. As early as 1552 there were 'iiii bells in ye steple & a sanct' bell.' The present treble bears the name of 'SR IOHN DANVERS,' 1712, and he was descended from Robert Danvers, Esq., who is said to have purchased the Manor in 1438. In the chancel is a monument of elaborate character to the D'Anvers family erected in 1790. In 1863 one of the present bells fell and nearly killed the clerk. Upon hearing of this incident, an old woman living in the village told the Rector that she remembered her mother relating that a man named Elsdon was killed by the falling of one of Culworth bells, and that some of his blood was sprinkled on the walls of the belfry. To test of the truth of this, the Rector searched the Parish Register, where he found the following entry:—'Edward Elsdon was killed by a Bell upon Tuesday in Easter week being the 10th of April, 1694.' This proved that tradition had kept alive a knowledge of the fact for 169 years, and it is somewhat singular that the two accidents happened (allowing for change of style) on the same day of the same month. Culworth bells were rehung and the tower restored in 1931.

(To be continued.)

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT RAINHAM.

A meeting of the Rochester Branch of the Kent County Association was held at Rainham on October 28th and was attended by nearly fifty members. The Vicar, the Rev. Mr. Jordan, conducted the service and took the chair at the business meeting, which followed tea. Reference was made to the deaths of Mr. Ernest Dobbie and Mr. D. L. Vigeon. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Sittingbourne during January.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

HINCKLEY.—On Sunday, October 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss Madge Grewcock 1, John Ison 2, George Thompson 3, George Charlton 4, William Aldridge 5, Cyril Ison 6, Frank Trotman (conductor) 7, Bert Ridgway 8.

SOUTH WIGSTON, LEICS.—On Sunday, October 22nd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Mrs. F. Hicks 1, A. Patrick 2, C. Marshall 3, J. L. Willars 4, G. Deacon 5, J. E. Clark (conductor) 6, E. J. Jelley 7, F. Ford 8.—On Sunday, October 29th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: E. Chamberlain 1, C. Marshall (conductor) 2, G. Deacon 3, D. Dalby 4, A. Patrick 5, J. L. Willars 6.

HITCHAM, BUCKS.—On Friday, October 27th, 720 Oxford Bob Minor: G. Gilbert (conductor) 1, Jean Broomfield 2, Freda Murkitt 3, Mary Pemberton 4, Joyce Hearn 5, F. Hicks 6. Half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

SEFTON, LANCASHIRE.—On Sunday, October 29th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: W. Thorley 1, S. Flint 2, R. Guy 3, A. Williams 4, G. Skelland 5, Gunner W. Deacon (conductor) 6; also 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: S. Flint 1, R. Guy 2, J. Lunham 3, J. Rothwell 4, Gunner W. Deacon (conductor) 5, G. Skelland 6. Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

AUGHTON, LANCASHIRE.—On Sunday, October 29th, 840 Grandsire Triples: K. Rothwell 1, S. Flint 2, R. Kirby 3, Gunner W. Deacon 4, J. Taylor 5, J. Marsh (conductor) 6, J. Rothwell 7, E. Rothwell 8. Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

SPRINGFIELD.—On Sunday, October 29th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: J. Myhill 1, Miss A. White 2, E. J. Runter (conductor) 3, A. Simmonds 4, H. Devenish 5, H. Bradley 6.

AUDLEY.—On Sunday, October 29th, 720 Bob Minor: J. H. Millington 1, R. Rowley (conductor) 2, J. Jebb 3, J. Proctor 4, W. Millington 5, R. Proctor 6. First 720 by all.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Sunday, October 29th, 1,280 Bob Major: M. Wingrove 1, D. R. Fletcher 2, K. E. Fletcher 3, Rev. R. F. R. Routh 4, R. Buckland 5, W. Edwards 6, J. Harrison 7, H. Wingrove (conductor) 8; also 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Minor: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1, K. E. Fletcher 2, C. A. Levett 3, D. R. Fletcher 4, G. Gutteridge 5, J. Harrison 6, F. Goodfellow 7, E. Bannister 8. Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

REDHILL.—On Sunday, October 29th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: R. Beale 1, H. Parsons 2, L. Penfold 3, A. Gear 4, F. Sadler 5, W. Slaughter 6, A. J. Bull (conductor) 7, H. G. Moon 8.

WORSLEY.—On Sunday, October 29th, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: H. Allred 1, F. Barraclough 2, T. Royle 3, J. B. Budd 4, B. Walshaw 5, A. Ridyard (conductor) 6, F. Grundy 7, R. Longden 8, P. H. Derbyshire 9, R. Jones 10. Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

LITTLE MUNDEN, HERTS.—On October 29th, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: W. Williams 1, A. Phillips 2, S. Head 3, A. Carter 4, N. Patmore 5, E. Overall (conductor) 6.

MAISEY HAMPTON, GLOS.—On Monday, October 30th, 1,944 Bob Minor: G. H. Peare 1, W. C. Cuss (conductor) 2, L. A. Smith 3, L. W. Cuss 4, E. Cooper 5, W. A. Godwin 6.

WALSALL.—On Tuesday, October 31st, 1,260 Stedman Triples: H. T. Higgins 1, G. W. Hughes 2, W. R. Hughes 3, A. T. Dutton 4, A. Botterell 5, A. Adams 6, J. S. Eastwood (conductor) 7, W. A. Walker 8. Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

GAINSBOROUGH, Lincs.—On Tuesday, October 31st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: B. Mann (first quarter-peal) 1, Mrs. E. Gray 2, J. Bartram 3, H. Morgan (conductor) 4, George L. Lunn 5, J. Dixon 6, N. B. Thurlby 7, C. H. Baker 8. Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

SELSTON, NOTTS.—On Tuesday, October 31st, 720 Bob Minor: M. Jaques 1, J. Dobbs 2, F. G. Rawson 3, W. W. Dobbs 4, C. A. Jaques 5, A. L. Rawson (conductor) 6. Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

ROTHERHAM.—On October 31st at All Saints', 720 Bob Minor: D. Adams 1, L. Field (first inside) 2, T. C. Ryder 3, Mrs. T. C. Ryder 4, E. Liversedge 5, A. Firth (conductor) 6.

WILLESDEN.—On Tuesday, October 31st, 503 Grandsire Triples: E. Lankester, Mrs. Lankester, Mrs. Botham, A. Butler, R. Hersey, A. Jones, E. Hartley, G. Kilby and H. Kilby. Half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

CANTERBURY.—On Tuesday, October 31st, at the Cathedral, 504 Grandsire Triples: A. H. Saver 1, F. G. Brett 2, J. B. Walter 3, J. W. Unwin (conductor) 4, R. G. Port 5, W. F. Jenkins 6, B. J. Luck 7, H. R. French 8. Half-muffled for the Archbishop.

EALING.—On Tuesday, October 31st, at St. Stephen's, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: D. Judd (first quarter-peal) 1, J. Birt (first quarter-peal inside) 2, F. A. Finch 3, H. W. Rogers 4, J. E. L. Cockey 5, E. C. S. Turner (conductor) 6, S. Harding 7, F. Miller 8. Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

BELGRAVE, LEICESTER.—On Tuesday, October 31st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: C. Castleman 1, F. Sharman 2, G. Tillson 3, G. Walker 4, H. Morton 5, J. Udale 6, R. Barrow (conductor) 7, A. Skinner 8. Fully muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

ADLINGTON, LANCs.—On Thursday, November 3rd, at the Parish Church, 720 Bob Minor, 7-8 covering: F. Rigby (conductor) 1, T. Turner 2, D. Carpenter 3, L. Walmsley 4, J. Blackburn 5, J. H. Gartside 6, F. G. Bradley 7, W. Hough 8. Rung half-muffled for the Rev. C. Gamble, late Vicar.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Tunbridge Wells, Nov. 11th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea at St. Peter's Parish Hall 5 p.m.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District.—Meeting at Old Woking, Saturday, Nov. 11th, 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting 4.30. Ringing until 8 p.m.—A. C. Hazelden, Dis. Sec., 109, Grange Road, Guildford.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Portsmouth District.—Meeting at Alverstoke, Gosport, Saturday, Nov. 11th, 2.30. Tea 4. Service 5.—R. J. Stone, 16, Penhale Road, Portsmouth.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Practice at Washington Saturday, Nov. 11th, 5.30 p.m. Meeting Heene, Dec. 9th.—L. Stilwell, Pulborough.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—Meeting Linton, Saturday, Nov. 18th, 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business. Buses leave Maidstone 2.30 and 3.5. Half travelling expenses up to 2s. paid. Names to C. H. Sone, Linton, Maidstone.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting Kidderminster (12 bells), 3 p.m., Nov. 18th. Tea Florence Cafe, Blackwell Street, 6 p.m. Names by Nov. 16th; accommodation limited to 50.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting, Saturday, Nov. 18th, 3 p.m., Whitechapel Bell Foundry, E.1. Ringing St. Dunstan's, Stepney, 4.30. 307th anniversary luncheon, November 11th, Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., 1.30 p.m.—A. B. Peck.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—Meeting at Badby (6 bells), Saturday, Nov. 18th. Usual arrangements.—W. C. Moore, 5, William's Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—Meeting at Totternhoe (6 bells), Saturday, Nov. 18th, 2.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—D. E. Lidbetter, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Meeting at Sapcote, Saturday, Nov. 18th, 3.30 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at St. Alkmund's, Derby, on Saturday, Nov. 18th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Cafes nearby.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—Meeting at Tickenham, Saturday, Nov. 18th, 4 p.m.—Percy G. Yeo, Long Ashton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—Meeting at Quorn, Saturday, Nov. 18th, 3 p.m. Service 4.45. Cups of tea 5 p.m. Bring food.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Meeting, Erdington (8 bells), Saturday, Nov. 18th, 3.30 p.m. Tea in Church House 5 p.m. Names to Mr. John Conduct, 36, Fern Road, Erdington, Birmingham, 24.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wirral Branch.—Meeting at West Kirby (8 bells), Saturday, Nov. 18th, 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Cup of tea provided.—Harry S. Brocklebank, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Annual District Meeting, Bushey, Saturday, Nov. 18th, 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. Names by Nov. 14th.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—Annual meeting at Newbury, Saturday, Nov. 18th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m. Names to Mr. H. W. Curtis, Church Road, Shaw, Newbury, by Nov. 15th.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Anstey, Nov. 18th, 2.30 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Notify Mr. R. F. Elkington, 24, High Street, Anstey.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Taunton Branch.—Meeting at Staplegrave (6 bells) Saturday, Nov. 25th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Names by Nov. 20th.—A. Walker, Hon. Sec., 17, Cranmer Road, Taunton.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—Meeting at Ashted, Saturday, Nov. 25th. Service 4.30. Tea at Peace Memorial Hall 5.15. Names to G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead.—A. H. Smith.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Mary's, Ealing, Saturday, Nov. 25th, 3 p.m. Business in belfry 5 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec. Perivale 5320.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Towcester Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Green's Norton, Saturday, Nov. 25th. Service 3.15. Tea (1s.) 4 p.m. Numbers for tea by 21st to Rev. E. V. Fenn, Lois Weedon Vicarage, Towcester.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Michael's, Wood Green, Saturday, Nov. 25th, 2.30 p.m. Service and tea. Two minutes' from Wood Green Underground Station.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Annual general meeting will be held early in the New Year. Date will be announced later.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec., 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT IBSTOCK.

A meeting of the Loughborough District of the Midland Counties Association, held at Ibstock on October 28th, was attended by members from Copt Oak, Hugglescote, Ibstock, Kegworth, Loughborough, Shepshed, Thrumpton and Whitwick, with visitors from Anstey, Ashby, Groby, Leicester Cathedral and Netherseal.

Service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. M. R. Newberry), Mr. A. E. Rowley being at the organ. Mr. J. H. Deane took the chair at the business meeting, at which Messrs. Philip Hill and Chad Hemsley, both of Hugglescote, were elected members.

Quorn was chosen for the next meeting on November 18th.

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No. 1,756. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17th, 1944.

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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

As we announced last week, we, in common with similar periodicals, have been granted an increase in the supply of paper, and thus we are once more able to accept fresh orders for delivery by post. It will be remembered that some three months ago the increase in our circulation overtook the amount of paper available, and we could only supply new subscribers as some of the old ones fell out, either by death or for other reasons. This caused a good deal of disappointment, which was unavoidable but none the less regrettable.

The extra supply is therefore very welcome, but naturally it is not very large, and the extent to which it will enable us to increase our circulation is limited. Those who desire to have the paper by post should not delay to send their orders to Mr. Fletcher, and when they do so should not forget to write their full names and addresses in block letters. It is easy to misread unfamiliar names when they are written in ordinary script.

The extra copies available will not be used solely or mainly for postal subscribers. We have made arrangements for the trade to have extra supplies, and there should be no difficulty in procuring the paper through any newsagent. The trouble some men have lately experienced in getting their copies was due almost entirely to the fact that the demand was greater than the supply. This difficulty is for the time being at an end.

We occasionally hear of delays in the delivery of the paper through the trade; sometimes (so we are told) it does not reach the newsagent until the Monday, instead of the usual Friday or Saturday. At one meeting of the Yorkshire Association recently the matter was debated. These complaints are almost entirely from districts a long distance from London. We do not doubt that there are cases of delay, but, though they are more numerous than we like, we do not think they are many when we consider the present circumstances. These delays, such as they are, are due to causes entirely beyond our control and probably beyond the control of anyone. During these last five war years the copies of the journal have never once failed to leave the printers at the due time, and after they leave the printers they go through the ordinary trade channels by which newspapers and periodicals are supplied to the people of this country. Bearing in mind the demands made on the railways by war services, the shortage of trains, the postal delays, and all the other inconveniences caused by inexperienced and depleted

(Continued on page 470.)

staffs, the wonder is not that 'The Ringing World' is occasionally late in reaching a few of its readers, but that delivery is as good as it is. There is no cure for this occasional delay, and we hope our friends will bear with patience what is, after all, a minor war-time discomfort.

The increase of paper is for circulation only; it does not enable us to add to the number of our pages. Our readers must put up for the time being with the fairly frequent small copy. This means that the space at our disposal has to be used to the best advantage. Our aim is to avoid sacrificing anything of real interest and to save space by cutting out trivialities and unnecessary words. That is why we have to rewrite and curtail so many of the reports sent us. We wish to publish all the touches sent in, but there are obvious limits. A 720 is admissible, but scarcely anything less. Also the reports must be complete. We cannot deal with them unless they state the place, date, number of changes, method and names in proper order with the numbers of the bells shown after the ringers, and not before.

Another thing. In war time the old printers' condition—that only one side of the paper may be used—is in abeyance, but there are still some points which should be observed. To write something on the back of a sheet without calling attention to it on the face, is to ask for it to be overlooked. To write a peal report on one side of the paper and a notice on the other is to give unnecessary trouble if one or the other is not to be omitted. Generally speaking, peal reports and notices of meetings should be on separate sheets, and kept clear of reports of meetings and other copy.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, November 1, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5046 CHANGES;

ERIC A. DENCH 1-2	JOAN HOULDSWORTH 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE 7-8
JOHN THOMAS 9-10	

Composed by H. J. TUCKER. Conducted by W. L. B. LEESE.

PUDSEY, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, November 3, 1944, in Two Hours and Seven Minutes,

At 9, PEMEROKE ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

MISS L. K. BOWLING 1-2	WILLIAM BARTON 5-6
JOHN AMBLER 3-4	GEORGE AMBLER 7-8

Composed by GEORGE LEWIS. Conducted by WILLIAM BARTON.

BELVEDERE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, November 5, 1944, in Two Hours and Two Minutes,

At 15, FREMANTLE ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two extents, ten callings. Tenor size 15 in C.

*VERNON J. BENNING 1-2	GEORGE R. H. SMITH 3-4
†JOHN F. BENNING 5-6	

Conducted by GEORGE R. H. SMITH.

* First peal of Doubles in hand. † First peal.

BROMLEY, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, November 6, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

At 6, GLEBE ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 15 in C.

VERNON J. BENNING 1-2	MISS HILDA OAKSHETT 5-6
GEORGE R. H. SMITH 3-4	PERCY J. SPICE 7-8

Conducted by GEORGE R. H. SMITH.

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 4, 1944 in Four Hours and One Minute,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAXIMUS, 5280 CHANGES;

Tenor 32½ cwt.

PERCY L. HARRISON Treble	SIDNEY O. CHENEY 7
*JOHN R. SMITH 2	*EDWIN CATTELL 8
*COLIN HARRISON 3	ERNEST MORRIS 9
HARRY G. WAYNE 4	EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD 10
G. STEDMAN MORRIS 5	WILLIAM J. ROOT 11
SHIRLEY BURTON 6	HAROLD J. POOLE Tenor

Composed by W. PYE.

Conducted by H. J. POOLE.

* First peal of Cambridge Maximus.

TEN BELL PEAL.

NORWICH.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 11, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes

At THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER MANCROFT,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor 37 cwt. 3 qr. 15 lb. in C.

*MICHAEL J. FOSTER Treble	GEORGE BAILEY 6
MRS. GEORGE SAYER 2	GEORGE SAYER 7
ERNEST G. SHORTING 3	HENRY TOORE 8
WILLIAM C. DUFFIELD 4	REV. A. G. G. THURLOW 9
ARTHUR G. BASON 5	NOLAN GOLDEN Tenor

Composed and Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

* First peal on ten bells. Half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 4, 1944, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE PART (7th observation) Tenor 16 cwt.

NORMAN V. HARDING Treble	JAN M. BROOMFIELD 5
FRANK H. HICES 2	WILLIAM HENLEY 6
GEORGE H. GUTTERIDGE 3	GEORGE GILBERT 7
*MARY PEMBERTON 4	H. WILLIAM BARRETT Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE GILBERT.

* First peal inside. Half-muffled for the funeral of Mr. E. Clifton-Brown.

CALVERLEY, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 4, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. WILFRED,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 10½ cwt.

SIDNEY KREIGHLEY Treble	JOHN AMBLER 5
WILLIAM BARTON 2	WILLIAM SCRIMSHAW 6
WILLIAM STANHOPE 3	GEORGE AMBLER 7
S. ROWLAND MYERS 4	WILFRED LEE Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR CRAVEN. Conducted by WILLIAM BARTON.

ARKSEY, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 4, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF CAINSBOROUGH LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt. in F sharp.

J. EDWARD CAWSEY Treble	JAMES MCCLUSKEY 5
*F. BERNARD DITCHER 2	*DANIEL SMITH 6
*ERNEST COOPER 3	*HAROLD WAGSTAFF 7
*JOHN H. BROTHWELL 4	*JOHN E. TURLEY Tenor

Composed by G. LEWIS.

Conducted by J. EDWARD CAWSEY.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells.

DUDLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

On Saturday, November 4, 1944 in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).

S. LY. D. WATSON, R.N.V.R. Treble	HAROLD J. SHUCK 6
HORACE DOWELL 2	ARTHUR TIMMINS 6
BERNARD C. ASHFORD 3	JOHN GOODMAN 7
CYRIL TABBERNER 4	REUBEN INGRAM Tenor

Conducted by JOHN GOODMAN.

Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

MALVERN, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 4, 1944, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE PRIORY CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF OXFORD BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S SIX-PART (C.C.C. No. 7). Tenor 21 cwt.

JOSEPH E. LAWRENCE Treble	*GEOFFREY J. LEWIS 5
GEORGE E. LARGE 2	ERNEST F. CUBBERLEY 6
DENIS R. MORRIS 3	REGINALD WOODYATT 7
ALLEN MORGAN 4	CHRIS. F. BLISSETT Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

* First peal in the method. The conductor's 150th peal.

MOTTRAM-IN-LONGDENDALE, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 4, 1944, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt. 1 qr. 16 lb.

ALFRED BARNES Treble	JAMES A. MILNER 5
WILLIAM FERNLEY 2	DAVID VINCENT 6
WALTER W. WOLSTENCROFT 3	JOHN WORTH 7
TOM WILDE 4	PETER LAFLIN Tenor

Composed by DR. CARPENTER.

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

First peal in the method on the bells. Rung for the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Barnes, of Reddish.

ANSTEY, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 4, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 10½ cwt.

*TERENCE E. GARDNER Treble	*J. STUART ILIFFE 5
*NORMAN G. McCRUM 2	†PETER J. STANFORTH 6
*STANLEY R. GARDNER 3	†DENNIS DODSON 7
*DEREK DODSON 4	REDVERS F. ELKINGTON Tenor

Composed by J. FLEMING. Conducted by REDVERS F. ELKINGTON.

* First peal. † First peal of Major.

BEDWORTH, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, November 4, 1944 in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor 14½ cwt.

*JOHN W. CASTLE Treble	FRANK BRASSINGTON 5
*RAYMOND LYDSTER 2	FRANK E. PERVIN 6
*LEONARD TREVOR 3	ERNEST STONE 7
†THOMAS SHEPHERD 4	†WILLIAM LOWNDES Tenor

Conducted by F. E. PERVIN.

* First peal of Grandsire Triples. † First peal.

ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 11, 1944 in Three Hours & Twenty-Three Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 18½ cwt.

RONALD H. BULLEN Treble	*REV. JOHN P. PELLOR 5
JILL POOLE 2	WALLACE W. COUSINS 6
MRS. H. J. POOLE 3	PHILIP A. CORBY 7
ALBERT E. AUSTIN 4	HAROLD J. POOLE Tenor

Composed by F. H. DEXTER. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* First peal in the method.

SIX BELL PEALS.

DARLINGTON.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, October 31, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Surfleet, Beverley, Cambridge, York, Durham, Wells and London Surprise. Tenor 7½ cwt.

JAMES T. TITT Treble	GEORGE W. PARK 4
WILLIAM OLIVER 2	W. NORMAN PARK 5
ROBERT T. SIMPSON 3	ROLAND PARK Tenor

Conducted by ROLAND PARK.

Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

TEMPSFORD, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, November 1, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Double Oxford, Single Oxford, St. Clement's, Plain Bob, Cambridge Surprise, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 9½ cwt.

C. HENRY HARDING Treble	*CPL. J. STOBBS 4
ANDREW C. SINFIELD 2	LEWIS H. BYWATERS 5
REGINALD J. HOUGHTON 3	F. BUDGEN Tenor

Conducted by L. H. BYWATERS.

* First peal in seven methods.

SAWLEY, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, November 2, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 9½ cwt.

BLANCHE WINFIELD Treble	GIRLING RIGBY 4
*L. ARTHUR GARNER 2	WILLIAM DAWSON 5
CHARLES HUTCHINSON 3	*SAMUEL A. ROBERTS Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM DAWSON.

* First peal. First peal of Doubles by all. Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

BISHOP AUCKLAND, CO. DURHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 4, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent each of Surfleet, Beverley, Cambridge, York, Durham, Wells and London Surprise. Tenor 12 cwt.

ROBERT JEFF Treble	ROBERT T. SIMPSON 4
JAMES T. TITT 2	W. NORMAN PARK 5
WILLIAM OLIVER 3	ROLAND PARK Tenor

Conducted by ROLAND PARK.

Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

BURTON, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 4, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent of Oxford Treble Bob, and two extents each of Kent Treble Bob, Single Oxford Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 8 cwt. in A.

*MISS MARJORIE WEBSTER Treble	ALBERT CRAWLEY 4
HARRY PARKER 2	JOHN A. WEBSTER 5
*ALEX WEBSTER 3	FRANK VARTY Tenor

Conducted by FRANK VARTY.

* First peal.

COTGRAVE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, November 6, 1944, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different 720's. Tenor 17½ cwt.

JOSEPH MORRIS Treble	WALTER WHITE 4
REV. CANON R. WILKINSON 2	T. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. 5
COLIN HARRISON 3	ERNEST MORRIS Tenor

Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.

First peal in the method on the bells.

THE PLAIN MAJOR METHODS.

(Continued from page 452.)

Next to Plain Bob, the simplest and most obvious of the Plain Major methods is Reverse Bob. This is exactly similar to Plain Bob except that, instead of seconds place being made and the bells in 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8 dodging when the treble leads, sevenths place is made when the treble lies its whole pull behind, and the bells in 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6 dodge.

Allowing for this difference, the work of the bells is the same in the two methods. The Third in the plain course will make sevenths place, dodge in 5-6 up, then 3-4 up, then 1-2 up, then 1-2 down, 3-4 down, 5-6 down, and again make sevenths. When the treble is lying behind, the changes are the same as in Plain Bob but in reverse order.

As in Plain Bob, the seven working bells make a complete backward Hunting Course among themselves, and the treble is put in succession into every position between the pairs of coursing bells until it has completed the full cyclical revolution. The first lead-end is 3527486.

It might seem that here we have an easy and obvious variation of Plain Bob, which would often be practised as a change from the familiar version, but actually the method, although it has been known for centuries, has never been popular. The College Youths rang a peal of Major as far back as 1751, and Royal in 1761, and Maximus in 1769. A few other peals were rung during the eighteenth century, and then the method fell into complete disuse. Throughout the nineteenth century no peal of it was accomplished, but some years ago the late Mr. Edwin Barnett revived it, and one or two other peals have since been rung, the last during the present war on handbells.

The reason for this neglect is due partly to the fact that the Exercise for very long got into a narrow groove and never thought of any methods outside a tiny group, and partly, no doubt, to the feeling that the method has nothing to offer which is not better supplied by Plain Bob. There is a good deal of truth in that. As a method for regular practice, Reverse Bob cannot compare with Plain Bob, and when it is rung occasionally it is apt to be rather uncomfortable. It is so similar in its work and music to Plain Bob that the ringer is always tempted to fall into the latter method and to miss the dodges he should make and to dodge when he should not.

The bobs in Reverse Bob can be made in the same changes as the dodges are made, fifths place being made instead of sevenths, and the bells in 6-7 running up and down. That is the obvious bob and the one which was used in practically all the peals that have been rung. Any composition of Plain Bob will be true, the calls coming half a lead earlier. But if it is preferred, the bob may be made at the lead-end, and then be either a fourths-place bob or a sixths-place bob. One handbell peal at least has been rung with a sixths-place bob.

If Reverse Bob is not itself a particularly attractive method, it does, when combined with its parent, Plain Bob, produce a really fine method. This is Double Bob in which both sevenths place, when the treble is lying behind, and seconds place when the treble is leading, are made. A bell, after making seconds place at the lead-end, dodges in 5-6 up, 5-6 down, 1-2 up, 7-8 up, 3-4 down and 3-4 up. It then makes sevenths place, and from that point the work is reversed.

There is not a lot in the work, but the method is not so easy to ring well as it looks. It affords plenty of interest, and since the music is excellent it is quite worth the occasional attention of any band, especially if they understand and value good striking.

In Reverse Bob, whenever sevenths place is made, the treble changes position in Coursing Order with the bell which is coursing immediately in front of it. In Plain Bob, the same thing happens whenever seconds place is made. Either operation will produce the lead-end 3527486. In Double Bob both operations are made. First in the plain course sevenths place is made and the Coursing Order is altered from 75312468 to 75132468. Then seconds place is made and the Coursing Order is altered to 71532468. In every lead the treble takes two steps in Coursing Order, and in the whole course it makes two complete cycles through the Coursing Order of the other bells. The lead-end is 5738264, the second lead-end of Bob Major, or 3527486 transposed by itself.

If we write a full course of Plain Bob Major on a strip of paper and then cut it into fourteen pieces, the cuts being made between the rows when the treble is leading and lying behind, we can arrange those pieces of paper so as to give us Plain Bob, or Reverse Bob, or Double Bob, for the actual rows are the same in all three. We can do more. We can arrange them so that we get a combination of the three methods. So long as we start and finish with rounds, and so long as the changes on one piece of paper follow naturally on those of the preceding piece, it does not matter how the arrangement is made. We may, and we probably shall, find two or more pieces left out.

This is the simplest form of splicing methods together, and when it is done in this way there is no fear of internal falseness.

The relationship between Plain Bob, Reverse Bob and Double Bob is one which occurs in almost every class of method. The general rule of the Exercise is now that only those methods are fit for ringing which have the same lead-ends in the plain course as Bob Major (or the equivalents on other numbers). They need not come in the same order as in Bob Major. It follows that every method (Plain, or Surprise, or Treble Bob) has at least two variations, one in which seconds place is made at the lead-end (as in Double Bob) and the other in which eighths place is made (as in Reverse Bob). When the bells are in the natural Coursing Order at the half-lead end, each of these variations has two variations, one when firsts place is made (as in Plain Bob) and the other when sevenths place is made (as in Reverse Bob and Double Bob). This second variation is rarer than the first for it is comparatively seldom that the bells are in natural Coursing Order at the half-lead end. There are instances where the variation can be made when the bells are not in natural Coursing Order, but they are so few as to be negligible. The variation can be made in Superlative and Double Norwich, but not in Cambridge and London.

Not all these variations are of value or will produce methods worth ringing. It sometimes happens that one will cause a bell to lie still in one position for more than two consecutive blows, which is not allowed, or will produce an excessive amount of dodging, which is undesirable. Or the addition or omission of one or both places may cause the bells to run round at the first lead-end of the plain course. This will happen in Plain Bob.

All four (or two) variations will contain exactly the same rows and the majority of the same work, but the alteration is always quite enough to make each for practical purposes a separate method with a separate name. The experienced ringer will get into the way of recognising the things in which these variations are alike and will use them in his practical ringing, but a first study of the skeleton courses will often puzzle a man to see what there can be in common between them. For instance, in our account of the seven-bell methods we said that Hereward Bob is the same as Double Court with the Grandsire thirds place added. A correspondent wrote and said that he had studied the diagrams and failed to see the connection. Like a sensible man he studied the matter a little more and wrote again to say he had found out the solution for himself. Anyone might miss the point at first, but it is an important one in method construction.

Double Bob was popular with the best London bands during the eighteenth century. Benjamin Annable and the College Youths rang the first peals of Major (1727), Royal (1734) and Maximus (1740). Later on, a version was introduced called real double, in which bobs were made behind as well as in front. It provoked a large amount of controversy, but the points raised are of no great importance. During the nineteenth century the method fell into disuse, but of late years several peals have been rung. It is more difficult than Treble Bob, quite as interesting, and equally worthy of practice.

(To be continued.)

BATH.—On Thursday, November 9th, at St. Michael's, Twerton, 1,944 Grandsire Triples: A. Baverstock 1, T. King 2, Mrs. D. Evans 3, J. Hallett 4, H. Andrews 5, G. Hawkins (composer and conductor) 6, S. Woodburn 7, H. Merrett 8.

AVERAGE WEIGHTS OF BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Enclosed is a list of average weights of bells in proportion to diameter which we used to insert in our catalogue. The matter of the note of a bell is rather difficult, and I can only insert, as I have done, the notes which bells would be of that diameter and of that weight—the intervening bells would be somewhere between these notes.

I do not agree with what Major Freeborn implies, viz., that given the diameter of a bell, its thickness at the sound bow and its frequencies, one can arrive with accuracy at its weight. For instance, some bells are very much shorter than others, and in the case of two bells each, say, 3ft. 6in. diameter, note F, the excessively short-waisted bell would weigh $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. less than the bell with the waist of normal length. Another factor which might make more than $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. difference is the thickness of the shoulder and in the head, and another obvious factor is whether the bell has cannons or not. A published list would thus hardly be such an accurate guide as Major Freeborn suggests, although it would enable a ringer to know whether the tenor bell weighed $\frac{1}{2}$ ton or 30 cwt. I have been to quite a few three or four bell towers where the tenor is popularly supposed locally to weigh a ton, when its actually its weight is nearer 7 cwt.!

J. OLDHAM.

The Bell Foundry, Loughborough.

Diameter ft. in.	Note	Weight cwt. qrs.	Diameter ft. in.	Note	Weight cwt. qrs.
2 0		3 0	3 7	F	15 0
2 1		3 2	3 8		16 0
2 2		4 0	3 9		17 1
2 3		4 2	3 10	E	18 2
2 4		5 0	3 11		19 3
2 5		5 2	4 0		21 0
2 6	C	6 0	4 1		22 1
2 7		6 2	4 2	E flat	23 3
2 8	B	7 0	4 3		25 0
2 9		7 2	4 4		26 2
2 10	B flat	8 0	4 5	D	28 1
2 11		8 3	4 6		29 3
3 0	A	9 2	4 7		31 2
3 1		10 1	4 8		33 1
3 2	G sharp	11 0	4 9	C sharp	35 0
3 3	G	11 3	4 10		37 0
3 4		12 2	4 11		39 0
3 5	F sharp	13 1	5 0	C	41 0
3 6		14 0	5 1		43 0

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The official Journal of the Central Council or
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Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.
Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
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Owing to increased paper supply we are now able to
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panied by remittance. The charge is 4s. 3d. per quarter.

Arrangements have also been made for larger supplies
through the trade, and newsagents in any part of the
country will be able to obtain copies through their whole-
sale firms.

Cheques and remittances should be made payable to
'The Ringing World.'

The time for the peal of Minor rung at Apsley End on October 30th
was 2 hrs. 50 mins., not as stated.

The peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor rung at Cotgrave on Novem-
ber 6th was rung in appreciation of the work done for the Midland
Counties Association by the late William E. White, for many years
general secretary and later treasurer. The band included the presi-
dent (the Rev. Canon R. P. Wilkinson), the vice-president (Mr. Colin
Harrison), the general secretary (Mr. Ernest Morris) and the Notts
district secretary (Mr. T. Groombridge, jun.).

The average age of the ringers of the first seven bells in the peal
at Anstey is 15 years 10 months.

THE BELLS OF ATHENS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Perhaps the readers of 'The Ringing World' would like
to know a little about the bells of Athens. I say a little, because in
the short time at my disposal I was only able to visit a few of the
many churches. Firstly and most interesting of all I think is the
information I obtained that none of the churches or bells were inter-
fered with by the Germans. At the Church of St. Nikolas (Greek)
there are three bells, the largest being about 8 cwt., and I saw these
being 'chimed.' All the bells are secured to beams by chains and
the warden has to climb among them to perform his duties. This he
accomplishes by pulling the clapper on to the bell by means of a
length of rope. Bells one and two or two and three are usually
rung together with frequent changing to end up with a flourish of
all three.

At St. Trinity (Russian) there is a bell tower which stands away
from the church. There are eleven bells. These, too, are manipulated
in the same manner as at St. Nikolas, except that the smaller bells
are chimed in either twos or threes, the clappers being attached to
the same length of rope. The heavy bell housed in the lower of two
chambers weighs about 3 tons, the remainder of the bells (10) are
above and range in weight from 25-30 cwt. to 56 lb., all secured by
chains to beams. The heavy bell, 'Nikodimos,' bears the following:
OPERA DEI FRATELLI DE POLI. FONDITORI IN GENOVA 1855.
DEPOSITO DI BRONZI DI. C. I. MÜLLER. TRIESTE. The same let-
tering appears on every bell. At the Metropolitan Church there are
a number of small bells, but I was unable to visit the tower. It might
be of interest to readers also to state that the English Church of St.
Paul is intact and services are again being held there.

ALBERT FORD, R.S.M.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. MEETING AT POTTERNE.

A meeting of the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild
was held at Potterne on November 4th. The Vicar, the Rev. R. C.
Turner, conducted the service in the church and welcomed the ringers.
Twenty-two sat down to tea in the Parish Hall. The towers repre-
sented were Melksham, Keevil, North Bradley, Devizes (St. John's and
St. Mary's), Potterne, Bishops Cannings, Seend, Market Lavington
and Southbroom.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

ANNUAL LUNCHEON.

The 307th anniversary luncheon of the Ancient Society of College Youths was held at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, in the City of London, on November 11th. The Master, Mr. Ernest G. Fenn, presided, and the treasurer, Mr. Albert Hughes, was in the vice-chair. There were also present Mr. E. H. Lewis, the Rev. Canon G. F. Coleridge, the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards, and Messrs. A. B. Peck, E. A. Young, E. P. Duffield, G. Strickland, C. T. Coles, C. W. Moore, R. Richardson, R. Stannard, R. Crick, A. W. Brighton, F. Newman, F. Miller, J. A. Trollope, C. Kippin, G. Fearn, J. E. Cockey, F. Sharpe, G. Cecil, F. Collins, H. Hoskins, J. Rumley, F. Shorter, H. Pitstow, H. Miles, W. A. Knight, E. M. Atkins, G. W. Steere, J. Bullock, W. Pasmore, H. R. Newton, W. Seabrook, A. B. Wiffen, L. A. Tomes, G. N. Price, H. Hodgetts, C. Meyer, R. T. Newman, H. Jordan, A. Walker, J. Shepherd, A. Cain, W. E. Box, W. Williams, C. Roberts, W. Hibbert, W. Porter, G. Goodship, F. Smallwood, J. W. Jones, A. W. Heath, J. Phillips, R. F. Deal, T. Hibbert, A. H. Brown, W. Elson, W. Hughes, C. Parkes, C. Dean, G. Hoad, W. D. Smith, E. Dench, J. Hawkins, J. Humphries, T. Townsend, J. Cullingworth, J. Berry, T. Meyer, D. Cooper, D. Wright, J. Thomas, D. Langdon, H. Bishop, W. Daniell, J. Daniell and A. Major.

During the luncheon the Master congratulated Canon Coleridge on his 87th birthday, which would fall on the following day.

The Rev. F. Ll. Edwards proposed the toast of 'The Ancient Society of College Youths.' He said that throughout its history it had steadily carried on its activities amid all the confusion of political upheaval and international conflict. It was during the troublous times of the Civil War and the 'dynastic' revolution of the seventeenth century that the College Youths and kindred societies were engaged in building up from its foundations the whole structure of change ringing. During that period Fabian Stedman introduced his unsurpassed method, the gradual development of our art from its earliest beginnings took shape and those sound traditions were established which the ringers of the present day are proud to claim as their inheritance.

All through the Napoleonic Wars the progress of ringing was maintained—one recorded peal was rung almost on the eve of the battle of Waterloo. Then in the present century the ringing fraternity was faced with the trials and difficulties of the Great War. Ringing after dark was prohibited, and the normal practices of the College Youths were suspended. Under such conditions the organisation of the society might easily have become disintegrated and its standard of efficiency been allowed to lapse, but its vitality and perseverance triumphed over all difficulties, and on the return of peace the activities of the belfry were resumed with undiminished vigour: great developments in method ringing took place and new records were created.

But it was in the present day that the greatest war of all history subjected the Ancient Society to the most severe test of its strength and virtue. All ringing ceased for two years. In towers with which the College Youths were associated the bells were destroyed. The Coffee Pot itself had become a casualty—but the friendly teapot in Whitechapel Road had taken its place, and Mr. Hughes' name would be assured of honourable remembrance in the annals of the society for the part that he had played in providing for the continuance of regular meetings. The good attendance at those fortnightly meetings, the keen interest manifested and the frequent election of new members bore gratifying testimony to the vitality, power and appeal of the Ancient Society of College Youths. The Master might well be proud to preside over a fraternity which had given such convincing proof of invincible determination and would without fail continue its good work of promoting the English art of change ringing, upholding the best traditions of the Exercise and rendering faithful service to the Church.

Mr. A. B. Peck, the hon. secretary, replied to the toast. He thanked Mr. Edwards for the nice things he had said. The hopes expressed at the last luncheon that the war would be ended had not been fulfilled, but the society had had a prosperous year. Twenty-six meetings, including one at Bushey, had been held, and at them the Master had put in 26 attendances, the secretary 26, and the treasurer 25. Sixty-two members in all were present, some of them, of course, many times. Three peals had been rung, Bob Major at Dagenham, Stedman Caters at Stepney, and Cambridge Royal at Beckenham.

Mr. Peck paid a tribute to the hospitable services Mr. A. A. Hughes had rendered to the society and read letters from Sergt. K. Arthur and Major J. H. B. Hesse. Twenty-five members had been elected and 19 had been lost by death during the year: Frank Butler, Lieut. W. Troke, John W. Steddy, F. S. Sander, Walter Farley, Richard T. Woodley, Thomas Newman, William Madgwick, Charles H. Jennings, J. B. Cherry (1873), Eric J. Coe, Brian Wayman, Derek M. Sharp, Thomas B. Worsley, Dr. J. Symonds, James H. Riding, Robert Brett, John Austin and John J. Lamb. Three men had also passed away who, although not themselves members, were well known to the members—F. G. Symonds, W. H. Fussell and A. J. Neale.

In giving the toast of 'The Kindred Societies,' Mr. Albert A. Hughes said that it must have been many years after the foundation of the society that such a toast, or its equivalent, was included in the list, and he could not help feeling what a pleasure those old members must have missed in not being able to welcome representatives of other ringing bodies at the annual feast. There were, of course, not

many other societies in those early days, and so the annual feast was probably confined to the meeting members with perhaps one or two civic dignitaries. They knew from records that they must have had a very good time on those occasions with a menu of probably not less than twelve courses and a good assortment of wine—very different from the Spartan fare of to-day—but how much more pleasant it would have been for them to welcome brethren from any other city where change ringing was developing.

That day on the 307th anniversary, despite all the many war-time difficulties, they were proud and happy to know that they had at least twelve provincial guilds or associations represented, and in giving that number he was not counting on anyone answering for more than one association or guild. Of course, most of them were members of a number of guilds. They were very glad indeed again to welcome visitors to the festive board. They in London eagerly looked forward each year to that occasion when they could once again have the joy of meeting brethren from other societies.

Replying, Mr. John W. Jones said it was a joy to him to be present there that day and to reply to the toast of 'The Kindred Societies.' The College Youths were like the Marylebone Cricket Club, ringers all over the country looked up to them to set the standard. He was speaking for the guilds and associations throughout the country when he returned thanks.

Mr. C. T. Coles said that when, in 1940, the ban was placed on ringing people tried to think out schemes for rehabilitation. Mr. Goldsmith was responsible for the appointment of a committee to consider the matter, and, as one of them, he (Mr. Coles) became acquainted with their views. They were very divergent and showed that there was no royal road to the restoration of ringing except through the exertions of the ringers themselves. Without the loyal support of its members no association could thrive, but, provided that support is forthcoming, there was no reason why ringing should not attain the high degree of efficiency it reached during the years before the war. In those districts which seemed to be free from disturbances there is already some activity and a return to efficiency, and while they in London were perhaps a little envious of the opportunities the others had, they felt that the examples of Leicester, Birmingham and elsewhere would be emulated up and down the country as soon as conditions permitted. Even where enemy action still takes place it had been found possible to make progress, as witness Mr. John Thomas and his pupils. In the past there had been too much antagonism and suspicion between associations. That should cease, and with goodwill and some give-and-take it could be avoided. The habit of holding joint meetings had grown up in recent years, and it would be for the good of the Exercise if it were continued and extended. He hoped it would be possible for the College Youths and his own Middlesex Association to spend a pleasant Saturday afternoon together. They were all engaged on the same purpose, the fostering of their great and glorious art.

The Master proposed the toast of 'Absent Members and Friends.' The time was not far distant when the war would be over and they would meet again happier circumstances.

Mr. C. W. Roberts gave the toast of 'The Press.' He said the Press was one of the things people took for granted and it was only in times like this that they realised how much they owed to those who edited and produced the papers. 'The Ringing World' had passed through very difficult times, and, like its big brothers, it had weathered the storm. They could not think of 'The Ringing World' without remembering its founder and first editor, Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, who successfully carried the paper through its early stages and established it on a sound footing. They were very fortunate to have among them someone who could carry on the work in the person of Mr. J. A. Trollope, the present editor, and since the death of Mr. Goldsmith he had continued to maintain the high standard set by his predecessor. 'The Ringing World' had changed from a privately owned paper to being the official journal of the Central Council, and he could not let the occasion pass without thanking those officials of the Council who worked hard during the change-over to keep the paper going. He hoped that, when peace returned, 'The Ringing World' would carry on and go from strength to strength and that ringers of all tastes would always find in its pages something both edifying and instructive.

Mr. Trollope thanked the gathering for the kind things said and the way in which the toast had been received. He did not know whether he deserved it, but he could say he had done his best. That did not mean that another man would not have done the job differently and perhaps better. He had not pleased everybody at all times, for that was impossible. One definite rule he had, which was that 'The Ringing World' must be conducted in the interests of the general readers and not in the interests of the people who sent things for publication. Many people did not realise that what was important to them personally might be of little or no interest to persons outside their close immediate circle. The kindness and sympathy of readers all over the country had greatly helped him in his task.

Mr. E. A. Young asked the company to drink to the fragrant memory of the masters of 300, 200 and 100 years ago, Capt. Harrison, William Gardiner and James Mash, and gave a short and interesting account of men who had occupied the chair at functions similar to that they were then attending, in the centuries gone by.

After the luncheon the belfry of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, was open, the methods rung being Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Cambridge, Bristol and London Surprise Major.

HENRY THOMAS ELLACOMBE.

(Continued from page 457.)

In the early days of the nineteenth century the Exercise in the country towns and villages was largely made up by what were called tradesmen—shoemakers, carpenters, blacksmiths, tailors and the like—master men who practised each his own craft in his own shop or home. They were not cultured men, nor intellectual men, and they fully shared the faults and failings of their class. But they held their heads high among their fellows and generally were held in esteem by people. Even Ellacombe, who saw so much to find fault with in the ringers of his father's parish, admitted that they 'were considered respectable, honest men in their way.' Thomas Geering, who was born in 1813, and in 1884 was the 'oldest inhabitant' of the town of Hailsham, in Sussex, gave his recollections of the parish as it was in his boyhood, and they are good evidence for our present purpose. 'Looking back,' he said, 'we may note a few features and changes. To begin with our bellringers. Then the master tradesman thought it no degradation, but rather an honourable distinction to be one to minister to the rites of the belfry. To be a ringer was a privilege. I remember but one new hand, and he carried his election by force of prescriptive right and family interest. His father had been one of the fraternity, and his brother stood then the foremost man as leader.

'Each bell had its regular hand. There was the hatter, glover, tailor, shoemaker and blacksmith in succession, and a few others—odd men to take a turn as occasion required—and one who was always needed to fetch the beer from the tavern. They were all professionally earnest, devoted men, and, to do them justice, as a rule—and what rule is not more or less broken?—they were sober men. But the potent god bred of malt and hops at times got possession of the brain, and then was the time to take note of the work of the features and lips as the ropes flew up and down.

'No wedding was allowed to go unringed or uncared for. On practice nights and rare occasions they would treat the outside world with a set of changes. Four bells allowed but little variation, yet with the steady and even pull of the tenor by the tall blacksmith, George Huggett, and the clear unerring lead of the hatter, Samuel Jenner, the old-fashioned peal was considered to be eclipsed by the change of four-and-twenty.

'The great treat of the year was, when I was a boy, to be awakened on Christmas morning by the early chatter of the bells, and to lay awake watching until midnight on New Year's Eve to hear the old year rung out and the new year rung in; and during the whole of my life I have never once on these occasions been beyond the reach of these gladdening sounds.

'Our old ringers would yearly make a house-to-house call and accept any gratuity as an acknowledgment of their services. What master tradesman now among us would do the like?'

This picture may serve for the small towns all over the country, but of course there were variants. In many places there were ringers whose technical skill far surpassed that of the Hailsham men, and here and there were societies of somewhat better-class men, a survival from the previous century which was slowly but surely dying out. In the larger towns there were such societies as the College Youths and the Norwich Scholars, and in

the country parishes the farmers supplied a fair proportion of the ringers. In character these old ringers were very similar to the musicians and ringers who performed on Sundays in the village churches. They shared their good qualities and their bad, and indeed often the same men acted in both capacities. What the village musicians were like can be seen in Thomas Hardy's novel, 'Under the Greenwood Tree.'

But a great change was coming over the habits and thoughts of the people of England. The eighteenth century had been a period when things moved very slowly, if they moved at all. There was tolerance and indifference in religion, and the church parsons and authorities accepted things as they were and saw no particular reason why they should do anything to improve them, so long as people as a rule lived what were considered honest and respectable lives according to the not very high standards of the time. Drunkenness was common—far too common, every thinking person would have agreed—but that was a thing which, as Iago said, might happen 'to you or to me or anyone else.'

Then there came one or two events which altered everything and profoundly influenced the ringing Exercise, though their effects were not felt there until well on into the nineteenth century. The first and earliest was the revival of religion begun by John Wesley. There is no reason to suppose that this directly touched the Exercise as a whole. What it did do was eventually to set up standards of life and conduct which were different from those of the ringers and the class to whom they belonged; and so it came to pass that the sort of men once considered 'respectable' and 'honest' were judged to be 'profane' and 'profligate.' The Evangelical Movement inside the Church of England, which was largely the result of the outside Wesleyan movement, and the later High Church Oxford Movement both widened the gap between the ideals of religious persons and those of the Exercise.

The second great influence was the industrial revolution which changed England from a mainly agricultural country into the 'workshop of the world.' The country became rich and powerful. It was able to carry on war against France, then by far the strongest military power in the world, for twenty years, sometimes, as in the present war, single handed and in seemingly hopeless conditions, and to conquer in the end. But the price that had to be paid was to drain the country districts of a large proportion of the best men, who were crowded into the new industrial towns, where the conditions of life were vile and thick clouds of smoke from countless factory chimneys fouled the air and defiled the country and everything in it. The things which make for the higher civilisation, such as art and music and beauty and home comforts, were almost entirely neglected, and though many virtues flourished under those adverse conditions, they were mostly of the harder and more unlovely sort. The ringers of the industrial towns of the North and Midlands seem to have had marked differences in character from those of the still agricultural South; they were cleverer as ringers, but harder, more quarrelsome, and more inclined to conduct which offended against the rising standards of churchmen.

The social life of the small towns and villages was little affected until long after, but the general tendency was for the farmers and the 'master tradesmen' to

abandon ringing, which was left to the farm labourers and the humbler classes of working men in town and village. They almost exclusively formed the ringers with whom Ellacombe and his friends found so much fault. They inherited the traditions which had come down in the Exercise, and they had the faults and failings which belonged to their own class. They were largely outside the influence of the Church, and it is not surprising that their conduct was not such as Ellacombe considered fitting in persons whose activities brought them into relation with the church.

CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 466.)

Regarding the bells of St. Matthew's Church, Newcastle, Northumberland, it is stated that they are now unringable, being too heavy for the tower. Of them Mr. Storey writes: 'A good many years ago I rang the tenor in an attempt for a peal of Stedman, but after 3 hours 10 minutes the ringer of the 6th gave in. The whole church seemed to oscillate—even the gas bracket on the pulpit at the other end of the church showing movement. The way to the belfry is by a circular stair up to the roof of the porch, and then up an open air ladder into the ringing room. No other attempt for a peal has been made here.'

Mr. John Thomas informs me that at Hutton, near Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, the church of St. Mary has a ring of five bells with a tenor about 10 cwt. 'Here all the ropes fall about four inches from the walls, and all the ringers used to stand facing the wall, and doing their ringing by ear!' The Rev. Mr. Davis adds 'they are rung from the ground floor and the ropes fall in the order of 1-3-2-5-4. The tower is of three stages embattled with pierced parapet, pinnacles and octagonal spired stair turret at the south-east angle. The bells date from 1627 to 1708. A somewhat similar instance is at St. John the Evangelist, Whitfield, Northants, where the five bell ropes all fall within three or four inches of the walls—a place for sore knuckles. These bells are all by J. Taylor and Co., and dated 1870, except 3rd, which is 1869, and the tenor is 7 cwt. approximately. It is a western tower with octagonal broach spire. The church was rebuilt by private subscription in 1870.

I have mentioned Hutton above, and there is yet another village of the same name in Essex also with five bells placed in an unusual tower. Here the church of All Saints was apparently rebuilt in the 14th century and consists of chancel, nave with aisles, north porch and a timber bell turret added in the 15th century. This turret is at the west end of the nave and stands on six oak posts, with cross-beams and curved braces. The turret is about 10 ft. by 5 ft., running lengthwise along the nave roof, and the five bells therein are hung in an iron frame. Tenor 7 cwt. by T. Mears, 1814. Treble and 4th by Lester and Pack, 1767; 2nd by Anthony Bartlet, 1655; 3rd by William Laud, 1637. The ropes come down amongst the seats at the back of the church.

A tower which occupies a similar position to that at Steventon (mentioned before) is at Staplegrove, Somerset. Here the bells are rung from the base of the tower which serves as a porch to the church. It is of great interest to note that General Alexander—so prominent in

the war news of to-day—is connected with this church, and acts as a lay reader when in residence at the Manor House of the parish. The six bells—tenor 13 cwt.—were rehung in 1897. The 4th bell has the curious inscription:—

'Yovng men are wee in esteeme bvt smale bvt willing.
I.P. C.W. 1653. W.P. To cast mee thovgh feortvne doe faile vs.'

Another tower which forms the entrance to the church on the south side is at Michael-Dean, Glos, and here the bells are rung from the ground floor. Here is a ring of eight bells, tenor 14½ cwt., and the congregation on entering pass through the rope circle—four on either side. The bells, however, have been neglected for some years and are now difficult to ring. All are by Rudhall, of Gloucester, 1760, except the tenor, recast by I. Rudhall, 1819, and the 7th has been recast by Mears, 1864. There is a Ting-tang, also by Rudhall.

The modern church of St. Edward the Confessor, at Netley, Hants, built in 1885-6, consists of chancel, nave, south porch and embattled east tower with pinnacles, and containing eight bells, tenor 9½ cwt., by J. Warner and Sons. Here ringing is done from the ground floor by the side of the altar steps, and the ringers are in full view from three sides, excluding the door which has access to the churchyard.

The Church of St. Nicholas, Pevensey, Sussex, dating from the 13th century—the main portion about 1211—has been largely restored. The chancel has a pronounced curvature to the left and is more than usual length. Here the tower is at the east end of the north aisle, very similar in position to that at All Saints', Leicester. It has a ring of six, and they are rung from the ground floor, the tower being open on three sides, and ringers are thus in full view of the congregation. At All Saints', Leicester, however, the tower is open on one side only, and originally the ringers could only be seen on that side through the magnificent tower arch. One full peal was rung from the ground floor—a difficult task owing to the long draught of rope—conducted by the present writer. Later, the ringing chamber was moved upstairs, and a few further peals were rung on the five bells. These bells have stood on the floor at the west end of the church for the last ten years, but now are to be restored and, it is hoped, increased to eight and rehung in a new metal frame.

(To be continued.)

THE MONTH'S PEALS

More peals were rung in October than in any other month, so far, this year. The number was 73, 56 being on tower bells and 17 on handbells.

The tower-bell peals consisted of: Grandsire Doubles 5, Triples 6; Bob Doubles 2, Minor 3, Major 6; Little Bob Major 1; Stedman Triples 7, Caters 1, Cinques 1; Kent Treble Bob Major 3, Oxford 1; Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1; Cambridge Surprise Minor 2, Major 2, Royal 1, Maximus 1; Superlative Surprise Major 2, Bristol 2, London 1; three Doubles methods 1; two to seven Minor methods 6.

The handbell peals consisted of: Grandsire Triples 3; Bob Major 4; Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Major 1, Oxford Treble Bob Royal 1; Stedman Caters 6, Cinques 1; Double Norwich Major 1.

Twelve peals were rung muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury. The number of peals in January was 50, in February 34, in March 37, in April 48, in May 41, in June 34, in July 47, in August 57, and in September 59: making a total for the year (so far) of 480.

FINCHLEY.—On Saturday, November 11th, 1,440 Kent Treble Bob Minor: F. Tubb 1, R. Newman 2, F. Barker 3, B. Tubb 4, E. Pratchett 5, T. Lock (conductor) 6. Ring half-muffled for Remembrance Day.
THATCHAM. BERKS.—On Sunday, November 12th, 1,296 Bob Major: H. W. Curtis 1, S. J. Hector 2, A. Diserens 3, Mrs. C. Pearce 4, T. Lanaghan 5, C. Pearce 6, T. E. Loxton 7, R. W. Rex (conductor) 8.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

ST. ALBANS.—On Sunday, October 29th, at St. Peter's, 1,280 Bob Minor: *B. C. Johnson 1, S. Jones 2, *Mrs. K. M. Darvall 3, *W. J. Southam 4, R. Dobson 5, A. Dale 6, A. Day 7, R. Darvall (conductor) 8. * First quarter-peal in method.

SEPHTON, LIVERPOOL.—On October 31st, 2,160 Bob Minor: S. Flint 1, J. Marsh 2, J. Lunham 3, J. Taylor 4, T. Horridge 5, N. Heaps (conductor) 6. Half-muffled for the Archbishop.

LIVERPOOL.—On October 31st, at All Saints', Childwall, 1,260 Stedman, Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles: A. Lintott 1, T. Lee 2, G. R. Newton (conductor) 3, F. S. Almond 4, Thomas W. Hesketh 5, G. Sergeant 6. Half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

OXHEY, HERTS.—On Tuesday, October 31st, 720 Bob Minor: Mrs. G. Savill 1, L. Tarr 2, G. C. Tarr (first 720 in the method) 3, J. Cleaver 4, H. Hodgetts 5, F. W. Brinklow (conductor) 6. Rung half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.—On Sunday, November 5th, 720 Bob Minor: W. Attwood (first 720 Bob Minor) 1, H. Hodgetts 2, G. C. Tarr 3, L. Tarr 4, J. Rootes 5, F. W. Brinklow (conductor) 6.

NORTHAMPTON.—On November 2nd, at St. Peter's, 720 Bob Major: Geoffrey Gayton 1, Miss Edna Travill 2, John Fitzhugh 3, William Hammons 4, William Oallis 5, Philip Jones 6, George Care 7, Joseph W. L. Linnitt (conductor) 8.

OXFORD.—On November 3rd, at New College, 639 Stedman Caters: Miss E. Badder 1, Miss B. Spice 2, Miss M. L. Tutt 3, Miss M. D. Telford 4, C. Coles 5, H. Badder 6, W. F. Judge 7, V. J. F. Bennett 8, J. E. Spice (conductor) 9, N. Allnatt 10. Half-muffled for the funeral of Mr. D. R. Boulton, late Dean of New College.

BOCKING, ESSEX.—On Saturday, November 4th, 720 Grandsire Doubles: Miss M. Hutley 1, Mrs. E. M. Huxter 2, S. Bones 3, H. A. Pratt 4, R. Suckling (conductor) 5, R. Le Beau 6.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD.—On Sunday, November 5th, 630 Oxford Bob Triples: Miss D. Wacey 1, R. Wood 2, E. Garbett 3, F. Bird (conductor) 4, H. Bull 5, H. W. White 6, W. T. Prior 7, T. Ward 8. Half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

FRINDSBURY.—On Sunday, November 5th, 720 Bob Minor: W. Collishaw 1, D. S. Hills (first 720 of Bob Minor) 2, C. E. J. Norris 3, H. Springale 4, E. A. G. Allen 5, W. A. J. Knight (conductor) 6.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD.—On November 5th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Mrs. R. Jeffs 1, *H. B. Whitney 2, *E. R. Butcher 3, W. Botsford 4, Miss D. Liddbetter 5, W. Jeffs 6, J. E. Arnold (conductor) 7, J. H. Conquest 8. First quarter-peal in the method.

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.—On Sunday, November 5th, 720 Plain Bob Minor, with tenor covering: H. Howes 1, L. R. Trussler 2, G. C. Goodman 3, W. H. Seabrook 4, Lieut. W. F. Gibbons, R.E.M.E. 5, H. W. Barrett (conductor) 6, W. Maxwell tenor.

LIVERPOOL.—On Sunday, November 5th, at St. Francis Xavier's, 1,944 Stedman Triples, composed by T. Butler, sen.: T. Lee 1, G. R. Newton 2, T. W. Hammond 3, T. W. Gilmour 4, T. R. Butler (conductor) 5, T. W. Hesketh 6, P. W. Cave 7, F. S. Almond 8.

WEDNESBURY.—On Sunday, November 5th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *D. Knowles 1, T. Burkitt 2, A. Hubble 3, H. Moreton 4, D. Hingley 5, A. Hingley 6, K. Knowles (conductor) 7, *G. Darlington 8. * First quarter-peal. Half-muffled for Mr. F. Parsons.

ALLSLEY, COVENTRY.—On Sunday, November 5th, 720 York Surprise Minor: C. H. Aylett 1, H. G. Summers 2, J. W. T. Taylor (first touch in the method) 3, E. Stone 4, J. W. Taylor 5, W. A. Stole (conductor) 6.

SIBLE HEDDINGHAM.—On November 5th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: C. J. Barker 1, F. Wiseman 2, S. Dace 3, B. W. Pettit 4, A. Catterwell (conductor) 5, E. W. Pye 6.

HEREFORD.—On Sunday, November 5th, at All Saints', 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: *Michael P. Moreton 1, Arthur W. Davies 2, Henry Johnson 3, *Ronald D. M. Lewis 4, Wilfred F. Moreton (conductor) 5, Eric W. Suddrick 6. * First quarter-peal.

MAISEY HAMPTON, GLOS.—On Sunday, November 5th, 1,260 Bob Minor: W. C. Cuss 1, H. Acock 2, W. A. Godwin (first quarter-peal of Minor as conductor) 3, E. Cooper 4, L. W. Cuss 5, P. R. Williams 6.

CHELMSFORD.—On Sunday, November 5th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: R. Thrift 1, Miss A. White 2, H. Devenish 3, A. Bradley 4, E. J. Runter (conductor) 5, A. Brunton 6.

NORTHREPPS, NORFOLK.—On Sunday, November 5th, 720 Doubles (Plain, Grandsire, St. Simon's and April Day): Harold Payne 1, Cyril Pooley 2, Rev. William Blyth 3, Frank Lufkin 4, Nolan Golden (conductor) 5, Tom James 6.

DISS.—On Sunday, November 5th, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor, tenor covering: D. Whiting 1, F. C. Roper 2, A. G. Harrison 3, C. J. More (conductor) 4, F. Munnings 5, E. G. Bennett 6, W. Musk 7. Half-muffled for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

HITCHIN.—On Sunday, November 5th, 720 Bob Minor: F. Day 1, C. V. Hare 2, T. Scott 3, A. E. Symonds (conductor) 4, E. Winters 5, L. Fidler 6, A. G. Crane 7.

CRENCESHER.—On Sunday, November 5th, at Holy Trinity, Watlington, 1,260 Bob Minor, with tenor covering: *R. J. Wallis 1, A. W. Baldwin 2, F. J. Lewis (conductor) 3, A. Painter 4, A. Law 5, W. H. Hayward 6, *R. R. Wallis 7. * First quarter-peal.

STANSTED, ESSEX.—On Tuesday, November 7th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: F. W. Tharby 1, C. Chalk 2, T. Jordan 3, W. Prior 4, G. Jordan 5, I. Cavill (conductor) 6, W. T. Prior 7, F. P. Morton 8. Rung half-muffled for the funeral of Mr. V. Watts, one of the local band.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—Meeting Linton, Saturday, Nov. 18th, 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business. Buses leave Maidstone 2.30 and 3.5. Half travelling expenses up to 2s. paid.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting, Saturday, Nov. 18th, 3 p.m., Whitechapel Bell Foundry, E.1. Ringing St. Dunstan's, Stepney, 4.30.—A. B. Peck.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Davenport Branch.—Meeting at Badby (6 bells), Saturday, Nov. 18th. Usual arrangements.—W. C. Moore, 5, William's Terrace, Davenport, Northants.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—Meeting at Totternhoe (6 bells), Saturday, Nov. 18th, 2.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—D. E. Liddbetter, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Meeting at Sapcote, Saturday, Nov. 18th, 3.30 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at St. Alkmund's, Derby, on Saturday, Nov. 18th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Cafes nearby.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Meeting, Erdington (8 bells), Saturday, Nov. 18th, 3.30 p.m. Tea in Church House 5 p.m.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Annual District Meeting, Bushey, Saturday, Nov. 18th, 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—Annual meeting at Newbury, Saturday, Nov. 18th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Anstey, Nov. 18th, 2.30 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—Meeting at Ashted, Saturday, Nov. 25th. Service 4.30. Tea at Peace Memorial Hall 5.15. Names to G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead.—A. H. Smith.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Mary's, Ealing, Saturday, Nov. 25th, 3 p.m. Business in belfry 5 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—J. E. Lewis Cockev, Hon. Dis. Sec. Perivale 5320.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Powick, Saturday, Nov. 25th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea and business. Names to Mr. G. Lewis, Wyche-fields, Powick, Worcester.

TUXFORD, NOTTS.—Practice, Saturday, Nov. 25th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea, 1s., near church. Good bus service from Retford.—H. Denman.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Michael's, Wood Green, Saturday, Nov. 25th, 2.30 p.m. Service and tea. Two minutes' from Wood Green Underground Station. — T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch. —Meeting at St. James', Birch-in-Rusholme, 3.30 p.m., Saturday, November 25th. No tea.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport and Bowdon Branch. —Meeting at Hyde, Saturday, Nov. 25th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Names by Nov. 21st.—T. Wilde, 23, York Road, Hyde, Cheshire.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch. —Meeting at Terrington St. Clement, Saturday, Nov. 25th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Bring food. Tower blacked out.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Rural Branch. —Meeting at Stapleton, Saturday, Nov. 25th. Bells (6) 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Names by Nov. 20th.—Cyril R. Harding, Acting Branch Sec., 77, Bromley Heath Road, Downend, near Bristol.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch. —Meeting at St. Thomas', Newhey, Saturday, Nov. 25th. Names for tea to Mr. S. S. Fitton, 23, Huddersfield Road, Newhey, by Wednesday, Nov. 22nd.—I. Kay, Hon. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Cirencester Branch. —Meeting at Fairford, Saturday, Nov. 25th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Cards for tea by Nov. 20th to Mr. J. Hope, London Street, Fairford, Glos.—W. H. Haywood, Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch. —Meeting at The Saviour's, Bolton, Saturday, Nov. 25th, 2.30. Business 6.30. Cups of tea provided.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch. —Practice, Cookham (6 bells), Saturday, November 25th, 4.30 p.m. Bring tea; none can be obtained locally.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Biggleswade District. —Meeting at Tempsford, Saturday, Nov. 25th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District. —Meeting at Sandridge, Saturday, Nov. 25th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea in Parish Hall 5 p.m. Frequent buses from St. Albans. Names by Nov. 22nd to R. W. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division. —Meeting at Cheshunt, Saturday, November 25th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business 5.15 p.m. Names by Nov. 22nd.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon, Herts.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Practice at St. Michael's, Southampton, Saturday, Nov. 25th, 2.30-6 p.m. No tea.—G. Pullinger.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery. —Meeting at Kewstoke, Saturday, Nov. 25th. Bells (6) 6.30-9 p.m.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Rawmarsh, Saturday, Nov. 25th, 2.30 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea, 1s., 5 p.m. Names by Nov. 21st.—W. E. Lloyd, 3, Cranbrook Road, Doncaster.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at St. Chad's, Headingley, Nov. 25th, 3 p.m. Tea can be obtained near. Business in tower 7 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District. —Meeting at Tenterden, Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. Names to P. Page, Hon. Dis. Sec., 110, Canterbury Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent.

DEVON GUILD.—Exeter Branch. —Annual meeting at Exeter, December 2nd. Service at St. Thomas' Church 4.30. Tea in Boys' Club at 5. Names by Nov. 26th.—W. H. Howe, 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Penshurst, Saturday, Dec. 2nd. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. Names to G. Edwards, Elliott's House, Penshurst, by Nov. 29th.—T. Saunders, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch. —Meeting at Olney, Saturday, Dec. 2nd. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 3.30, followed by tea and business. Names by Nov. 27th.—R. H. Howson, 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

HANDBELLS WANTED

SET OF HANDBELLS, any number, medium or small size; must be in good condition.—Knight, Pernet, Broomleaf Road, Farnham, Surrey.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT SCOTTOW.

Twenty-three members were present at a meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association, held at Scottow on November 4th. They came from Mulbarton, Wighton, Norwich, New Buckenham, Hethersett, Wymondham, Isham (Northants), Buxton, Acle, Prittlewell (Essex), Ranworth, Wroxham and the local belfry. Tea was provided by the Vicar and church authorities. Some of the ringing (which included Cambridge Surprise and April Day Minor) was half-muffled for the Archbishop.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Horsham St. Faith's on December 9th, and to discuss then whether to return to the pre-war practice of holding branch meetings regularly, instead of (as at present) all general meetings. This and other subjects of future policy will be discussed again at a meeting at St. John de Sepulchre, Norwich, on January 13th.

DEATH OF MR EDWIN BALL

The death occurred on October 26th of Mr. Edwin Ball, of Blunsdon, near Swindon, Wilts, in his 91st year. He was captain of the local band, a member of the choir for over sixty years and parish clerk for over fifty years. Although he did not learn change ringing until after the last war, he rang the treble to two peals of Doubles.

At the funeral on October 30th the local band was represented by Messrs. A. Aubrey, E. Portlock, A. Trueman and J. Vincent. Muffled peals were rung before and after the interment in Blunsdon Cemetery.

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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.

'KINDRED SOCIETIES.'

When, at the recent luncheon of the College Youths, Mr. Albert Hughes pointed out that it was long after the foundation of the society that there was anything like a toast of 'Kindred Societies,' he was not merely mentioning an alteration in the ritual of the annual 'feast,' but was, in effect, calling attention to one of the most important changes which have taken place in the Exercise as a whole during the course of its long history. Until fifty or sixty years ago the spirit and intentions which lie behind such a toast were almost entirely lacking among ringers. It was not that they were any worse as men than their present day successors, or less kindly. It was that they had inherited traditions which had come down through the old societies from the guilds of the Middle Ages. They felt that a society could only exist and prosper so long as it looked after its own interests and treated as hostile rivals other companies whose activities might in any way come in contact with its own. If a society, in fact, was to gain anything, it could only be at the expense of another society.

There is nothing very strange about that feeling. It is founded on one of the deepest instincts of humanity. You will find it in business competition, and you will find it in the spirit of nationalism, which, pushed to extreme limits, ends in such a war as the world is now suffering from. The struggle for existence and the survival of the fittest, so it is said, is the law of nature; each for himself and the devil take the hindmost. It sounds harsh and brutal enough when put down in words like these, but it can easily present itself in more attractive form, and the ringers of old did not lack plausible justification for the jealousy and rivalry with which they regarded other bands, and especially those who might be suspected of aiming at the possession of some belfry or the beating of some record. It is stated on the authority of a still enforced rule of one of the oldest societies that this rivalry promoted the interests of change ringing; and so it did, but the price had to be paid.

It is instructive and amusing to open a volume of 'The Bell News' of fifty or sixty years ago and to turn to the correspondence columns. You will find that in nearly every letter the writer is attacking someone or some company, or is hitting back at a writer who has attacked him. It may be about the authorship or originality of a composition, or about the truth or quality

(Continued on page 482.)

of a peal performance (these were the favourite things to wrangle about), or about anything else which could bring two men into opposition. And the combatants did not mince their words. They slung insults and innuendoes at each other in a way which ought to have made them lifelong enemies.

The Exercise has got beyond that stage to-day. Men are not now so anxious to proclaim that other people's peals were badly struck, or that other people had 'stolen' someone's else composition. They do not write the old sort of letter, and if they did it would not be printed in 'The Ringing World.' It would hardly be true to say that individual ringers are any better than they were, but it is true, fortunately, that the Exercise as a whole is beginning to learn that, though struggle and rivalry may be important factors in life and progress, co-operation and mutual help are still more important. What has brought about the change is hard to say. It may partly be due to improved travelling facilities which have brought ringers so much more together. The influence of leading men has done much and the Central Council has borne its share. But whatever the cause, it is an excellent thing. Anything which helps, whether it be a joint meeting or a toast at a dinner, is all to the good. The Exercise may congratulate itself that it is beginning to learn the lesson, for there is much of the spirit of Christianity in it, as well as sound common sense. When the world as a whole has learnt it (and not until then) there will be an end of wars.

TEN BELL PEAL.

CHESTER.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 11, 1944, in Three Hours and Thirty-Two Minutes,
At the Cathedral,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 33 cwt.

THOMAS H. REEVES Treble	JOHN BOOTH... .. 6
ERNEST T. ALLAWAY 2	GEORGE R. NEWTON 7
THOMAS R. BUTLER 3	DAVID VINCENT 8
FRANK W. PERRENS 4	ARTHUR D. BARKER 9
JAMES W. GROUNDS 5	EDWIN C. BIRKETT Tenor

Composed by J. CARTER.

Conducted by F. W. PERRENS.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, November 5, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,
At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5065 CHANGES;

ALBERT J. WALLMAN 1-2	MRS. J. THOMAS 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	ERIC A. DENCH 7-8
* PHILIP J. COWARD 9-10	

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First peal of Stedman Caters.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, November 7, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CINQUES, 5081 CHANGES;

ALBERT J. WALLMAN 1-2	CHARLES W. ROBERTS... .. 7-8
MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4	ERIC A. DENCH 9-10
JOHN THOMAS 5-6	DENNIS H. LANGDON 11-12

Composed and Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

ST. ALBANS, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, November 8, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,
In the Belfry of the Cathedral,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

ERIC A. DENCH 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4	WALTER AYRE 7-8

HORACE E. C. GOODENOUGH 9-10

Arranged and Conducted by WALTER AYRE.

LONDON.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, November 10, 1944, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,
In the Vestry of Christ Church, Regent's Park,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

JOAN HOULDSWORTH 1-2	DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON 5-6
GEORGE R. H. SMITH... .. 3-4	* DENNIS N. LAYTON 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by GEORGE R. H. SMITH

* First peal.

KINSON, DORSET.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 11, 1944, in One Hour and Fifty Minutes,
At WEYMANS, MILLHAMS ROAD.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty six-scores, ten different callings, and one 240 Morris' arrangement.

MISS JESSIE C. CHICK... .. 1-2	MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4
FRANCIS S. WILSON 5-6	

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, November 14, 1944, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,
In the Vestry of Christ Church, Regent's Park,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 15 in C.

DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON 1-2	JOAN HOULDSWORTH 5-6
GEORGE R. H. SMITH... .. 3-4	VERNON J. BENNING 7-8

Conducted by GEORGE R. H. SMITH.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, November 15, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-One Minutes,
At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
ERIC A. DENCH 3-4	PHILIP J. COWARD 7-8

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, November 16, 1944, in Three Hours,
At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAXIMUS, 5016 CHANGES;

ALBERT J. WALLMAN 1-2	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE... .. 7-8
MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4	* MISS JOAN HOULDSWORTH 9-10
JOHN THOMAS 5-6	CHARLES W. ROBERTS 11-12

Composed and Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

* First peal of Maximus.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, November 18, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,

In the Choir Vestry of St. Peter's Church,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor size 15 in C.

ANDREW I. PEARMAIN... .. 1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS 5-6
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4	* BRUCE B. ROGERS 7-8

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* First peal.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

IPSWICH.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, November 11, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5136 CHANGES;

No. 36 C.C. Collection (adapted).

Tenor 16½ cwt.

MRS. SYLVIA R. E. PIPE ... Treble	WILLIAM J. G. BROWN ... 5
GEORGE A. FLEMING ... 2	CHARLES CLARKE ... 6
WILLIAM S. KINSEY ... 3	GEORGE E. SYMONDS ... 7
KEITH WHITTELL ... 4	GEORGE MORE ... Tenor

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by G. E. SYMONDS

RIPLEY, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 11, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 17 cwt.

WILLIAM THORNLEY, SEN. ... Treble	CYRIL JENNINGS ... 5
JOHN E. HOBBS ... 2	WILLIAM LANCASTER ... 6
ALFRED MOULD ... 3	ALEX. HUTCHINSON ... 7
FREDERICK A. SALTER ... 4	EDWARD F. GOBEY ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by E. F. GOBEY.

FARNHAM, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 18, 1944, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

H. EARLE BULWER'S IRREGULAR TEN-PART. Tenor 21 cwt. in E flat.

ALFRED H. POLLING ... Treble	WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... 5
FREDERICK A. H. WILKINS ... 2	ERNEST J. MUNDAY ... 6
WILLIAM T. BEESON ... 3	EDWARD R. COLES ... 7
GEORGE L. GROVER ... 4	FRANK C. W. KNIGHT ... Tenor

Conducted by A. H. POLLING.

Rung on the 73rd birthday of Mr. R. Hasted, captain of the local band.

MILVERTON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 18, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

DEXTER'S VARIATION.

Tenor 20 cwt.

DONALD G. CLIFT ... Treble	CLAUD TARR ... 5
HENRY FLOYD ... 2	CYRIL J. STEVENS ... 6
ALEC WALKER ... 3	ARTHUR H. REED ... 7
HERBERT WALKER ... 4	STANLEY N. BRISTOWE ... Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR H. REED.

* First peal in the method.

WINSCOMBE, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 18, 1944, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION.

Tenor 19½ cwt.

*MONICA J. RICHARDSON ... Treble	†EDWARD E. FISHER ... 5
NORMAN H. COOMBS ... 2	JOHN H. B. HESSE ... 6
THOMAS W. KIMBER ... 3	*EMLYN F. HANCOCK ... 7
CLEMENT GLENN ... 4	†GEORGE LILLEY ... Tenor

Conducted by CLEMENT GLENN.

* First peal in the method. † First peal of Triples.

SIX BELL PEALS.

HESSLE, EAST YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 11, 1944, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt. in F sharp.

*PHILIP H. SPECK ... Treble	ARTHUR H. FOX ... 4
FRANCIS W. DALE ... 2	*RONALD PEARSON ... 5
*FRANK C. LISTER ... 3	*GEORGE R. HESSEY ... Tenor

Conducted by RONALD PEARSON.

* First peal. First peal on the bells.

HEIGHINGTON, CO. DURHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 11, 1944, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

E. Bankes James' Arrangement.

Tenor 15½ cwt.

WILLIAM OLIVER ... Treble	ROBERT T. SIMPSON ... 4
JAMES T. TITT ... 2	ROLAND PARK ... 5
RICHARD BUSBY ... 3	W. NORMAN PARK ... Tenor

Conducted by ROLAND PARK.

Rung half-muffled for Armistice Day.

GROBY, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 11, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PHILIP AND JAMES,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent each of Single Court, Double Court, Double Oxford, Oxford Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 9½ cwt.

VICTOR GEARY ... Treble	*DEREK DODSON ... 4
*STANLEY GARDNER ... 2	*DENNIS DODSON ... 5
ERNEST GEARY ... 3	†REDVERS F. ELKINGTON ... Tenor

Conducted by REDVERS F. ELKINGTON.

* First peal of Minor. First peal of Minor as conductor.

RICHMOND, YORKS.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 18, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Surfleet, Beverley, Cambridge, York, Durham, Wells and London.

Tenor 15½ cwt.

RICHARD BUSBY ... Treble	GEORGE W. PARK ... 4
WILLIAM OLIVER ... 2	ROLAND PARK ... 5
ROBERT T. SIMPSON ... 3	W. NORMAN PARK ... Tenor

Conducted by W. NORMAN PARK.

First peal of Surprise on the bells.

ST. MARY REDCLIFFE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The bells of St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol, which were dismantled early in the war, have now been rebung by Messrs. Taylor, the first Sunday service ringing taking place on November 12th, when touches of Grandsire and Stedman Caters were rung.

There has not been a regular band at the church for upwards of 40 years. This fact has just been widely advertised in the local Press by the Vicar, Canon S. E. Swann, and a great effort is being made to form a regular band. The late Stephen H. Wood had started to teach a band here some time before his untimely death.

In the meantime, the bells will be available for service ringing on the second and fourth Sundays in the month at 5 p.m.

D. G. OLIFT.

21, Wathen Road, Bristol.

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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official Journal of the Central Council or Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.

The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to:—

The Editor,

'The Ringing World,'

c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
Guildford, Surrey.

Owing to increased paper supply we are now able to accept orders for the delivery of 'The Ringing World' by post. They should be sent to Mr. G. W. Fletcher, The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk, accompanied by remittance. The charge is 4s. 3d. per quarter.

Arrangements have also been made for larger supplies through the trade, and newsagents in any part of the country will be able to obtain copies through their wholesale firms.

Cheques and remittances should be made payable to 'The Ringing World.'

The peal of Stedman Caters at Chester Cathedral was rung by a band of Freemasons on the occasion of the visit of the Earl of Harewood, the Grand Master, to consecrate the St. Thomas Preceptory in the refectory of the Cathedral.

Mr. G. E. Symonds, the conductor of the peal at Ipswich, has now called every number of changes up to and including 5,184 of Plain Bob, Double Norwich, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise Major. He has called 40 different numbers of changes of 5,000 and over.

HIGH WYCOMBE.

On Sunday, November 5th, in the belfry of All Saints', High Wycombe, a peal board was dedicated by the Vicar. It records a peal of Stedman Cinquses rung by the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths on Empire Day, May 24th, 1939, and was presented by Mr. A. C. White, who was Mayor of Wycombe for three years. This is the fourth tablet given to the belfry by mayors of the town.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT LONGTON.

A meeting of the North Staffordshire Association, held at Longton on November 4th, was attended by 40 members from Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stoke, Hanley, Kingsley, Otheadle, Brown Edge, Crewe, Burslem, Norton, Bucknall, Leek, Norwich and the local belfry.

The ringing, which was half-muffled for the Archbishop, consisted of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Double Norwich Court Bob and rounds. The next meeting will be held at Stoke on December 2nd.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.

MEETING AT ALVERSTOKE.

A meeting of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild was held at Alverstoke on November 11th, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the dedication of the bells. Among those present were the Master (Mr. George Williams), the hon. general secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers), the treasurer (Mr. W. Linter), the secretary of the Portsmouth District (Mr. R. J. Stone), and members and visitors from Alton, Alverstoke, Fareham, Gosport, North Stoneham, Portsmouth (Cathedral and St. Mary's), Titchfield, Guildford and Chester.

The ringers were entertained to tea by the Rector, Canon G. Landon, who gave an account of how the original three bells were increased to eight by Messrs. Taylor as part of a war memorial. He praised the ringers for what they had done and wished the Guild continued prosperity.

The Guild service, conducted by the Rector, was held in the church. The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Plain Bob, Double Norwich, and Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major.

PEAL RINGING IN WAR-TIME.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have been interested in the opinions expressed in your editorial of October 27th and in your correspondence columns about the desirability of peal ringing at the present time.

My own feeling is one of amazement that peals are rung at all, and I include even those rung recently, muffled, for the late Archbishop of Canterbury. My newspaper publishes daily lists of war casualties, and there is hardly a spot of England unrepresented. I wonder what the bereaved people think if they are compelled to listen to a peal. You, sir, tell us 'the voices of the bells are more likely to bring consolation than regret and to be a blessing.' I wonder? At least I don't wonder at all, if the 'consolation and blessing' lasts three hours or more. Would it be soothing if one had just received a telegram from the War Office? And who wants to listen to three or four hours of half-muffled ringing? A quarter-peal if you like, but a 5,000! Not on your life.

There are places and places I know. Some where three peals a day have been rung, and half a century or more ago one read in 'The Bell News' after a peal at Warnham, Sussex, 'the bells came round at 6 a.m.' But there are not a lot of these places, and I am quite sure, in the future, the 'man in the street' will have to be considered.

Then, too, there are others, as well as the bereaved, to be thought of. Where I live we have had five years of battle training on the doorsteps and on top of the chimneys. Right round the clock, all day, all night, artillery, machine guns, dive bombers and other aircraft and all the rest, firing at targets on land and sea, and the great bombing armadas going out and returning from operations. People living outside such areas have no idea what it is like, and we are sometimes tempted to envy the totally deaf. No; we are not wishing for peals in this region, but rather for a little peace and quiet.

A quarter-peal is ample for practice purposes and enough to keep us in trim for victory ringing. Peals will come along all right when times are more suitable, and those times are not yet. For security reasons, sir, I had better sign myself—

'B'

THE HIGHEST HUNG BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reference to Mr. Alsop's letter, the site level of Queensbury Parish Church, near Bradford, Yorkshire, is 1,142ft. above sea level. The tower is 100ft. high and the bells stand approximately 70ft. from the ground, making the bells at a height of just over 1,200ft. I have, moreover, heard it said that Queensbury has the highest active ring of eight bells in the country, although, of course, this is open to controversy.

There are, no doubt, towers with bells higher than this, but the question seems to be if they are rung regularly or ringable.

I should think it doubtful if there are any active rings in Derbyshire about 1,000ft.

Perhaps someone else, however, may be able to surpass these figures.

PAUL BIRKETT.

Queensbury, near Bradford.

WELDING BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I read Sgt. Kenneth Arthur's letter about the proposal to weld the Liberty Bell in America. He says perhaps American welders have something to teach us on this point. I wonder whether it should not be the other way round in reality, for I believe that our old five bells (four cast in 1623 and one in 1604) were welded by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston as part of the restoration in 1933 at Acle, Norfolk. The bells were, I understand, cracked in the crowns and were repaired by welding in order to preserve the old bells.

The welding appears to have been successful, for the bells have been rung regularly since except during the ban, and they are quite pleasant to listen to from the outside. The effect inside is not so good, but I think that is due to the frame with its girders running down to the belfry floor. Perhaps Messrs. Gillett and Johnston or some ringers will be able to give more information about the welding of bells.

DENIS A. BAYLES.

Tatfield, Co. Durham.

'CURIOUS TOWERS.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The bells at Hutton, near Weston-super-Mare, do not have a rope circle falling 1-3-2-5-4 as stated by Mr. Davis in Mr. Morris' article on 'Curious Towers' last week. When I rang there in September, 1938, the treble rope fell in the centre of the tower with the others falling one more or less in each corner and in perfect anti-clockwise rotation. It was possible to stand with backs to the walls and ring these four, but it is quite possible that the ropes may have been 'thrown' from the walls by alteration of the ceiling rings since the days referred to by Mr. Thomas. The only real peculiarity was the treble, whose ringer could face any direction he chose, but would be unable to see more than two of the other four ropes at any time.

WILLIAM A. STOTE.

Coundon, Coventry.

HENRY COOPER.

BY JOHN DAY.

(Written in the year 1895.)

I believe Cooper is the first Birmingham composer who ever left any authenticated composition behind to perpetuate his name.

Charles Shuter, Fieldhouse, Pugh and several others appear in St. Martin's record book as composers of peals, but as far as I can trace nothing at all is left to show what they were like, except in the case of the Pugh (Taylor's so-called) six-part peal of Grandsire Triples.

Cooper's name first appears as composer and conductor about 1812.

He composed and conducted the opening peals on the ten bells at Aston in 1814, one of which—the Grandsire Royal—was false. He was also credited with conducting the Treble Bob Maximus at St. Martin's in 1820, but as a fact he only called the last course.

My uncle used to say that Thurstans became exhausted towards the end of the peal, that B. Pugh hearing how matters were going went up into the belfry and assisted Thurstans in the last course, the latter at the time calling to Cooper, 'Go on, Harry,' meaning him to finish calling the peal, and he did so.

Cooper bore a middling name among the old ringers, and chiefly for two reasons—firstly, his plagiarism of T. Day's peal of Stedman Triples, and, secondly, his dishonourable conduct in regard to the silver cup won by St. Martin's Youths at the opening of the twelve bells at St. Nicholas' Church, Liverpool.

First as to the Stedman Triples—T. Day quite early in his ringing career began to show considerable ability as a composer, his well-known peal of Grandsire Triples being rung at Kidderminster—conducted by himself—in 1827 when he would be in the twenty-fourth year of his age. The peal of Stedman Triples must have been produced soon after, as I have old letters by me showing that he was in correspondence with Squire Powell, of Quex Park, Isle of Thanet, and Mr. J. Tebbs, of Leeds, on that important subject, about that period and prior to 1830.

When it was noised abroad that Young Tom Day had got a peal of Stedman Triples that surpassed all previous ones Cooper did not believe it, so he prevailed on Mr. J. Hopkins, then a rising man in the neighbourhood and a mutual friend, to go and ask Day for the peal. Day was somewhat reluctant, knowing something of Cooper's character; however, he eventually gave the peal to Hopkins, at the same time informing him that Squire Powell also had a copy of it.

One may judge how indignant Day would be, when, some little time after, in 1830, a peal of Stedman Triples was rung on the front eight at St. Martin's, conducted by Mr. Joseph Powell, and published with a great flourish as the production of 'that able composer, Mr. H. Cooper'—indignant because when he saw the figures he found it was his own peal with the observation bell altered. He at once severed his connection with the St. Martin's Youths and did not enter the belfry again for more than twenty years.

The society showed their opinion of the affair, on entering the peal in the record book, by awarding the peal to T. Day.

Time, however, smoothed matters down, and in my early career, when Cooper and Day met, as they did on one or two occasions, they never showed other than friendly feeling, and occasionally, as opportunity offered, Cooper would find his way to St. Martin's for a pull with the young ones. He always rang the seventh, and on one or more of these occasions I rang the tenor, and was rather proud of it too.

Now as to the silver cup. At the opening of the twelve bells at St. Nicholas' Church, Liverpool, ringers were present from Sheffield, Birmingham, and—of course—other places, but there was no complete twelve bell band. To ensure good ringing the authorities had arranged to give two prizes for the best touches or peals—one a silver cup, value twenty guineas, and the other twenty guineas in money.

On the opening day the ringing, I believe, was not thought deserving of the prizes, but on the day following a band was made up of Sheffield and Birmingham visitors, and a peal of 5,016 Grandsire Cinques was rung, composed and conducted by Cooper. On the completion of the peal the two prizes were handed over to the band to divide as they thought best.

Then the question arose as to which party should have the cup and which the money, so it was decided to settle the matter by the toss of a coin. Cooper won the toss, and, acting on the expressed wish of his men, chose the cup.

I suppose Cooper was treasurer to the society in those days, but he that as it may, he had charge of the cup and for some years always produced it when required.

About the year 1830 he opened a beerhouse, 'The Bell,' in Ravenshurst Street, and some time when he was keeping that house—I never heard the exact date—the cup vanished. Cooper said it had been stolen, others said he had pawned it and could not redeem it. My uncle used to say he had melted it and plated buckles with it. Whatever was done with it, it was never found, although Mr. Hopkins caused all the pawnbrokers who had a plate licence to be questioned about it, and spent a great deal of time and some money in the hopes of its recovery, but nothing ever came of it.

On one occasion a flutter of excitement was caused by J. Newbold (a member of the society) saying he had seen it in a pawnbroker's shop window in Digbeth, and although Mr. Hopkins expressed his doubt, Mr. Johnson and he went to the shop and were shown a cup, but it was not 'the' cup.

On seeing Cooper, Mr. Hopkins mentioned this circumstance to him, when the other consoled him in this wise—'Ah! John, I am afraid you will never find it.' And so the cup was lost.

Cooper was a stout built man, about middle height, a silver plater by trade—hence my uncle's remarks as to the disposal of the cup. He did not succeed as a publican, and when the Midland Railway was opened he was fortunate enough to get an appointment as guard in that company's service, and I never saw him but in that uniform.

He told us that he used to get occasionally a pull at Sheffield, such opportunities generally occurring on a Sunday, until one of the clergy, noticing his uniform, gave orders that he was not to be admitted to the belfry again unless differently attired.

He held the position of guard until, through age, he was appointed stationmaster at Saltley, and held that post until his death, which occurred rather suddenly. He was about 72 years of age.

NOTE BY THE EDITOR.—In reading this unfavourable account it should be remembered that it comes almost entirely from Thomas Day, who clearly had a lasting grudge against Cooper. Quite likely there may have been another side to the story.

Henry Cooper gained a high reputation as a composer in the early years of the nineteenth century, not only in Birmingham, but throughout the country. Shipway, in the third part of his 'Campanalogia' published in 1816, gives the figures of five of Cooper's compositions: one each of Grandsire Caters, Royal and Cinques; and Stedman Caters and Cinques. They include the Cinques rung at Liverpool in 1814 as related by John Day. Shipway expresses his desire 'to make public the abilities of so young a person in the art, especially in composing a peal in the uncommon method' of Stedman Caters. The peal, however, was false, as were many more of the early peals in the method.

Cooper's best composition is his Stedman Triples, which was rung at Shifnal in 1819. It is a very irregular one part production with 582 calls (350 bobs, 230 common singles and two Doubles). The composer called it from the manuscript sitting in the belfry. As printed in C. D. P. Davies' 'Stedman' the peal is false, but that may be due to faulty transcription, for the original record was partly illegible. The peal, as restored or corrected by Mr. J. W. Parker, was rung in recent years, the conductor being Mr. W. H. Barber. It has the distinction, almost unique in Stedman Triples, of keeping the observation bell entirely out of the calls from start to finish.

Cooper's action over Thomas Day's peal, if correctly related by John Day, does not strike us favourably, but it was the sort of thing that other men frequently did. William Sottanstill was a most unblushing offender, and even Shipway, whom there is not the slightest reason to regard as otherwise than a strictly honourable man, puts his name to what is nothing but Holt's Ten-part begun at a different lead end.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

There is a plan by which most excellent touches of Stedman Triples of any length can be called by a man who has no knowledge of conducting the method and only just enough knowledge of Bob Major to call the well-known touches produced by Wrong and Home only.

In Stedman the man will have two calling positions—one when he is dodging in 4-5 down before going in slow, and the other at the hand-stroke of the thirds place after making the last whole turn before going out of the slow. He will call a bob in the first position when there is a Wrong in the Bob Major touch, and a bob in the second position when there is a Home.

It does not matter which bell he rings, but if it is the second or the third, and there is a bob at the Wrong in the first course of the Major, he must leave that until the last course of the Stedman, for he is already in the slow. He may use singles to double his touch or to join two together, and if he keeps to the Bob Major his touch will be true.

When the seventh is the observation bell the calling positions are 3 and 8, and 6-7 are kept together throughout.

Here are three touches on the plan:—

504				1,260			
231456	3	8		231456	3	8	
135426	—			431256	S	—	
432156	—	—		231546	—	—	
235146	—	—		534216	—	—	
134256	—	—		234156	—	—	
435216	—	—		135246	—	—	
231456	—	—		235416	—	—	
1,260							
231456	3	8		435216	S	—	
135426	—			235146	—	—	
132456	—	S		135426	—	—	
432516	—	—		432156	—	—	
532146	—	—		132546	—	—	
432156	S	—		532416	—	—	
Twice repeated.				431526	—	—	
				531246	—	—	
				231456	—	—	

BINFIELD, BERKS.—On Saturday, November 18th, 720 Bob Minor: *Mrs. B. Cowley 1, *Mrs. B. C. Castle 2, B. C. Castle 3, C. W. Bailey 4, R. Elliott 5, A. J. N. Rance (conductor) 6. *First 720.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

AMERSHAM.—On Sunday, November 5th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: W. Edwards 1, C. J. Chalwin 2, E. C. Ayres 3, L. Haddon 4, W. E. Redrup (conductor) 5, W. A. Holmes 6.—On Sunday, November 12th, 720 London Surprise Minor: W. E. Redrup (conductor) 1, C. J. Chalwin 2, E. C. Ayres 3, L. Haddon 4, W. A. Holmes 5, W. Edwards 6.

CHEADLE, STAFFS.—On Tuesday, November 7th, at the R.C. Church, 720 Bob Minor, 7.8 covering: *G. Darbyshire 1, A. Plant 2, T. Hawley 3, *D. Steel 4, *E. Steel 5, A. W. Hall (conductor) 6, *A. A. Hall 7, *H. Fieldhouse 8. *First 720.

SHERBURN-IN-ELMET.—On Thursday, November 9th, 720 St. Clement's: H. Bradley 1, Miss D. M. Hawley 2, Mrs. E. Bradley 3, L. Scarth 4, A. Sheppard 5, E. Bradley 6. Half-muffled for Mr. G. Thornton.

SIBLE HEDINGHAM.—On November 9th, on handbells, 720 Bob Minor: R. Rippingale 1-2, T. Bird (conductor) 3-4, A. Catterwell 5-6.—On November 11th, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: H. Wiseman 1, A. Catterwell (conductor) 2, F. Wiseman 3, S. Dace 4, B. W. Pettit 5, R. Rippingale 6, C. J. Barker 7.

TRURO.—On November 11th at the Cathedral, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. E. Matthews 1, W. Sanders 2, V. Williams 3, P. J. Hitchens 4, R. A. Watts 5, Rev. A. S. Roberts (conductor) 6, W. H. Southard 7, P. R. C. Williams 8. Rung half-muffled.

MORECAMBE.—On November 11th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: S. Clifford 1, E. Swain 2, R. K. Barnes 3, J. Woods 4, N. M. Newby 5, F. Postlethwaite 6, J. E. Burles (conductor) 7, J. Skeats (first quarter) 8. Rung for the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Woods.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—On Saturday, November 11th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *J. Weadon 1, A. H. T. Parker 2, *J. Button 3, A. J. Peacock 4, *G. Vicary 5, E. J. Avery 6, *G. Prescott (conductor) 7, E. E. Fisher 8. *First quarter-peal.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Saturday, November 11th, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: M. Wingrove 1, D. R. Fletcher 2, J. Harrison 3, Rev. R. F. R. Routh 4, W. Henley 5, W. Lee 6, R. Buckland 7, H. Wingrove (conductor) 8. Rung half-muffled for Remembrance Day.—On Tuesday, November 14th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor on handbells: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, W. Lee 3-4, D. R. Fletcher 5-6.

STAVERTON, NORTHANTS.—On Saturday, November 11th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: John B. Fitzhugh (first 720 in the method) 1, Mrs. Powell (first 720 inside in the method) 2, Rev. E. S. Powell 3, Joseph W. L. Linnitt 4, George Care 5, Ronald Noon (conductor) 6.

TEMPSFORD, BEDS.—On Sunday, November 12th, 720 Bob Doubles: *Miss F. Reed 1, R. Houghton 2, *Miss B. King 3, H. Harding 4, Cpl. J. Stubbs, R.A.F. (conductor) 5, *Miss M. Hull 6. *First 720.

RODBOURNE CHENEY, WILTS.—On Sunday, November 12th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: *J. C. Smith 1, W. B. Kynaston (conductor) 2, *T. I. Holborow 3, *D. Bounds 4, W. M. Greenaway 5, *P. A. Hunt 6. *First quarter-peal.

LEWISHAM.—On Sunday, November 12th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Warnett, sen. 1, Miss H. Oakshett (conductor) 2, C. H. Walker 3, H. Warnett, jun. 4, J. Bennett 5, E. Mounter 6, G. R. H. Smith 7, P. J. Spice 8. First quarter-peal as conductor.

HORNCHURCH, ESSEX.—On Sunday, November 12th, 1,280 Bob Major: E. Paveley (first quarter-peal) 1, G. Joyce 2, R. Stannard 3, J. Carrot 4, E. Groves 5, S. Bailey (first quarter-peal as conductor) 6, J. Cornford 7, F. Freestone 8.

SPRINGFIELD.—On Sunday, November 12th, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: J. Myhill 1, Miss A. White 2, E. J. Runter (conductor) 3, H. Bradley 4, H. Shadrack 5, A. Simmonds 6.

ST. IVES, HUNTS.—On Sunday, November 12th, 720 Bob Minor: J. P. Stocker 1, L.A.C. E. Nobles 2, H. W. Pratt 3, L. W. Fisher 4, A. J. Ginn 5, F. Warrington (conductor) 6.—On Tuesday, November 14th, 720 Bob Minor: J. P. Stocker 1, L.A.C. E. Nobles 2, H. W. Pratt 3, A. E. Flatters 4, L. W. Fisher 5, F. Warrington (conductor) 6. Also 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: E. Nobles 1, F. Warrington (conductor) 2, P. S. Skipworth 3, A. E. Flatters 4, L. W. Fisher 5, J. Perkins 6.

HEREFORD.—On Wednesday, November 15th, at the Cathedral, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: G. Davis 1, W. E. Williams 2, C. Gimbert 3, W. H. Symonds 4, J. D. Worsley 5, W. F. Moreton 6, A. W. Davis (conductor) 7, S. C. Milton 8.

SUNDERLAND.—On Thursday, November 16th, at St. Ignatius', 1,260 Stedman Triples: J. W. Parker 1, R. Bell 2, J. A. Brown 3, W. Oxley 4, R. Walker 5, R. L. Patterson 6, F. Ainsley (conductor) 7, G. Harvey 8.

HITCHAM, BUCKS.—On November 18th, 720 Oxford Bob: W. Sparrow 1, G. H. Gutteridge 2, *J. M. Gayford 3, *G. W. Morris 4, H. W. Barrett 5, G. Gilbert (conductor) 6. *First in the method.

WESTHOUGHTON, LANCASHIRE.—On November 18th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: E. Ford 1, Miss A. Potter 2, L. Wood 3, J. Potter 4, A. Greenhalgh 5, P. Crook 6, Rev. F. F. Rigby (conductor) 7, W. Smalley 8.

RATBY, LEICS.—On Saturday, November 18th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Wilfred Geary 1, T. E. Gardner 2, J. H. Spencer 3, E. R. Whitehead 4, Ernest Morris 5, W. Smith 6, George S. Morris (conductor) 7, Josiah Morris 8.

RUISLIP, MIDDLESEX.—On Sunday, November 19th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: R. H. C. Colyer 1, F. Blondell 2, P. Thrift 3, W. Bunce 4, A. Hunter 5, W. S. Beaumont 6, T. Collins (conductor) 7, H. Ive 8.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

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NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—Meeting at Ashted, Saturday, Nov. 25th. Service 4.30. Tea at Peace Memorial Hall 5.15.—A. H. Smith.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Mary's, Ealing, Saturday, Nov. 25th, 3 p.m. Business in belfry 5 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec. Perivale 5320.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Powick, Saturday, Nov. 25th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea and business.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Michael's, Wood Green, Saturday, Nov. 25th, 2.30 p.m. Service and tea. Two minutes' from Wood Green Underground Station.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport and Bowdon Branch.—Meeting at Hyde, Saturday, Nov. 25th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15.—T. Wilde, 23, York Road, Hyde, Cheshire.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—Practice, Cookham (6 bells), Saturday, November 25th, 4.30 p.m. Bring tea; none can be obtained locally.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting at Sandridge, Saturday, Nov. 25th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea in Parish Hall 5 p.m. Frequent buses from St. Albans.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Meeting at Cheshunt, Saturday, November 25th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business 5.15 p.m.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon, Herts.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Meeting at Houghton-le-Spring (8 bells), Saturday, Nov. 25th, 2.30 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—Frank Ainsley, 30, Aysgarth Avenue, Grangetown, Sunderland.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wimborne Branch.—Annual meeting at Wimborne Minster, Saturday, Nov. 25th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and business, Gush's Restaurant, 5.15.—C. A. Phillips, Hon. Branch Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—Annual meeting at Westbury, Wilts (8 bells), Dec. 2nd, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Names before Nov. 29th.—W. C. West, Hon. Sec., 584, Semington Road, Melksham. Phone 297.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Olney, Saturday, Dec. 2nd. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 3.30, followed by tea and business. Names by Nov. 27th.—R. H. Howson, 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Blechley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Penshurst, Saturday, Dec. 2nd. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. Names to G. Edwards, Elliott's House, Penshurst, by Nov. 29th.—T. Saunders, Hon. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District.—Meeting at Tenterden, Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. Names to P. Page, Hon. Dis. Sec., 110, Canterbury Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting, Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 3 p.m., Whitechapel Bell Foundry, E.1. Ringing at All Saints', Poplar, 4.30.—A. B. Peck.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—Meeting at Dallington, Saturday, Dec. 2nd. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea provided.—R. S. Cowley, 83, Beech Avenue, Northampton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Holy Trinity, Blackburn, Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 2.30 p.m. Business in the tower 6 p.m.—Charles W. Blakey, Branch Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Meeting at Battle, Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 2.30 p.m. Half rail fares up to 1s. 6d. Names to John Downing, 2, Hughenden Road, Hastings.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Annual meeting, Royston, Saturday, Dec. 2nd, Tea 5 p.m.—A. E. Symonds, Dis. Sec., The Cottage, Windmill Hill, Hitchin.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Bilston, Dec. 2nd. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 followed by tea at the Odeon Cafe (opposite church). Names by Nov. 29th.—F. Colclough, Sec., 27, Hall Park Street, Bilston.

HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS (12 bells).—Open practice on Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 6.15 to 8.30 p.m.—Ralph Coles, 27, Priory Road, High Wycombe.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—Annual meeting at Wraxall, Saturday, Dec. 2nd, at 3 p.m. Divine service 4 p.m. Tea and business 4.30 p.m.—Percy G. Yeo, Long Ashton.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Meeting at Pinchbeck on Saturday, Dec. 2nd. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Names for tea by Tuesday, 28th, to W. A. Richardson, Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Hunts District.—Meeting at Godmanchester, Saturday, Dec. 2nd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—H. J. Parker, Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—Meeting at Bispham, Saturday, Dec. 2nd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Stoke-on-Trent, Saturday, Dec. 2nd. Names to C. H. Page, 57, Oxford Street, Penkhull, Stoke-on-Trent, by Nov. 28th.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Christchurch District.—Annual meeting at Christchurch, Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m., in the Warren Cafe. Business follows. Names by Nov. 29th.—G. Preston, Hon. Sec., Christchurch.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting at Standish, Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 2.30 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided. Business after tea.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—Meeting at Carshalton, Saturday, Dec. 9th, 3 p.m. Tea and meeting at the Greyhound 5 p.m. Beddington bells available 7-9 p.m. Names by Dec. 6th to Mr. L. Reece, 9, Carshalton Place Terrace, Carshalton.—D. Cooper, Acting Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Horsham St. Faith, Saturday, Dec. 9th, 2 p.m. Tea at Vicarage, 4.30. Business meeting to discuss future policy, including holding of branch meetings. Buses leave Norwich 1.35, 2.15, 3.40. Leave St. Faith 5.53 and 6.6.—A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Rededication of Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton, bells, Saturday, Dec. 16th, 3 p.m. Details later.—D. E. Beamish, 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

BIRTH.

CROSS.—On Nov. 18th, 1944, at the Sussex Maternity Hospital, Brighton, to Irene, wife of Instructor Lieut.-Commander R. G. Cross, R.N.—a daughter (Jane Elizabeth).

HANDBELLS WANTED.

SET OF HANDBELLS, any number, medium or small size; must be in good condition.—Knight, Pernet, Broomleaf Road, Farnham, Surrey.

WANTED.—Set of 12 to 16 handbells, in good condition.—Gummer, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, Wilts.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.

MEETING AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

There were many young ringers present at a meeting of the East Grinstead and District Guild, held at St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells, on November 11th. Twenty-five persons sat down to tea in the Parish Hall, which was presided over by the Vicar, the Rev. J. W. Walker, supported by the churchwardens. The towers represented were Aylesford, East Grinstead, Hartfield, Lamberhurst, Rotherfield, Shipbourne, Tonbridge, Uckfield, Wadhurst and the local belfry, with Mr. T. E. Sone. Mr. B. Collison was thanked for making the arrangements. It was proposed to hold meetings at Coleman's Hatch on December 9th and at Redhill on January 13th. The methods rung included Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION,

MEETING AT AXBRIDGE.

A meeting of the Axbridge Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association, held at Axbridge on November 4th, was attended by ringers from Mark, East Brent, Bristol, Weston-super-Mare, Kewstoke, Clevedon, Yatton, Worle, Congresbury, Wrington, Cheddar, Badgworth, Nailsea, Axbridge, Shipham and Churchill.

The methods rung were Grandsire, Plain Bob, Union, Stedman and St. Simon Doubles, Plain Bob, Oxford Bob and Cambridge Surprise Minor.

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No. 1,758. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1st, 1944.

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PEAL RINGING IN WAR TIME.

A significant sign of the times is the steady increase in the number of peals that are being rung. In the four issues of 'The Ringing World' published in November we gave the reports of seventy-five peals. The number for November last year was thirty-four; six months ago the four issues for May contained forty reports; and the four issues for October contained fifty-three. The number of meetings held also tends to increase, and it is safe to conclude that, though the number of ringers abroad in the King's Forces is probably greater than it has been since the war began, there is at present more ringing done on Sundays and week-days than at any other time these last five years.

The reason may be found to some extent in the relaxations in the black-out regulations, in the lessening of the menace of air raids, and in the general feeling that final victory is not so far away; but these things in themselves are not a sufficient explanation. They help to show why the increase is possible; they do not explain why it has happened.

There are people who think that to ring peals when men abroad are losing their lives, and at home many hearts are being bereaved, is wrong; and there are others who look on bellringing as nothing more than an addition to the incessant noise which is destroying the peace and quiet of the country. Last week a correspondent voiced both these views and did it perhaps as well as it can be done.

What justification is there for either opinion? No one, of course, can tell what another's thoughts and feelings are, but we have never heard of a single instance where a man or woman's sense of loss, through the death of some loved one at the front, was worsened by the sound of church bells. And we have been stopped, not once nor twice, when passing a church, by persons who told us 'How nice the bells sound! I do so love to hear them!' That sort of thing did not happen before the war, at least not in our experience; the same people liked bells then as like them now, but to-day they often go out of their way to say so. Of one thing we may be certain: if the people of this country or an appreciable part of them had any objection to bellringing in these days, there would be none. If there were a minority who really believed that bellringing added to the sorrow of any particular person, they would have little difficulty in stopping ringing at any particular tower. On the other hand,

(Continued on page 490.)

anyone who comes into contact with the clergy and Church officials can have no doubt that ringing is generally welcomed and enjoyed.

There is still the problem of the noisy bells and the advisability of peal ringing in certain towers. That is no new thing. It existed before the war began, and it will exist after peace returns. It is not in any way affected by present conditions, and it should be remembered that, though ringers ought always to exercise restraint and show regard of the feelings of other people, the responsibility for deciding whether a peal attempt is advisable in any particular tower is not theirs. It belongs to the parson. If he, by giving permission, decides that it would do good, or at least do no harm, the ringers need have no scruples about making the attempt.

The increased number of peals is a good thing, for it is a pretty sure sign of the vitality of the Exercise. Many members of pre-war bands are absent from their belfries on national service at home or abroad, but those who are left are doing their duty well, and the number of recruits is gratifyingly large. Peal ringing is the natural outcome of this activity, and the increase is therefore a matter for unqualified satisfaction.

HANDBELL PEALS.

MACCLESFIELD, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, November 16, 1944, in One Hour and Fifty-One Minutes.

AT 261, PETER STREET,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor size 15 in C.

*ALAN A. POTTS ... 1-2 | JOHN WORTH ... 3-4
*LAURENCE WARD ... 5-6

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

* First peal on handbells.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, November 22, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes.

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT & OXFORD TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

WORCESTER VARIATION.

ERIC A. DENCH ... 1-2 | JOHN THOMAS ... 5-6

MRS. J. THOMAS ... 3-4 | WILLIAM L. B. LEESER ... 7-8

CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 9-10

Composed and Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Friday, November 24, 1944, in Two Hours and Two Minutes.

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF SPLICED PLAIN, REVERSE, DOUBLE, HEReward PERSHORE, DOUBLE OXFORD AND DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*MARGARET D. TELFORD ... 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6

*BETTY SPICE ... 3-4 | JEAN A. SOUTHERST ... 7-8

Composed by S. H. WOOD.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal in seven methods. + First peal in more than one method. The peal contains 1,008 changes of Plain Bob, 880 of Reverse, 752 of Double Norwich, 672 each of Double Bob and Pershore, 656 of Double Oxford and 448 of Hereward Bob, with 23 changes of method. The greatest number of methods yet rung to a handbell peal of Major.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

LECKHAMPTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, November 20, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S VARIATION.

Tenor 8 cwt.

WILLIAM TOWNSEND ... Treble	CHARLES W. MARTIN ... 5
WALTER C. ROSE ... 2	GEORGE KILMISTER ... 6
ARTHUR H. REED ... 3	JOHN F. BALLINGER ... 7
WILFRED WILLIAMS ... 4	*CYRIL H. JONES ... Tenor

Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.

* First peal.

HEPTONSTALL, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 25, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS A'BECKET,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

Tenor 18½ cwt.

JAMES INGHAM ... Treble	FRED HODGSON ... 5
CAPT. J. L. WRIGHT ... 2	ALFRED SMITH ... 6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 3	FREDERICK SEAGER ... 7
LESLIE W. G. MORRIS ... 4	ERNEST H. SIMPSON ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY.

HETHERSETT, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 25, 1944, in Three Hours and Two Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. REMIGIUS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 cwt. 2 qr. 18 lb in G

*MICHAEL J. FOSTER ... Treble	REV. A. G. G. THURLOW ... 5
MRS. GEORGE SAYER ... 2	HENRY TOOKE ... 6
NOLAN GOLDEN ... 3	GEORGE SAYER ... 7
F. CHARLES GOODMAN ... 4	RUSSELL W. CURSON ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

* First peal in the method.

WOKINGHAM, BERKSHIRE.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 25, 1944, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S VARIATION.

Tenor 19 cwt. in E.

ALFRED H. PULLING ... Treble	*H. WILLIAM BARNETT ... 5
GEORGE L. GROVER ... 2	RONALD J. C. HAGLEY ... 6
FRANK H. HICKS ... 3	GEORGE GILBERT ... 7
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... 4	FRANK C. W. KNIGHT ... Tenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

* First peal in the method.

KIDLINGTON, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 25, 1944, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF SPLICED PLAIN BOB AND KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 23½ cwt.

*MISS VALHALLA HILL ... Treble	WALTER F. JUDGE ... 5
MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 2	*NEIL ALLNATT ... 6
*HERBERT H. ALEXANDER ... 3	*WILLIAM JUDGE ... 7
*WILLIAM C. PORTER ... 4	REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG ... Tenor

Composed by A. J. PITMAN. Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

* First peal of Spliced Major. The peal contained 3,360 changes of Bob Major and 1,824 changes of Kent Treble Bob, with 76 changes of method.

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SIX BELL PEALS.

ASHBRITTLE, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, November 5, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Ten callings.

Tenor 9 cwt.

*RONALD ALDERMAN 7 treble	CLAUDE TARR 4
FREDERICK ALDERMAN 2	*ROBERT J. KELLAND... .. 5
WALTER STEVENS 3	STANLEY N. BRISTOW Tenor

Conducted by R. J. KELLAND.

* First peal.

MARKET DEEPING, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 11, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Norfolk, London, Cambridge, Primrose and Ipswich Surprise.

FRED BRIGHTMAN 1 treble	HORACE M. DAY 4
CHARLES WOODS 2	WILLIAM OLDMAN 5
WILLIAM H. WALDRON 3	FRANK TAYLOR Tenor

Conducted by H. M. DAY.

STOKESAY, SHROPSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, November 12, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings.

Tenor 9 cwt.

T. WILLIAM NASH 1 treble	HUBERT JONES 4
WILLIAM J. BENIAMS... .. 2	E. HARRY MEREDETH... .. 5
JAMES HUGHES 3	ARTHUR C. NASON Tenor

Conducted by W. J. BENIAMS.

Rung for the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Beniams.

HUISH EPISCOPI, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 18, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 19 cwt.

*A. J. CALLOW 1 treble	H. WESTLAKE 4
T. LOCKE 2	*S. DOBINELT 5
*P. COX... .. 3	G. JEANES... .. Tenor

Conducted by T. LOCKE.

* First peal of Minor.

WISTASTON, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 25, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

GEORGE PORTER 1 treble	FRANK OLLIER 4
JOHN E. B*OUGH 2	NEVILLE HOLLAND 5
*FREDERICK WILSB*AW 3	ALBERT CRAWLEY... .. Tenor

Conducted by A. CRAWLEY.

* First peal.

TREETON, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 25, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Rev. E. Bankes James' Arrangement.

Tenor 11½ cwt.

WALTER ALLWOOD 1 treble	JOHN H. BROTHWELL 4
*JACK G. BROTHWELL 2	*J. EDWARD CAWSE... .. 5
TOM BROTHWELL 3	*JOHN E. TURLEY... .. Tenor

Conducted by J. EDWARD CAWSE.

* First peal in the method.

DEEPING ST. NICHOLAS.—On Friday, November 17th, 720 Double Oxford Bob: Miss B. Duffy 1, K. Duffy 2, W. Duffy 3, C. Perkins 4, F. Brightman 5, F. Taylor (conductor) 6.

CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 477.)

The famous church of SS. Peter and Paul, Dunstable, Beds, is part of the original priory established here by Henry I. in or about the year 1131 for Black Canons, and dedicated to St. Peter. After its surrender, c. 1540, the greater part of the building was pulled down. The portion still remaining consists of part of the nave and west front of the conventional church, and now forms the parish church. It has an embattled tower with bold octagonal turret rising above it at the N.W. angle, and containing eight bells, tenor 23½ cwt. The tower was repaired in 1931. The west front consists principally of two stages flanked on the north by the staircase turret of the tower, which is supported by massive buttresses relieved by Early English niches once filled with statues, of which some remain. On the south side is a smaller embattled turret with buttresses of equal size. In the lady chapel of this church on May 23rd, 1533, Archbishop Cranmer publicly pronounced the divorcement of Queen Katherine.

The ringing chamber is approached by two separate ways. The original way is through the west door, in to the nave and turn right and proceed as far as to where nave and south aisle meet, to a doorway leading to a flight of circular stairs which takes one up to a narrow ledge about two and a half feet wide, running back along the wall of the nave to a small doorway—approached by three or four steps—opening directly into the ringing chamber. This means of entrance is rarely used now. A shorter and quicker way was made some years ago by a long, steep and slender ladder fixed at the side of the wall on the ground floor, and which reached up to a trap-door in the corner of the floor of the ringing chamber. The ground floor of the tower is entered by a separate door at the west end, and can be entered and left without going into the church proper. There is, however, a connecting door between the ground floor of the tower and nave if one wishes to enter the church that way. In 1930 the ladder mentioned above was replaced by a more substantial and wider structure in the form of a wooden staircase in two flights, with a platform halfway up. The cost of this was subscribed for by members of the Bedfordshire Association as a memorial to the late Rev. Canon Baker, who was Rector of Dunstable and President of the Association. The original way from ringing chamber to the bell chamber was: You came outside and along a gallery for about four yards and thence up a spiral stairway. Again there is a series of ladders inside the tower which are used, though somewhat dangerous. The ring of eight was originally all by Pack and Chapman, of London, 1776, but in 1896 Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. recast the treble, 6, 7 and tenor. There is a priest's bell with an invocation to the Virgin.

(To be continued.)

MAULDEN, BEDFORDSHIRE.—On November 18th, 720 Bob Minor: R. G. Houghton 1, T. P. Harras (first 720 on an inside bell) 2, C. H. Harding 3, A. C. Sinfield 4, Cpl. J. Stubbs 5, F. W. Budgen (conductor) 6.

OXFORD.—On November 22nd, at All Saints', 736 Spliced Surprise Major, 384 London, 160 Bristol, 96 each Cambridge and Superlative: Miss M. D. Telford 1, E. A. Barnett 2, V. J. F. Bennett 3, Miss M. R. Cross 4, H. R. Badder 5, W. C. Porter 6, G. Caudwell 7, W. F. Judge (conductor) 8.

THE PLAIN MAJOR METHODS.

(Continued from page 473.)

Shipway's Court.	Lavenham Court.
12345678	12345678
21436587	21436587
24135678	24163857
42316587	42618375
24361857	46281357
42638175	64823175
46283715	46283715
64827351	64827351
<hr/>	
68472531	68472531
86745213	86745213
87654123	68475123
78561432	86741532
87516342	87614523
78153624	78165432
71856342	71856342
17583624	17583624
<hr/>	
15738264	15738264

If in any method the bell coursing next in front of the treble makes a place, crosses the treble's path, and immediately makes another place, the result is that those two bells change positions in Coursing order:—

0103000	or	0003010
0010300		0030100
0001300		0031000
0003100		0013000
0003010		0103000
0000301		1030000

This operation, which is called a Court Shunt, is one of the most important in method construction, and is found in a vast number of methods of all sorts—Plain, Treble Bob, Surprise and the rest. The place making entails a definite amount of dodging by other bells. The operation is found in its simplest form in Double Court Minor, hence its name.

It does not matter where the places are made. They may be at handstroke or at backstroke, and when the treble is hunting up or hunting down. The result is always the same; the treble is moved one position in Coursing Order, and if one shunt only is used in a lead the lead-end will be 3527486. When two or more shunts are used in a lead, each of them moves the treble one position in Coursing Order, and the lead-end can be had by transposing the previous lead-end by 3527486 as many times as there are shunts in the lead. When seven of these Court Shunts have been made, the treble has completed its cyclical journey through the Coursing Order of the working bells, all the bells (including the treble) are in natural Coursing Order, and if no more shunts are made the bells which started with rounds will run round when the treble leads.

We said it does not matter where the Court Shunts are made. It does not so far as the effect on Coursing Order and the lead-end is concerned; but there are one or two other considerations which in practice restricts their use. One is that the number of positions in which it is possible to make them is definite and limited. Another is that the making of a place at handstroke often, in Major methods, necessitates a bell leading or lying for four consecutive

blows—a thing not allowed by modern rules. A third is the necessity for the lead of the method to be symmetrical—a shunt made when the treble is hunting up must be balanced by one when the treble is hunting down. This being so, it is only necessary to work out the half-lead when the treble is hunting up, and from it to prick the half-lead when the treble is hunting down in due order.

Turning to the Court Shunts made at backstroke, we can see by experiment that on six bells there is only one possible position—Fourths and Thirds. On eight bells there are two possible positions—Fourths and Thirds, and Sixths and Fifths. On ten bells, three positions—Fourths and Thirds, Sixths and Fifths, and Eighth and Sevenths. On twelve bells four positions. On fourteen five. And so on in a regular progression *ad infinitum*.

On eight bells the first of the methods in the class is the one produced by place making in 3-4 as the treble goes up and in 3-4 when it goes down. The second is the one produced by place making in 5-6 as the treble ascends and descends. The first is called in the Central Council 'Collection of Major Methods' (not very happily) Shipway's Court. The other is Lavenham Court.

Both methods will produce good music, and both are worth ringing, though neither has any outstanding quality or is among the best of the Plain Major methods. Both are quite easy. In Shipway's Court the tenor dodges in 7-8 down, 1-2 up and 5-6 up. It is turned from behind by the treble and make places in 3-4 down. After turning the treble from the lead it dodges in 7-8 down and 5-6 down. It leads full when the treble is lying behind, and from that point the work is reversed. The work of Lavenham Court is the same, except that it is done from the back instead of from the front.

In both methods at a bob Sixths place is made and the bells in 7-8 dodge.

Captain W. H. J. Hooton called the first peal of Shipway's Court in 1934 on handbells, and Mr. Ernest Turner called the first peal of Lavenham Court, also on handbells, in 1941. The methods are very suitable for practice by a first-class handbell band.

We have said that Shipway's Court is not very happily named. Shipway was dissatisfied with both the extensions of Court Bob Minor to eight bells current in his day—those which bore the names of Norwich and London from the cities at which they were originally practised—and he printed in his book what he considered was the nearest to the six-bell method. In the first half-lead the places are made as in the modern Shipway's Court; in the second half-lead as in Lavenham Court. The method is not symmetrical, and so does not reach present-day standards. It is not 'double' either, according to the accepted definition adopted thirty or forty years ago. In this respect, however, Shipway was right and the moderns wrong, for a bell does work from the back in the same way it works from the front, and that is the essence of a double method.

When we combine Shipway's Court and Lavenham Court, we get Double Norwich Court. Of that little or nothing need be said now. Taken on the whole it is the best Major method of any kind that exists. In music it is surpassed by none and equalled by few if any. It is not in any way difficult, but the interest it supplies never fails. It has not nearly so extensive and varied a range

(Continued on next page.)

THE PLAIN MAJOR METHODS.

(Continued from previous page.)

of composition as Bob Major, but there are quite sufficient good peals of it to suit all tastes and qualities of conductors. As there are four Court Shunts in every lead of Double Norwich, the first lead-end of the plain course is the same as the fourth lead-end of the plain course of Bob Major.

(To be continued.)

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

EWELL, SURREY.—On Saturday, November 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *J. H. G. Pycraft 1, *Miss P. Smee 2, H. E. Good 3, E. T. Grove 4, Miss E. Harrington 5, A. G. Oliver 6, J. E. Beams (conductor) 7, *D. Mann 8. *First quarter-peal. First as conductor.

KELVEDON.—On November 25th, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: H. Herbert 1, E. Beckwith 2, D. H. Elliott (conductor) 3, J. Elliott 4, A. A. Finch 5, A. Haynes 6. Rung on the 51st anniversary of Mr. D. H. Elliott's first peal.

PINNER.—On Sunday, November 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *F. Robbins 1, N. Genna 2, F. Blondell 3, W. Bunce 4, A. Hunter 5, R. Colyer 6, T. Collins (conductor) 7, *H. Stratford 8. *First quarter-peal.

WICKHAM, HAMPSHIRE.—On Saturday, November 18th, 720 Bob Minor: G. Williams 1, R. Page 2, A. Leahy 3, A. Millard 4, G. E. Chappell 5, Alfred Mears (conductor) 6; 720 Kent Treble Bob: A. Leahy 1, G. Williams (conductor) 2, R. Page 3, G. E. Chappell 4, A. Millard 5, A. Mears 6; and 720 Oxford Single Bob: A. Leahy 1, G. Williams 2, R. Page 3, A. Mears 4, A. Millard 5, G. E. Chappell (conductor) 6.

KINGSTHORPE, NORTHAMPTON.—On Sunday, November 19th, 720 Bob Minor: Rev. M. L. Couchman 1, Horace Parker 2, John Dunkley 3, Eric Nobles, R.A.F. 4, George Parker 5, Joseph W. L. Linnitt (conductor) 6.

WINDSOR.—On Sunday, November 19th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: T. Smith 1, A. Smith 2, W. Welling 3, A. G. Wratton 4, W. W. Phipps 5, N. V. Harding (conductor) 6, A. J. Glass 7, F. Simmonds 8.

NORTHAMPTON.—On Sunday, November 19th, at St. Peter's, 1,260 Stedman Triples: W. Atterbury 1, W. H. Austin 2, W. R. Parker 3, G. F. Cantrill 4, F. Hopper 5, L. Farey 6, W. J. Dove (conductor) 7, A. Monk 8.

SERVICE TOUCHES.**STEDMAN CATERS.**

459						567					
231456789	1	5	6	16		231456789	1	5	6	16	
362154978	—	—	—	—		362154978	—	—	—	—	
364251	—	—	—	—		264153	—	—	—	—	
461253	—	—	—	—		462351	—	—	—	—	
						461253	—	—	—	—	
675						677					
231456789	1	5	6	16		231456789	1	5	6	16	
362154978	—	—	—	—		361452978	—	—	—	—	
264153	—	—	—	—		163254	—	—	—	—	
463152	—	—	—	—		164352	—	—	—	—	
364251	—	—	—	—		461253	—	—	—	—	
461253	—	—	—	—		463152	—	—	—	—	
783						1,001					
231456789	1	5	6	16		231456789	1	5	6	16	
362154978	—	—	—	—		362154978	—	—	—	—	
364251	—	—	—	—		364251	—	—	—	—	
361452	—	—	—	—		361452	—	—	—	—	
163254	—	—	—	—		163254	—	—	—	—	
164352	—	—	—	—		164352	—	—	—	—	
461253	—	—	—	—		462351	—	—	—	—	
						264153	—	—	—	—	
						463152	—	—	—	—	

All round by bobs at 4, 5, 18, 20, 21, and 22.

BOB MAJOR.

1,248					1,280				
23456	W	B	M	R	23456	W	B	M	R
25463	—	1	—	—	52364	—	1	—	—
45362	—	—	—	—	34265	—	—	S	—
25364	—	—	S	—	23465	—	—	—	—
35462	—	—	—	—	42365	—	—	—	—
45263	—	—	—	—	53264	—	—	S	S
23564	—	—	S	—	25364	—	—	—	—
52364	—	—	—	—	23564	—	—	—	S
35264	—	—	—	—	32456	—	2	—	S
42366	—	—	—	—	43266	—	—	—	—
34256	—	—	—	—	24366	—	—	—	—
23456	—	—	—	—	23456	—	—	—	S

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The official Journal of the Central Council of
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Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.

The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
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The Editor,

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Arrangements have also been made for larger supplies
through the trade, and newsagents in any part of the
country will be able to obtain copies through their whole-
sale firms.

Cheques and remittances should be made payable to
'The Ringing World.'

Last Monday, November 27th, Mr. James George reached his 91st
birthday. His friends will be glad to hear that he is now feeling
very much better.

The peal of Cambridge Minor at Treeton was rung on the 51st
anniversary of the first peal by the ringer of the second.

'KINDRED SOCIETIES.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your leader of November 24th you refer to a still
enforced rule of one of the oldest societies, presumably the rule of
the College Youths, which excludes Cumberland Youths from its
membership.

If this is the rule referred to, I, as one who joined the Cumber-
lands in ignorance of the fact that by doing so I should be debarred
from membership of the College Youths, would be interested to learn
the grounds for your assertion that the rivalry engendered promotes
the interests of change ringing.

On the contrary: I submit that this objectionable rule serves no
useful purpose, is an anachronism and is quite contrary to the senti-
ments expressed by the proposer of the toast; in fact, to my mind,
so long as this rule is enforced, the toast of 'The Kindred Societies'
is so much humbug.

If, as I once read in your columns, the rule had its origin in some
ringers' quarrel in a bygone age, why should this be perpetuated? The
majority of ringers to-day probably know nothing of the reason for
the rule in question and care less, and it seems inconceivable that in
these supposedly enlightened days this relic of the 'bad old days'
should be even tolerated, let alone justified.

We may, as you say, derive amusement from the 'Bell News' of
fifty and sixty years ago. What, I wonder, will our grandchildren
in their turn think of us, say, about the year 2000 when they read
that as late as the 1940's such a rule was countenanced? Will they
think we have advanced as far as we would like to believe?

70, Morris Lane, Leeds.

R. H. DOVE.

[Mr. Dove has not got his facts correctly. There is no rule of the
Society of College Youths which excludes Cumberland Youths from
its membership.—The Editor.]

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT HEADINGLEY.

At a meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society, held
at St. Chad's, Headingley, on November 25th, members were present
from Armley, Bramley, Batley, Bradford, Guiseley, Headingley, Idle,
Leeds Parish Church, Pudsey, Selby and Woodlesford, as well as a
visitor from Kent. Tea was by invitation of the St. Chad's company
and was followed by the business meeting. Four new members were
elected, Messrs. S. Kettlewell, W. Armstrong and H. R. Parkinson,
of St. Chad's, and E. Marsh, of Woodlesford. Thanks were given to
Canon Marshall and the local band. The next meeting will be at
Pudsey in January.

GABRIEL LINDOFF.

UNVEILING OF MEMORIAL TABLET.

On Sunday, November 19th, after evensong in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, the Dean unveiled a brass tablet erected to the memory of Gabriel Lindoff. The inscription reads:—

'To the memory of Gabriel Lindoff. One of the founders of the Irish Association of Change Ringers, Keeper of the Belfry and Instructor to St. Patrick's Cathedral Society of Change Ringers, 1897-1941.

'O Praise God in His Holiness, Praise Him upon the Loud Cymbals. This Tablet is erected by the members of the Ringing Exercise and Friends in memory of a great Ringer.'

In the course of an address, Canon E. H. F. Campbell, president of the Irish Association, said if it had not been for Gabriel Lindoff, a good and humble-minded Christian, change ringing in the church and cathedral towers of Ireland would not hold the place it does to-day. The name of the man had an appeal of its own. It was an uncommon name seldom found, if indeed anywhere else—Gabriel Lindoff. It was a unique and a striking combination of names which suggested an unusual fascination, whether spoken or read. It conjured up something other-worldly, for the name Gabriel is borrowed from the angels who lead the praises of God in Heaven itself.

Quoting from 'The Ringing World,' Canon Campbell said, 'From boyhood Lindoff was interested in bells. While at the early age of 16 he watched the hanging of a peal of bells in his parish church in Suffolk, he determined to teach himself how to control a bell, not an easy thing as those of you who were his disciples know. And when a mere boy he took his place amongst the local team, he created amazement by his capabilities.' In early life he was an army schoolmaster, and at Aldershot he became an accomplished ringer. In 1897 he left England and was appointed instructor to the belfry of St. Patrick's. He founded the Irish Association with Lord Justice Cherry as its president. He himself was appointed hon. secretary, which position he held for 43 years. After much persuasion he accepted the position of president in 1934.

Gabriel Lindoff, continued the speaker, was a man of very quiet demeanour. Nothing ever ruffled him. To interest oneself in this strange but fascinating art one must possess infinite patience and perseverance. He overcame indifference and slackness by his wonderful example. Up and down the steep descent of the tower he went not only twice on Sundays, but for week-day practices as well. If others were sometimes casual or irregular, he was always in his place. After ringing here twice on Sunday I have seen him ringing every Sunday evening in St. George's with the team there. He was not the man to ring the bells and then go home. He always took his place in the pew and made his act of worship in the body of the church.

There was a large attendance of ringers from St. Patrick's and Christ Church Cathedral, St. George's, Dublin, Drogheda, Bray and Waterford. They included Messrs. F. G. Hicks, C. Sawier, R. T. Cherry, H. R. Greene, M. Hogan, R. Murphy, F. E. Dukes, W. H. Wilson, D. Gibson, W. Lynch and R. Kearney.

After the ceremony a touch of Grandfire Triples was rung on the heavy eight bells by the St. Patrick's Cathedral Society.

There were 66 subscriptions from every tower affiliated to the Irish Association and from most of the English associations and individual persons, friends of Gabriel Lindoff.

GOLDEN WEDDING.

Mr. and Mrs. William Dye, of Grundisburgh, Suffolk, celebrated their golden wedding on November 25th. During the afternoon methods ranging from Bob Major to London Surprise were rung on the church bells, and during tea Grandfire Caters was rung on hand-bells. Mr. Dye, who is 84 years old, is a regular service ringer, and in the present year has taken part in fifty 720's and quarter-peals.



GABRIEL LINDOFF.

PEAL RINGING IN WAR TIME.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—When I read your correspondent 'B's' letter I rather wondered whether his and others' objection to peal ringing is entirely due to consideration for the feelings of those who have lost friends and relatives in the war. May it not be that some ringers, especially those who are not so young as they once were, are suffering from the strain of these last five years and are no longer so anxious as they once were to undertake peal ringing? I may be doing 'B' an injustice, but it is not impossible that, while six years ago he was as willing and eager to stand in a peal as anyone, now there is not quite the same enthusiasm, and he has unconsciously invented an excuse. I hope his enthusiasm will revive when the victory ringing comes, but I am not sure he is going the right way to work.

H. ROBERTSON.

Dear Sir,—I fully agree with your correspondent 'B.' Peal ringing is entirely out of place in war time, and should be left until peace comes again. People will want to hear the bells then; now in too many places they only add to the noise which is driving men to distraction. They can't be good for ringing generally, even if some few ringers get a certain amount of pleasure out of them. 'S.'

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent 'B' seems to have an even larger bee in his bonnet about peals in war time than his fellow advocates of hibernation. If he associates the sound of church bells with the many and various aural accompaniments of a world war, of which, incidentally, his district, wherever it may be, has by no means the monopoly, it is surely high time that he gave up ringing and joined the ranks of the introspective 'Lt.-Colonels Retd.' who maintain a constant barrage of correspondence to the national and local Press on the diverse and numerous grievances by which they seem to be afflicted more heavily than other members of the community.

Forgive my cynicism, but I am of the opinion that this anti-peal complex is no 'war-baby,' but a lusty child of much maturer years. Friend 'B' rather gives his own attitude away in that he has undertaken to criticise peal ringing in war time, and in the same letter talks about the future, which suggests that these two separate subjects are closely associated in his own mind, and that possibly he means not 'peal ringing at the present time,' but 'peal ringing at any time.'

And what of the criticisms which other correspondents have made of war-time peals? I would have liked to see some comment from the 'anti-pealers' on the excellent point Mr. Pulling made recently in your columns; you will, I hope, forgive me for reiterating it in the form of a question. What is the difference to the ears of the public between three hours of well-struck changes and the clattering and banging at intervals throughout a Saturday afternoon and evening which is the usual indication of a ringing meeting? I find it significant that I have not seen in your columns any objection to the holding of meetings where circumstances permit.

For my part, I realise that meetings are an indispensable adjunct to ringing, and I, for one, derive great pleasure and benefit from them. They perform an eminently desirable function, no less in war time than at other times. But if some of your correspondents have such a tender conscience in the matter of peals why do they not extend it to the realm of meetings?

As to the reactions to the sound of bells of those on whom the war has placed a heavy burden of sorrow, you have dealt most adequately with the matter in your editorial of October 27th. May I just add that, if peal ringing at the present is out of place on those grounds it will most certainly be equally out of place on the day that final victory is celebrated, and, moreover, the argument must essentially apply to all ringing and not merely to peals. It is as illogical to condemn the sound of bells for being cheerful as it would be to condemn the Prime Minister for publicly paying tribute to some success of arms in which, inevitably, a great price has been paid in lives.

P. A. CORBY.

79, Beckwith Road, Herne Hill.

AVERAGE WEIGHTS OF BELLS.

To the Editor.

Sir—It was kind of Mr. Oldham to respond to my suggestion as to the weights and notes of bells, but this is not, to my mind, the end of the story, for it is old bells we are talking about, not modern ones.

I believe, subject to correction, that many of these are a good deal lighter than Mr. Oldham's scale. Take Kidlington tenor as an example: by Mr. Oldham's scale she should be just on 27 cwt., but when she was weighed about 40 years ago in the tower she was found to be 23½ cwt. Allowing for some slight inaccuracy in the apparatus, she might be 24 cwt. True, she has no cannons.

If the three big firms would care to send me a scale made up from their experience of weighing old bells (which they themselves did not cast) without cannons, and if they will add their idea of the weight of the cannons, I will prepare an average scale. I am aware that the views of founders on this matter vary considerably, but a result obtained in the manner I suggest will be of use and interest to the Exercise.

J. H. R. FREEBORN.

Little Chalfont.

HENRY THOMAS ELLACOMBE.

(Continued from page 477.)

The rules Ellacombe drew up for his own belfry at Bitton are instructive, for they show at what he aimed in his urge for belfry reform. In form they were a voluntary agreement by the band, but in reality they were the strict conditions under which the ringers were allowed to ring. One of the chief evils had been, in Ellacombe's opinion, the independence and lack of discipline among ringers, and that he took steps to alter. If the rules were kept in spirit and letter, the ringers would be a very docile lot of men who carried out their duties very much under authority. The Vicar would have complete control, but his authority would normally be exercised through the foreman, who would be responsible for the conduct of the company in the belfry and have to report to him. Ellacombe seems to have thought that payment for ringing was one of the chief inducements which led men to the belfry. He accepted it as the natural thing, but he framed his rules so it should provide the great hold the Vicar would have over his band.

The first of the rules reads thus: 'We resolve to be a respectable body of men, as well as good ringers, and to give no occasion by our conduct to any person to speak against us, nor to bring disgrace on the Church in which we are connected officials. Neither will we desire to take into our company any who are of low life and character—idle, drunken fellows, and sabbath breakers; for we acknowledge that the belfry is part of the church, and that the ringers being officers of the church should bear a good character.'

This is said to be the 'chief of all' the rules, and it is significant. For notice that the leading qualities called for in the ringers were that they should be 'respectable' and should 'bear a good character'; in other words that they should in outward appearance seem to be good men. Here Ellacombe did (though not quite as he intended) put his finger on the reason why the ringers of his day were criticised; they were not respectable. In the mid-nineteenth century the one virtue which in practice was more valued than any other was respectability. It is rather difficult nowadays to understand first what was meant by the word a century ago. The virtue (or at any rate the recognition of it) was a product of the social changes which followed on the industrial revolution. It belonged entirely to the lower middle classes and the best of the labouring classes; people like Ellacombe would not have been flattered if it had been applied to them. It included a number of things: a capacity for saving money, keeping out of debt, avoidance of public-houses, strict observance of the 'sabbath' (which definitely included the wearing of best clothes), regular attendance at church or chapel, and the like. Men might be selfish, hard and mean, without in any way losing respectability, but no respectable person would have been seen drunk in the street, or wearing other than his best clothes on a Sunday.

Emphatically the ringers as a class were not then 'respectable.' They got drunk far too often and too publicly, and some of them wore dirty clothes on Sundays. A writer in 'The Ecclesiologist' talks about the ringers 'in their every-day dirty working dress retreating like those who feel ashamed of being seen by their more decently attired neighbours'; and Ellacombe himself speaks of ringers in London 'who belong to no society,

who prowl about the towers in the hope of getting a job that they may spend the more at some public-house in the neighbourhood, where many such are often to be met with amusing the customers with handbells. These may sometimes be seen coming out of the churches immediately after the bells have ceased—dirty-looking youths and men, smoking short pipes it may be.'

We shall not be very far wrong, and not too uncharitable, if we say that one of the chief aims of Ellacombe and his fellow-reformers was to make ringers 'respectable.' It was only natural and right at a time when so much was being done to improve and raise the standards of divine service that clergymen should have objected to the close association with their churches of such a kind of men as the ringers generally were. It was, we must remember, the time when the Exercise had reached its lowest ebb. Ringing had been abandoned to the lowest classes of society, which were entirely outside the influence of the Church and generally of religion. There is no reason to suppose that the ringers were any worse or any different from their fellows, but the fact that they were ringers brought them into the limelight. They were judged not by the standards of their own class but by the standards of those who judged them, and, of course, they fell short. It is not easy to see how, with the wages they received, the ringers of the agricultural villages could have been habitual drunkards, but now and again ringing did bring a little extra money, and then was the opportunity and the temptation to make a night of it.

We can hardly blame them. Of all jobs the agricultural labourers must have been then the dullest and most monotonous. From early morning till evening he might be at work on hedging and ditching, never the whole time seeing or speaking to a soul, except his master, who would come and look and maybe make a few complaints and pass on his way. When evening came there was nothing to do and nowhere to go except home, which usually was little better than a hovel where a whole family lived in a couple of rooms. Can we wonder that the man went when he could to the public house where at least there was warmth and company, and when there spent the money he had earned as a ringer? It was not 'respectable,' but it was very natural. Men in richer circumstances when they took too much wine would have servants to help them to bed, but the ringer who had exceeded his proper quantity when he was turned out of the lighted taproom had to face, it may be, a long walk through rough and miry lanes, and if he stumbled and fell there he might remain till someone found him or he became more sober. You may be sure the tale did not fail to get about the village and to reach the Vicar's ears.

(To be continued.)

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT STAGSDON.

A meeting of the Bedford District of the Bedfordshire Association was held at Stagston on November 11th, when 34 members and friends were present from Bedford (St. Peter's), Biddenham, Bromham, Blunham, Great Barford, Kempston, Maulden, Northampton (St. Andrew's and St. Giles'), Stevington, Silsoe, Tempsford, Turvey, Wootton and the local tower. Service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. N. A. Bonavia-Hunt), who gave an address. Tea, at the invitation of Mr. P. Bonnett, was in the Church Hall.

At the business meeting it was decided to hold the annual district meeting at Bedford on December 9th. One new non-resident member, Mr. W. R. Hammons, of Northampton, was elected. Votes of thanks to the Vicar and to Miss Gilbert, Mrs. Bonnett and their helpers were passed.

THOMAS DAY.

BY JOHN DAY.

(Written in the year 1895.)

Mr. Day was about middle height, 5ft. 7in. or so, pleasant looking and stoutly built. By trade he was a tool maker, a skilful workman, who by his industry had acquired a sufficient competency, so that the last years of his life were passed in well-earned leisure. He was an excellent ringer all round, and although he seldom had any practice, could always be depended on as safe in a peal. He was a good conductor, and at short notice called the Lates-Thurstans peal of Stedman Triples in 1842, and previously several peals of Grandsire Triples, including the first peals rung by Elijah Roberts and H. Johnson.

He was never very anxious about ringing a number of peals, and used to say a peal of a sort and that a good one was enough for him, also that a good touch of about an hour or so was better than a bad peal. I think he conducted two, or perhaps three, peals of Treble Bob Major, one of which composed by Thurstans was false.

I think the following would be a fairly correct summary of the peals in which he took part—five or six peals of Grandsire Triples, two of Grandsire Caters, two of Stedman Triples, two of Treble Bob Royal-one of Treble Bob Maximus, and a half-peal of Stedman Cinques.

This half-peal of Cinques was rung on a Sunday afternoon, on the 70th birthday of Alexander Sanders, the sexton of St. Martin's, who rang the fifth in the touch (Sanders was one of the 1820 band). This was in 1830 and I took part in the next half-peal rung on the bells in 1846. From the foregoing it will be seen that from sixteen to eighteen peals at most would be Mr. Day's complement.

EARLY LIFE.

He obtained his first instructions from a Mr. Bissell at St. John's, Deritend, when quite a lad, and later on with Hopkins, T. Bingham, my father and another brother Samuel. He used to receive instructions from old Ben Pugh, Harborne being a favourite place with them on a Sunday morning.

As he made progress he found his way to Aston, and became a great favourite with Mr. Joshua Short, and Mr. Robert Roberts, the parish clerk. Most of his leisure time as a young man was spent at Short's farm at Witton, and to the very last he was fond of talking about the pleasant times he used to spend there. Short in his later years became very stout, so much so that he could not get up into the tower to ring and amused himself by getting the young ringers to his house to ring handbells. Bob Major was his speciality, and the bells were lapped, a style of ringing commonly practised in those days. Johnson, Thomas Cotten and George Rogers, men I knew well, were among Short's lads, and there were several others.

Mr. Day joined the St. Martin's Youths in 1827, and stood in a peal of Treble Bob Maximus in the same year, but left them in 1830 through the conduct of Cooper. About this date I first remember him, and among my early recollections of him in connection with bells was the delivery of a new peal of 16 handbells by Symondson, of London. It was on a Sunday morning and I well remember the interest with which I watched the unpacking, and how annoyed my grandmother was at the mess he made. These bells he mounted in a frame and I used to listen by the hour while he tapped changes. He also taught me when I was very young to tap tunes. The bells, however, did not please him and after a while he sold them.

HIS WORK AS COMPOSER.

A good part of my childhood, up till I was ten years of age, was spent at my grandparents' house, and my uncle, being unmarried, lived with them. I used to wonder why he was always doing sums, since every scrap of suitable paper—the backs of merchants' orders or anything else that came in his way—were quickly covered with figures, and such figures! He used the stump of a quill pen which did not leave the paper from the beginning of a row to the end, the figures running into each other so that they took a lot of making out by anyone but himself. This would be the time that he was working at his first long peal of Treble Bob, which—so I have heard him say—he finished proving on December 17th, 1852.

Later on when I had left school and expressed a desire to learn something of the art of which he was so fond, he did not exactly try to dissuade me, but certainly gave me no encouragement, and always evaded any questions I might ask him relative to getting information on the subject. When I enquired if there were any books to be had, he showed me his, and locked them up again, so I left off saying anything to him about it. Afterwards when he found that I had made a start and was getting on, he was quite the reverse and helped me in many ways.

This peal of 15,648, which had cost him so much time and labour, was composed in 1832, and, so far as I know, up to 1852 no one save himself had ever seen it. Of course, it was well known on his own word, which no one who knew him ever doubted, that he had such a peal, but I believe there was only his word as evidence. I do not quite remember how it came about, but one night I dropped in at the St. Martin's Youths' meeting house, and after some little time had passed amicably, R. Yates became somewhat offensive in his manner to me and said unpleasant things about my uncle and his work, extolling Hugh Wright, of Leeds, whose peal of 15,168 had been rung at Elland in Yorkshire, and ending by saying that he did

not believe my uncle had a longer peal and that certainly no ringer in Yorkshire believed it. I felt annoyed at having been drawn into this bother, so took an early opportunity of telling my uncle all about it, and advised him as a matter of duty to himself to publish his peal. This he did without further delay by circular. After this Thurstans began to compose Treble Bob with the tenors parted with the result I have already related.

My uncle kept quietly working on his own way, and presently produced his peal of 16,608, which still remains (1895) the premier peal. While engaged in proving this peal he gave strict orders to his housekeeper not to disturb him on any account, and she assured me that he sat out the fire in his room three times in one day. To the last he worked on trying to extend the peal, and within a short time of his death showed me his last work in that direction. Twelve leads he described as all new material, 'but,' said he, 'the job is how to dovetail it in. I can't quite see, but perhaps someone else may.' I suppose I was the only person who ever saw this, for after his death nothing could be found.

I made a rule of visiting him once a fortnight, whether I saw him in the interim or not; and I believe it was within a fortnight of his death that I last saw him alive. I had been requested by Mr. Johnson to ask him for two touches of Treble Bob Triples, one by himself and one by Cooper, as Mr. J. Snowdon had expressed a wish to see them. He got out his book and copied them for me, and then I asked him the date of his composing the 5,088 of Treble Bob Major, of which Haley, of London, had composed a variation. This information was also for Mr. Snowdon, who was then at work on the second volume of his 'Treatise on Treble Bob.' He was rather short-tempered over this, and said he supposed we wanted to stir something up, and no doubt Haley had as much trouble to get the peal as he had. However, I noticed the date, 1827.

That night he was unwell and in a despondent mood; spoke of the work in his book as labour in vain and thrown away. But as I had before heard him speak in the same strain I did not take much notice. This was on the Saturday, and on the next Thursday I was met on my way to business with news of his death. For some time he had been living entirely alone, some friends in the next house attending to his wants. About seven o'clock in the morning, when the woman went to see to his fire, she found him lying dead at the foot of the stairs. This was on April 10th, 1879, in his 76th year. The interment took place at the Church of England Cemetery where a sister had been buried.

HIS BOOKS AND PAPERS.

After the funeral one of the first things I thought about was the collection of his books and papers. Those relating to his private affairs I found without trouble, but of his own ringing books and papers absolutely nothing. There was a copy each of Sottanstell's, Hubbard's and Thackrah's works, and a MS. book in brown paper covers by J. A. Parnell, of little interest. His own book and the copy of Snowdon's book were gone. These books were lying on his table when I left him for the last time. This loss of his books and papers I look upon as a loss to the Exercise at large.

He had Shipway's work as it was published in three separate volumes, and when they were bound up he had a quantity of blank paper bound up with them, so that it was a bulky and clumsy looking book. On this paper he had written particulars of the peals in which he had taken part, many of his own compositions, and a number by other composers, including Fieldhouse, Short, Cooper, Thurstans, Stokes, and Edwards, of Stourbridge, with other matters which had interested him during his ringing career. Besides this he had a fair-sized book of foolscap in paper covers, made by himself, which was full of his own work—proof scales and other matters. I never had the opportunity for a good look over the latter. Whenever he had occasion to refer to it in my presence he would put it away, hinting that I should not understand it. Both these books I can imagine would have been of very great interest, but in some way or other they disappeared, and how will always remain a mystery.

My uncle was always most genial and kind, and I don't know that he ever made a single enemy. He possessed a wonderful memory, and it was a treat to hear Johnson and him talking of the doings in their early days. Among his friends as a young man were Elijah Roberts, whom he looked upon as in a great measure his own pupil, Emanuel Stokes, and more particularly Henry Woodbridge.

Roberts must have been very young when he commenced ringing because—so my uncle told me—when he first attempted to stand in a peal he was unable to reach the sally of the rope. The difficulty was met by bringing up into the belfry part of a footstone which lay handy in the churchyard, and placing on the top a mat on which young Roberts stood to ring the treble to Grandsire Triples. His strength, however, was unequal to the task and the peal was abandoned for a time. Two years later, when in his fifteenth year, he had improved and grown so as to be able to ring the second through a peal. He obtained his first idea of tapping handbells from my uncle. The piece of stone just mentioned remained in the belfry until long after I came on the scene.

Thomas Day was born on October 30th, 1803, and died in the same house in which he was born on April 10th, 1879. The house had become his own property and I do not think he ever slept out of it half a dozen times in his lifetime. He was never inside a

(Continued on next page.)

THOMAS DAY.

(Continued from previous page.)

theatre and only once in a music hall, and yet no man enjoyed a good song or reading better than he did.

When Mr. Sottanstill came to Birmingham in 1865, hoping to get his book published there, he, of course, brought the MS. with him and I was one of the few who saw it. My uncle, Johnson, Chattel and a few others looked it over, and it was arranged that he should take it to my uncle's house so they could look it over quietly together. He had already formed a rather unfavourable opinion of it and criticised it very freely. When they came to Holt's one-part peal of Grandsire Triples and Sottanstill's variation of it, he fairly lost his temper, and, looking Sottanstill in the face, said, 'So you could not let that alone, eh! I'd be ashamed of myself if I were you.' After that outburst he took very little notice of the book or what was in it. When the book was published Sottanstill sent him a copy.

Speaking of contemporary composers, he always expressed an admiration for Harrison, of Mottram, and Thorp, of Ashton. When the former's 8,896 was rung and published, in a conversation with Johnson, he told the latter he had thoroughly looked through it, and, replying to a query, said, 'Oh ah! it's all right and what is more he has got every change possible.'

When the bells at Christ Church, West Bromwich, were increased to twelve, he, as a subscriber, was invited to be in the first peal of Maximus. 'No,' said he, 'I think not. I've rung a good peal of Treble Twelve on a good peal of bells, and should not like to spoil it by—perhaps a middling peal on a bad peal of bells. No. I think not.'

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT WOKING.**

A meeting of the Guildford District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild was held at Old Woking on Saturday, November 11th. In spite of a dull and not very pleasant day, 25 members were present at the service, which was conducted by the Vicar (Canon Askwith), who gave an address.

Tea, prepared and served by the Woking ringers and their wives, was in the school and was followed by the business meeting, at which there was a discussion concerning the replacement of the Guild's lost peal book. Two members of the sub-committee appointed with power to act reported progress. A loose leaf book had been provided, the case presented by the Master, Mr. A. Harman, and the internal loose leaves at the cost of the Guild. General approval was given to a plan, by which the cost would be shared by the districts in proportion to the size of their bank balance.

THE THEORETICAL SIDE OF RINGING.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—As regards the theoretical side of ringing, especially such matters as composition, proof and the like, I feel that many men would welcome the opportunity when happier times return of being able to attend a summer school on this side of ringing. There must be some ringers who would be capable of delivering some really good lectures on the theoretical aspects and also the more complex practical aspects. If such a scheme has not been considered before, which is not very likely, I think that it would be well worthy of consideration by the Central Council. It could be of considerable help in fitting men for task for examining the peal compositions for each association, and could greatly benefit ringing in general.

DENIS A. BAYLES.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT TOTTERNHOE.**

Fifteen members from Biddenham, Bromham, Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard, Linslade, Tilsworth and the local tower were present at a meeting of the Bedfordshire Association at Totternhoe on November 18th. The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Oxford and Double Oxford, Cambridge, London and York Surprise Minor.

Tea was followed by a business meeting, at which it was proposed to hold the next meeting on December 16th at Houghton Regis.

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—There is, you say in your leading article, a large amount of apathy and indifference as to how a society's affairs are managed. This is only too true and is, I am sure, due to the election en bloc, year after year, of the officers. I don't see how this can breed anything but apathy. The Hawkhurst and District Guild, which, unhappily, has not yet awakened from the slumbers it entered into during the ban, has a rule that no member of the committee is eligible for re-election for (I believe) three years. This rule might well be adopted by other societies to get new blood into the management. This hanging on to office is a disease affecting a lot too many committee members.

C. A. LEVETT.

Bath Road, Taplow.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received **NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Penhurst, Saturday, Dec. 2nd. Service 4.15, Tea 5 p.m.—T. Saunders, Hon. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District. —Meeting at Tenterden, Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting, Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 3 p.m., Whitechapel Bell Foundry, E.1. Ringing at All Saints', Poplar, 4.30.—A. B. Peck.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Meeting at Battle, Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 2.30 p.m. Half rail fares up to 1s. 6d. Names to John Downing, 2, Hughenden Road, Hastings.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Annual meeting, Royston, Saturday, Dec. 2nd, Tea 5 p.m.—A. E. Symonds, Dis. Sec., The Cottage, Windmill Hill, Hitchin.

HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS (12 bells). — Open practice on Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 6.15 to 8.30 p.m. — Ralph Coles, 27, Priory Road, High Wycombe.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Meeting at Pinchbeck on Saturday, Dec. 2nd. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Hunts District. —Meeting at Godmanchester, Saturday, Dec. 2nd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. — H. J. Parker, Dis. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Annual meeting at Stoke-on-Trent, Saturday, Dec. 2nd. Names to C. H. Page, 57, Oxford Street, Penkhull.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD. — Christchurch District.—Annual meeting at Christchurch, Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m., in the Warren Cafe. Business follows.—G. Preston, Hon. Sec., Christchurch.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District. —Meeting at Carshalton, Saturday, Dec. 9th, 3 p.m. Tea and meeting at the Greyhound 5 p.m. Beddington bells available 7-9 p.m. Names by Dec. 6th to Mr. L. Reece, 9, Carshalton Place Terrace, Carshalton. — D. Cooper, Acting Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Horsham St. Faith, Saturday, Dec. 9th, 2 p.m. Tea at Vicarage, 4.30. Business meeting to discuss future policy, including holding of branch meetings. Buses leave Norwich 1.35, 2.15, 3.40. Leave St. Faith 5.53 and 6.6.—A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Central Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Long Crendon, Saturday, Dec. 9th. Bells (8) 2.45 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea to follow; names by Dec. 6th.—E. F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., Winslow, Bucks.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Taunton Branch.—St. James', Taunton. Dedication of the James Hunt memorial, Saturday, Dec. 9th. Ringing 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton Association.—Meeting at Overseal, Saturday, Dec. 9th. Bells (8) 3.30 p.m. Tea 1s., and meeting 4.30 p.m. Names by Thursday, Dec. 7th.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Spingfield on Saturday, Dec. 9th, 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea and business meeting after. Numbers for tea by Wednesday, Dec. 6th.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Grappenhall Branch.—Meeting at Grappenhall, Saturday, Dec. 9th. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea and meeting. Names by Dec. 6th.—John E. Ashcroft, Hon. Sec.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—Meeting at St. Philip's, Bristol, on Dec. 9th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. Names for tea by November 5th.

BARNSELY DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting Penistone, Dec. 9th, 2.30. Names for tea to Mr. R. Crossland, Hillside, Thurlstone, Penistone, near Sheffield, before Dec. 6th.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—Meeting at St. James', Barrow-in-Furness (8 bells), Saturday, Dec. 9th, 2.30 p.m.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Higher Walton, near Preston, on Saturday, Dec. 9th. Bells (8) 2.30. Bring food.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Heene, Saturday, Dec. 9th. Bells (8) 2.45 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business.—I. Stilwell, Pikeholme, Pulborough.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—Annual meeting at Bedford, Saturday, December 9th. Ringing at St. Peter's (6 bells), 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5.—Frank C. Tysoe, Bromham, Bedford.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Meeting at Christ Church, Swindon, on Dec. 9th. Bells (10) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon, Wilts.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Coleman's Hatch, Dec. 9th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea in Parish Room 5 p.m. Names by Dec. 6th to E. J. Oliver, Upper Hartfield P.O.—C. A. Bessett, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at King's Langley, Saturday, Dec. 9th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Usual arrangements. Numbers for tea by Wednesday, Dec. 6th.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Practice meeting at New Alresford on Saturday, Dec. 16th, 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. No tea.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION (Southern District) and SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Ranmoor, Sheffield, Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tea and business in Parish Hall 5 p.m. Names to Capt E. G. Dickens, 18, Gisborne Road, Ecclesall, Sheffield 11, by Dec. 13th.—Sidney F. Palmer and Gordon G. Graham, Joint Secs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale and Rosendale Branches.—Meeting at Whitworth, Saturday, Dec. 16th, 3 p.m. Tea in Co-op Cafe 5 p.m., 2s. 6d. Names to secretaries before Dec. 12th.—I. Kay and H. Parkinson, Hon. Secs.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL.—Sunday service ringing 9.45 a.m. to 10.15 a.m., and 2.45 p.m. to 3.15 p.m. Practice Wednesdays, 7.30 to 9 p.m.—Arthur Ridyard, 7, Sedgley Avenue, Sedgley Park, Prestwich, Lancs.

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WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD MEETING AT DEANE.

A meeting of the Basingstoke District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, held at Deane on November 11th, was attended by 45 members and friends.

Service in the church was conducted by the Rev. F. S. H. Maule, who gave an address. Tea was at the Deane Gate and was followed by the business, Mr. Maule presiding. The methods rung on the bells of Deane and Oakley ranged from rounds to Cambridge Surprise Minor.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY MEETING AT KIRKBURTON.

A meeting of the Barnsley and District Society, held at Kirkburton, near Huddersfield, on November 11th, was attended by ringers from Cawthorne, Felkirk, Liversedge, Meltham, Ripponden, Sandal, Rotherham, Wakefield, Wath and the local belfry. Mr. W. Moxton presided at the business meeting in the belfry and tea was in the Schoolroom. The next meeting will be at Penistone on December 9th.

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No. 1,759. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8th, 1944.

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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.

TWO RULES.

The Society of Cumberland Youths has a rule which says that 'any member who shall join the Society of College Youths shall thereupon cease to be a member of this society'; and the Society of College Youths has an almost identically worded rule. These two rules are always acted upon, but every now and then someone raises his voice to denounce what he calls an objectionable anachronism, and, just as often, others maintain the necessity of keeping to the old traditions which distinguish these two societies from the ordinary ringing guilds. Last week a correspondent went so far as to say that the existence of these rules made the toast of 'The Kindred Societies' so much humbug.

We need not pay much attention to the advocates on either side. For, if these rules had been so very objectionable, we may be quite sure they would have been altered or evaded long ago. Actually the relations between the College Youths and the Cumberlands are no different from those between the College Youths and any other society, and no harm or inconvenience is caused to anyone except in those rare cases where a man, who has been more or less a nominal member of one body, desires for some reason to become more or less a nominal member of the other. On the other hand, those who think that the retention of the rules is in any way a maintenance of the old traditions are singularly mistaken.

The rules themselves are not particularly old; they date from about the middle of the last century. The spirit of which they originally were an expression was traditional and was common, not merely to these two societies, but to ringers generally. It represented a phase in the development of the Exercise which had its uses, and in its time probably was necessary to the life and wellbeing of change ringing.

Ringing is a team job. It cannot be performed unless a certain number of men agree to co-operate and work together for a common aim. Hence the best ringers formed themselves into societies governed by rules to ensure that the general good should prevail. These societies were small bodies, each comprising no more than practically one band, and so long as all the members worked together harmoniously the society prospered. But it was always liable to trouble through disagreements and through the restlessness of ambitious members who were tempted to seek among other ringers advantages they thought they could not get at home, and

(Continued on page 502.)

so at times let their fellows down. Thus it became necessary for each society to forbid its members to associate with or join other bands, and a spirit of exclusiveness was common to all. It was really an instinct of self preservation. It was natural and necessary, though it could be and was carried to extremes. The Cumberlands' rule book says the rule was for 'the purpose of keeping up a friendly rivalry and thus promoting the art of change ringing.' The exclusive spirit did keep up a rivalry, and in so doing did promote the art of change ringing, but the friendliness was usually absent.

In London, so long as there were several societies, all roughly equal in status and skill, the old conditions worked quite well. Quarrels and migrations of leading men from one body to another there were in plenty, but the art generally was in a flourishing state. However, there grew up a tendency for one or two societies to swallow up the others, until at the beginning of the nineteenth century only two were left—the Cumberlands and the College Youths. It was good for neither and both were getting into a decrepit state. The younger and more energetic men found it convenient to meet together and ring peals under the names of societies which were formed for the purpose and usually did not last longer than its fulfilment. The old societies would not recognise them, and could not, or dare not, exercise any discipline over their young members. The usefulness of the rule was gone, but the College Youths clung to it so far as the Cumberlands were concerned, and the Cumberlands clung to it so far as the College Youths were concerned, and later on each formally added it in its narrowed scope to their formal code.

There is nothing in these rules that either society has anything particular to be proud of, and nothing of practical or sentimental value would be lost if they were dropped; but, at any rate, they do no harm and are not worth the indignation a few people are disposed to expend on them.

And it should not be forgotten that besides and above several objectionable things in the old traditional exclusiveness, there was this feeling: that a ringer's loyalty is due to his own band and his own friends, and his personal interests ought to come second.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, November 21, 1944, in 1 two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes.

At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 8055 CHANGES;

ERIC A. DENCH 1-2	ALBERT J. WALLMAN... .. 5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS 3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS... .. 7-8
JOHN THOMAS 9-10	

Composed and Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, November 29, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes

At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

ERIC A. DENCH 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
MISS JOAN HOULDSWORTH ... 3-4	WILLIAM L. B. LEES... .. 7-8
CHARLES W. ROBERTS... .. 9-10	

Composed by JAMES GEORGE. Conducted by J. THOMAS.
A birthday compliment to Mr. James George.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WOLVERHAMPTON.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, November 25, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes.

At THE CHURCH OF ST. BATHOLOMEW, PENN.

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt.

ARTHUR V. PEARSON... .. Treble	HERBERT KNIGHT 5
*ALBERT D. COLLINS... .. 2	JOHN LLOYD... .. 6
FRANK W. PERRENS... .. 3	CLIFFORD SKIDMORE 7
HOWARD HOWELL 4	THOMAS HEMMING Tenor

Composed by JOHN JAGGER. Conducted by F. W. PERRENS.
* First peal in the method with a bob bell. First peal in method on the bells.

LISCARD, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 25, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes.

At THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 17½ cwt.

*ALEX J. WEBSTER Treble	JOHN A. WEBSTER 5
DAVID HUGHES... .. 2	THOMAS W. HESKETH... .. 6
GEORGE R. NEWTON... .. 3	LESTER L. GRAY... .. 7
*FREDERICK S. ALMOND ... 4	FRANK VARTY Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by G. R. NEWTON.
* First peal of Major.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, November 30, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes.

At THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

*SIDNEY G. PECK... .. Treble	†HERBERT W. PERKINS ... 5
ERNEST MORRIS... .. 2	EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD... 6
JOHN R. SMITH 3	WILLIAM J. ROOT 7
SIDNEY O. CHEREY 4	HAROLD J. POOLE Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.
* First peal. † First in the method. A birthday compliment to Mr. James George. Rung on the Stelfox eight.

HARWELL, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 2, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes.

At THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION.

Tenor 16½ cwt.

ALBAN R. POYNIZ Treble	WILLIAM C. PORTER 5
FREDERICK A. H. WILKINS... 2	WILLIAM JUDGE 6
EDGAR HUMFREY... .. 3	REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG ... 7
WALTER F. JUDGE 4	HARRY WHITE Tenor

Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

HORWICH, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 2, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes.

At THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

DAY'S SIX-PART.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

*FREDERICK W. BROWNLOW Treble	EVEREST FORD 5
BRYAN STAVRLEY 2	ALBERT GREENHALGH ... 6
*MRS. MARY KENYON 3	PETER CROOK, SEN. 7
LAWRENCE WOOD 4	*ERNEST FARNWORTH... .. Tenor

Conducted by PETER CROOK.

* First peal.

SOUTH ANSTON, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 2, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes.

At THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF LINCOLNSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5050 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt. 1 qr. 5 lb in G.

*JOHN E. TURLEY Treble	*F. BERNARD DITCHER ... 5
J. EDWARD CAWSE... .. 2	*G. GORDON GRAHAM... .. 6
*JOHN H. BROTHWELL 3	*HARRY MORGAN... .. 7
ARNOLD HILL 4	*ERNEST A. THORPE Tenor

Composed by WILLIAM BARTON. Conducted by J. EDWARD CAWSE.
* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells.

PENWORTHAM, LANCs.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 2, 1944, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 6056 CHANGES;

Tenor 8½ cwt.

*WILLIAM GUNSON Treble	*ARTHUR TOMLINSON 5
WILLIAM TAYLOR 2	*TOM WATSON 6
WILLIAM HUNTER 3	CPL. C. CROSTHWAITE 7
*FRED HAWORTH 4	E. ROGER MARTIN Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

Conducted by C. CROSTHWAITE.

* First peal of Major.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 2, 1944, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

DEXTER'S VARIATION.

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

GEORGE UPSHALL Treble	GEORGE L. GROVER 5
FREDERICK OLDROYD 2	RONALD J. C. HAGLEY 6
ARTHUR H. SMITH 3	ALFRED H. PULLING 7
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON 4	FRANK C. W. KNIGHT Tenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

SIX BELL PEALS.

HOBART, TASMANIA.
THE HOLY TRINITY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, September 9, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt.

A. R. WILSON Treble	M. TAYLOR 4
P. BROUGHTON 2	B. McELWELL 5
S. SMITH 3	J. NEWELL Tenor

Conducted by S. W. SMITH.

Rung half-muffled for Lady Clark, wife of Sir Ernest Clark, Governor of Tasmania.

CLAY CROSS, DERBYSHIRE.
EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 25, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different extents.

Tenor 8½ cwt.

*MRS. F. M. PRICE Treble	*J. W. PRICE 4
*MISS M. HUDSON 2	*D. BIRKUMSHAW 5
*MRS. M. HATTON 3	W. SWAIN Tenor

Conducted by W. SWAIN.

* First peal.

HALSALL, LANCs.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, November 26, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CUTHBERT,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 of Oxford Bob, two of Plain Bob, two of Kent Treble Bob, one of Oxford Treble Bob and one of Cambridge Surprise.

Tenor 10 cwt.

HENRY SPURGEANT, JUN. Treble	WILFRED CORE 4
ARTHUR MAWDESLEY 2	THOMAS HESRETH 5
GEORGE R. NEWTON 3	JOSEPH RIDYARD Tenor

Conducted by JOSEPH RIDYARD.

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

On Monday, November 27, 1944 in Two Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three extents of Kent Treble Bob and four of Plain Bob.

Tenor 6½ cwt.

*VINCENT A. HEMMING Treble	GEORGE E. FEARN 4
EDGAR C. SHEPHERD 2	EDWARD T. LLOYD 5
ARTHUR D. COOK 3	RICHARD J. B. HADDEN Tenor

Conducted by RICHARD J. B. HADDEN.

* First peal. First peal on tower bells as conductor. Rung for Mr. James George's birthday.

TEN BELL PEAL.

HATFIELD, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

Saturday, November 25, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ETHELDREDA,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATER, 5031 CHANGES;

Tenor 23½ cwt.

ERIC B. HARTLEY Treble	*EDWIN JENNINGS 6
WALTER AYRE 2	*HAROLD G. CASHMORE 7
J. FRANK SMALLWOOD 3	FREDERICK E. COLLINS 8
FRANCIS KIRK 4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS 9
*ERIC A. DENCH 5	ALBERT LAWRENCE Tenor

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS.

Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

* First peal of Stedman Caters on tower bells. † 300th peal.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT TENTERDEN.

A meeting of the Ashford District of the Kent County Association was held at Tenterden on December 2nd, at which 26 members were present from Ashford, Appledore, Benenden, Canterbury, Frittenden, Headcorn, Willesborough, Sturry and the local tower. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. D. W. W. Carmichael. Tea was at Goldsmith's Restaurant, and was followed by the business meeting, the Vicar presiding. One new member was elected. Headcorn was selected as place of next meeting. The methods rung were Stedman and Grandsire Triples and Treble Bob Major.

MEETING AT PENSHURST.

A meeting of the Kent County Association, held at Penshurst on December 2nd, was attended by members from Hawkhurst, Lambhurst, Leigh, Shipbourne, East Peckham, Tunbridge Wells and the local tower.

After service, conducted by the Rector, tea was served in the Green Cafe and was followed by the business meeting, the Rector taking the chair. Westerham was selected for the next meeting in February.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION,

MEETING AT KEWSTOKE.

A meeting of the Axbridge Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association, held at Kewstoke on November 25th, was attended by about 25 members from Banwell, Cheddar, Weston-super-Mare, Wick St. Lawrence, Badgworth, Worle, Churchill and the local tower. The methods rung were Grandsire, Stedman and Plain Bob Doubles, and Plain Bob, Oxford Bob and Double Court Minor.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was not about my first peal that we met to ring at Kelvedon. It is just a hundred years since my father started to learn to ring, and I thought I should like to go over to Kelvedon and have a ring. As you know, it is not every ringer that can say he has lived a hundred years after his father started to ring and be able to ring on the same old bells.

D. H. ELLIOTT.

Groton Place, Boxford.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

MEETING AT EXETER.

The annual meeting of the Exeter Branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers was held at St. Thomas', Exeter, on December 2nd, and was attended by ringers and friends from St. David's, Heavitree, Honiton Clyst, Brampford Speke, Ede, Tedburn St. Mary, Teignmouth, Plymouth, Lyme Regis and the local band.

After the service, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. P. C. L. Price, assisted by Prebendary E. V. Cox, tea, provided by ladies connected with the local band, was served, and some fifty members and friends were present. Mr. E. J. Ryall presided, and the secretary, Mr. W. H. Howe, presented the annual report and balance sheet. There had been encouraging progress, young ringers were being trained, members of the Forces had joined in the practices at the Cathedral, and many neighbouring towers had been visited. The Instruction Fund had a balance of £29, and the General Fund £13.

Mr. A. W. Searle was elected chairman, Mr. W. H. Howe secretary and treasurer, and Messrs. Pook, Biffin and Corry representatives to the General Committee. Mr. Biffin continues as Ringing Master. Mr. E. J. Ryall was thanked for his services as chairman since 1938. Three new members were elected and one certificate was presented. The next meeting was fixed for February 3rd at Fde. Mr. Biffin raised the question of the annual meeting of the Guild, and Prebendary Cox replied that arrangements were in hand and it would be held on Whit Monday as usual.

Courses in Stedman and Grandsire Triples were rung on the Cathedral bells after the meeting.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official Journal of the Central Council or Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.
Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
 The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.
Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to:—

The Editor,
 'The Ringing World,'
 c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
 Guildford, Surrey.

Owing to increased paper supply we are now able to accept orders for the delivery of 'The Ringing World' by post. They should be sent to Mr. G. W. Fletcher, The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk, accompanied by remittance. The charge is 4s. 3d. per quarter.

Arrangements have also been made for larger supplies through the trade, and newsagents in any part of the country will be able to obtain copies through their wholesale firms.

Cheques and remittances should be made payable to 'The Ringing World.'

As will be seen from the advertisement on the back page, Central Council publications can now be supplied on application to the Hon. Librarian.

The Bob Royal at Enfield on November 29th was Mr. Eric A. Dench's fiftieth peal. Forty-five were rung on handbells and four on tower bells.

MR. JAMES GEORGE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I desire, through 'The Ringing World,' to thank all friends who sent me such kindly letters and telegrams of congratulation for my 91st birthday. The communications are too numerous to acknowledge individually.

JAMES GEORGE.

9, Park Villas, Chadwell Heath.

AVERAGE WEIGHTS OF BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Replying to Major Freeborne's last letter, the weights given in my list were, of course, intended to be taken as representative of present-day practice. I fear that it is impossible to prepare a scale made up from experience of actual weights of old bells, such as Major Freeborne suggests, for there are such wide variations. For instance, on referring to a book containing weights of old peals I find the following:—

Diameter of Bell.	Note.	Weight.
3ft. 6in.	F sharp	12½ cwt.
3ft. 6in.	F sharp	14½ cwt.
3ft. 4in.	G	11 cwt.
3ft. 3in.	G	11 cwt.
2ft. 9in.	B	8 cwt.
2ft. 9in.	B	6½ cwt.
2ft. 5in.	D	6½ cwt.
2ft. 5in.	D	5½ cwt.

The above are all cannon-headed bells.

J. OLDHAM.

The Bell Foundry, Loughborough.

DEATH OF MR. H. E. WEST.

The death is announced of Mr. H. E. West, of Douling, Somerset, who passed away on Sunday, November 26th, at the age of 74 years. He had been a ringer at Douling for 54 years and captain of the band for about 40 years.

The funeral was on December 1st. Ringers were present from Douling, Shepton Mallet, Croscombe, Dinder and Leigh-on-Mendip, and Mr. E. H. Nash, the hon. secretary, represented the Frome and Midsomer Norton Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association. After the service muffled touches of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles were rung.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

THE PROPOSED DECENTRALISATION.

Following a resolution passed at a meeting of the Leicester District of the Midland Counties Association, a special meeting was held at the Corn Exchange, Leicester, on November 25th, to ascertain what support there is for the proposal to form a new guild for the Leicester Diocese. Mr. George Walker, chairman of the Leicester District, presided and was supported by Mr. J. Fidler.

Mr. Harold J. Poole reported that he had sent a circular letter to 130 incumbents of churches in the diocese where there were five or more bells. Sixty replies had been received, from which it was found that there were 571 ringers attached to those churches, 356 of whom were members of the Midland Counties Association. Of those who were not able to attend the meeting 171 had signified their support for a new Guild, 42 had indicated they would not support it, 90 were in H.M. Forces and could not reply.

Mr. Poole, speaking in favour of a new guild, said that the Leicester District was much too big to be effectively served, and the time had come when new districts should be formed around Melton Mowbray and Market Harborough. New districts would mean extra representation on the Central Committee, and as the present Central Committee consisted of 36 members any addition would make it almost unworkable. What applied to new districts around Leicester no doubt applied to the Nottingham and Derby Districts. Mr. Ernest Morris, the general hon. secretary, had definitely decided to resign. The position had become almost a full-time job, and it would be extremely difficult to find anyone so enthusiastic and hard working as Mr. Morris had been, and the solution was to divide the territory into smaller areas and so reduce the individual work.

Mr. Ernest Morris said he had definitely decided to give up the job. No one knew better than he what a big task it was, and although he was greatly attached to the association, having rung more peals for it than anyone else, he thought the time had come to divide the area into smaller guilds and so reduce the work of the secretary. He was wholeheartedly in favour of a new guild for Leicester.

During the tea interval the Bishop of Leicester and the Provost of Leicester visited the ringers. The Bishop spoke in terms of appreciation of the work of ringers in the diocese. He said that in this mechanical age efforts had been made to introduce in some instances a mechanical aid to replace bellringers and reproduce the sound of bells from records. 'We do not want this,' he said. Good men in the belfry are far better than machines. If a new guild was to be formed for the diocese it must be of the best.

Mr. J. Fidler fully supported the formation of a new guild. The words, 'Midland Counties Association,' meant nothing to the clergy, but if an organisation was formed with the word 'diocesan' attached to it, the clergy would take much more notice of it. He suggested that an effort should be made at once to form a new guild so that when those serving in the Forces returned they would find something better than they left.

Mr. H. G. Jenney and Mr. A. J. Harris spoke in favour of a new guild. The former said he hoped that if the Midland Counties Association did divide into separate guilds a joint meeting of all might be thought of in order that old acquaintances might meet again.

A vote of those present was taken, and the result was 112 in favour of a new guild, two in favour subject to a condition, and two against. This showed that with those unable to attend the meeting, 283 persons had indicated support for a new guild.

Mr. J. Fidler proposed and Mr. Jenney seconded that a representative committee be formed to consider the foundation of a new guild and report to a further meeting. The following were elected to the committee: Messrs. H. J. Poole, J. Fidler, A. E. Rowley, R. F. Elkington, E. Morris, G. Walker, H. Cook, J. S. Carter, G. A. Newton, E. W. Beadsmore and H. W. Perkins. The committee were asked to co-opt a representative from the Market Harborough District.

Mr. Jenney proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Harold J. Poole for the trouble he had taken, and Mr. G. Walker proposed thanks to the Cathedral lady ringers and ringers' wives for the tea.

KINDRED SOCIETIES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I shall probably not be alone in experiencing considerable surprise at your footnote to my letter, although I do not doubt its veracity.

There is, however, quite definitely some rule or custom which prohibits membership of both societies concurrently—and in point of fact only this year I was refused a place in a peal band with some old ringing friends solely on the ground that the other nine were College Youths and I a Cumberland.

The inference to be drawn from your footnote is that any rule there may be to this effect appertains to the Cumberlands, and as a member of this society I am making the obvious enquiries and the remedy lies in my own hands.

I could, however, wish that both your leader and your postscript were more explicit, for you have still not explained to which 'still enforced rule' you referred in your leader, nor do you offer any support for the contention that the rivalry promoted the interests of change ringing, even at a price.

R. H. DOVE.

ISAAC J. B. LATES.

BY JOHN DAY.

(Written in the year 1895.)

Mr. Lates (I. J. B.) was a native of Walsall, his father being a professor of music and organist of the Parish Church of St. Matthew. Both father and mother were victims of the terrible cholera plague, and were, I believe, buried on the same day.

He was an upholsterer by trade, having, so I have understood, learned that business at Oxford, in which city his earlier peals were rung. He was of a rather spare habit, about 5ft. 5in. in height, a bit of a dandy in dress and very gentlemanly in manners.

He had an impediment in his speech which I cannot well describe. It was not a stammer, but was as if his tongue was too long and got in the way of the words he wanted to say.

As a ringer he was not very remarkable and his manner of handling a bell peculiar and somewhat awkward. While ringing he stood very erect, with his legs close together, seeming to pull entirely from his elbows and with little or no movement from his body. Consequently the bell he rang had to go well.

He rang and conducted several peals of Grandsire and Treble Bob on eight and ten bells, but I am not aware that he took part in any peals of Stedman. There can be no doubt that he had great ability as a composer. He was the first to produce a peal of Stedman Triples with only two extremes, and Doubles, and from 1842 till 1846 it was rung many times. Many excellent peals of Stedman Caters by him were rung and the earliest that I knew of was with the 5th or 6th behind the 9th, and the treble in 2nds place throughout was composed by him and rung in December, 1844. In Treble Bob Major his 5,024 stands unsurpassed, and in short there are good peals of his in each of the standard methods, seeing he always aimed at excellence.

Lates was especially clever as a listener to ringing and while so engaged would make imaginary figures with the forefinger of his right hand on the palm of his left. He would make the bobs as they were called and say what the next course end should be, so that very soon he would have the whole plan of a peal before him by simply listening. His memory, too, was wonderful in these matters, as he would go home and commit to paper anything that particularly struck him. This gift of his was well understood, as he gave numerous proofs of it from time to time, by the best men of the Exercise.

One of his peculiarities of his time used to be somewhat of a puzzle to us and still remains a puzzle to me. Every now and again he used to surprise us by bringing to us an account of some peal, either Triples or Major, that had been rung at the village of Christleton, Cheshire. In the band there were several brothers named Mavers and a Mr. J. Potter, who conducted, and Lates used to describe them as 'devilish clever fellows who could ring anything.'

Several of his peals of Stedman Triples were said to be rung there (Christleton), and that when they were far more difficult to conduct than now. When my uncle was practising for his Treble Bob Triples, Lates, by listening and chatting about it, discovered how it was worked, composed a peal of it and got it rung at Christleton, Cheshire. Afterwards a peal of Double Norwich of his was reported to be rung there. This sort of thing caused Lates to be disliked. My uncle was very much annoyed about the Treble Bob Triples, and after speaking pretty freely to Lates about it, let the matter fall through.

At Michaelmas Fair several of the Christleton ringers came to Birmingham, when we considered them no better ringers than ourselves, or, in fact, hardly so good. In after years, when the late Mr. J. W. Snowdon wrote to that place for information concerning their performances, he could get none. He was particularly anxious about a peal of Double Norwich Major said to have been rung there in 1846 and wrote several letters on the subject. To one he had reply that they knew nothing about it, and at last got no reply at all.

When stricken down in his last illness he sent for Chattel and gave him his MS. books and papers. Later when Chattel was going to his home at Harborne he gave them to Mr. J. Perks, who in his turn gave them to Mr. H. Bastable. They were in my possession for some time, and while looking them over found the peal of Double Norwich beforementioned marked as having been rung at Christleton in 1846. On making this discovery I took them to Mr. H. Johnson so that he might examine the peal, and he did so, but could not make it out to his satisfaction. There are four singles in the peal, two made in the usual way and two in four five. These MS. books and papers were in Johnson's hands for a little time, and when I received them from him I addressed him somewhat as follows: 'Well, Harry, you have seen what he has left behind him, and now tell me what you think of it all.' I often think of him as he put his hand on my shoulder, looked me in the face and said, 'John, he was a clever fellow.' And so, no doubt, he was, and had he with the other composers that Birmingham could boast, when at their best, worked together in harmony instead of trying to over-reach each other, what might have been accomplished.

The struggle between Lates and Thurstans is now a matter of history, rendered so by the writings of the late Mr. J. W. Snowdon. Johnson had Thurstans' peal in his possession some time before it was rung, and Lates having heard a great part of it, it is difficult to say what would have happened if it had not been completed. When Johnson came out of the tower after the ringing, the first man he met was Lates, and he addressed Johnson somewhat in this way, 'Why—Harry, what peal have you been ringing? The bells came

round with a single.' 'I know they did,' said Harry. 'It is one of Tom's with two common singles, and now you can have it.' Those who knew Lates could form a pretty good opinion of what he would say after that.

Lates was always very courteous and gentlemanly in his manners and always spoke grammatically, although he had a few expressions he used to throw out when unusually elated or surprised. He died March 22nd, 1858, in the 60th year of his age and was buried in St. Philip's churchyard on the north side of the tower. The stone erected to his memory is now laid flat, but may still be seen near the palisades.

On Easter Tuesday, 1845, a band was picked for a peal of Stedman Caters at St. Philip's, and I was to have stood in. I was on my way to the church in good time for the meeting, but as I entered the 'Row' to my surprise I heard the bells in changes. Later on I found out that a travelling ringer named Graham, Old Dick, had visited Chattel that day, and, learning that a peal was on, persuaded Chattel to start the peal half an hour earlier and so give him a chance, and ousting me, I suppose, as being the youngest of the band. Chattel favoured the arrangement. I was a bit nettled and as I walked about the churchyard I met Johnson and presently Lates came up to us. After a chat Lates began to figure with the finger on his hand and he suddenly turned to Johnson and said, 'Harry, what the devil is he up to? The sixth has gone away.' I forget Johnson's reply, but by and by the bells were right again, and Lates rubbed his hands and chuckled over the fun to come later on. When the peal was finished and the men came down from the tower, Lates addressed Chattel somehow thus: 'I say, Billy, what were you up to, so and so, when the 6th was behind the 9th?' 'Oh,' said Chattel, 'Old Dick and the sixth changed courses.' 'Well, how did you manage?' 'Why the worst of it was I called a bob before I noticed it, but I planted Old Dick at once. I knew what the next course end should be and before that came up I managed to get them all in their proper places.' Lates very much enjoyed this and said he would go somewhere 'if Billy was not a clever fellow.' But Johnson took a different view on the matter, and I was glad I was not in the peal.

WELDING BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In answer to Mr. Denis A. Bayles' letter in your issue of November 24th, he is under a wrong impression. The bells of Acle Church, Norfolk, which we restored in 1933, were not welded.

Mr. Bayles is also mistaken in the date of the old 4th bell. This is 1654—not 1604.

GILLETT AND JOHNSTON, LTD.

Croydon.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT WESTBURY.

The annual meeting of the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held on December 2nd at Westbury. The methods rung during the afternoon and evening ranged from rounds to Bob Major. The Vicar, the Rev. J. P. Hinton, conducted service in the church, Miss Newton being at the organ. Fifty-eight members were the guests of the tower to tea in the Parish Room, after which Mr. E. F. White presided over the business meeting, at which all the officers of the branch were re-elected.

The towers represented were Westbury, Bradford-on-Avon, Trowbridge, North Bradley, Warminster, Keevil, Steeple Ashton, Holt, Longbridge Deverell, Bratton, Bishops Cannings, Devizes St. John and St. Mary, and Southbroom. Visitors came from Bristol, Salisbury, Wishford, Bath and Bathampton.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT ASHTEAD.

A meeting of the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Guild was held at Ashtead on November 25th. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. W. H. Cooper, and tea, to which 37 sat down, was served at the Peace Memorial Hall, the business meeting following. Three new ringing and two compounding members were elected, and the retiring district officers were renominated for election in 1945.

A letter from the general secretary regarding the payment for a new peal book was read, and it was decided that the members should think it over and give their opinions at the annual district meeting.

A good variety of methods to suit all capabilities were rung.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT POWICK.

There was a large gathering of members at a meeting of the Worcestershire Association, held at Powick on November 25th. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. D. W. Rowe, and tea and business were in the Village Hall. Mr. C. Camm, the Branch Master, Mr. E. F. Cubberley, the hon. secretary, and Mr. W. Ranford were re-elected. The Rev. D. W. Rowe was elected an honorary member, and Messrs. H. E. Raxter, F. Hemming, W. Sparkes and W. Bourne, of Dodderhill, and the Rev. H. L. Davies, of Upton, performing members. A report was given of the recent broadcast of the Cathedral bells in the Bridge-Building series of the B.B.C. It was decided to hold the next quarterly meeting at All Saints', Worcester.

PEAL RINGING IN WAR TIME.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A controversy has developed around the question of peal ringing in war time, and the letter of 'B,' while submitting an understandable argument for the bereaved, savours very much of the pre-war arguments advanced by the Anti-Noise League.

All of us have the deepest sympathy with the bereaved. But, thank God, our men and women at home are made of the same fibre that has carried our armies to victory. They carry their sorrows bravely and endeavour to live in the same spirit as those who made the supreme sacrifice in performing the daily tasks of life with courage and fortitude. As Christian people we all realise that death is not the end. It is a parting for a season, and there is that confidence and belief in reunion in the life to come when opportunities for fuller service, which might also include bellringing to the glory of God, will be available.

I was talking this very question over with one of the veterans of our Exercise—and may he be spared to ring many more peals. He told me that he had already purchased his grave in a position that the full beauty of his beloved bells could be heard in all their glory. Now I do not share his view of associating the terrestrial with the celestial. Such factors of earthly dimensions will be non-existent, and as distance has already been overcome by the advance of science, so in the life to come it will be far more incomprehensible.

A few evenings ago I was listening to a peal rung on our beloved bells. With me was a Polish soldier, who was entranced with the majestic glory of our bells and the almost perfect striking. The bells brought back to him memories of his own country. 'We have bells in Poland,' he told me, 'but I have never heard ringing like this before.'

The majority of people love the sound of bells. Last Sunday I was listening to an admirable sermon by a Nonconformist Divine delivered to the relatives of those serving overseas. His subject was the coming Christmas. 'What our boys overseas will be thinking about on Christmas Day,' he said, 'will be their own folks at home and the hearing of the Christmas bells.' There is nothing so characteristically English as bells rung with the full beauty of perfect timing and rhythm.

Now I am one of those who have been guilty of peal ringing in war time. I am not ashamed of it; I do not regard my conduct as unpatriotic. Personally, I have benefited both mentally and physically from the peals which would not have been possible by the ringing of a quarter-peal. On no occasion have I heard in my own town an adverse comment on my peal ringing activities in war time. The contrary has been my experience, and a number of people who are non-ringers have expressed their pleasure at hearing bells again. The main thing in war time is to lead as near as possible a normal life. And, above all, let us not neglect our ringing for Sunday services, which is an act of worship and performed solely to the glory of God.

'W.'

Dear Sir,—The pros and cons of this matter have been discussed at length in many letters, but it appears to me that to some extent ringers may be said to have failed in their duty as operators of a national mode of expression.

How many peals were rung in honour of the victories in North Africa, the liberation of Paris and Brussels or for the great Russian achievements? Yet from time immemorial English bells pealed out upon such glorious news.

Are ringers all over the country arranging for peals of thankfulness against the time when the last of the occupied countries shall have been liberated? I think not, but why should not a day of ringing be organised as an act of praise and thanksgiving in the same way and in the same spirit that the nation responds to the King's calls for days of prayer?

T. E. LOXTON.

Aldermaston, Berks.

Dear Sir,—Might I further trouble you, as an 'anti-pealer,' to allow me to answer the question asked by Mr. P. A. Corby as to what is the difference between a peal and a meeting to the ears of the public?

I doubt whether the ears of the public would detect any difference between one or the other, but I think Mr. Corby misses a very important point by asking that question in just that particular form.

Surely there is a very great difference in the conditions of a peal and those of a meeting.

I think I may safely assume that when Mr. Corby starts for a peal, he, or whoever is conducting, ensures a greater degree of privacy by locking the door if this is possible, and, in normal times, rightly so. In these days, if anyone wanted the bells stopped, would Mr. Corby tell me how anyone could go about it? This is, I feel sure, the main point against peal ringing in war time.

In the case of a meeting, of course, no such condition is present, and if the bells were in need of silencing for a specific reason, then they could be, by the simple expedient of going into the churchyard and telling some of those people standing outside listening.

I would here like to make the point that if Mr. Corby or Mr. Clift must ring peals at the present time, then the least they can do is to see that someone in authority can gain access to them 'just in case.'

Finally, can Mr. Corby explain just how he considers an opposition to peal ringing in war time 'hibernation.' Surely that suggests to

me that the only form of ringing in which Mr. Corby has any interest is peal ringing and that anything else doesn't count. I feel quite sure that your correspondent 'B' (whose letter, I thought, put the anti-pealers' case excellently well), along with myself, don't look upon our views as constituting 'hibernation.' We would rather call it 'consideration,' which is what peal ringers appear to lack.

RICHARD A. POST.

Llanelli.

Dear Sir,—There are four considerations to make about peal ringing in war time. First, there is the ringer who has always found peal ringing a pleasure and has gone about it with enthusiasm and great interest. Secondly, there is the member of the general public who enjoys hearing the bells. Thirdly, there is the ex-peal ringer who has lost all interest, and, lastly, the member of the general public who dislikes hearing the bells.

In the first case, no really interested ringer would condemn peal ringing whatever the reason, neither would the member of the general public who enjoys bell music. The latter because the music of the bells is sure to remind him of the better things of this life and the next. Then the ringer who has lost interest has probably done so because of a little difference of opinion between his belfry colleagues and himself, of which he is reminded every time he hears the bells—a case of personal prejudice. Lastly, the person who dislikes bell music probably has no reason at all for so doing. I'm glad to say that I have met only one such person—many years ago—and his reason was pure selfishness and a bad temper. As Messrs. Pulling and Corby have said, 'Which is more preferable, a two hours' badly struck combined practice, of which there are many each week, or a three hours' well-struck peal?'

Regarding Mr. Denis A. Bayles' letter advocating a summer school for the theoretical side of the Exercise, I wholeheartedly agree with him and would like to go a step farther and suggest that some practical work be included as well.

Also, the letter from Mr. C. A. Levett is well worthy of note. It is high time that the ringing associations and guilds adjusted their rules in order to enable some of the young blood to try their hand at managing the many offices demanded by the association.

FRANK C. W. KNIGHT.

Farnham, Surrey.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

HOLLOWAY.—On Sunday, November 5th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. Akers 1, R. Newman 2, A. Warren 3, R. Charge 4, E. Pratchett 5, G. Charge 6, A. Turner (conductor) 7, H. W. Barnard (first quarter-peal) 8.

OXHEY, HERTS.—On November 14th, 720 Bob Minor: Miss P. Holmes (first 720 Bob Minor) 1, H. Hodgetts 2, G. C. Tarr 3, J. Cleaver 4, L. R. Tarr 5, F. W. Brinklow (conductor) 6.—On November 27th, 720 Bob Minor on handbells: L. R. Tarr (first 720 Bob Minor on handbells) 1-2, H. Hodgetts 3-4, F. W. Brinklow (conductor) 5-6.

HALSTEAD.—On Saturday, November 18th, 1,008 Bob Major: H. Smith 1, F. Ridgwell 2, L. W. Wiffen 3, F. Claydon 4, Miss H. Snowden 5, G. Saunders 6, A. Wiffen 7, W. Arnold (conductor) 8. Rung half-muffled for Canon T. H. Curling, late Vicar.

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS, DORSET.—On Sunday, November 19th, 1,260 Doubles, being 120 each of St. Dunstan's and London Singles, 360 Antelope and 660 Grandsire: J. Dennett 1, D. King 2, Miss V. Mabblerly 3, L. H. Pink (conductor) 4, M. A. Martin 5, L.A.C. D. Carey 6. First quarter-peal as conductor.

MAIDEN NEWTON, DORSET.—On Saturday, November 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: *J. Pitman 1, †W. H. Toms 2, R. C. Trevett 3, †H. J. Ford 4, J. H. Hayne 5, *Rev. W. G. Squire 6. * First quarter-peal. † First quarter-peal inside.

GOODNESTONE, KENT.—On Saturday, November 25th, 720 Bob Minor: T. W. Robinson 1, C. Turner 2, Harrison Smith 3, F. Fairbeard 4, H. J. Saunders 5, R. Collins (conductor) 6.

NORTON-IN-THE-MOORS.—On Sunday, November 26th, 720 Wragby Surprise Minor: O. Williams 1, S. Ryles 2, J. E. Wheelton 3, W. C. Lawrence 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6.

ACCRINGTON, LANCs.—On Sunday, November 26th, 1,260 Bob Doubles: L. Walsh 1, C. M. P. Johnson (first quarter-peal) 2, S. A. Smith 3, R. Leigh 4, R. Blakey 5.

OVER, CAMBS.—On Sunday, November 26th, 720 Bob Minor: W. Bavin 1, A. W. T. Ginn 2, L. G. Thorpe 3, F. G. Gleaves 4, R. Smith 5, F. Warrington (conductor) 6.

ALLESLEY, COVENTRY.—On Sunday, November 26th, 720 Beverley Surprise Minor: C. Avlett 1, H. G. Summers 2, J. W. T. Taylor 3, J. W. Taylor 4, F. W. Perrens (conductor) 5, W. A. Stote 6.

FULMER, BUCKS.—On Sunday, November 26th, 720 Bob Minor: A. Fuller 1, E. Harding 2, G. E. Swift 3, G. H. Gutteridge 4, F. T. Bolton 5, W. L. Gutteridge (conductor) 6.

CRAWLEY, SUSSEX.—On Sunday, November 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss A. Miles (first quarter-peal) 1, Miss F. Wyman 2, A. Ringrose 3, A. J. Bull 4, G. Jennings 5, K. Snelling 6, O. Sippetts (conductor) 7, B. Slaughter 8.

CROSTHWAITE, KESWICK.—On Monday, November 27th, 720 Bob Minor: T. Wilson 1, Mrs. T. Hogarth (first in the method) 2, Mrs. T. Wilson 3, T. Hogarth (conductor) 4, J. Brownrigg 5, F. Grisdale 6, R. Grisdale 7.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District. —Meeting at Carshalton, Saturday, Dec. 9th, 3 p.m. Tea and meeting at the Greyhound 5 p.m. Beddington bells available 7-9 p.m.—D. Cooper, Acting Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Horsham St. Faith, Saturday, Dec. 9th, 2 p.m. Tea at Vicarage, 4.30. Business meeting to discuss future policy, including holding of branch meetings. Buses leave Norwich 1.35, 2.15, 3.40. Leave St. Faith 5.53 and 6.6.—A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District. — Meeting at Overseal, Saturday, Dec. 9th. Bells (8) 3.30 p.m. Tea 1s., and meeting 4.30 p.m. —J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Spingfield on Saturday, Dec. 9th, 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea and business meeting after.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—Meeting at St. Philip's, Bristol, on Dec. 9th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Heene, Saturday, Dec. 9th. Bells (8) 2.45 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business.—L. Stilwell, Pikeholme, Pulborough.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at King's Langley, Saturday, Dec. 9th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Usual arrangements.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting, Saturday, Dec. 16th, 3 p.m., Whitechapel Bell Foundry, E.1. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30. Service ringing, All Saints', Poplar, Sunday, Dec. 10th, 10 a.m.—A. B. Peck.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION (Southern District) and **SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—Meeting at Ranmoor, Sheffield, Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tea and business in Parish Hall 5 p.m. Names to Capt E. G. Dickens, 18, Gisborne Road, Ecclesall, Sheffield 11, by Dec. 13th.—Sidney F. Palmer and Gordon G. Graham, Joint Secs.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch. — Meeting at Weedon (6 bells), Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bring food. — W. C. Moore, 5, William's Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale and Rosendale Branches.—Meeting at Whitworth, Saturday, Dec. 16th, 3 p.m. Tea in Co-op Cafe 5 p.m., 2s. 6d. Names to secretaries before Dec. 12th.—I. Kay and H. Parkinson, Hon. Secs.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District. — Meeting at Diseworth, Saturday, Dec. 16th, 3 p.m. Service 4.45. Cups of tea and business in School 5 p.m. Bring food. — A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Saturday, Dec. 16th. Rededication of Chilvers Coton bells. Service in Parish Hall 3 p.m. Dedicatory prayers in church ruins 3.45 p.m. Ringing to follow. Tea 5 p.m. Names by Dec. 14th.—D. E. Beamish, 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Thurmaston, Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bells (6) 4 p.m. Tea and business, Schoolroom, 5 p.m. Ringing, Barkby bells (5) 3 p.m. Names by 13th to H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Annual meeting at St. Albans, Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bells of Cathedral, if available, 3-4 p.m. Alternatively, St. Peter's. Service, St. Peter's, 4.30 p.m. Tea and business, St. Peter's Institute, Hatfield Road, 5.15 p.m. Further ringing at St. Peter's. Names by Dec. 14th to R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery. — Annual meeting at Congresbury, Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business in Vicarage 5 p.m. — E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. Luton District. —Meeting at Houghton Regis (6 bells), Saturday, Dec. 16th, 3 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—D. E. Lidbetter, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch.—Meeting at the Town Hall, Saturday, Dec. 16th, 3.45 p.m.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Derby District.—Meeting at Derby Cathedral, Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Business, 5 p.m., in belfry. Cafes nearby.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

BIRTH.

COOPER.—On November 28th, 1944, at St. Mary's Maternity Hospital, Croydon, to Doris, wife of Daniel D. Cooper, a son (Phillip Daniel).

HARLOW COMMON.—On November 29th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: F. Whithy 1, L. Whithy (first quarter-peal in the method) 2, R. Springham 3, L. Cordell 4, W. Wheeler 5, W. Horsnell (first quarter-peal) 6, S. Clark (conductor) 7, J. Aley 8.

PORTSMOUTH.—On Sunday, December 3rd, at the Cathedral, 1,264 Bob Major: J. H. Hunt 1, P. Cook 2, S. E. Cook 3, J. D. Harris 4, H. Nobes 5, T. Page 6, F. W. Burnett 7, W. Tate (conductor) 8; also 1,280 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: H. Nobes 1, T. Page 2, P. Page 3, J. H. Hunt 4, J. D. Harris 5, R. Stone 6, W. Tate 7, F. W. Burnett (conductor) 8.

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- 'TREBLE BOB,' 1s. 10d.; second edition; with appendix; 100 pages.
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RIVALRY.

In a recent leading article we said that the exclusive spirit and the rivalry which once were general in the Exercise promoted the interests of change ringing, though at a price. The whole point of the article was to stress the importance and value of co-operation and friendliness; nevertheless, our statement has apparently been disliked by some readers, and we are challenged to justify it. These people seem to think that rivalry is an unmixed evil, and, unconsciously no doubt, they class it with the 'hatred, variance, emulation, wrath and strife' of which St. Paul speaks.

That, surely, is wrong and mistaken. Rivalry and competition are among the most potent incentives to human action, and of themselves can just as easily produce good results as evil. Certainly without competition and rivalry change ringing would not have grown and developed in the past, and probably they are just as useful and necessary to-day as they ever were.

Ringing began as a sport, and however much some men may dislike the idea and seek to dissemble it, it still remains a sport—a sport dedicated largely, though not wholly, to the service of the Church and of religion, but still essentially a sport. Now there are few sports into which competition does not enter, and if competition, then rivalry. Two close friends who sit down to a quiet game of chess are in competition and are strict rivals so long as the game lasts. Would it improve the game if one were to offer friendly help and advice to the other, or point out the disastrous results which might follow some contemplated move? Competition does not enter into change ringing in so direct a form as that, but it does enter, and in the past (of which, be it remembered, we were speaking) it entered more obviously than it does now.

It is quite possible, fortunately, for a man to be a good ringer and to take his part in peal ringing, for no other reason than that he likes peal ringing; but when men set themselves to do something of exceptional difficulty, it is almost invariably because they want to beat some other people's performance. A long peal attempt, for instance, would not offer any attraction unless it promised the satisfaction of having beaten a record.

In the conditions which have grown up in the Exercise, direct rivalry between two bands is very rare, yet there might be cases where it would do good. If, for instance, there were in a town two companies equally

(Continued on page 510.)

skilful, who for their service ringing and peals kept mainly to themselves, and who were striving with all their might each to be better than the other—better in method ringing, better in striking, better in all things—if, in fact, they were keen rivals, the result would almost certainly be better than it would if they mixed indiscriminately. Rivalry of this sort did good in the past, and there is no reason why it should not do good in the future.

Unfortunately, rivalry was not the only feeling with which bands regarded each other. Too often it was debased and mixed with lower and worse feelings. It was easier with some men to try to belittle what others had done than to try themselves to do better. It was easy to pass harsh and unfair judgments, and to think and say bitter things. Those were the features which too often befouled and degraded the relations between bands and individual ringers.

Much the same thing happened in the old prize ringing. When we look at the matter fairly, it is difficult to see anything wrong or objectionable in prize ringing itself. The keen rivalry and competition certainly did produce an excellency of round ringing, raising and ceasing in the West, and of change ringing and striking in the North, which the best of our modern bands too rarely reach, but the conditions under which the contests were carried on were altogether deplorable, and the good was far outweighed by the evil. The price had to be paid for any good done, and it was far too heavy.

There is no reason to discourage in the Exercise the spirit of rivalry or even (beyond a point) of exclusiveness. Both have their uses. Both can exist side by side with that spirit of friendliness and co-operation which to-day is essential to the life and well-being of ringing. The 'unattached' member who feels himself at liberty to drop into any belfry as fancy or convenience serves, and who would just as soon ring a peal with one band as with another, is of little use. The best men are those who, when they are otherwise free, can meet and ring with all sorts of ringers on friendly terms, but have their own particular band and their own exclusive circle of friends, which take precedence of all others.

AVERAGE WEIGHTS OF BELLS.

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—With reference to recent correspondence on the above subject in 'The Ringing World,' your readers may be interested to learn of a method which I have adopted during the past 20 years with much success for calculating the average weights of bells.

It must first be appreciated that bells from one foundry and of one period cannot with any reasonable degree of accuracy be compared with those of another foundry and date. Therefore, I collated my statistics under the heading of the strike-note, and compared the diameters and weights with reference to founder's name and date.

For example, bells sounding the strike note D natural:—

Great Tew, Oxon, 52in. diameter, Rudhall, 1709, 22 cwt. 10 lb.
Reading, St. Laurence's, 51in., Taylor, 1882, 23 cwt. 20 lb.
Reading, St. Mary's, 54in., Knight, 1640, 25 cwt. 2 qr. 26 lb.
St. David's Cathedral, 52in., Mears, 1928, 24 cwt. 3 qr. 25 lb.
Adderbury, Oxon, 55in., Briant, 1789, 25 cwt. 3 qr. 10 lb.
High Wycombe, Bucks, 50in., Mears, 1802, 22 cwt. 1 lb.
Newbury, Berks, 50in., Wells, 1803, 21 cwt. 2 qr. 1 lb.
Bray, Berks, 53in., Knight, 1656, 26 cwt. 3 qr. 8 lb.
Coalbrookdale, Salop, 49in., Mears, 1852, 18 cwt. 3 qr. 27 lb.
Warwick, St. Mary's, 54in., Mears, 1814, 24 cwt. 3 qr. 20 lb.
St. Paul's Cathedral, 55in., Taylor, 1881, 30 cwt. 2 qr. 22 lb.
Exeter Cathedral, 57in., Evans, 1729, 33 cwt. 2 qr. 11 lb.

All the above examples are not necessarily tenors, and I could quote many others.

FREDERICK SHARPE.

Derwen, Launton.

HINKLEY.—On Sunday, November 19th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss Madge Grocock 1, Frank Trotman (conductor) 2, George Thompson 3, William Aldridge 4, Cyril Ison 5, Bert Ridgway 6, George Charlton 7, William Briggs 8.

TEN BELL PEALS.

POOLE, DORSET.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 9, 1944, in three hours and Forty-Two minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 8094 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

*JOHN V. DAVIS Treble	*ANDREW I. PEARMAIN ... 6
†MR. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 2	*REGINALD TRUE 7
*PERCY BRAYSHAW 3	WILLIAM E. CHEATER ... 8
*FREDERICK PRECEY 4	ARTHUR V. DAVIS 9
*†SGT. P. TOCOC (R.T.R.) 5	HARRY GILLARD Tenor

Composed by J. W. MOORHOUSE. Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.
* First peal of Caters. † First peal of Grandsire Caters. First peal of Caters on the bells. First peal of Caters as conductor.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 9, 1944, in three hours and twenty-three minutes

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

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 8040 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt.

HAROLD J. POOLE Treble	PHILIP A. COREY 6
JILL POOLE 2	*THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. 7
MRS. H. J. POOLE 3	HAROLD G. JENNEY 8
JOHN R. SMITH 4	G. STEDMAN MORRIS 9
*EDWIN A. BARNETT 5	ERNEST MORRIS Tenor

Composed by W. PYE. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* 100th peal together.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

ENDERBY, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, December 3, 1944, in three hours and one minute,

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

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

MRS. H. J. POOLE Treble	SIRILEY BURTON 5
*JOHN R. SMITH 2	SIDNEY O. CHENEY 6
JILL POOLE 3	EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD ... 7
HAROLD J. POOLE 4	G. STEDMAN MORRIS Tenor

Composed by F. H. DEXTER. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.
* First peal in the method. Rung on the 21st anniversary of the induction of the Rev. H. V. Hibbert.

PINNER, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 9, 1944, in three hours and four minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 18½ cwt.

*FREDERICK G. ROBBINS ... Treble	THOMAS COLLINS 5
FRANK BLONDELL 2	†NORMAN GUNNA 6
GEORGE M. KILEY 3	FRANK CORKE 7
WILLIAM BUACE 4	*HARRY STRATFORD Tenor

Conducted by FRANK CORKE.

* First peal. † First peal in the method.

WEDMORE, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 9, 1944, in three hours and thirty-two minutes,

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

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 30 cwt. 5 lb.

JOHN H. B. HESSE Treble	ARTHUR H. REED 5
DONALD G. CLIFT 2	*DAVID MACKAY 6
FREDERICK A. TARGETT ... 3	†RONALD G. BECK 7
THOMAS W. KIMBER 4	WILFRED WILLIAMS Tenor

Composed by J. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.
* 50th peal. † 50th peal together. First peal in the method as conductor. First peal in the method on the bells.

CALNE, WILTS.—On Sunday, December 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. Haines 1, F. Hacker 2, E. Dixon 3, H. Parsons 4, F. Hale 5, J. Romain 6, S. G. Grant (conductor) 7, A. Saye 8.

GRAYSHOTT, HAMPSHIRE.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 9, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LUKE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

CARTER'S No. 8.		Tenor 8½ cwt. in A flat.	
GEORGE UPHALL... ..	Treble	WILLIAM T. BEESON	5
VALHALLA V. H. HILL ...	2	RONALD J. C. HAGLEY ...	6
GEORGE L. GROVER	3	ALFRED H. PULLING	7
WILLIAM T. ROBINSON ...	4	FRANK C. W. KNIGHT ...	Tenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 9, 1944, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND NICOLAS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

*PTE. ERNEST THORLEY ...	Treble	HAROLD BARSLEY	5
RUPERT RICHARDSON	2	ARTHUR J. FARR... ..	6
W. ALLEN RICHARDSON ...	3	WILLIAM E. CLARKE	7
*STANLEY E. BENNETT ...	4	JOHN G. AMES	Tenor

Composed by A. CRAVEN.

Conducted by JOHN G. AMES.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method as conductor.

BOLSOVER, DERBYSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 9, 1944, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

HERBERT O. CHADDOCK...Treble	*GEORGE L. CHAMEERS ...	5
WALTER ALLWOOD	G. GORDON GRAHAM... ..	6
STANLEY SLANEY	A. BENJAMIN COOPER ...	7
*LESLIE W. BACON	JOHN E. TURLEY	Tenor

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE.

Conducted by JOHN E. TURLEY.

* First peal in the method.

WOOLWICH, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 9, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S TRANSPOSITION.

Tenor 13 cwt.

BERTIE W. ALDRIDGE...Treble	JAMES E. BAILEY	5
HARRY HOVERD	ALAN G. HALL	6
DENNIS L. HALL... ..	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ...	7
NORMAN SUMMERHAYES ...	FREDERICK J. CULLUM ...	Tenor

Conducted by H. E. AUDSLEY.

SIX BELL PEALS.

MACCLESFIELD, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 2, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, SUTTON,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one 720 Oxford Bob and two each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

JOHN W. L. SLACK	Treble	JOHN WORTH	4
*ALAN A. POTTS	2	MRS. C. LAWTON... ..	5
THOMAS TAYLOR	3	JAMES A. MILNER... ..	Tenor

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

* First peal of Minor.

ASTON-ON-TRENT, DERBYSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 2 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three 720's of Oxford and four of Kent. Tenor 15 cwt.

ALFRED MOULD	Treble	WILLIAM LANCASTER... ..	4
*BLANCHE WINFIELD... ..	2	WILFRED BUXTON	5
VICTOR TAYLOR... ..	3	JACK BAILEY... ..	Tenor

Conducted by J. BAILEY.

* First peal inside. First peal of Minor on the bells.

POLESWORTH, WARWICKSHIRE.
THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, December 9, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 of Cambridge Surprise and two each of Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 18 cwt.

*LESLIE B. HODGETTS ...Treble	*JACK TAYLOR, JUN.	4
*JAMES DRAICOTT	JOSEPH H. BEALE	5
†LEONARD TREVOR	*FRANK TROTMAN	Tenor

Conducted by F. TROTMAN.

* First peal of Minor in four methods. † First peal of Minor.

WILLESBOROUGH, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 9, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor 12 cwt.

*MARTIN GILLHAM	Treble	SGT. A. LANCEFIELD, R.A.F.	4
†THOMAS R. MOGG	2	MARK LANCEFIELD	5
WILLIAM J. LANCEFIELD... ..	3	EDWARD S. RUCK... ..	Tenor

Conducted by EDWARD S. RUCK.

* First peal.

NORTH PERBOTT, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 9, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings. Tenor 14 cwt. (approx.).

*ALYMER A. GOULD	Treble	*WILLIAM E. TURNER	4
HERBERT W. PEARCE	2	*WILLIAM J. LEW	5
WALTER H. POOLE	3	FREDERICK J. MARSH... ..	Tenor

Conducted by W. H. POOLE.

* First peal.

HANDBELL PEAL.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Saturday, December 2, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes,
AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*JEAN A. SOUTHERST	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE	5-6
BETTY SPICE... ..	3-4	MARGARET L. TUTT	7-8
†WILFRID F. MORETON ...		9-10	

Composed by J. SHAW.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal on ten bells. † First peal of Treble Ten.

GODMANCHESTER.—On Saturday, December 2nd, 720 Bob Minor :
*Lucile Hubbert 1, *P. K. Williamson 2, *B. D. Price 3, H. Fields 4,
J. Perkins 5, Frank Warrington (conductor) 6. * First 720. Also
720 Kent Treble Bob Minor : *P. K. Williamson 1, *B. D. Price 2,
L. W. Fisher 3, F. W. Lack 4, J. Perkins 5, Frank Warrington (conductor) 6. * First 720 of Treble Bob.

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JOHN SMITH & SONS, Midland Clock Works, Derby, Ltd., QUEEN STREET, DERBY

THE PLAIN MAJOR METHODS.

(Continued from page 493.)

We have so far got six methods; first a group of three consisting of Plain Bob, Reverse Bob, and Double Bob; and then another group of three, consisting of Shipway's Court, Lavenham Court, and Double Norwich. The next thing is to combine the methods from the two groups. The result will be a number of methods which for music, interest in ringing, and general usefulness stand among the very best that can be had.

We take Shipway's Court and to it we add Plain Bob, or in other words, we make Seconds place at the lead end instead of Eighths. This gives us Winchester Bob, a first class method worthy of the attention of any band. The work is not particularly difficult, but there is plenty of variety in it. The music is good, for the bells come to the front and the back in their natural coursing order, and as the natural coursing order throughout the lead is well maintained, a steady rhythm is produced which is the essential of good music in ringing. There is parallel 3-pull dodging in 5-6 and 7-8, the feature which makes the bob making in Treble Bob so attractive.

After a bell has made Seconds place at the lead end, it leads full, dodges in 1-2 up, and hunts to the back where it makes a 3-pull dodge in 7-8 down. It goes straight to the front, dodges in 1-2 down and 3-4 up, and then makes the Court Places (Fourths and Thirds) round the treble. It follows that bell up to the back and down again to 5-6 where it makes a 3-pull dodge, and leads full while the treble is lying its whole pull behind. From this point the work is reversed.

In actual practice the treble will be found of the greatest help in finding out what to do, and the method could easily be rung by relying on it as a guide in the way most ringers do in Double Norwich.

At the bob Fourths place is made instead of Seconds. It is the familiar Bob Major bob, but there are one or two novel features about the composition and conducting of the method. The first lead end of the plain course is 7856342, the Middle comes at the second lead end, the Wrong at the fifth, and the Home, of course, at the course-end. The Before (in which the seventh runs down and the tenor up) is called at the sixth lead end and that produces the position of the tenors at the first lead end. We can say if we like that the Before adds five leads to the course and reproduces the Middle and Wrong positions; or that it cuts out two leads, including the course-end.

Winchester Bob is a method which can be thoroughly recommended to any band. To show its good qualities properly, it needs a really fine peal of bells and a band who are not only good method ringers, but who understand and appreciate first class striking. The first peal of the method was rung at Willesden in 1924, and one or two have been rung since.

If we add Reverse Bob to Shipway's Court we get Highbury Bob. This, too, is a good method, though not so good as Winchester. The dodging is all single dodging. A good rule for ringing the method is to dodge in every position unless the treble tells you you must not. As Eighths place is made at the lead end, Sixths place will be made at the bob, the two bells in 7-8 dodging, as in Treble Bob. If preferred, a Fourths place bob can be used, but that would make both com-

posing and conducting considerably more difficult.

In all these Plain Major methods, when a Sixths place bob is used the two bells in 7-8 will be still at a single; and when a Fourths place bob is made (whether in a Seconds place or an Eighths place method) the two bells in 2-3 will lie still at a single.

Winchester Bob.

12345678
21436587
24135678
42316587
24361857
42638175
46283715
64827351

68472531
86745213
87654123
78561432
87516342
78153624
71856342
17583624

17856342
71583624
75186342
57813624
75831264
57382146

etc.

Highbury Bob.

12345678
21436587
24135678
42316587
24361857
42638175
46283715
64827351

46283751
64827315
68472135
86741253
68714523
86175432
81674523
18765432

17856342
71583624
75186342
57813624
75831264
57382146

etc.

The addition of Double Bob to Shipway's Court gives us Marlborough Bob, one of the very best methods that can be had on eight bells, taking everything into consideration. Seconds place is made when the treble leads, and Sevenths place when it lies behind. There is 3-pull dodging in 5-6 and 7-8 above the treble, and single dodging on the front below the treble. The work is not difficult but is full of interest and variety, and the music is first-class.

After making Seconds place, a bell dodges in 1-2 and 3-4 up, passes the treble in 5-6 and does a 3-pull dodge in 7-8 up. It lies behind, passes the treble in 6-7, dodges in 5-6 down, makes Thirds and Fourths, dodges in 3-4 down, and does Treble Bob work on the front (dodge, lead, dodge). It then does a 3-pull dodge in 5-6 up, is turned from behind by the treble, and makes Sevenths place, from which point the work is reversed.

In Marlborough Bob there are four shunts, at each of which the treble changes position in Coursing Order with the bell which previously had coursed in front of it. These shunts are, first, the places in 3-4 up, then Sevenths place, then the places in 3-4 down, and then Seconds place. The lead-end is 8674523, and throughout the lead the natural Coursing Order of the working bells is maintained.

The bob calling positions, Wrong, Middle and Right, come in the same order as in Bob Major, but at the second, fifth and seventh lead-ends. The Before comes at the first lead and brings up the sixth lead-end of another course, thus cutting out five leads. A great variety of good peals and touches is possible.

Edmonton Bob is produced by adding Seconds place to Lavenham Court when the treble leads. It is the

nearest approach possible to a Major method in which the treble plain hunts and the working bells have a Treble Bob path. The rhythm of Treble Bob is largely reproduced, but with more variety; and there is no Slow Work to part the tenors widely. A good method. Both Marlborough and Edmonton have been rung to peals.

Marlborough Bob. Edmonton Bob.

12345678	12345678
21436587	21436587
24135678	24163857
42316587	42618375
24361857	46281357
42638175	64823175
46283715	46283715
64827351	64827351

46283751	68472531
64827315	86745213
68472135	68475123
86741253	86741532
68714523	87614523
86175432	78165432
81674523	71856342
18765432	17583624

18674523	17856342
81765432	71583624
87164523	75138264
78615432	57312846
87651342	53721864
78563124	35278146
75836214	53728416
etc.	etc.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

A NOTE ON HUDSON'S COURSES.

BY B. D. PRICE.

In the course of a proof that 60 true courses of Stedman Triples are unattainable, I accidentally discovered a set of ten courses which may be of interest.

The proof assumes the existence of 60 true courses, and proceeds to show that this leads to a contradiction. If the plain course is examined, we see that 1 follows 7 into the Slow work. Thus the order in which the bells come into the Slow is 4716523. When I say that '1 follows 7' I mean that 1 is doing the work that 7 did 12 changes back.

Thus if 60 true courses exist, a little thought shows that there must be 10 courses with each bell following 7. On considering, say, the courses with 1 following 7, we see that each has two sixes with their characteristics of the form 7001 and two each of 0170. Thus the ten courses have 20 sixes 7001 and 20 of 0170. As these sets of 20 must be the extent of such sixes, the form of the ten courses, if true, is determined. Starting with the plain course, with following order 7165234 and regarding it as having 1 following 7, we construct the remaining 9 courses by keeping 7 and 1 fixed and constructing a plain hunt with the other 5 figures (note that this has nothing to do with actual hunting). This gives the following order of ten courses, which may be said to be a 'true ten with 1 following 7.' That the 'true ten' is a family is demonstrated by the fact that we get the same true ten by starting at any member.

If we take any one of Hudson's Courses and regarding it as having 7 following a bell, or a bell following 7, we construct the resultant true ten, these other 9 courses will be found to be Hudson's Courses also. This gives us an insight into the constitution of Hudson's Courses. Starting with the plain course as having 1 following 7 or 7 following 4, we start a chain of true tens with 7 always in the determining pair, which gives us Hudson's sixty courses. Thus, each course belongs to two true tens, one having 7 following a certain bell, and the other with a bell following 7. This is an effective demonstration of the remarkable set of courses that Hudson evolved.

DARLINGTON.—On Sunday, November 26th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: R. Busby 1, J. T. Titt 2, Lieut. Moreton 3, G. W. Park 4, W. N. Park 5, R. Park (conductor) 6.

LUTON.—On Sunday, November 26th, 720 Bob Minor: *A. Davis 1, H. Burton 2, A. King 3, A. Smith 4, A. Rushton 5, *W. Bottrill (conductor) 6, C. Rushton 7. *First 720.

John Taylor & Co.

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MUFFLES,
Etc,**

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**The official Journal of the Central Council or
Church Bell Ringers.**

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Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.
Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to:—

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Guildford, Surrey.

Owing to increased paper supply we are now able to accept orders for the delivery of 'The Ringing World' by post. They should be sent to Mr. G. W. Fletcher, The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk, accompanied by remittance. The charge is 4s. 3d. per quarter.

Arrangements have also been made for larger supplies through the trade, and newsagents in any part of the country will be able to obtain copies through their wholesale firms.

Cheques and remittances should be made payable to 'The Ringing World.'

Owing to the Christmas Holidays all Notices and communications for our issues dated December 22nd and 29th should reach our offices NOT LATER than Monday, December 18th, and Saturday, December 23rd (first post), respectively.

The peal of Cambridge Royal at St. John's, Leicester, on December 9th was the eighteenth rung by Mr. J. R. Smith in eighteen attempts. The list contains Bristol, London and Superlative Surprise Major; Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques; and Cambridge Surprise Major, Royal and Maximus. Mr. Smith is leaving Leicester to join the Royal Navy.

THE MONTH'S PEALS.

The great increase of peal ringing which marked the end of October and the beginning of November was not maintained throughout the latter month. In all 67 peals were rung, 18 of them on handbells and 49 on tower bells. The total number for October was 74.

The tower bell peals in November consisted of: Grandsire Doubles 4, Triples 5; Bob Minor 3, Major 1, Royal 1; Oxford Bob Triples 1; Stedman Triples 6, Caters 2; Kent Treble Bob Major 3; Spliced Plain and Kent Treble Bob Major 1; Gainsborough Little Bob Major 1; Double Norwich Court Bob Major 5; Cambridge Surprise Minor 3, Major 1, Maximus 1; Superlative Surprise Major 1; Seven Minor Methods 6, Five Methods 1, Two Methods 1.

The handbell peals were: Grandsire Doubles 3, Triples 4, Cinques 1; Bob Minor 1, Major 1, Royal 3, Maximus 1; Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Royal 1; Stedman Caters 2; Seven Spliced Plain Major Methods 1.

The number of peals in January was 50, in February 34, in March 37, in April 48, in May 41, in June 34, in July 47, in August 57, in September 60, and in October 74, making a total for the year (so far) of 549.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

MEETING AT BILSTON.

A meeting of the Dudley and District Guild was held at St. Leonard's, Bilston, on December 2nd, at which members were present from 14 towers.

Service in church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. J. C. Ayling, and tea followed at the Odeon Cafe, when 42 members were present. The Vicar presided at the meeting, at which nine new members were elected. The annual meeting was arranged for Dudley, the secretary to fix the date.

HENRY THOMAS ELLACOMBE.

(Continued on page 496.)

Ellacombe believed strongly in payment for ringing. In a letter to 'Church Bells' he justified it by saying that other officers of the Church—the minister, the clerk and the sexton—were paid, then why not the ringers? But it is clear from his writings that he valued it as a means by which the parson could obtain a firm control of the belfry and so maintain discipline. 'Experience has long convinced me,' he wrote, 'that no proper system for regulating the use of the bells and the conduct of the ringers will ever be effected without an endowment fund. This fund should be vested in the incumbent.' He did not mean that a capital sum should be provided to produce an income sufficient to pay the ringers, but that a fund should be formally created by a legal deed, into which all moneys received on account of ringing, whether for weddings, or Christmas boxes, or by voluntary gifts, or for any other purpose, should be paid. The parson would be the trustee, and the ringers would not handle any money until each received his due share at the settlement at the end of each year. An important part of the scheme was a system of fines and forfeits by which any lapses were penalised. Absence from any ringing for a wedding or other special occasion was punished by a fine of one shilling, in addition to the loss of the ringer's share in the money earned on that day. For being late, the ringer was fined sixpence, and if he did not stay until the end he would get no money at all 'unless the majority present give him leave to go off.'

If at the weekly Saturday evening practice 'any ringer comes fifteen minutes after the time or is absent (unless through sickness), or leaves the belfry before the bells are down (unless the other ringers consent to his going off) he shall forfeit threepence.' The same was to hold good if the band met by mutual agreement on any other evening for practice.

If any ringer refused to ring on account of the small amount of the money given at a wedding or any other special occasion (provided it was not less than ten shillings) he was fined one shilling, and if his absence prevented all the six bells being rung he forfeited all that would have been given to the company.

Whenever there was ringing on a Sunday, whether it was the early ringing at Christmas, Easter and Whitsuntide, or any wedding between nine and ten o'clock, the six, seven or eight oldest members of the band who lived in the parish and not more than a mile from the church had to attend the morning service, and whoever was absent or came in late forfeited half a crown. Any ringer drunk on a ringing day or in the belfry was fined half a crown. The fine for fighting, quarrelling, swearing, drinking or smoking in the belfry was one shilling. If the ringing on any evening began after eight o'clock and did not stop before nine o'clock, all the band were fined sixpence each.

A system of fines for various faults and failings was a commonplace in the old ringing societies, as it was with the mediæval guilds and the later social clubs, and was not unknown among village bands. But in all those cases the money received from fines was paid to and disposed of by the ringers themselves. The essence of Ellacombe's system was that the control of the money should be entirely in the hands of the parson. He or the foreman, who was his representative, alone received the

money, and after it was divided the fines due from any ringer were deducted from his share before it was handed to him. In the old ringing societies and companies the fines levied on the members went into the general fund, so that, though a man suffered loss when he was fined, he benefited when another was fined, and in normal cases loss and gain would roughly balance each other. That, of course, would defeat Ellacombe's intention, and he provided that fines should not be shared by the other ringers, but should be given to some other parochial purpose. To soften what might seem to be an altogether too high-handed decree, he induced one of his parishioners to promise yearly the sum of thirty shillings, to which he added himself ten shillings, so that the fines might take the form of the loss of good conduct money and not the arbitrary withholding of money fairly earned.

Ellacombe admitted that the great difficulty in carrying out the arrangements was getting 'a respectable and trustworthy man to be foreman of the company, who would keep an honest account of the fines incurred, and would be one with whom the company would agree to keep on good terms.' Certainly the job was not an easy or enviable one. An average band would naturally and rightly resent the presence among them of one who was primarily the Vicar's watchdog, and the man's own sympathies, if he were a suitable person to be the captain of the band, would be with the company.

Ellacombe said that his rules had been tried for two years and worked most satisfactorily. Perhaps they did from his point of view, but, of course we do not know what the ringers thought, nor what the ultimate effect was. It may have been that the money which each man received at the end of the year was a sufficient inducement to him to put up with restrictions he knew he could not alter, and it is pretty certain that Ellacombe was a man who was able to induce others to accept his views of what was right and necessary. He evidently could be quite firm and conciliatory at the same time. Another man who tried to carry out such a scheme might easily have raised a storm of opposition, not only among the ringers but in the parish generally. It must be remembered, too, that the ringers belonged to the labouring class, and the labouring class had for generations been accustomed to do what they were told by the farmers, who were their employers and immediate superiors, and by the gentry, to which class Ellacombe and the clergy belonged. Whether their obedience was always or generally voluntary or more than was necessary to keep up appearances, is another matter. Ellacombe might make a rule that the ringers were not 'as a body' to spend their money in drinking, and provide a fine of one shilling for anyone who reproached another for refusing to join and spend all together, but, unless his ringers were entirely different from the ringers in other places and at other times, we should be very surprised to hear that the rule was kept.

By laying down stringent rules for the payments for ringing Ellacombe was, in fact, attempting to solve what was almost the most difficult problem which faced the Exercise. Should ringers be paid or not? Was paid ringing a good thing for the Exercise and the art of change ringing or a bad? To-day the problem has been solved by general social and economic changes which are entirely foreign to the belfry. Now the ordinary ringer earns so much money, and lives under such social con-

(Continued on next page.)

HENRY THOMAS ELLACOMBE.

(Continued from previous page.)

ditions, that anything extra he might receive from ringing affords no attraction or inducement to him to practise the art. But it used not to be so. A century ago, when wages were low and when ringers as a body (especially in the agricultural districts) belonged to the poorest classes, any extra money, however small, was a consideration. There was always the temptation to value the money ringing brought more than the art itself. The result was that the Exercise was never quite free from a proportion of ringers who rang for what they could get, and when there was nothing to be got did not ring at all; and that class of men was quite numerous in the nineteenth century. A man who signed himself 'A Lincolnshire Ringer' in 'Church Times' of April, 1871, wrote that 'it is now in many places no uncommon thing to find a set of men who ring merely for what they can get or, in plain language, beer. If they could get their beer without working for it they would not ring from one year's end to another.' There is plenty of evidence to support this statement.

It used freely to be said that paid ringing was the curse of the Exercise. It brought in many most undesirable men, it kept away many admirable men, it caused selfishness and exclusiveness and quarrelling. Where there is a lot of paid ringing (so men said) there you will find the worst characters among ringers, the lowest standards of ringing, and the smallest amount of harmony. It certainly is a blessing to the Exercise to-day that paid ringing has no longer the importance it once had. Except in special instances, service ringing is voluntary, and the majority would rather have it so. No band would consent to ring for a wedding without payment and are glad enough to accept and spend the money it brings, but they need other and greater inducements to become and continue ringers. It was different in Ellacombe's time. It was a sound instinct of his to try to alter and improve paid ringing, but it is doubtful whether the changes he made were an improvement. Probably no improvement was at the time possible.

ST. GILES', CAMBERWELL.

The church of St. Giles, Camberwell, was originally erected in Saxon times. It was a small building and was repaired and rebuilt several times. The first inventory 'made in the reign of King Edward the Sixth, recorded that it possessed, iij bellys, ij sarcying bellys, and ij sancty belles.' The sacring bells were sold and the inventory of a year later mentions only iij 'belles in the steeple,' but the churchwardens note 'also remaining in there charge to the Kinges use thre grete belles and a saunce bell.'

In 1716 the old bells were recast and a new ring of six supplied by Richard Phelps at a cost of £115 17s. 6d. A few years later they were increased by two trebles and became what was supposed to be the lightest octave in the kingdom. The tenor was 7 cwt. and the total weight 36 cwt.

The first peal on the bells was rung in 1734, by the Rambling Ringers' Club after several unsuccessful attempts. They met the first time on Sunday, March 7th, but found the treble out of her bearings and so went on to Lambeth, where they rang 1,008 changes of Bob Major. On Easter Tuesday they met again, and, having lifted the bell out of the pit into her bearings, they

proceeded to raise the bells, but John Trenell, the tenor man, found something was wrong and, going up aloft again, they found the gudgeons loose. With that they gave up the attempt for the time being and went on to Bermondsey, where they rang the peal. The next attempt was on August 15th. This time they rang three thousand changes, and then the bad going of the tenor put a stop to further ringing. Finally, on October 13th, they succeeded in scoring 5,040 Bob Major in 2 hours and 55 minutes. Laughton attributed their success to the fact that on their way down they picked up an old horseshoe which they nailed up on the belfry door and so averted bad luck.



In 1735 the Eastern Scholars rang Bob Triples on the bells, and in 1744 the College Youths rang Treble Bob Major. Annable conducted the latter. As a rule he liked to be at the heavy end, but on these light bells he rang the treble. The Cumberland Youths rang 5,040 Bob Major in 1760, and the College Youths 6,400 Oxford Treble Bob in 1780, the longest at the time in the steeple, but in 1794 their rivals beat it with 6,720 changes in the same method.

In 1798 the tower had got into a dangerous condition and, as other parts of the church were sadly in need of repair, the usual proposal was made to pull it down and rebuild. Mr. Oswald Strong, a builder, objected 'that the steeple might stand in its present condition for many years,' but it was ordered that the bells should not be rung, and presently the upper part was taken down and rebuilt with brickwork.

So the church stood until the middle of the nineteenth century a mixture of many styles and the work of many centuries. On the night of Sunday, February 7th, 1841, a fire broke out which completely destroyed the building, tower and bells, and everything. The present church was from the designs of George Gilbert Scott, assisted by W. B. Moffatt. The intention was to have a much more magnificent church, but the cost was defrayed by a general rate on the parish and a parishioner objected to the spending of so much money. As his objection was upheld as good in law, the cost was cut down by several thousand pounds. Even so £24,000 was spent. The bells, a ring of ten with a tenor of 25 cwt., were cast at Whitechapel. They have recently been restored and rehung by Messrs. John Taylor and Co. The centenary of the building was celebrated a week or two ago.

CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 491.)

A very curious tower, surmounted by a large ball, is that at St. Lawrence's Church, West Wycombe, Bucks. Standing on top of a steep hill, this church is an edifice of brick, flint and stone in the classic style, consisting of nave, chancel, north porch and embattled west tower containing eight bells. The lower and more ancient part of the tower is of stone, and at the top of the tower is a large ball, capable of seating ten people, and about 640ft. above sea level. The upper part of the tower is of brick and was added when the body of the church was rebuilt in 1763 at a cost of £6,000 by Sir Francis Dashwood, Bart., who was called to Parliament on the death of his uncle John Earl of Westmorland in 1762, as Baron Le Despencer, and became Lord Chancellor. He was Master of the Wardrobe and joint Postmaster-General, and died December, 1781, aged 73. In the church is an ancient and curiously carved font stand of wood representing a serpent clambering after a bird. On the flat top stand four birds, and placed among these is a silver-gilt cup. Owing to the difficulty of approach, services are now only held here in summer time.

One of the bells is by Joseph Carter, 1581, two by Henry Knight, 1620/1, and others are from the Whitechapel Foundry. On the wainscot of the belfry is cut, 'October ye 25-1761 the first time of ringing in this loft.' The church was being rebuilt at that date.

The Church of All Saints, Newchurch, Isle of Wight, also stands on the top of a hill, and was originally built in 1087 by William Fitz-Osborne. It is an ancient cruciform building, dating from the early part of the 13th century, consisting of chancel, nave, aisles, transepts and a tower with small spire containing six bells. Several ancient monuments to the Dillington and Blissett families are here, and above the Jacobean pulpit is a tympanum approximately 200 years old. The entrance most used by worshippers is in the tower, and as the ringers perform from the ground floor, the congregation passes through the circle of ropes. The fifth bell simply bears the date 'Anno 5189' (for 1589), the tenor is by Anthony Bond, 1626, and others by T. Mears and Son, 1810. The tenor is cracked, and the locals say 'five bells and a leather bucket.'

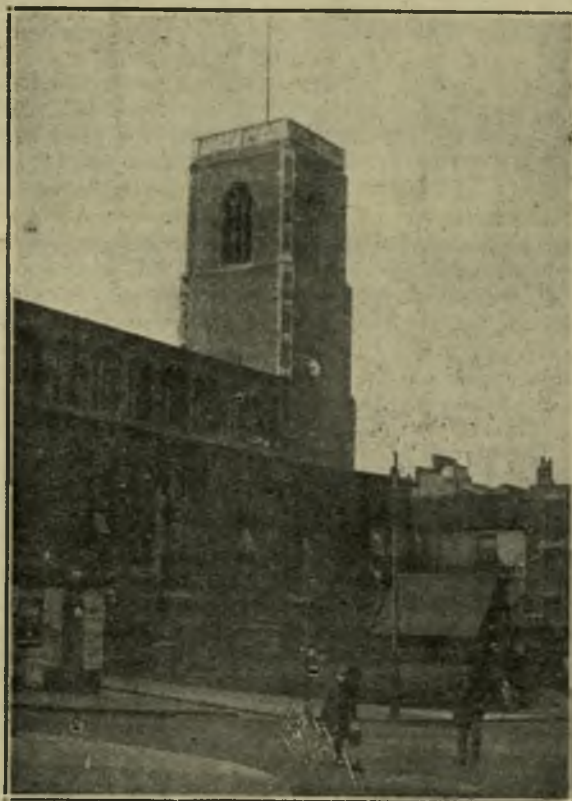
The church at Newton Porthcawl, Glam., has a massive west tower containing a ring of six bells, with a tenor 8½ cwt. Here the bells are rung from the ground floor in full view of the congregation. A curtain is used as a screen; seats have to be moved to allow the ringers room to ring, and often ringing has to be stopped early in order to allow people to get seated.

A church famous in the annals of change ringing is that of St. Andrew, Norwich, where there are ten bells, tenor 18 cwt. in E, and the ropes fall in the very unusual order of 1327x54698. Even so, the old Norwich Scholars rang many fine peals, including London Surprise, to the amazement of the late Mr. Jasper Snowdon, the ringing historian, when he visited the tower to gather historic data. The church, rebuilt in 1506 in enlarged form on the site of an ancient pre-Conquest church, contains many ancient monuments. Among these is one to Sir John Suckling (ob. 1613) and Robert Suckling, ancestor of Admiral Lord Nelson; and one to Francis Rugg, thrice Mayor of Norwich. The west tower is 96ft. high, with

a clock and chimes erected 1683. The tenor (1621) has this inscription:—

"Let vs tewne and sovdn together
England's swete peace for ever."

This and the 8th (1617) bear three shields—Norwich city, Brasyer and A.B./W.—on the crowns. The latter is also on the 6th (1623). The 7th is by Michael Darbie, 1661: 5th by John Draper, 1634; 3rd by Henry Pleasant, 1705; 4th and 9th by Thos. Newman, 1713. The two trebles were added in 1825 by T. Mears. Some very interesting notes on these bells are given in 'The Church Bells of Norfolk,' pp. 170-2. It was on these bells that



ST. ANDREW'S, NORWICH.

the first peal of London Surprise Major was rung by the same accomplished band which earlier in the same year (1835) had rung a peal of Superlative Surprise at St. Giles' Church. The famous Samuel Thurston was the conductor, and Henry Hubbard, who later produced a book on change ringing, was one of the band. Both peals are recorded on one tablet in St. Giles' Church, which, after giving the Superlative peal, says:—

'Also, at S. Andrew's in this town, on November 17th, 1835, was rung 5,280 of London Surprise, the most difficult system in the art of Campanologia. This insurmountable task was accomplished in three hours and twenty-four minutes. The bold and regular striking of both peals must ever reflect great credit on the company: they were conducted by S. Thurston, and are the first peals ever rung in the above variations. Geo. Watering, treble: Elijah Mason, 2: Fredk. Watering, 3: Henry Hubbard, 4: James Truman, 5: Robert Burrell,

(Continued on next page.)

CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

(Continued from previous page.)

6: Charles Payne, 7: Samuel Thurston, tenor. Weight of tenor, 18 cwt., key E.'

The wording of the tablet shows a curious slip, for apparently the ringers surmounted the insurmountable. It was afterwards pointed out that an earlier peal of Superlative had been rung at Huddersfield (1821), but there is no question as to the above being the first of London Surprise. No other peal was rung in this method until 1849. Writing of these bells last year (1943) the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Precentor of Norwich Cathedral, says: 'I was working at St. Andrew's, Norwich, this week, helping to put the chiming apparatus in order. The belfry is in a bad state, bells unringable for years, several appeared to be resting on timber baulks stuck across the frame, but I found the baulks could be shifted so that the bells could sound whilst their weight would still be taken by the baulks if (as had evidently been feared) the cannon straps were to give way. Bells arranged in two tiers, wheels partly broken, no ropes on wheels and no trace of proper ropes with sallies anywhere about. I managed to put eight in order with existing very worn and perished rope, for chiming.'

At All Saints', Parramatta, near Sydney, Australia, is a good ring of six bells by the Whitechapel Foundries; tenor, 10 cwt. 1 qr. 5 lb., cast in 1856, and others 1860. This place was visited by the English tourists in 1934, when on November 21st they rang 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: J. S. Goldsmith 1, G. Martin 2, V. Linter 3, A. C. Sharples 4, R. Richardson (conductor) 5, Rev. E. B. James tenor. The 'circle' of ropes falls somewhat unusual, the first three being nearly in a straight line with second a bit in front, 4th in corner opposite 3rd, and 5th almost in the centre with the tenor close behind.

At Penhow, Monmouth, the Church of St. John-the-Baptist has a ring of six, tenor 8 cwt. This church stands near Penhow Castle, and is an ancient building in Early English style. It was restored in 1851. The tower adjoins the south porch entrance to the church, and as the ringers are on the ground floor the congregation have to go round them to get to the main body of the church. On the left of the ringers is the font, and on the right the Manor Chapel. The original church dates from 1139, and it was rebuilt in 1913. Five bells by William Evans, of Chepstow, were placed in the tower in 1744. A treble was added by J. Taylor and Co. in 1927 by the late Rector, Rev. A. H. Thomas, in memory of his wife. The only way up to the bells is by an extending ladder leading to a trap door in first floor. Then about 5½ ft. higher is another floor, and 2½ ft. above this is the steel and iron framework of the bells. To oil the bearings one has to climb over the frame, and to muffle them kneel down, as there is so very little space between floor and bells. The old five are on plain bearings, but new treble on ball bearings.

Rogate, Sussex, St. Bartholomew's, is built of sandstone, and there is no tower (proper) here, but columns built up inside the nave at the west end, and a wooden turret built over it which contains the bells. These are six, tenor 8 cwt., and the ropes drop in the seats of the church. This is one of the very first peals cast and tuned on the Simpson principle. Cast by J. Taylor and Co. for the late Canon Simpson during his rectorship of the parish, 1904, they are in an iron frame.

HENRY JOHNSON.

BY JOHN DAY.

(Written in 1895.)

Mr. Johnson was born at Lichfield on February 28th, 1809, but early in his boyhood his parents went to reside in Birmingham. His father, who by trade was a tallow chandler, took his son to work with him at a very early age. In summer months such work had to be done in the night, and the lad, being fond of the country, used to devote part of the day to strolls countryward, especially to the neighbourhood of Aston, then quite rural. Here he became acquainted with Mr. R. Roberts, the parish clerk of Aston, who was a very fair ringer, and he it was who gave him his first instructions in managing a bell. He also found his way to the farm homestead of Mr. Joshua Short, a great celebrity at that time, who was never happier than when he had young ringers around him, and here probably he became acquainted with Mr. T. Day, who was a pet of Mr. Short.

In those days there were only round ringers at Aston, and the first intimation of Mr. Johnson as a change ringer is the fact of his conducting his well-known 720 Grandsire Minor at St. John's, Deritend, in the year 1829. This fact shows that he must have been studying composition at an early period in his career.

In January, 1830, he rang his first peal of Grandsire Triples at Aston, conducted by T. Day; and on February 29th, 1832, we find him conducting a muffled peal on the same bells, in memory of his old friend Joshua Short, and again in 1833, at the same place, a peal of 5,021 Grandsire Caters composed by himself.

About this period Mr. Johnson left his original trade, and obtained employment in a timber yard, where by his diligence and probity he worked his way up to the position of manager.

From about 1833 to 1842 there was no real ringing society in Birmingham, a band for a peal being got together with some difficulty, the chief places being Aston and St. Philip's. Still, even at this period, several peals of great merit of Mr. Johnson's composing were rung, including Grandsire Caters and Royal, and Treble Bob Royal.

On October 21st, 1841, he conducted the first peal of Stedman Caters composed by himself, at Aston. The peal had the fifth and sixth, the extent wrong and right and the third at home throughout. He had submitted it to no less an authority than Thurstans for his opinion as to its merits, and he had pronounced it a good and true peal; nevertheless, it turned out after all to be false. This event was the turning point in Mr. Johnson's career, and it was this that led him to develop the great talents which were then lying latent within him.

His vow never to trust anyone but himself as to the truth or otherwise of his compositions was perhaps easier to make than to keep, and it was interesting in after years to hear him relate how he worked day and night until he had so far mastered the subject, that in the standard methods he could tell at a glance, as it were, whether a peal was true or not.

In the year 1844 a revival of the St. Martin's Youths took place, and Mr. Johnson became the acknowledged leader. His numerous performances with that society are well known, including, as they do, the first ringing and conducting of Thurstans' peal of Stedman Triples, the peal of 7,392 Stedman Cinques in 1848, and, to crown all, the 9,238 on his 72nd birthday in 1881.

He rang his last peal on the same bells that he rang his first, a peal of Stedman Caters, on February 23rd, 1884, within five days of his 75th birthday. He was then suffering from rheumatism in the right arm and shoulder, and, though he had the best advice, it became chronic and he was never able to ring again.

Mr. Johnson had few educational advantages compared with those of the present day, being for the most part a self-taught man. Still, he was well informed on most subjects, and was remarkably straightforward and upright in all he undertook. He was possessed with a wonderful memory and was never at a loss as to anything that had occurred during his long ringing career. Among his other capabilities he was an excellent mimic, and would often keep the audience convulsed by the way in which he could reproduce the peculiarities of many departed celebrities. To an almost endless fund of anecdote he added his cheerful and sterling disposition, so that whether as companion, friend, ringer, conductor or composer, it is doubtful whether the Exercise will ever again meet with his equal.

Mr. Johnson was happy in the respect that he lived to see his abilities fully recognised by the members of the Exercise.

In the year 1886, at a dinner held to commemorate his 77th birthday, which was attended by ringers from all parts of the country, he was presented with a portrait and illuminated address subscribed for by his many friends. Three years later to commemorate his 80th birthday, invitations to a banquet were issued by Mr. A. Percival Heywood to all the officials of the various ringing societies and most prominent ringers throughout the kingdom. This gathering of ringers was the most representative ever held and from it emanated the existing Central Council of Change Ringers.

He died in the following year, January 7th, 1890, passing away quite peacefully and with hardly any illness to speak of. He was buried at Aston just under the shadow of the tower. A substantial granite tombstone, erected by the subscriptions of the ringers of England, marks the spot, and records his worth and their gratitude.

NOTE.—This account was not actually written by John Day, but he supplied the material. The author probably was William Snowdon.

PEAL RINGING IN WAR TIME.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I think the answer to the above is contained in your peal columns during the year 1944. The majority of names are of those men who have devoted very many hours to teaching in their own districts and particularly their own towers, and have actually produced fresh and good young blood who are regularly ringing for present-day Sunday services. These men realise that if their pupils take to peal ringing the pupil will at some part of the peal realise the meaning of a beat or rhythm.

I have, through this war, had my eldest son killed. Am I a sinner because I am still teaching ringers to ring peals? The boy's mother does not like bells, but she would be the last to wish for them to be silenced, or for peal ringing to stop, and she lives very close to a tower with a fairly heavy ring of bells. There appears to be a little bit of the 'dog in the manger' in some of the letters.

One thing I have noticed in particular is the absence of the old gang of 'peal grabbers,' whose business was to ring peals only. It was not for them to teach. Let our bells be the voice of the nation and Church and all will be well.

GEORGE GILBERT.

Burnham, Bucks.

P.S.—As a rank Cumberland, let us keep our rule and stick to the last three lines of your leader of December 8th. Once a Cumberland always a Cumberland.

Dear Sir,—I do not object to peal ringing, as I think it should be encouraged. It makes better striking and good fellowship. What difference is there between peal ringing and the clattering and banging at Saturday meetings?

I have noticed that some ringers of peals do not ring or belong to any band for Sunday service ringing, and when they attend the Saturday meetings they slight the younger learners that wish to have a ring by not taking hold of a bell, but waiting until they have got most of their peal pals at the ropes. If this practice is done away with it would help to overcome the banging and clattering.

In your editorial comments you state that no one has mentioned that the sound of bells worsened their sorrow of the loss of their dear ones. I am sorry to have to state that I received notice that my only son was killed in Italy four days before Remembrance Sunday, 1943, and when my family and myself were going to church on that day the bells I had helped to ring half-muffled every year since the last war were being rung without muffles. That does not say the bells are to blame. To my mind, it is the ringers who have no thought for others, only their own enjoyment and gains.

W. E. LLOYD.

3, Cranbrook Road, Doncaster.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT WOOD GREEN.**

A meeting of the North and East District of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild, held at St. Michael's, Wood Green, on November 25th, was attended by over forty members and friends and several local towers were represented. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. J. G. B. Ashworth, who welcomed those present.

A tribute of respect was paid to the memory of D. E. Campbell (St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton), a young and promising ringer, who was killed on active service in Normandy. The elections of Messrs. T. G. Myers (Plymouth), R. G. Bird (Hampstead), W. Ayre (Hemel Hempstead) and Miss J. Houldsworth (London) were ratified, and Mr. A. W. Brighton (Forest Gate) was elected a non-residential life member.

The company were the guests of the Vicar to tea, after which Mr. C. T. Coles (vice-president) thanked Mr. Ashworth. The ringing ranged from rounds to Surprise Minor.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT HYDE.**

A meeting of the Bowdon, Stockport and Mottram Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild was held at Hyde on November 25th, and was attended by sixty members and friends. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. T. A. Parker, who welcomed the Guild.

Tea in the parish room was followed by the business meeting, at which the Vicar presided. The secretary was asked to express the sympathy of the meeting with the branch chairman, the Rev. F. Bonner, in his illness. Mr. Wilde conveyed the best wishes to the members from Mr. C. K. Lewis, from whom he had received an air-graph from India. The next meeting was fixed to be held at Cheadle on January 27th.

A vote of condolence was passed with the relatives of John H. Brierley, of Hyde, who had recently passed away. The hon. secretary paid tribute to the deceased's service rendered to the local church for 40 years and before that for many years to the churches of St. Anne, Denton, and St. Peter, Ashton-under-Lyne. The methods rung ranged from Cambridge Surprise Major to rounds.

GUISELEY, YORKS.—On Sunday, December 3rd, 720 Bob Minor: *A. Wear 1, *G: Dixon 2, *H. M. Heaton 3, J. McGlenn 4, W. Dixon (conductor) 5, A. C. Walsh 6. *First 720.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting, Saturday, Dec. 16th, 3 p.m., Whitechapel Bell Foundry, E.1. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30, 10 a.m.—A. B. Peck.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION (Southern District) and SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Ranmoor, Sheffield, Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tea and business in Parish Hall 5 p.m.—Sidney F. Palmer and Gordon G. Graham, Joint Secs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale and Rosendale Branches.—Meeting at Whitworth, Saturday, Dec. 16th, 3 p.m.—I. Kay and H. Parkinson, Hon. Secs.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Thurmaston, Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bells (6) 4 p.m. Tea and business, Schoolroom, 5 p.m. Ringing, Barkby bells (5) 3 p.m.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Axbridge Deanery. — Annual meeting at Congresbury, Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business in Vicarage 5 p.m. — E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Derby District.—Meeting at Derby Cathedral, Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Business, 5 p.m., in belfry. Cafes nearby.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Annual meeting at St. Albans, Saturday, Dec. 16th. Bells of Cathedral 3-4 p.m. Service, St. Peter's, 4.30 p.m. Tea and business, St. Peter's Institute, Hatfield Road, 5.15 p.m. Further ringing at St. Peter's.—R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch.—Meeting at Tilney, All Saints', Saturday, Dec. 23rd. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea (provided) at 5.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—Practice at Stoke Poges, Tuesday, Dec. 26th, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

BIRTH.

REED.—To Alice, wife of Reginald A. Reed, B.L.A., on Nov. 25th, at 32, Scotter Road, Bishopstoke, a daughter (Katharine Lindsey).

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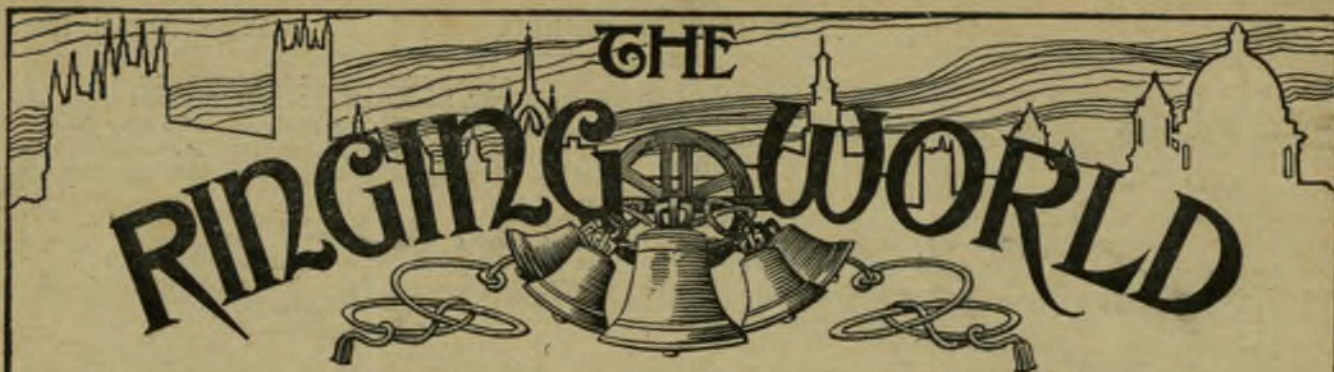
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THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

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[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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CHRISTMAS.

In three days' time it will be Christmas Day, the sixth since the war began. Five years is a short time in the history of a nation, and is not a very long time in the life of a man; but the importance of years is not to be measured by their number, and the period we are passing through will certainly rank as one of the most vital, perhaps even the most vital, in modern history. Vast changes are taking place, and for good or for evil men's outlook on life, their hopes, and ambitions, and thoughts, and ideals, are being completely altered.

That the streets and buildings of our great cities will be different is patent to all. There are few important towns in which there are not desert spaces left by enemy bombing, and men are looking forward confidently to nobler buildings and statelier streets, to the removal of slums and the provision of better housing. That the social conditions under which we live will be different is just as certain; great schemes for improvements in employment, and health, and education, are being worked out, and some at least of them will come to fruition. Among all classes there is the longing and the hope that England will be a better place after the war than it was before.

Everyone should be thankful for this hope, and should do everything to fulfil it; but there is a very great danger of people forgetting that improvements in building, and housing, and education, and employment, will by themselves do little or nothing to make England an ideal country. The mere stopping of the war will not bring peace to the world, and in this country, however successful are the schemes for turning the vast war industry into peace time production, men will not easily settle down to a peaceful, useful, and contented life.

Most men think that, though material and social conditions have altered so much, they themselves are just the same as they always were, and will be able to take their places in peace time society exactly as they used to do. They are mistaken. More than five years of war have raised hopes and fostered ambitions which will not be realised, or, if realised, will be so by other men's loss. It cannot be good for us to read daily of the devastation of German towns and cities by fire and explosive, and to feel (as we do feel) satisfaction that it is so. The longer the war continues the more the average decent minded Englishman is hardening into a state of mind and feeling which will make it impossible for

(Continued on page 522.)

him to be not merely generous (for that can scarcely be expected), but even just to his beaten enemy. People are saying that whatever happens to the Germans will be no more than they deserve. It may be so. We are not particularly concerned about them. What we are concerned about is the effect on the character of our own people. The men who nourish a feeling of hatred for the enemy abroad can quite easily acquire a feeling of hatred for their opponents at home. That the end of the war with Germany may be followed by bitter strife at home is not so unlikely as it seems. We have as warnings what happened after the last war and what is happening now in Belgium and Greece.

What must be the remedy? The country is putting its hopes in careful planning and the resources of science, but careful planning and the resources of science have made this war the horrible and destructive thing it is. Only one thing can save the present civilisation and that is the recognition of the great moral truths which have come to us especially in the Christian religion. The issue is really whether men can find some way of living together on terms of co-operation and mutual regard; or whether they will go on with increasing violence tearing each other to pieces until all that makes life worth while for decent people is destroyed.

The hope for this country lies in the full recognition of the spirit which finds its expression and its justification in Christmas and what Christmas implies. The bells which will ring during the coming week-end will send out a message of hope and comfort, and convey a solemn warning which we feel sure will not fall on entirely inattentive ears.

The Editor wishes all readers of 'The Ringing World' a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

TEN BELL PEAL.

BURTON-UPON-TRENT, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Sat., Dec. 16, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5017 CHANGES;

Tenor 28½ cwt. in D flat.

DANIEL T. MATKIN ... Treble	JAMES F. HARVEY ... 6
ERNEST W. BEADSMOORE 2	RONALD H. DOVE ... 7
*RICHARD J. B. HADDEN 3	JOHN PINFOLD ... 8
FRANK E. HAYNES ... 4	GEORGE E. FEARN ... 9
WILLIAM C. DOWDING... 5	HENRY H. FEARN ... Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by FRANK E. HAYNES.
* First peal on ten bells. Rung to the memory of four Burton ringers, John Austin, John H. Swinfield, John Jaggar and Maurice Swinfield.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

QUEENSBURY, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 9, 1944, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

ARTHUR BAIRSTOW ... Treble	VERNEY BAIRSTOW ... 5
WILLIAM BARTON ... 2	ALBERT PICKLES ... 6
CLIFFORD ELLISON ... 3	WILLIAM AMBLER ... 7
CAPT. J. L. WRIGHT, R.E. 4	SAM LONGBOTTOM ... Tenor

Composed by WILLIAM BARTON. Conducted by SAM LONGBOTTOM.

LLANDUDNO, CAERNARVONSHIRE.
THE NORTH WALES ASSOCIATION

On Sat., Dec. 9, 1944, in Three Hours and Thirty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 15½ cwt.

JOHN FLOOD ... Treble	HENRY RUMENS ... 5
*KATHLEEN RUFFELL ... 2	HENRY LAWRENCE ... 6
LESLIE BARRY ... 3	ARTHUR PEGLER ... 7
*MARJORIE JONES ... 4	*HARRY GEESON... Tenor

Conducted by L. BARRY.

* First peal.

NORBURY, HAZEL GROVE, OSHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Dec. 9, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

JAMES FERNLEY ... Treble	WILLIAM FERNLEY ... 5
*MISS PAT. FLETCHER ... 2	JAMES A. MILNER ... 6
†E. DENNIS POOLE ... 3	PETER LAFILIN ... 7
DAVID GOSLING ... 4	TOM WILDE ... Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by JAMES FERNLEY.

* First peal on eight bells. † First peal of Major inside.

SAWLEY, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., Dec. 12, 1944, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 9½ cwt.

*L. ARTHUR GARNER ... Treble	GIRLING, RIGBY ... 5
†JAMES R. SIMPSON ... 2	WILLIAM E. SIMPSON ... 6
†BLANCHE WINFIELD ... 3	WILLIAM DAWSON ... 7
*CHARLES W. TOWERS... 4	CHARLES GEARY ... Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by WILLIAM DAWSON.

* First peal of Major. † First peal. † First peal of Major inside.

LISS, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Dec. 16, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt. 1 qr. 16 lb.

EDWARD R. COLES ... Treble	TOWER R. TAYLOR ... 5
ERNEST J. MUNDAY ... 2	WILLIAM T. BEESON ... 6
ALBERT HARMAN ... 3	FREDERICK W. ROGERS... 7
CHARLES E. BASSETT ... 4	C. ERNEST SMITH ... Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by F. W. ROGERS.

First peal in the method on the bells.

GORING-ON-THAMES, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Dec. 16, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th the observation). Tenor 8 cwt. 21 lb.

MRS. A. DISERENS ... Treble	BERNARD C. CASTLE ... 5
REGINALD W. REX ... 2	ALBERT DISERENS ... 6
*MISS JEAN V. STACEY... 3	THOMAS N. LANAGHAN 7
ARTHUR WIGGINS ... 4	EDWARD G. FOSTER ... Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS N. LANAGHAN.

* First peal. First peal as conductor and first tower bell peal.

SIX BELL PEALS.

REDBOURN, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., Dec. 7, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 2,160 (No. 143 C.C.C.) and four 720's 28, 29, 27, 26 (C.C.C.).

Tenor 14½ cwt.

*WILLIAM C. HUGHES ... Treble	*E. J. ALBAN KENDALL ... 4
*F. STEDMAN POOLE ... 2	*HERBERT GATES ... 5
AUGUSTIN V. GOOD ... 3	WALTER AYRE ... Tenor

Conducted by WALTER AYRE.

* First peal of Cambridge Minor.

BENFIELDSDIE, CO. DURHAM.
THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 9, 1944, in Three Hours,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CUTHBERT,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Kent Treble Bob and Oxford Bob, and one 720 each St. Clement's Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob.
 Tenor 13 cwt.

*FENTON ARMSTRONG	Treble	STEPHEN THOMPSON, JUN.	4
CHRISTOPHER T. LAMB...	2	JACK LISHMAN	5
ERNEST CAIRNS	3	STEPHEN THOMPSON	Tenor

Conducted by STEPHEN THOMPSON.

* First peal.

CROFT, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Dec. 13, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different 720's.		Tenor 6½ cwt.	
FREDERICK WATSON	... <i>Treble</i>	JOSIAH MORRIS	... 4
WILLIAM A. WOOD	... 2	ERNEST MORRIS	... 5
EDGAR O. CHAMBERLAIN	3	GEO. STEDMAN MORRIS	... <i>Tenor</i>
Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.			

Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.

DARLINGTON.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 16, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven extents in 10 methods, viz., Bourne, Cambridge, Surfleet and Beverley, Chester and Munden, York, Durham, Wells and London.
 Tenor 7½ cwt.

WILLIAM OLIVER	Treble	GEORGE W. PARK	4
ROBERT T. SIMPSON	2	W. NORMAN PARK	5
RICHARD BUSBY	3	ROLAND PARK	Tenor

Conducted by ROLAND PARK.

Rung for the 70th birthday of the ringer of the treble.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., Dec. 5, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,
 AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB ROYAL, 5184 CHANGES;

ERIC A. DENCH	1-2	JOHN THOMAS	5-6
MRS. J. THOMAS	3-4	ALBERT J. WALLMAN	7-8
CHARLES W. ROBERTS	9-10		

Arranged and Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

First Little Bob in hand by all.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Dec. 10, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,
 AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERERS, 5005 CHANGES;

HENRY HODGETTS	1-2	ALBERT J. WALLMAN	5-6
JOHN THOMAS	3-4	ERIC A. DENCH	7-8
MRS. J. THOMAS	9-10		

Composed by JAMES GEORGE. Conducted by J. THOMAS.
 Umpire: C. W. Roberts.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Fri., Dec. 15, 1944, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,
 AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.		Tenor size 15 in C.	
*MARGARET D. TELFORD ...	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE ...	5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT ...	3-4	†FRANCES M. MARTIN ...	7-8

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Triples. † First peal.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

SHARNFORD, LEICESTER.—On Thursday, November 30th, 1,284 Bob Minor: Eric Wood (first quarter-peal) 1, Percy Ison 2, Miss Madge Grocock 3, Frank Trotman (conductor) 4, Harry Wood 5, James Wood 6. Rung half-muffled.

BURTON LATIMER, NORTHANTS.—On Friday, December 1st, 720 Bob Minor: Miss S. Earle (first 720) 1, Miss M. J. Saddington (first inside) 2, M. Norton 3, J. Saddington 4, H. Turner 5, B. J. Saddington (conductor) 6.

HUGHENDEN, BUCKS.—On Sunday, December 3rd, 1,260 Grand-sire Triples: D. Cox (first attempt) 1, A. R. Blaby 2, Miss A. Look 3, J. Stone (first quarter of Triples) 4, A. G. Jones 5, A. Newton 6, P. Newton (conductor) 7, V. Evans 8.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD.—On Sunday, December 3rd, 720 Bob Minor: J. Nicholls 1, R. Butcher 2, W. Botsford 3, V. Conquest 4, J. Arnold 5, Miss D. Liddetter (conductor) 6, J. Conquest 7. First 720 as conductor.

STAVERTON, NORTHANTS.—On December 3rd, 720 Bob Minor: Miss N. Jackson 1, Miss P. Jackson (first 720 inside) 2, Miss M. Clarke 3, Mrs. E. S. Powell 4, Rev. E. S. Powell 5, D. C. Birkinshaw (first 720 as conductor) 6.

TROWBRIDGE, WILTS.—On Sunday, December 3rd, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Miss E. J. Crawley-Bovey 1, C. Butcher 2, Mrs. F. A. Penn 3, W. R. Baxter 4, F. A. Penn 5, E. Parker 6, G. H. Harding (conductor) 7, S. Francis 8.

PAISLEY.—On Sunday, December 3rd, at St. James', 1,260 Grand-sire Doubles: *Ian Peacock 1, *Alex. Scott 2, *Mrs. W. H. Caldwell 3, P. O. F. J. Cheal (conductor) 4, *R. Clark 5, N. Sharp 6. *First quarter-peal.

CIRENCESTER.—On Sunday, December 3rd, at the Parish Church, 1,260 Grand-sire Triples: *R. J. Wallis 1, F. J. Lewis (conductor) 2, A. W. Baldwin 3, A. Law 4, S. R. Hicks 5, A. Painter 6, W. H. Hayward 7, *R. K. Wallis 8. *First quarter-peal of Triples.

BRISTOL.—On Monday, December 4th, at St. Ambrose's, 1,260 Grand-sire Triples: *R. Porter 1, D. G. Clift (conductor) 2, *A. V. Bennett 3, *J. M. Stallard 4, E. F. Hancock 5, C. Glenn 6, G. Olliver 7, D. J. Marsh 8. *First quarter-peal of Triples.

OXHEY, HERTS.—On December 5th, 1,260 Grand-sire Triples: *Miss T. Waldron 1, Mrs. G. Savill 2, *G. C. Tarr 3, H. Hodgetts 4, *Miss P. Holmes 5, *L. R. Tarr 6, F. W. Brinklow (conductor) 7, *J. Cleaver 8. *First quarter-peal in the method.

POULTON-LE-FYLDE, LANCASHIRE.—On Wednesday, December 6th, 1,260 Grand-sire Triples: *R. E. Smith 1, Cpl. W. Perkins, R.A.F. 2, Sgt. J. R. Wilson, R.A.F. 3, R. H. Dove 4, Sgt. W. Procter, R.A.F. 5, J. H. Foster (conductor) 6, A. Tomlinson 7, *R. Taylor 8. *First quarter-peal in the method.

BUSHEY, HERTS.—On Thursday, December 7th, 1,344 Stedman Triples: F. Stacey 1, F. A. Smith 2, J. F. Smallwood 3, P. Parslow 4, H. G. Cashmore 5, E. Jennings 6, M. Hibbert (conductor) 7, J. E. Rootes 8. Rung on the 80th birthday of Mr. F. A. Smith, a member of the local band for nearly 50 years.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD, HERTS.—On Sunday, December 10th, 720 Bob Minor: Miss D. Wacey 1, R. Wood 2, W. T. Prior 3, E. Garbett 4, H. M. White 5, F. Bird (conductor) 6, T. Ward 7.

BRAMLEY, SURREY.—On Sunday, December 10th, 720 Grand-sire Doubles: Miss Paula Watkin 1, Miss Mary Davy 2, Peter Viney 3, J. Mott 4, J. Hyde (conductor) 5, C. M. Martin 6.

WILLESBOROUGH, KENT.—On Sunday, December 10th, 720 Bob Minor: R. J. Lancefield (first 720) 1, J. W. Ireland 2, P. Page 3, M. Lancefield 4, W. J. Lancefield 5, Sgt. A. J. Lancefield (conductor) 6.

WHIMPLE, DEVON.—On Sunday, December 10th, 1,260 Grand-sire Doubles: Miss E. Lomas 1, Mrs. A. Holway 2, Miss Q. Pring 3, J. Salway 4, G. Retter (conductor) 5, A. Holway 6. First quarter as conductor.

TROWBRIDGE, WILTS.—On Sunday, December 10th, 1,260 Grand-sire Triples: Mrs. H. D. Jennings 1, G. H. Harding 2, Mrs. F. A. Penn 3, C. Butcher 4, W. R. Baxter 5, E. Parker (conductor) 6, F. A. Penn 7, S. Francis 8.

SPRINGFIELD.—On Sunday, December 10th, 720 Bob Minor: J. Shadrack (first 720) 1, Miss A. White 2, E. J. Runter (conductor) 3, A. Bradley 4, H. Shadrack 5, H. Devenish 6.

BEXLEY.—On Sunday, December 10th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: *Betty Frost 1, Herbert E. Audsley 2, *Audrey Holden 3, James E. Bailey 4, Norman Summerhayes 5, Harry Hovard 6, Alan G. Hall (conductor) 7, Dennis L. Hall 8. First quarter of Stedman as conductor. *First quarter of Stedman Triples.

WESTON, BATH.—On Wednesday, November 15th, 1,260 Grand-sire Doubles: Mrs. D. M. Bennett 1, Miss A. M. Bennett 2, A. V. Bennett 3, J. M. Stallard (first quarter inside) 4, W. R. Rawlings 5, S. Woodburn (conductor) 6.

OXFORD.—At New College on Sunday, November 26th, 1,287 Stedman Caters: Miss V. V. H. Hill 1, E. A. Barnett 2, Miss M. D. Telford 3, Miss B. Spice 4, W. C. Porter 5, H. Badder 6, W. F. Judge 7, V. J. F. Bennett 8, J. E. Spice (conductor) 9, N. Allnatt 10.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—On Saturday, December 9th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: W. F. Sheraton 1, J. A. Brown 2, J. Anderson 3, R. L. Patterson 4, F. Ainsley 5, D. A. Bayles (conductor) 6.

LAVENHAM.—On Sunday, December 10th, 1,264 Bob Major: M. T. Symonds (conductor) 1, S. Smith 2, A. F. Turner 3, W. Jarvis 4, F. Boreham 5, L. Offord 6, F. G. Mortlock 7, L. Pryke 8.

THE PLAIN MAJOR METHODS.

(Continued from page 513.)

When we add Plain Bob, Reverse Bob and Double Bob to Double Norwich Court Bob, we get three new methods. Of them Double Oxford Bob is the best known. It consists of Double Norwich with Sevenths place added when the treble is lying behind, and Seconds place when the treble is leading. On six bells the method is one of the oldest and most useful we have. It was extended to Major by Shipway, and since then has generally been looked upon in the Exercise, not as a standard method, but as one which any band might choose to ring. The Norwich men rang the first peal of it (a 6,000) in 1832, but it was little practised until the close of the nineteenth century, when the band at Duffield, under Arthur Heywood, rang several peals, some of them of long length. Since then occasional peals have been rung at intervals throughout the country.

The plain course of the method contains exactly the same rows as the plain course of Double Norwich, and so has the material for the best kind of music; and all the place making and dodging of Double Norwich are there too. But the method cannot be said to be of the first rank, either in music or practical ringing. The two bells left on the front by the treble dodge together until it returns, and, similarly, the two bells left behind by the treble dodge together until it returns. This means that a bell must do a five-pull dodge in 1-2 down and then (after making Seconds place at a plain lead) do another five-pull dodge in 1-2 up. A corresponding thing happens behind. In 3-4 and 5-6, in addition to the Court places, there is three-pull dodging. And so the work and movement tend to be slow. Indeed, a bell only goes from front to back and back to front once in a course.

The general experience of ringers is that five-pull dodging is too long and tends to become monotonous to eye and ear. This is the great blemish in Superlative, which otherwise is as good a method as can be wished for in its class. There it is varied by double dodging, but in Double Oxford there is no relief from it.

It may be said that we get five-pull dodging in Double Norwich whenever a bob is made, and that no one then thinks of objecting to it as monotonous, either to listen to or to perform. That is true, but because it is at a bob the ringer naturally looks on it and treats it, not as a five-pull dodge, but as a single extra dodge, which follows a double dodge, and is itself followed by another double dodge. You may say it comes to exactly the same thing, but it makes all the difference.

Double Oxford is quite good enough a method to ring to an occasional peal, and so long as it has the charm of novelty is not without attractions. It is well adapted to composition and a large number of excellent peals have been produced. One advantage it has in peal ringing. Since the bells move so slowly and two men work together for such a long time, a slip by one of them is almost sure to be corrected by the other, and whatever mistake a man makes it is never likely to put him very far from the place he should be, nor will it upset more than perhaps a couple of other men. The slowness of movement also makes the conductor's job easier, and generally speaking we may say that Double Oxford is, for a competent band, quite an easy method to score a peal of.

Plain Bob added to Double Norwich gives Hereward Bob. Here the work above the treble is Double Oxford and below the treble is Double Norwich. There is less monotony than in the former method, for a bell goes behind twice in a course and so separates the five-pull dodges.

Reverse Bob added to Double Norwich gives Pershore Bob. In it the work above the treble is Double Norwich and below the treble is Double Oxford. Much of what applies to Hereward applies equally to Pershore.

Both these methods can be rung without difficulty and without study by a band who know Double Norwich thoroughly, and without having any claims to become standard methods, they are worthy of practice occasionally. Peals of both of them have been rung.

We have now got fifteen methods, all of them constructed by either Seconds or Sevenths place, or one of the two Court Shunts, or a combination of them. None of these methods is a bad one, all of them are, in fact, quite suitable for peal ringing, and six of them stand out as among the best methods change ringing has to offer. They are Plain Bob, Double Bob, Double Norwich Court Bob, Winchester Bob, Marlborough Bob and Edmonton Bob. When the plan on which the last four are constructed is applied to ten and twelve bells, a number of methods of Royal and Maximus can be had far superior to the Surprise methods after which so many ringers hanker.

The work in all the fifteen methods is at backstroke and will present no difficulties to a skilled and competent band. We said that so far as the effect on the Coursing Order and the lead end is concerned, it does not matter where the Court Shunt is made or whether it is at backstroke or handstroke; but if it is at handstroke the result may be that a bell will lead or lie behind for four consecutive blows. We might get the following:—

12345678
21436587
24163857
42613587
46231857
42638175
46283715
64827351

In theory that is quite as soundly constructed as Double Norwich, but in practice four consecutive blows in any one position are only allowed at a bob or single. This does not make the shunt useless, for we can combine it with Double Norwich and the result will give us Double Coslany Court, which has features not found in the Plain Methods hitherto familiar to the Exercise. The work is not difficult to commit to memory, but to ring a peal will require a skilled band who have their wits about them.

The bell which turns the treble has first a Full Work on the front. This consists of alternately leading a whole pull and striking one blow in Seconds until the treble returns to the front. The whole pulls and the single blows are alternately at backstroke and handstroke. After being turned from the lead by the treble, the bell makes the Court places—Fourths and Thirds—round the treble, and then, instead of following that bell up behind, strikes a single blow on the lead, a single blow in Fourths, another single blow on the lead and a single blow in Sixths. It then makes handstroke places

in Fifths and Fourths, passing the treble between them. A single blow in Thirds is followed by a single blow behind, a single blow in Fifths, and another single blow behind. Then come the Court places in 5-6 (Sixths and Fifths) and after turning the treble from behind the bell does the Full Work Behind which is similar to the Full Work in Front. The rest of the work is the same as that already done, but in reverse order.

Except for the two Full Works the bells move quickly, and the hunting is sometimes backwards and sometimes forwards. There is in the plain course no dodging in the ordinarily accepted sense. What the bells do is to dodge in 1-4 and 5-8.

The bob may be made in Sixths place (as was the case when the method was first practised), or in Fourths place (as was the case when Mr. Ernest Turner called the first peal of it at Twickenham in 1939). The Fourths place bob is what is called (not very happily) a 'lengthening lead' bob. Peals of Bristol Surprise, or Treble Bob, will serve, but they must be doubled by singles which are made by the bells in 2-3 lying still in addition to the bob making on the other five bells.

In Double Coslany the natural Coursing Order is kept as well as in Double Norwich the music can hardly fail to be good, but the absence of dodging in 7-8 prevents the method from ranking among the most musical.

From the point of view of method construction Double Coslany is interesting, for it is the foundation on which Bristol Surprise is directly built.

The first lead end of the plain course of Double Coslany is 4263857. If we make Seconds place instead of Eighths the bells will run round; and so they will if Sevenths is made instead of Firsts when the treble is lying behind. We can make both Seconds and Sevenths,

and that will give us Double Mancroft Bob. The rows of the plain course are the same in Mancroft as in Coslany, but the work differs very considerably. Mancroft will be found to be a method which will tax the skill of any band; much more so than the majority of the Surprise Major methods that have been rung. A peal of it has not yet been accomplished.

Double Coslany Court.

Double Mancroft Bob.

12345678	12345678
21436587	21436587
24135678	24135678
42315768	42315768
24351786	24351786
23457168	23457168
32547618	32547618
23456781	23456781
<hr/>	
24365871	32547681
42638517	23456718
24368157	32546178
23461875	35241687
32416857	53214678
23146587	35124768
21345678	31527486
12436587	13254768
<hr/>	
14263857	13527486
41628375	31254768
46123857	32157486
64213587	23517846
46231578	32571864
42635187	35278146
24365817	53728416

(To be continued.)

John Taylor & Co.

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THE RINGING WORLD.

The official Journal of the Central Council of
Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.

The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All communications for this journal should be addressed
to :—

The Editor,

'The Ringing World,'

c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
Guildford, Surrey.

Owing to increased paper supply we are now able to
accept orders for the delivery of 'The Ringing World'
by post. They should be sent to Mr. G. W. Fletcher,
The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk, accom-
panied by remittance. The charge is 4s. 3d. per quarter.

Arrangements have also been made for larger supplies
through the trade, and newsagents in any part of the
country will be able to obtain copies through their whole-
sale firms.

TO POSTAL SUBSCRIBERS.

All subscriptions are payable in advance, and for 1945
become due on Jan. 1st, 1945. Remittances must be
forwarded to

G. W. Fletcher,
The White House,
Caister-on-Sea,
Norfolk.

TO SECRETARIES OF ASSOCIATIONS.

All Notices and small advertisements must be prepaid.
Remittances must be sent with advertisement to the
Editor.

The Word was made flesh and dwelt, and dwelt among
us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only
begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Widespread sympathy will be felt among ringers with the Rev.
Herbert Drake, of Ufford, who has recently lost his wife by death.

BELLS IN MONTREAL.

A LETTER FROM JAMES G. A. PRIOR.

Mr. Alfred B. Peck recently received a letter from Mr. James
G. A. Prior, some of which will be read with interest by ringers
generally. Mr. Prior writes:—

'In a Montreal paper the other day I read of a Mr. A. H. Burgess,
who had been ringing the bells at St. George's Church there for 30
years and who had a peal of 5,040 changes ready for peace celebra-
tions. Although I had an idea there were no ringable bells in
Montreal, I decided to look the gentleman up. I found his name in
the local directory, and you may be interested to know that he is listed
as a campanologist! I eventually met him and found that he was a
ringer at Bath Abbey many years ago. He is quite an old man and
wanted to know if "The Bell News" was still being published! He'd
never heard of "The Ringing World" and was very delighted
when I produced a few copies. There are, of course, no ringable
bells in the city. He performs on a chime of ten, but so far I
haven't heard them. Anyway it was nice to have met a ringer. I
suppose I shan't get another pull till I get back home again, and you
can imagine how I look forward to that. The last ringing I did was
at Manchester Town Hall for the liberation of Paris. I'd much sooner
have rung with you at the Cathedral. I've a theory why ringing
hasn't caught on much in Canada. It is that they don't get the
right sort of beer here. I wonder if that is the reason. I've tried
the stuff a couple of times, but that was quite enough, and I now
look forward to a draught Bass at the Three Lords.'

THE LIBERTY BELL.

The following statement appeared in 'The Sunday Times' of December 17th:—

'As a gesture of friendship between the English-speaking peoples, an offer has been made from this country to recast free of charge the famous Liberty Bell of Philadelphia, which rang to celebrate the Declaration of Independence in 1776, but which has been silent for more than 100 years.

'The bell was made in London in the 1750's by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, whose offer to recast it has been made through Major W. Tudor Pole, of the Big Ben Council, to the Mayor of Philadelphia at Independence Hall, where it now hangs, and where the Declaration was adopted.

'The idea of the bell was first conceived by the Assembly of the colony of Pennsylvania, of which Benjamin Franklin was a very active member, and they gave a contract for a 2,000lb. bell to Thomas Lester, of Whitechapel. It was shipped in 1752, cracked soon after being hung, was recast in Philadelphia, but cracked a second time in 1835, since when it has been silent. A committee of the American Welding Society is at present studying the problem of restoring the voice of Liberty Bell.

'Round the base of the bell is the famous inscription: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof," and the offer includes faithful reproduction of this and of all other details. The recasting of Big Ben in the middle of last century was carried out by the same Whitechapel firm. Should the offer be accepted, it may well happen that the bell will be loaded and unloaded at the London foundry by the same oak jib crane that was used for it in 1752, for, after 192 years' service, it is still in use.'

THE EFFECT OF A RULE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Gilbert, in a postscript to his letter this week, refers to your leader of December 8th, which urges that a ringer's loyalty is due to his own band and to his own friends. These sentiments I cordially endorse.

Then Mr. Gilbert says, 'Let us keep our rule. . . . Once a Cumberland always a Cumberland,' which prompts me to ask the question, 'Does keeping the rule always retain the member?' The answer is, quite definitely, in the negative, despite the call of "your leading article and Mr. Gilbert for loyalty. Actually, the rule referred to, so far as the Cumberlands are concerned, loses members.

Unlike Mr. Gilbert, I cannot claim to be a rank Cumberland (that adjective has too many offensive meanings for my liking), but I can claim membership from 1910, since which time I have seen many fellow members forfeit their membership through joining another certain society, which in many cases they no doubt felt they had every right to do. The result for the Cumberlands was the loss of members.

It might be said that the rule is a two-way affair, and that the losses and gains balance matters, but is this so? My observations during recent years lead me to say, without expressing any opinion as to why it should be so, that the 'desertions' are almost all in one direction, and in my opinion it is highly desirable that the rule should be abolished.

Not being a member of the other society, I cannot make any appeal in that direction, but I do most strongly think that it would be in the interests of the Society of Cumberland Youths if that body took the initiative in this matter, and got rid of such a 'rank' rule. In these days, when ringers can be members of nearly all the associations affiliated to the Central Council without question, is it reasonable that such a rule should be enforced through joining one particular society? It would be more logical if it were made to apply similarly to all societies, but that would, of course, lead to disaster.

C. T. COLES.

Highams Park, E.4.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT EALING.

A meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association, held at St. Mary's, Ealing, on November 25th, was attended by 30 members and friends from Ealing (St. Mary's, St. Stephen's and Christ Church), Harmondsworth, Hillingdon (St. John's), Hounslow, Isleworth, Northampton, Pinner, Raynes Park, Streatham (St. Leonard's), Uxbridge and Westminster (St. Margaret's). The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Double Norwich Court Bob and Cambridge, Superlative, Bristol and London Surprise Major.

Letters were read from Mr. H. C. Andrews, on service in the Mediterranean, and from Mr. J. E. Churchill, of St. Mary's, now recovering from illness. Miss Marjorie Turner, of St. Margaret's, Uxbridge, was elected a member.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

At the annual meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths the following officers were re-elected: Ernest G. Fenn, Master; Alfred B. Peck, secretary; Albert A. Hughes, treasurer; Jack A. Waugh, senior steward; George W. Cecil, junior steward; Henry R. Newton and Henry G. Miles, trustees.

PEAL RINGING IN WAR TIME.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have rung a few peals since the lifting of the ban, and the reasons put forward against peal ringing have left me undisturbed—quite the opposite in fact. Do these people believe that peal ringing excludes one from having either thought or consideration for their fellow citizens? What a melancholy state these anti-pealers must be in!

Why condemn only peal ringing and not other forms of recreation? (Peal ringing to me is a recreation, both of mind and body.) Take, for instance, almost any club in the Football League whose ground is usually situated in a densely populated area. On the day of a match many thousands of people come and go to the ground over a period of three to four hours (including the match). No noise here! Of course there is, and plenty of it; but the relaxation and recreation provided by the game is well deserved. Or take what has been going on here in Oxford (as in many other towns and cities) for six months of this year, a huge fun fair within a stone's throw of the city centre, continuous (except Sundays) from 2 p.m. till 10 p.m. Noise again, but amusement for thousands of kiddies and adults alike. Would the anti-pealers have these things suppressed?

Now let us examine the amount of peal ringing that is taking place in these times. Looking through an old directory, I find given 3,430 rings of from five to twelve bells in Great Britain. As probably none of us can state with authority how many of these rings have either been damaged or destroyed, let us assume there are now 2,000 rings in pealable condition. The average total of peals rung per week is roughly ten. This gives one peal per week for every 200 rings of bells. Not enough to wake the baby!

Anticipating someone saying, 'Yes, but peals are rung more often in some towers than in others,' my reply to this would be (to state my own activity) that, since the ban was lifted, I have rung 27 peals under the auspices of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, ten of these having been rung in ten towers, ten in five towers and seven in one tower. In addition to the above, one other peal has been rung at one of these towers. The tower where I have rung the seven peals is at my native village, Kidlington. The church here is ideally situated for peal ringing, being almost entirely surrounded by fields. There has never been a complaint here, the bells being much appreciated, as is shown by the villagers' welcome.

W. F. JUDGE.

54, Templar Road, Oxford.

RIVALRY AND EXCLUSIVENESS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—From your leading article this week I quote 'There is no reason to discourage in the Exercise the spirit of rivalry or even (beyond a point) exclusiveness.' It is interesting to ponder upon the point beyond which it will be unwise to encourage exclusiveness.

Presumably the rule of the College Youths and the Cumberlands is to be considered a type of exclusiveness. There are also the various societies and groups which have an exclusiveness by virtue of their members all having achieved some particular distinction in the annals of ringing or all having held offices of a ringing organisation.

All of these forms of exclusiveness are connected with the art of change ringing and all ringers have some opportunity of becoming a member of the various groups if he chooses to exert himself with that end in view.

There are, however, groups of ringers within the Exercise which enjoys an exclusiveness based upon things which have nothing to do with ringing and which are quite outside the reach of almost the whole of the rest of the Exercise.

It can be argued that they do much good in their way, but the fact still remains that from a ringing point of view any exclusiveness in the Exercise must be a jealously guarded privilege to which all can aspire by applying themselves diligently to the furtherance of the art.

If the idea of forming exclusive bodies by various ringing members of industrial and commercial organisations becomes widespread, one can visualise the Central Council meetings becoming like a Trades Union Congress.

This is, perhaps, an exaggeration, but the point raised in your leader certainly leaves room for reflection as to where exclusiveness in the Exercise must stop.

J. E. BAILEY.

Dartford.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BATTLE.

A meeting of the Eastern Division of the Sussex County Association was held at Battle on December 2nd, when 18 members and friends were present from Eastbourne, Heathfield, Bexhill, Hastings (All Saints' and Christ Church, Blacklands) and the local tower. Service was conducted by the Dean, the Very Rev. W. W. Youard, and tea was at Newberry's Cafe.

At the business meeting in the belfry, the churchwarden, Mr. W. C. Allwork, presided. One new member, Mr. Verdun, of Bexhill, was elected, and the next meeting (the annual divisional) will be at St. Mary's, Eastbourne, in February. A vote of thanks to the Dean was proposed by Mr. W. H. Joiner.

WILLIAM CHATTEL.

BY JOHN DAY.

Written in the year 1895.

(To the majority of present-day ringers William Chattel is not even a name, but a century ago he was one of the most active of the Birmingham men. It was not by any means a good period in the history of the Exercise, but the story of it can be read with both interest and profit, for our present conditions are the direct result of what happened then. John Day's account is written in a simple and straightforward style, which throws a lot of light on the ringers of the time, their strength and weaknesses, successes and failures and the difficulties with which they had to contend.)

This remarkable man, writes John Day, was a native of Irthlingborough, Northants, where his father and (I think) his grandfather also were ringers. His father was a farm labourer, a notable shepherd, and the son as a lad worked on the land, driving the plough, etc., but he did not like farm work, and so tried shoemaking, and not liking that either, afterwards tried baking. I do not know when he first began this business, but while quite a young man he got to Leicester.

He had learned to ring on the six bells at home, and soon got among the Leicester men (of whom he was always very fond of talking), but did not make much practical progress in the art, since, being a journeyman, he had not much opportunity.

However, he was always trying to obtain information, and while at Leicester, by the aid of a travelling bookseller, obtained a copy of the old 'Clavis,' and during his night work found time to figure out Reeves' peal of 5,040 Grandsire Caters, every change, in pen and ink. By this means he obtained a knowledge of the working and construction of a peal as well as of the calling.

A LONG TRAMP.

Early in 1833 he left Leicester and had a long tramp, visiting among other places London, Exeter, Salisbury and Bristol, whence he came on to Worcester, Bromsgrove, and finally Birmingham.

He must have been getting into a sorry plight, for as he came through Bromsgrove they were ringing for the 29th of May, but onwards he had to plod, because both his boot soles had become detached and were tied on his feet by pieces of string, and he could not show himself among the ringers in that state as he doubtless otherwise would have done.

Arriving in Birmingham the same day, Wednesday, May 29th, 1833, he probably got a situation the next day with a Mr. Perks, a flour dealer and baker in Charlotte Street. On being told he could not enter on his duties until the following Monday, Chattel said it did not matter. 'I'll take a walk as far as Leicester,' and he did so, turning up again at the appointed time. Mr. Perks was an invalid, who died in the following October, and as Chattel had attended well to the business, he stayed on with the widow.

I do not know how he got his first introduction to the Birmingham ringers, but probably by a visit to Elijah Roberts' beerhouse in Jamaica Row, because Roberts' wonderful peals on handbells about that time were the talk of the country.

Every morning Chattel had to take hot cakes round to his masters' customers, and as I have many a time heard it related, on a Sunday morning, having sold his cakes, he made his way to St. Martin's belfry, and, putting down his basket, was ready for action. I should perhaps say that at that time Sunday morning practice was a regular thing, and continued to be so for many years after. (It was not service ringing.—Editor.)

Now on this particular Sunday morning when they had raised the bells (the front eight) they could not ring because there was no bob-caller present. 'I can call eighteen-score of Grandsire Minor,' said the baker, rather surprising the Birmingham men. However, the eighteen-score was rung, and from that time the baker began to be somebody.

A DOUBTFUL PEAL.

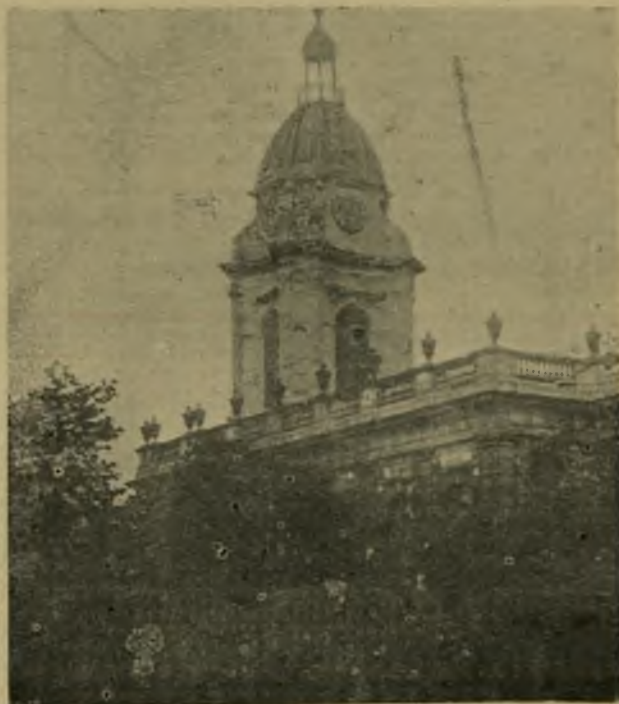
Mr. Hopkins, who was always ready to help a young hand, and thought he saw a likely man for the heavy end, took notice of him, while Elijah Roberts soon discerned his merits and took him under hand. In a short time a peal of Grandsire Triples was arranged at St. Martin's, Roberts calling and Chattel rang the second, the go of which was so bad that, strong as he was, it was as much as he could do to get through the peal. 'Keep the second up,' said Roberts. 'That is if I can,' answered the baker.

In consequence of the above and a bit of sharp practice of Roberts in conducting, this peal was often talked about. There was more than one colt in it, and five shillings was to be spent at Roberts' house if they were successful. Now Johnson worked close by in Edgbaston Street and heard the ringing from start to finish. The fifth part end came up (I believe) the same as the second, but in the belfry this was only known to Roberts. When the men came out of the tower, Johnson asked Roberts what peal he had been ringing. 'Old Ben's' (Taylor's six-part), answered he. 'Oh!' said Johnson, 'I didn't know the second and fifth part-ends were alike!' 'Hold your noise,' said Roberts. 'They know nothing about it.' And so the money was spent, but it soon leaked out that no peal had been rung, while another was arranged for them and completed shortly after at Aston.

On July 6th, 1834, Chattel stood in his first peal of Grandsire Caters at Aston, a 6,282 conducted by Roberts, and muffled in memory of Joseph Powell. In August he first conducted a peal of Grandsire Caters, Johnson's 5,003, the first time it was rung, and in that year he also rang St. Philip's tenor through a peal of Treble Bob Royal, which he also conducted. On October 1st in the same year he stood for his first peal of Stedman Caters, but unfortunately it turned out false, being composed and conducted by Johnson.

HIS WORK AT ST. PHILIP'S.

The eventful part of Chattel's career had already commenced, because some time at the end of 1840, or early in 1841, Charles Bingham, who had been towerkeeper at St. Philip's for many years, died, and James Hines, the senior beadle, was appointed to the post. Now Hines knew nothing about bells or their management, and so had to look around for someone with the necessary knowledge.



ST. PHILIP'S, BIRMINGHAM.

Chattel, who was anxious to get the place under his own control, soon took advantage of the situation, and came to an arrangement with Hines, by which he was to attend to the chiming for the services of the church, and to find men when required to ring the bells. This arrangement, however, was not satisfactory to the other ringers, since by it he had agreed to give Hines a share (five per cent.) of all moneys earned in the belfry by them, and after ringing in celebration of the birth of the Prince of Wales (November 9th, 1841), an open rupture occurred, which ended in all the men crossing their names off the book; Chattel being secretary.

This put Chattel on his mettle, and gave him an opportunity of showing throughout his difficulties his iron will, his extreme patience (though at times he appeared to have none) and his remarkable ability.

There were few young ringers in Birmingham at that time, and the old ones could not have been anxious that there should be any, for they never gave them any encouragement. Still there were a few, and some five or six young men under the guidance of J. James, sen., used to practise on the first six at Aston, and had become able to ring Grandsire Doubles. Now James was one of the men who had left Chattel, so that the young men, of course, soon heard of the rupture, and when Chattel hung out a bait to catch them—free instruction and the membership of the new St. Philip's Society—it was rather eagerly taken. As a consequence he was in a very short time independent of his old associates and at open war with them. This, to use his own words, was what he gloried in.

It was only in the October previous to the split that Chattel, Johnson and several other ringers of their time had rung their first peal of Stedman, and he was so taken up by its many beauties that he rather surprised his young hands by telling them they would have to ring Stedman or nothing. I believe he never taught anyone Grandsire, nor rang it if he could help it.

(To be continued.)

CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

(Continued from page 518.)

At Newnham, Northants, the Church of St. Michael and All Angels has an embattled western tower with octagonal spire, containing six bells and a clock. The lower stage of the tower forms a unique porch to the church, and is open on three sides. This open-air porch at one time was the 'ringing chamber.' Needless to say, not much ringing could be done except under very favourable weather conditions. The locals did most of their ringing in a small chamber under the bells, using the bare ropes, but in this place the tenor-man was completely hidden by a clock case. The circle was also peculiar. The treble was in the middle with 2-3-4 along one side, and the tenor diagonally from the 2nd, with the 5th relative to the 4th. The back five bells are all by Hugh Watts, of Leicester, 1632-3, and the treble was added in 1660. The tenor is 14 cwt. These bells were rehung by J. Taylor and Co. in 1940, and the ringers now stand on the first floor of the tower. A new floor was fixed immediately below the bell frame, as well as a sound-deadening ceiling in the ringing room, so conditions for ringing are now ideal. The first peal on the bells was rung on July 8th of this year, conducted by George Care, of Brafield.

One of the most curious towers in England is that of All Saints', Maldon, Essex. It is the only triangular tower we have. The precise date of the building of this church is not recorded, but that it existed in 1180—the date of the foundation of Beeleigh Abbey—is practically certain, for a Charter of Richard I., December 7th, 1189, exists reciting and confirming 'certain grants to Beeleigh Abbey, including the Church of Blessed Peter in Maldon and the Church of All Saints in the same town.' It is worthy of note that Lawrence Washington, the great-great-grandfather of George Washington, first President of the United States, was buried in the churchyard here on January 21st, 1652. The west tower was built in the middle of the 13th century, and is very unusual and triangular, averaging 17ft. on each of its three sides. It is surmounted by a shingled hexagonal spire with small pyramidal roofs at the three angles. In the second stage in the north-east wall is a blocked doorway with round head, and of uncertain use. Internally, a number of 12th century stones are reset in the walls of this stage. A little turret projecting from the spire contains the original Sanctus bell inscribed 'Johannes Snayn et Ricardus Lynne me fecit.' In this curious tower there is a ring of eight, ingeniously arranged in an iron frame by A. Bowell, of Ipswich. The tenor is 13 cwt. in G, and the ringers ring from the ground floor, which is lower than the church floor level.

Of the old bells, the middle four bear this interesting 'verse':—

- 3: When three this steeple long did hold
- 4: They were three emblems of a scold.
- 5: No mvsick then—but now shall see 1707
- 6: What pleasant mvsick—six will be—H.P. 1707.

As the 6th subtly indicates, they were cast by H. Pleasant. The 7th is by Pack and Chapman, 1770, and tenor by Thomas Mears, 1799.

Another well-known Essex tower is that at St. Mary Magdalen, Harlow Common. The tower forms the main entrance to the church, and as ringing is done from the ground floor, the congregation on entering church pass

through the circle of ropes. The eight bells here were dedicated October 31st, 1904, and are by J. Taylor and Co., the tenor being 12 cwt. 9 lb. An illustration of this tower is given in the Rev. F. E. Robinson's book, 'Among the Bells,' p. 540.

The Church of St. Mary, Ashbury, Berks, is an ancient cruciform structure with massive embattled west tower with pinnacles. In 1906 the tower was underpinned and north-west buttresses rebuilt. There is a ring of six bells, tenor 14 cwt., and these hang in an old frame. All the bells swing east to west and, because of the unusual plan of the frame, the 'circle' of ropes falls somewhat awkwardly in two lines, 5.3.1.2.4.6. Although there is plenty of room in the tower, the bells occupy the space from the south wall to about the middle of the tower, leaving practically half the tower vacant. Formerly there were five bells by Henry Bagley III., of Chacombe, 1733, but subsequently the two largest were recast by W. and J. Taylor, of Oxford, 1845. A treble was added by Mears and Stainbank in 1873. There is also a Sanctus by James Wells dated 1800.

At Bidston, St. Oswald, Cheshire, is a ring of six, tenor approximately 9 cwt. Ringing here is very awkward because, although an ancient church, a modern organ has been installed, and its case juts into the ground floor ringing room, making the 'circle' a very awkward one. The 5th ringer has to come forward almost to the middle of the tower because of the back of the organ. Entrance to the ringing room is by the west door from outside.

The church of SS. Helena and Mary, Bourn, Cambs, picturesquely set on rising ground, is a spacious cruciform building in Transitional Norman, Early English and later styles. It has a west tower with stair turret, and contains eight bells, tenor 14½ cwt. in F. Of the old six bells by R. Taylor, 1807, three were recast in 1882, while in 1924 two more were added and all rehung by J. Taylor and Co. As ringing is done from the ground floor round the font, the ringers are enclosed on three sides. Arthur Mee's 'Cambridgeshire' thus describes it:—'Three steps lead into the tower where the ancient font, surrounded by eight coloured bell-ropes, is set in the middle of a floor of red and blue tiles forming a maze, of which a plan hangs on the wall. The maze is very rare, or perhaps unique in an English church, though familiar on the Continent.' Dousing, the Puritan iconoclast, visited this church and destroyed two angels and some brasses and crosses in the tower and chancel.

Butcombe, Somerset, church of St. Michael, has a ring of six bells, tenor 6 cwt. — the lightest in this county. Neighbouring villagers say of this small church, it was 'discovered when cutting the grass with a sychle.' It is a small building in the Perpendicular style and has an embattled tower on the south side. The tower forms part of the Lady Chapel and so is open to the church on the east and north sides. The ringers stand in full view of the congregation. The place where ringing is done is the nave, as it were, of the Lady Chapel, and chairs have to be moved before and after ringing takes place. The ropes are drawn up to the ceiling by a pulley. This part of the church is 15th century and was formerly served by the Augustinian Abbey of Bristol. The Arms of Abbot Nailhewt are to be seen in the east window of the chapel.

(To be continued.)

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL SOCIETY.

A meeting of the Leicester Cathedral Society was held on December 11th, at which the Provost, the Very Rev. H. A. Jones, presided.

The resignation of Mr. Tom Taylor as steeplekeeper was accepted with regret. Mr. Taylor rang a peal of Stedman Triples on his 85th birthday in December, 1943, and on that occasion the ringers presented him with a cheque. Two months ago his health failed. Mr. C. F. Knight was elected steeplekeeper.

Mr. Harry Broughton, who had been hon. secretary of the society for 25 years, was compelled to resign owing to a serious illness some time ago. On behalf of the ringers, the Provost presented him with a specially carved mahogany tray. Two bells had been carved in the centre and the initials 'H.B.' inside them.

Mr. Broughton said he should still maintain complete interest in the Cathedral band, and that while he thought his peal ringing had ended, he hoped it would not be long before he could handle a bell again.

Mr. Harry G. Wayne was elected hon. secretary.

Congratulations were given to Mr. John R. Smith. He has rung 18 peals and has not lost one. (The methods have appeared in 'The Ringing World'.) The Provost presented him on behalf of the ringers with a wallet bearing his initials.

Mr. Smith said his association with the Cathedral band—which he joined with no knowledge of change ringing after the ringing ban had been lifted—had been the means of his making many friends. He thanked the ringers for their help and friendliness. His home is in Norfolk and he has attended a course of instruction at Leicester.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT SWINDON.**

Nearly 50 ringers attended the annual meeting of the Swindon Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, held at Christ Church, Swindon, on December 9th, and methods ranging from Grandsire Triples to Cambridge Royal were rung. At the business meeting the chairman (Mr. W. H. Trueman) referred to the opinions expressed in 'The Ringing World' on en bloc elections of officers and suggested individual nominations, but the members present thought otherwise, and the retiring officers were elected en bloc. The places suggested for the next three meetings were Wroughton, Stratton St. Margaret and Rodbourne Cheney. The towers in the branch were well represented, and visitors were from Ashford, Aldbourne, Bath, Bishops Cannings, Cheltenham, Colehill, Fairford, Oxford, Quenington, Reading, Shrivenham and Wootton Bassett.

DEATH OF MR. E. T. GRIFFIN.

The death is announced of Mr. E. T. Griffin, of Christchurch, Hants, which took place suddenly. Mr. Griffin learnt to ring in the London area and afterwards was a member of the Yeovil band and then of the Christchurch Priory band. He had rung more than 50 peals, which included Grandsire and Stedman on all numbers, Treble Bob Minor and Major, and Double Norwich Court Bob and Cambridge Surprise Major.

The funeral was at the Priory, Christchurch, on December 14th, and the interment at Highcliffe. The full local band rang the bells half-muffled before the service, and 574 Grandsire Caters were rung afterwards, the band including some members of other local towers.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.**MEETING AT CHRISTCHURCH.**

The annual meeting of the Christchurch District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild was held at Christchurch on December 2nd. The Vicar, Canon Gay, conducted the service in the church and welcomed the ringers. Tea was served at the Warren Cafe, at which 57 members and friends were present. At the business meeting regret was expressed at Mr. George Preston's resignation of the secretaryship, an office he has filled for over forty years. Mr. George Williams voiced the appreciation, felt by all present, of Mr. Preston's services to the Guild.

Mr. A. V. Davis was elected chairman, Mr. W. E. Cheater Master and Mr. J. M. Turner secretary of the district, Mr. E. T. Griffin was re-elected representative on the Central Committee and Mr. A. N. Wooff auditor.

Thirteen new members were elected. Triples, Caters, Cinques and Major were rung during the evening.

WEDDING OF MR. W. LINTER.

The marriage of Mr. W. Linter, hon. treasurer of the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild and chairman of the Portsmouth District, to Doris Ruth Northway, B.A., headmistress of Fareham Junior School, took place at SS. Peter and Paul's, Fareham, on December 9th. The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. B. C. Daniell), and suitable music was played by the organist.

After the ceremony the bells were rung by members, and those present included the Master (Mr. G. Williams) and hon. general secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers). Touches in the standard methods were rung, and the reception was held at the bride's home, after which the couple left for the New Forest.

SERVICE TOUCHES.**GRANDSIRE CATERS.**

The notation of Grandsire Caters is not in a very satisfactory state. Although the three largest bells are usually kept together throughout a touch or peal, the relative positions of them at the course ends are almost invariably altered two or three times. Every call affects at least two of the large bells and every bob cuts out one lead from the work of a bell. Thus there is no fixed bell to act as an observation and no fixed calling positions, as there are in Bob Major, Double Norwich, Superlative and even Treble Bob.

Touches and peals usually consist of a 'going off' course, in which the big bells are put into the tittums and at the course end are in the position 978. They may remain in that order throughout the touch or peal until the end, when a 'homing' course is needed to bring the bells round at backstroke, or (more usually) at handstroke. Sometimes halfway or at some other interval there is a 'turning' course by which the large bells are put into the handstroke position. Occasionally the relative positions of the big bells is altered more frequently and at shorter intervals.

There is not much variety in the calling of the courses in the body of the touch or peal. For the most part it consists of four callings. One is a call which brings up the course end. Another is a call which brings up the lead previous to the course end. Another is three successive calls at the first three lead ends in the course. And the fourth is two successive calls at the second and third lead ends of the course.

When the bells are in the tittums the first of these is termed a 78, and the second an 89, because those pairs of bells are then dodging behind. At the third the ninth is called into the hunt followed by two successive bobs. At the fourth the eighth is called into the hunt and out the next lead. The last two callings used to be termed '9th in 3' and '8th in 2.' Some years ago, however, these terms were objected to, and an attempt was made to alter them to '9th in and 2' and '8th in and 1.' The change has caused some confusion and the conductor should make sure he knows what is meant. When the bells are in the handstroke, or some other position the notation must be adjusted accordingly.

1,259.

23456789

43627589	7th in and at 3
62453978	5th in and bobs at two consecutive following leads
35264	8th in and 1
23564	9th in and 2
52364	9th in and 2
32465	89
43265	9th in and 2
24365	9th in and 2
34562	89
54263	89
25463	9th in and 2
42563	9th in and 2

Rounds by calling the ninth in and out at 2.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.

A practice meeting of the Portsmouth District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild was held at St. Mary's, Portsmouth, on December 2nd, and was attended by ringers from Alverstoke, Gosport, Godalming, Portsmouth (Cathedral and St. Mary's), Liss and Titchfield. The methods rung were Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob, Double Norwich, Cambridge, Superlative and London Surprise Major. The next practice meeting will be held in this tower on January 6th.

DEATH OF A HUDDERSFIELD RINGER

On Sunday, December 9th, the bells of Huddersfield Parish Church were muffled in memory of Tom Waites, who has been killed in action at the age of 31 years. He had been a ringer for about seven years and leaves a widow and two children. The band was John Womersley 1, Fred Richards 2, Tom Shaw 3, Andrew Blackburn 4, Harry Armitage (conductor) 5, Hubert Armitage 6, Donald Snowball 7, Brian Williams 8.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT CARSHALTON.**

A meeting of the North-Western District of the Surrey Association was held at All Saints', Carshalton, on December 9th, at which about 50 members and friends were present. Carshalton bells were available during the afternoon and evening, and Beddington bells during the evening.

At the business meeting reference was made to the death of Mr. C. Read, of Ewell, who had been a member for over 50 years.

All the present officers and committee were nominated for re-election at the annual district meeting, which it was hoped would be held at Epsom on February 3rd.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ST. MARY'S, PUTNEY. — Ringing on Christmas morning at 10 a.m.—W. T. Elson.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—Practice at Stoke Poges, Tuesday, Dec. 26th, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting, Saturday, Dec. 30th, 3 p.m., Whitechapel Bell Foundry, E.1. Ringing at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, 4.30.—A. B. Peck.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch. — Annual meeting on Saturday, Dec. 30th. Bells (10) St. Stephen's, 2.45 p.m. Tea and meeting in St. Peter's Parish Rooms 4.45 p.m.—W. S. Emery, Hon. Sec., 34, Waverley Road, Bristol, 6.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Lincoln District.—Annual district meeting at St. Giles', Lincoln, Saturday, Jan. 6th. Bells (8) 2.30 to 8.30. Service 4.30. Bring food and tea. Hot water provided in Parish Hall.—K. W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Carline Road, Lincoln.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Winchester District.—Annual district meeting at Winchester, Saturday, Jan. 6th. Fuller announcement next week.—W. G. Goodchild, Hon. Dis. Sec., 139, Stanmore Lane, Winchester.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at St. Marie's, Norfolk Row, Sheffield, on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Bells (8) 2.30. Tea at cafes nearby.—G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec., 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington, near Sheffield.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Annual meeting, Saturday, Jan. 6th, at the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, Birmingham. Ringing at St. Martin's, 4.30 to 6 p.m. Business meeting at 6.15. — T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—Aylesbeare Branch. — Meeting at Withycombe Raleigh, Jan. 13th. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by Jan. 7th to Brian Pidgeon, Hon. Sec., East Budleigh.

FOR SALE.

Ellacombe's 'Church Bells of Somerset.' Published 1875. £2 2s. — P. Field, Stoke Wake, Blandford, Dorset.

GREETINGS.

To all friends, old and new, pealers, anti-pealers and particularly all young Sunday service ringers, from: George Gilbert, Hilda and Cecil Taylor, Clissold, Eastfield Road, Burnham, Bucks.

To all ringing friends at home and overseas we send hearty Christmas and New Year greetings.—Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson and Mrs. E. M. Wayman, Glyn Garth, Surfleet.

Christmas greetings to all my ringing friends.—Edgar R. Rapley, S.E.A.C.

Wishing all College Youths and ringing friends all we should wish ourselves for the coming season and the New Year.—Ernest G. Fenn, Master; Alfred B. Peck, Secretary; Albert A. Hughes, Treasurer.

Harry Hoskins, of Greenwich, offers best Christmas wishes and a peaceful New Year to all ringing friends at home and overseas.

Seasonal greetings and best wishes from Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Harris, Woburn, Bedfordshire.

Sincere greetings for Christmas and best wishes for a Victorious and Prosperous New Year.—Mr. and Mrs. Frank I. Hairs, The Oaks, Burgess Hill, Sussex.

Greetings and best wishes for Christmas and a peaceful New Year from Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Swann, 5, Heathlands Road, Sutton Coldfield.

Every good wish to ringers everywhere. May those victory peals come safely home, with our brothers and sisters now far absent, early in the New Year.—Nolan and Iris Golden, now back at 26, Brabazon Road, Norwich. Christmas, 1944.

To all ringing friends, a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year is the sincere wish of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Pulling, Royal Grammar School, Guildford.

Hearty Christmas greetings and all good wishes for a New Year of peace and happiness to all ringing friends, from Mr. and Mrs. James E. Davis.

Christmas greetings to all ringers, from C. H. Webb, Coventry.

Christmas greetings to all ringing friends, from Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all ringing friends, from the Swansea and Brecon Diocesan Guild (Southern District).—E. Stitch, Hon. Sec., 21, Cambrian Place, Port Talbot, Glamorgan.

LADIES GUILD.**MEETING AT BRISTOL.**

A meeting of the Western District of the Ladies' Guild was held in Bristol on Saturday, December 9th. The ringing at St. Philip's Church during the afternoon included Stedman and Grandsire Doubles, Triples and rounds. The service was conducted by the Rev. G. J. Jarvis, who gave an address, and afterwards about 35 visitors, including 25 ladies, sat down to tea. At the business meeting five new members were elected, and it was agreed to hold the next quarterly meeting at Henbury.

HILLINGDON WEST.—On Sunday, December 10th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: F. Blondell 1, E. B. Hartley 2, P. E. Jones 3, P. W. Goodfellow 4, W. S. Childs 5, W. Honer 6, F. Corke (conductor) 7, S. Humphreys 8.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29th, 1944.

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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.

NINETEEN HUNDRED & FORTY-FOUR.

Twelve months ago we expressed a sober confidence that before the year was out formal war would have ended on this side of the world. We were not alone in our opinion. It was shared by responsible journals and men of knowledge and experience. But it has not been justified. The German people have shown themselves capable of endurance and of strength beyond all expectation, and the grip of those men on the throat of the country, who know they have nothing to hope for, and so cannot do other than struggle to the bitterest end, has not, and probably will not, be relaxed. There are still months of warfare before us.

To that extent nineteen hundred and forty-four has been a disappointing year, but when it is looked at closer there is every reason for thankfulness and satisfaction with what has been done. The brilliant success of the landing in Normandy and the great battle which followed really decided the issue of the war. It almost makes one shudder to think what would have happened if the invasion had failed, but it is necessary to do so in order to appreciate what actually has been achieved. The consummation is not yet, but it will come.

The delayed end of the war leaves the Exercise in much the same state of incompleteness and expectancy as it has been in during all these last five years. Until ringers are back again in their own home belfries, under something like normal peace conditions, it is not possible to make plans for the future, or to begin to put the art of change ringing on its old footing. But as in the wider sphere of national life, so in the affairs of the belfry, the year that is passing, though it has not seen the fulfilment of many hopes, has been one of steady if unsensational progress and success. We can perhaps best judge of our good fortune by comparing the Exercise, as it actually is to-day, with what some time ago we should have expected it to be after five years of war and two years without any ringing. Everywhere bands have been depleted and weakened, but everywhere, too, a faithful and enthusiastic remnant has carried on manfully, an exceptionally large number of recruits have been gained, and Sunday service ringing has been well maintained. Practically all the associations have shaken off the lethargy that fell on them in varying degree when the war began, and meetings are frequent and reasonably well attended. As in other spheres, there would have been greater activity among ringers if it had not

(Continued on page 534.)

been for the black-out and the difficulties of travelling.

Peal ringing is one of the best gauges by which the vitality of the Exercise can be judged. The full tale of records is not yet to hand, and we must defer comment on the matter until a later time, but it can be said generally that our peal columns abundantly show that not only are those men waiting to resume their old activities, who look on peal ringing as one of the greatest of a ringer's privileges, but also that the more recent newcomers are keen to join their company. The very large proportion of peals of Grandsire Doubles and Bob Minor is not any sign of the lowering of the standard of peals (as in some circumstances it might be) but a hopeful augury for the future.

Early in the year it was hoped that a meeting of the Central Council would be possible at Whitsuntide, and arrangements were made to hold it in the historic Jerusalem Chamber at Westminster Abbey; but when the time came, the final preparations for the invasion of the Continent were being made, and like so many meetings of other bodies, the Council's meeting had to be abandoned. It was unfortunate for many reasons; but, in the circumstances, it was right and inevitable. The meetings of the Council are of very great value in the life of the Exercise, quite apart from any business that may be transacted, and the sooner the next can be held the better. Whether it will be possible to do so in the coming year cannot at present be said. The decision rests with the responsible officers of the Council and the Standing Committee, and it must not be overlooked that next Whitsuntide is more likely than not to be the real climax of the great conflict now going on in Europe. Much may happen before then, but it is well not to be too optimistic.

Taking it as a whole and as a war year, nineteen hundred and forty-four has not been too bad, but all will be glad to see the end of it. We look forward to its successor with bright hopes and undiminished confidence. No doubt there will be many disappointments, but brave hearts and buoyant spirits can surmount them all.

DEATH OF MR. J. W. MOORHOUSE.

The death is announced of Mr. J. W. Moorhouse, of Wakefield, who passed away on December 6th, after a long illness, at the age of 70. He was taught ringing by his father, Mr. T. L. Moorhouse, formerly a well-known member of the Wakefield Cathedral band. Mr. Moorhouse had rung many peals on tower bells and handbells in a variety of methods. Ninety-six of them were for the Yorkshire Association, and of them he conducted 41, including the first peal of Double Norwich on handbells by the association. He was interested in Grandsire composition and produced several peals of Triples and Caters.

The funeral service at Armley Cemetery was conducted by Canon Marshall, and afterwards a course of Bob Major was rung on handbells by Miss L. K. Bowling and Messrs. P. J. Johnson, W. Barton and J. Ambler. A large number of ringers were present.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HORSHAM ST. FAITH.

A meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held at Horsham St. Faith on Saturday, December 9th. Ringers were present from Wroxham, Norwich, Norton Subcourse, Acle, Ranworth, Wymondham, Great Yarmouth, New Buckenham, Hethersett, Horsham St. Faith, Buxton and Northrepps, 18 in all.

After ringing and the tea, given by the Vicar of St. Faith's, the meeting discussed whether to have a report for the war years, and decided to consider this further at the next meeting, to be at St. John de Sepulchre, Norwich, on Saturday, January 13th. It was decided as from January 1st to return to the normal pre-war custom of having at least four meetings each year in each of the branches of the association, instead of having most of the meetings general meetings, as has been done for the last four years.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

PLYMOUTH, DEVON.
THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 19, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 35 cwt. in C sharp.

ALLEN S. WEATHERLEY ... Treble	H. FREDERICK MYERS ... 5
SIDNEY O'SHAUGHNESSY ... 2	GMR. R. EDWARD COLES ... 6
G. HARRY MYERS ... 3	THOMAS G. MYERS ... 7
ALFRED MITCHELMORE ... 4	A. WILLIAM MYERS ... Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS G. MYERS.

WORCESTER.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 20, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).

Tenor 20 cwt.

ERNEST WILSON ... Treble	ALLEN MORGAN ... 5
FRED N. FLUCK ... 2	REGINALD WOODYATT ... 6
*HORACE J. BENTLEY ... 3	DENIS R. MORRIS ... 7
GEORGE E. LARGE ... 4	GEORGE AMBLER ... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

* First peal 'inside' and on eight bells.

BADSEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(SOUTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 23, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE PART (7th observation)

Tenor 15 cwt.

*BOB GEDEN ... Treble	JOHN HALL ... 5
ARTHUR J. TAYLOR ... 2	ARCHIE REED ... 6
WILLIAM D. SPARROW ... 3	FREDERICK KINCHIN ... 7
JOSEPH D. JOHNSON ... 4	*EDGAR MITCHELL ... Tenor

Conducted by JOSEPH D. JOHNSON.

* First peal.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

BRETTFORTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 7, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, 10 callings.

Tenor 9 cwt.

THOMAS HANDS ... Treble	*WILFRED NEWMAN ... 4
*CECIL TOMPKINS ... 2	RAYMOND JEFFS ... 5
*CLINTON GOULD ... 3	JOHN HALL ... Tenor

Conducted by JOHN HALL.

* First peal.

REPTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 16, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. WYSTAN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings.

Tenor 19 cwt.

*MAURICE COOK ... Treble	JOSEPH HULSE ... 3
WALTER G. SOAR ... 2	*SYDNEY JONES ... 4
CFMN. A. J. HART, R.E.M.E. ... 3	JOHN HALL ... Tenor

Conducted by A. J. HART.

* First peal.

THURLASTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 16, 1944, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

Tenor 15½ cwt.

*ERIC WOOD ... Treble	CYRIL ISON ... 4
MISS MADGE GROOCCOCK ... 2	WILLIAM A. WOOD ... 5
FRANK TROTMAN ... 3	THOMAS COOPER ... Tenor

Conducted by FRANK TROTMAN.

* First peal.

WILLIAM CHATTEL.

BY JOHN DAY.

(Continued from page 528.)

It was about March, 1842, when I first met Chattel at St. Philip's by appointment. I had never seen him previously and it came about in the following way. In the previous year things did not go so smoothly as they might in Charlotte Street, and so he took a bake-house in Pope Street, where my parents lived. Many families at that time made their own bread, and on my sister taking the family batch to Chattel's to be baked, he was at once struck by the name and began to ask questions, so finding out the relationship that existed between Thomas Day, whom he knew, and ourselves. My sister told me of this and I at once determined to see him, causing her to make the appointment.



ST. MARTIN'S, BIRMINGHAM.

It was on a Sunday at 8.15 and I was there in good time. After making myself known to him we went up among the bells, where he had something to do. He was very pleasant in manner and began to chat about my uncle, of whom he was, and always remained, a great admirer. When we ascended to the belfry his young men were there, and after booking the attendances he ordered them to their places to raise the bells in this way, 'Now, lads! Let us get them up, there's no time to lose.' In my mind's eye I have them before me now. They stood thus: William Hayward, Edward Eagles, Thomas Srawley, Joseph Spencer, John Billingsley, William Chattel, Thomas Bingham and Edward Haywood. After the bells were up, the men, after a short rest, stood in the same order and rang three courses of Stedman Triples with the bobs on 5-6-7. This was repeated several times and was the first change ringing I ever witnessed with any idea of what I was looking at.

In due course the bells were lowered, the sermon bell rung, and then came the chiming for service. I stayed and saw it all through, and during my walk home, which lay in Chattel's direction, he had so impressed me with the wonders of the art, and had made himself so agreeable, that I enlisted under his banner, he promising to give

me instruction, and I, in return, to assist him in chiming for the services, and these promises were faithfully kept. For several years I was seldom absent from the belfry at chiming time, while he, on his part, taught me pretty nearly all he knew himself, and I do not think we should ever have disagreed had he not given way to intemperance and been influenced by the idle chatter of mischief-making busybodies. So it happened that on the following Sunday morning he gave me my first lesson in raising a bell—the 8th—and he also figured me out a course of Stedman Triples, setting me fairly on my way.

I soon began to get an insight into the matter, for I was rather determined and never tired of watching the practice. By-and-by the bobs were made on 1-3-4 and so on, and when the band could ring a 504 in this way, they remained there so long that Mr. Johnson, who was often walking about and listening, used to say that the baker had rung that touch until he knew every nick in the board, and used to speak of it as the 'old hundredth.'

A VISIT FROM LATES.

But things were working quietly and surely for a change; for one fine Sunday morning in the month of May, during chiming time, a spare gentlemanly man came into the belfry, who was looking ill and was closely muffled and buttoned up. Chattel, after expressing his surprise at seeing him, had a long friendly chat with him, during which it transpired that our visitor had been very ill, suffering from inflammation of the lungs. He was then getting better and promised to come again, and after he was gone Chattel told me that he was Mr. Lates, speaking very highly of his ability as a composer. After that, Lates came up pretty frequently, and one of the young ones, generally Haywood or Eagles, stood out so that he might have a pull. Lates usually conducted, and so the band began to make rapid progress.

Very well do I remember one Sunday afternoon when there was ringing for charity sermons, seeing Messrs. Jarvis and J. Deer come into the belfry and the young ones (as they were then always spoken of) ringing their first touch of Stedman Caters. Thus it went on, until in February, 1843, Chattel, with five of his pupils, and the assistance of H. Johnson and J. James, sen., rang their first peal of Stedman Triples, Chattel conducting admirably.

Even at this early period his overbearing manner had begun to cause friction with some of the band. Billingsley had taken offence and was out of the peal of Triples; while again on the 14th of May following, Chattel had arranged for and rung a peal of Stedman Caters at St. Philip's, he himself conducting, and with only one young ringer in it—W. Haywood. In June another peal was rung at Aston, conducted by Johnson, in which all save Billingsley took part. This was memorable as being the first true peal of Stedman composed and conducted by Johnson.

It will be seen that Chattel's old associates had begun to gather round him again. He with his young ringers were invited to St. Martin's, where J. James, sen., was acting as towerkeeper for the widow of the late T. Hall—indeed, for some little time previous to Hall's death.

They were unable to do much owing to the bad state the bells were in, but from the time they began to go there, Chattel gradually lost his influence over them. The kindly urbanity of Hopkins, and the genial sociability of Johnson, were in very great contrast to Chattel's rough brusqueness.

CHATTEL AND JOHNSON.

The ringers at that time had a meeting house in Milk Street bearing the sign of 'The Ring of Bells,' and here meetings used to be held on Sunday evenings, chiefly for handbell practice and tune ringing. Johnson and Chattel were nearly always at these meetings, which frequently ended somewhat unpleasantly. There was a fascination about the former's manner which drew the younger men to him, and no doubt caused jealousy in the latter to his great disadvantage. They had now become rivals as conductors, and on one occasion I knew them decide which should call a particular peal by the toss of a coin. Chattel won and was much elated thereat, since a Mr. Richard Turner of London, was to be in the attempt at Aston, but the peal was lost through a change-course. As might have been expected, he was much annoyed, and after brooding on it over his beer at the tavern, he suddenly turned to Johnson and said, 'Harry! If you had not been there, I'd have made a peal of it!'

In 1844, Hopkins, with the assistance of some friends, raised sufficient money—about £40—to have St. Martin's bells put in something like ringing order, and I well remember hearing the first touch of Cinques rung on them after such repairs, on a Sunday afternoon.

A sort of union between the old and young ringers was now arranged, by which we used to meet on alternate Sundays at St. Martin's, but matters between Chattel and Johnson did not go smoothly for long, as there was always someone ready to cause friction, one man in particular—William Andrews—being a good ringer, but a sad mischief maker.

Recurring to the repair of the bells: the work was entrusted to C. Oliver, jun., on his own account, and from the first there were complaints that the eleventh did not go at all well, and although the other bells were ringable, the job was looked upon as a comparative failure. However, Oliver got his money, and the disappointment was borne as such things generally are.

(To be continued.)

THE RINGING WORLD.

The official Journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.
Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
 The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.
Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to:—

The Editor,
 'The Ringing World,'
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Owing to increased paper supply we are now able to accept orders for the delivery of 'The Ringing World' by post. They should be sent to Mr. G. W. Fletcher, The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk, accompanied by remittance. The charge is 4s. 3d. per quarter.

Arrangements have also been made for larger supplies through the trade, and newsagents in any part of the country will be able to obtain copies through their wholesale firms.

Cheques and remittances should be made payable to 'The Ringing World.'

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C. W. Fletcher,
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TO SECRETARIES OF ASSOCIATIONS.

All Notices and small advertisements must be prepaid. Remittances must be sent with advertisement to the Editor.

DEATH OF MR. JAMES E. DAVIS.

We regret to announce that Mr. James E. Davis died suddenly early on Christmas morning.

RIVALRY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—You state that 'the keen rivalry certainly did produce an excellency of ringing.' The cost of this in Cornwall is deplorable. In the north and central area there is a preponderance of ringing for certificates, and the competing bands do not regard the bells as sacred instruments. There is very little ringing done unless for a competition, and Sunday ringing is almost non-existent. When, however, a competition is to take place the bands can find time to practise for four or five nights each week.

In the south-west area there are a few towers which practise change ringing, and I am glad to say that while the older bands have all they can do to keep up the standard of their ringing, they do that, and also find the time to coach the few new hands that are interested in change ringing. It is to be hoped that the feeling and spirit of the south-west area will permeate the central and northern areas.

E. V. WILLIAMS.

Redruth, Cornwall.

STEDMAN CATERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was greatly pleased to see the touches of Stedman Caters in your issue of December 1st. The dinky coming home is most suitable for handbell peals, instead of a sometimes awkward turning course. Could you prevail on the composer to get a peal or two with this homing? The fifth and sixth in 1-2, in my opinion, produces the best music.

G. E. SYMONDS.

57, Mornington Avenue, Ipswich.

THE BELLS OF ST. MARY-AT-HILL.

A FIFTEENTH CENTURY RING.

The church of St. Mary-at-Hill is known even by name to few ringers. It possesses only three bells and they are of no particular interest. It has taken no part in the history of change ringing in the past. But it once was an important City church, and, as some of its early records still exist, we can learn a lot about the bells at the time when parishes all over the country were increasing their rings to five, and the foundations of our modern ringing were being laid.

The building stands between St. Mary's Hill and Love Lane, two of the narrow streets that run from Eastchepe to Lower Thames Street in the City of London. This is a district which suffered severely in the air raids of 1940, and the neighbouring church of St. Dunstan-in-the-East is a ruin; its fine ring of eight bells is destroyed. But St. Mary's still stands.

Not much is known of the early medieval church, but about 1490 it was rebuilt, among those who subscribed being Robert Rowell, one of the Sheriffs who gave liberally towards the new steeple, and Sir John Plomer, who, with John Suckling, paid for one of the arches. There had been three bells and a sanctus bell in the old tower, and after it was rebuilt, the ring was increased to five, at first by a bell given by John Duckling, and then by another given by Plomer.

Duckling was a fishmonger and a prominent parishioner, for Billingsgate had already long been the centre of the fish trade. His name was inscribed on the bell, and evidently he took a personal interest in the ringing, for in 1492 the churchwardens paid him twenty-one pence for 17 lbs. of rope which he had procured for the bells. He died in 1499, and the parish received 6s. 8d. for half a day's knell on the great bell for him.

Plomer was created a Knight of the Bath on May 26th, 1465, and evidently was a prominent citizen and an important person.

The five bells were not very tunable, and in 1508 the parish employed a man named William Smith to tune them. Smith was one of the Aldgate founders, but except that he cast a bell for St. Margaret's, Westminster, nothing is known of him. His name does not occur in any of the county histories of bells and none of his bells survives. He made a bad job of the tuning and seriously damaged the bells; and the parish paid a Master Green 1s. 8d. for counsel 'how to take action for the cutting of our three bells.' As a result a plaint was entered and Smith was arrested. The parish accounts contain several items of payments of fees and expenses in connection with this suit — tenpence for entering the plaint and for the arrest of Smith, fourteen pence for the attorney, sixpence for 'making our plea,' 1s. 8d. to Master Stevens the counsel, four shillings to the serjeant for two summonses, and fourpence as fees when the action was tried. The parish was also charged sixpence 'for my dyner & Thomas Mindens,' and fourpence was paid to the judge, as a fee it is to be hoped and not as a bribe.

Although 'the matter was pleaded to an issue,' the result is not stated; but evidently Smith was ordered to recast at least one of the bells under certain conditions, and a scrivener was employed to draw up the indentures of an agreement between him and the parish

under the direction of two arbitrators, Mr. Robins and Mr. Jentyll. The arrangement was satisfactory to both sides, and the churchwardens paid for wine to celebrate the occasion.

The two bells were taken down from the steeple and conveyed to Aldgate at the charges of the parish. It was necessary to purchase a hundredweight of new rope to 'strike' (i.e. lower) them, and for two pence spent on drink, some of the Billingsgate porters lent a hand. The cost of the carriage to Aldgate was two shillings, and a penny a piece was given to six porters who lifted them on to the sledge. A man named Reeves was paid sixpence for his trouble in going from Ludgate to Aldgate to hear the fourth bell which Smith was to recast, and to judge whether it was in tune or not; and a deputation from the parish, consisting of Mr. Russell, John Althorpe, John Cundell and the clerks of St. Anthony's, with Mr. Jentyll the arbitrator, also went there for the same purpose. Afterwards, they called at the house of one Skrace and regaled themselves with pears and wine, at a charge to the parish of eightpence.

Smith recast the fourth and added 1 cwt. 26 lbs. of new metal to it, for which he was paid 43s. 8d. He also received 13s. 4d. for putting an inscription on the bell.

The order for recasting the tenor was given to William Culverden, and with him was associated Thomas Bullisdon, either as partner or assistant. Culverden was probably the leading founder of the day, and several of his bells are still to be found in different parts of the country. Five of Bullisdon's bells are at St. Bartholomew-the-Great, Smithfield. The cost of 2 cwt. 14 lbs. new metal was 59s. 6d. and the other charges for recasting, etc., amounted to 29s. 4d.

For the new frame a contract was made with a carpenter at the Salutation. The 'obligation making' cost fourpence, and sevenpence was spent on wine, for on such an occasion the churchwardens were not content with the more homely beer. The carpenter received forty shillings as 'God's penny in hand,' and, when the work was completed, a further five shillings in full settlement of his charges. Money paid in advance to seal a contract was called God's penny in hand, because originally it was a token amount, which, according to canon law, should have been given to some pious object.

Various amounts were paid to different tradesmen for new fittings and repairs to the old. An interesting item is sixpence for twelve wedges for the gudgeons of the bells, which tells us how the bells were hung. The gudgeon was a round piece of iron driven into the end of the stock and tightened up by wedges. Such an arrangement would be very liable to work loose and to be affected by changes of weather. Unless the bell hanger was an expert craftsman, it would be very difficult to get a true alignment of the gudgeons, and we can easily believe that ringing was a job for strong, lusty men. This was the method used to hang even

the heaviest bells until, in comparatively recent times, the modern style of hanging was adopted.

From time to time the scale of charges for knells was revised. In 1498 it was ordered that the fee for the use of the tenor should be 6s. 8d., half of which went to the churchwardens and half to the clerk. This was for a full knell of half a day. For an hour's ringing of the fourth the fee was one shilling to the clerk, but if it were rung for half a day he took three shillings and fourpence. When the 'lytyll bell' (presumably the third) was used, the clerk's fees were eightpence for a man and fourpence for a child. In all these latter cases, the churchwardens' fees are not mentioned, so evidently they remained unaltered by the order. For the poor people of the parish Sir John Plomer's bell (the treble) might be used, and then the charge was only a penny; but this was a concession to those who really could not afford to pay more, and of that Plomer was to be judge, and, after his death, the seniors of the parish.

The fees covered other services than the actual knolling of the bell. When Cundall (who was one of the party that went to Aldgate in 1510) buried his mayde (young daughter) he paid one and fourpence for the knell and the 'pytt' (grave) and when Mr. Russell (another of the same party) died, the parish paid to the man who rang the knell, eightpence. A solemn dirige and requiem was sung for him and at it all the five bells were rung at a cost of one shilling and fourpence. On this occasion it was necessary to spend one penny on repairs to the bell wheels.

As was the case with several other London churches, there were endowments for obits at St. Mary's. One was for William Cambridge, grocer, and Mayor in 1420; and for this two clerks and the ringers received two shillings. Another was for John Cawston, who died in 1353, and in connection with this the parish was involved in a lawsuit. The two judges who presided at this case—my Lord Chief Justice, and my Lord Briant—each received a fee of 13s. 4d., which makes the fee of fourpence, paid to the judge in the other action, seem very small.

Payments for ringing on state occasions and for the visits of great persons are few compared with those in the accounts of some other parishes, for royalty never found many reasons for going to Billingsgate, but in 1493 the parish apparently was fined for not ringing in honour of the king. In 1562 Henry the Seventh, with his queen, made a state visit to St. Paul's from Baynards Castle, which stood on the Thames not far from Blackfriars, and which he had lately rebuilt and fitted up as a royal residence. On that occasion all the bells of the City were rung, St. Mary's among them; and so they were six years later when Henry the Eighth went to Westminster to be crowned.

In 1524 there is an entry of eightpence paid to the ringers 'for ringing the bells at the triumph for the tak-

(Continued on next page.)

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ST. MARY-AT-HILL.

(Continued from previous page.)

ing of the French king, and by commandment of the mayor.' This throws a strong sidelight on contemporary national and European politics. The two powerful monarchs on the Continent at the time were Francis the First of France and Charles the Fifth, Emperor of Germany and King of Spain. Between them there was bitter rivalry and frequent war; and Cardinal Wolsey, who was directing the policy of England, was trying to advance the interests of his own country by playing one off against the other. He had decided to support France, at least temporarily, when the news came that Francis, who had invaded Italy, had been utterly defeated and taken prisoner at the battle of Pavia. It was a bad blow for English diplomacy, but the City of London did not think so. The merchants' interests were largely bound up with the trade with the Low Countries (part of Charles' vast dominions) and then and long afterwards they favoured friendship and alliance with Spain. So when the news came they looked on it as a triumph, and it was 'by commandment of the mayor' that the bells rang.

In 1536, when King Henry and his queen, Jane Seymour, passed through London, it was by order of the bishop that the bells were rung.

The other payments to the ringers were for more parochial objects, on Lady Day the patronal festival, for obits, and for curfew; and we are interested to learn that 'John Tiles Wyff' received a shilling for bringing drink to the church for the clerks and ringers on several occasions at the time of the great festivals.

After 1559 our detailed information about St. Mary's and its bells comes to an end. The church was burnt in the Great Fire of 1666, and its five bells destroyed, and though Sir Christopher Wren restored the building, it has not since had a ringing peal.

DEATH OF MR. J. R. MACKMAN.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. J. R. Mackman, who died suddenly on Saturday evening last after an operation. The funeral is at Woking Crematorium to-day.

MISCELLANEOUS PE" FORMANCES.

DAYBROOK, NOTTS.—On Sunday, December 10th, 1,260 Grand-sire Triples: B. Cawthorne (first quarter-peal) 1, Mrs. R. A. Ward 2, T. Groombridge, jun. 3, P. E. Ball 4, F. A. Salter 5, H. Paling (conductor) 6, J. A. Barratt 7, W. Perkins 8.

ASHBRITTLE, SOMERSET.—On Sunday, December 10th, 1,260 Grand-sire Doubles: J. H. Manning 1, R. Alderman (first quarter-peal inside) 2, S. N. Bristow 3, W. Stevens 4, F. Alderman (conductor) 5, H. J. Enticott 6.

STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK.—On Sunday, December 10th, 952 Grand-sire Triples: T. Sparrow 1, A. R. Woodward 2, J. Steed 3, F. Sterry 4, S. Sparrow 5, S. Arbon 6, O. Barnard (conductor) 7, H. Copeland 8.

GREAT FINBOROUGH, SUFFOLK.—On Sunday, December 10th, 720 Bob Minor: S. Sparrow 1, Miss D. Sawyer (first 720) 2, J. Steed 3, L. Foster 4, S. Arbon 5, O. Barnard (conductor) 6.

BOLDMERE, SUTTON COLDFIELD.—On Monday, December 11th, 1,260 Grand-sire Doubles: Norman Raybone 1, *Terry Hampton 2, G. W. Critchley 3, N. G. Smith 4, W. G. Anker (conductor) 5, *W. F. Leach 6. *First quarter-peal. †First quarter with a bob bell.

EDENHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE.—On Friday, December 15th, 1,260 Grand-sire Doubles: *D. Stainsley 1, *Betty Stainsley 2, A. Holmes (conductor) 3, *Marie Gann 4, *R. Stainsley 5. *First quarter-peal.

NORTHAMPTON.—On Friday, December 15th, at St. Edmund's Church, 1,260 Stedman Triples: *Miss Edna Travill 1, *Geoffrey Gayton 2, Bertie O. Soden 3, Joseph W. L. Linnitt 4, *William Cillis 5, *Ronald C. Noon 6, *George Cafe (conductor) 7, Philip Jones 8. *First quarter-peal in the method.

BUSHEY, HERTS.—On December 16th, at 50, Rodolph Road, on handbells, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: E. Jennings 1-2, E. C. S. Turner 3-4, H. G. Cashmore (conductor) 5-6, C. W. Roberts (first quarter of Surprise on handbells) 7-8.

CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 529.)

The beautiful tower and spire of Oundle Church, Northants, contains a good ring of eight bells with a tenor 26 cwt. 1 qr. 9 lbs. Of the old bells, dating variously from 1688 to 1801, the first three and the tenor were recast in 1869 by Mears and Stainbank. In 1934 all were thoroughly overhauled, the old frame renovated, and the bells entirely rehung thereon with all new fittings by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. The peculiarity of this ringing chamber is that, on entering, one finds oneself on a landing with a large clock-case occupying about half the wall space. One must descend into the ringing chamber proper and there finds six ropes, the other two being on the aforesaid 'landing,' one on either side of the clock-case. These are the 2nd and 3rd. It is most difficult for the treble ringer, who not only finds his rope falls uncomfortably close to the wall, but has the 2nd man high above and behind him, with the 3rd also on high the other side of the clock.

Clock-cases are the cause of obstruction in many ringing chambers, and one such is at Christ Church, Ottershaw, Surrey, where there is a ring of six, tenor 16 cwt., by J. Taylor and Co., 1885. These were rehung by Gillett and Johnston, 1932. In the ringing room the clock, when fixed, caused the sight for ringing to be barred, and the treble and tenor men could not see each other. To overcome this difficulty, two spy holes were made and glass inserted so that these two ringers, by looking through part of the clock works, can now see each other. A very similar arrangement is at Croxton Kerrial, Leicestershire, where the 3rd and 4th ringers are divided by a clock-case in which glass sides have been inserted. Here are six bells, tenor 9½ cwt.

At Brampton, Cumberland, the Church of St. Martin has a ring of six bells, which came from the old church. The latter stands on an eminence overlooking the valley of Irthing, and now has a turret with one bell by Mears. The present church, erected 1877-8, occupies the site of an earlier building. The tower—a west one—was completed in 1906, and the lower portion forms a porch and baptistery. The rope circle here is very awkward and arranged in such a way that some of the ringers cannot avoid having one or more behind them. The tenor rope comes down right in the centre of the ringing room, and the others range around more or less in order of 15432.

Another awkward circle is at Buckland-Dinham, Somerset. There are six bells, tenor 11 cwt. Here a large clock case has been built between the 2nd and 4th ropes, with the result that the 3rd rope has to be drawn to the middle of the room, and in no case can the ringer of this bell see more than three of the others with comfort. The 1st, 3rd and tenor are by J. Warner and Son, 1859; the 2nd is dated 1638; 4th, 1683; and the 5th is a mediæval casting by William Founder, bearing an invocation to Sancta Toma (Thomas). There is a clock bell by Warners, 1856.

(To be continued.)

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WHITWORTH.

A joint meeting of the Rochdale and Rossendale Branches of the Lancashire Association was held at Whitworth on December 16th and was attended by 30 members from surrounding districts. Methods rung ranged from Bob Minor to Stedman Triples and Treble Bob Major.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting, Saturday, Dec. 30th, 3 p.m., Whitechapel Bell Foundry, E.1.—A. B. Peck.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—Annual meeting on Saturday, Dec. 30th. Bells (10) St. Stephen's, 2.45 p.m. Tea and meeting in St. Peter's Parish Rooms 4.45 p.m.—W. S. Emery, Hon. Sec., 34, Waverley Road, Bristol, 6.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Lincoln District.—Annual district meeting at St. Giles', Lincoln, Saturday, Jan. 6th. Bells (8) 2.30 to 8.30. Service 4.30. Bring food and tea. Hot water provided in Parish Hall.—K. W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Carline Road, Lincoln.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Winchester District.—Annual district meeting at Winchester Jan. 6th. Ringing at the Cathedral (12) and St. Maurice (6) 2 to 3.45 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. Meeting and tea 3.45 p.m. at Dumpers' Restaurant. Service in the Cathedral 5.15 p.m. Names for tea Jan. 3rd.—W. G. Goodchild, Hon. Dis. Sec., 139, Stanmore Lane, Winchester.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—Meeting at Bromham, Saturday, Jan. 6th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea. Names for tea to L. H. Bowler, Hon. Sec., Maisonette, Bromham, Beds.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Accrington, Saturday, Jan. 6th, 2.30 p.m. Tea at 4.30 p.m. in the Co-Op, Oak Street. Reasonable charge. Meeting in the tower 5.30 p.m. Names for tea to secretary by Jan. 3rd.—Charles W. Blakey, Branch Sec., 133, Ormerod Street, Accrington.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Gloucester Branch.—Annual meeting at Barnwood on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Names by Jan. 2nd to W. H. Harris, Branch Secretary, 4, G.W.R. Terrace, Lydney Dock, Lydney, Gloucester.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—Meeting at Sacred Heart, Blackpool, Saturday, Jan. 6th. Bells 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. only.—J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—Annual meeting at Rothwell, Saturday, Jan. 6th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea to follow. Names to H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at St. Marie's, Norfolk Row, Sheffield, on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Bells (8) 2.30. Tea at cafes nearby.—G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec., 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington, near Sheffield.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Annual meeting, Saturday, Jan. 6th, at the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, Birmingham. Ringing at St. Martin's, 4.30 to 6 p.m. Business meeting at 6.15.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting at Upholland, Saturday, Jan. 6th, 2.30 p.m. Own tea arrangements.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at St. Mark's, Glodwick, Jan. 6th. Meat tea at 2s. 6d. per head. Names by Wednesday, Jan. 3rd.—I. Kay, Hon. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Newcastle-under-Lyme on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Bells (10) 3 p.m. Own tea arrangements (cafes and British Restaurant near).—Andrew Thompson.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD and SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Joint meeting at Rotherfield, Jan. 13th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Names to Mr. W. Rogers, 1, Vine Cottages, Rotherfield.—C. A. Bassett, J. Downing, Hon. Secs.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. John de Sepulchre, Norwich, Saturday, Jan. 13th, 2 p.m. Tea and business 5. Names to Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—Aylesbeare Branch.—Meeting at Withycombe Raleigh, Jan. 13th. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by Jan. 7th to Brian Pidgeon, Hon. Sec., East Budleigh.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—Meeting at Leeds, Saturday, Jan. 20th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Cup of tea and bun in Parish Hall 5, followed by business. Bus leaves Maidstone for Leeds 1.45, or a No. 10 bus to Hollingbourne Corner every 20 minutes. Names to C. H. Sone, Linton, Maidstone.—C. H. Sone, Dis. Sec.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. Norman S. Bagworth's address is now 5a, Clandon Terrace, Kingston Road, Wimbledon, S.W.20.

TUNSTALL, KENT.—On Sunday, December 10th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: W. Dobbie 1, Miss B. Spice 2, W. Spice, jun. 3, G. Kenward 4, G. H. Spice 5, S. B. Dobbie 6, W. Spice, sen. (conductor) 7, T. Boorman 8. Half-muffled for the late Rector, the Rev. Midwinter, and W. Barden, his sexton.

CHESTERTON.—On Sunday, December 10th, 720 Bob Minor: W. Raynor (first 720) 1, Mrs. V. Lathbury 2, R. Lathbury 3, T. R. Dennis 4, E. Hibbins (conductor) 5, H. Martin 6.

IPSWICH.—On Saturday, December 16th, at St. Mary-le-Tower, 528 Cambridge Surprise Maximus: C. J. Sedgley 1, Mrs. Marriott 2, Mrs. S. R. Pipe 3, H. E. Smith 4, H. R. Roper 5, W. P. Garrett 6, W. J. G. Brown 7, G. A. Fleming 8, G. E. Symonds 9, J. F. Tillet 10, F. J. Tillet 11, C. W. Pipe 12.

HASLEMERE, SURREY.—On Sunday, December 17th, 720 Bob Minor: F. Avery (first 720) 1, Mrs. F. Bowden 2, Miss V. V. H. Hill 3, B. D. Elliott 4, F. Bowden (conductor) 5, F. A. H. Wilkins 6.

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